



BROADSIDES

Volume 14, no. 4
November 2004

In A Broad Sense **by Ronni Egan**

One day some old Broads went a-hiking
And found conditions were not to their liking
With cowpoo on the ground,
Loud vehicular sounds,
And a mess all around that was striking!

So they thought if they banded together
They might find some more "birds of a feather"
Gals with spirit and spunk,
Who would hug a tree trunk
Regardless of inclement weather.

Fifteen years have gone by since they met
Did they found a new movement? You bet!
They've gone on to success
The Old Broads for Wilderness
To land wreckers they pose quite a threat!

Our land ethic is filled with our passion.
As Wilderness bills we help fashion
Saving places so wild,
So that every grand child
For the Wilderness will have compassion

You will find us at protests and rallies,
Or hiking in steep mountain valleys
Making friends in D C
For our lands wild and free
Great Old Broads are the wildlands' best allies!

Great Old Broads for Wilderness has been present, in one form or another, at numerous events during the past two months of celebrations honoring the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act. This momentous document is unique in that it created a statutory obligation for our nation to do NOTHING on the lands it protects. In these days of rampant energy development, roadbuilding, expanding off-road vehicle (ORV) impacts and encroaching recreational developments, the Wilderness Act is the foremost protection for our irreplaceable wild treasures.

Board of Directors Co-Chair Libby Ingalls, Program Director Rose Chilcoat and I attended the festivities in Washington D. C., which included several public rallies, a gala dinner with celebrity speakers, and 3 days of intensive lobbying for Wilderness. It was gratifying to hear from so many of the attendees that Great Old Broads occupies a



Great Old Broads at the 15th Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Tootie Hagan

unique and important spot as the wise elder voice in the panoply of Wilderness advocacy groups.

The event that was the most fun, by far, was our own 15th Anniversary Celebration at Snow Canyon State Park, near St. George, Utah. I only wish that somehow all 2600 Great Old Broads could have participated in the camaraderie and hilarity of that weekend. Not only did we thoroughly enjoy ourselves, we also trained over 30 folks, Broads and non-Broads alike, to use our Broads Healthy Lands Project monitoring system for recording ORV impacts on the land. Southern Utah has become the "poster child" of the national ORV crisis, and we've received numerous requests for monitoring ranging from both environmental groups and land management agencies in the state. We're looking forward to having a positive impact on land use management in Utah and elsewhere.

Looking back over the events of the last few years, I am impressed by the amount of good work that Broads has done on behalf of Wilderness. We had a significant presence in California, at our Ventana Wilderness Broadwalk, just prior to the passage of the Ventana Wilderness Bill. I'm not suggesting that we were responsible for the bill's success, but I imagine our energy helped it along a little! Broad-power has also been felt in Vermont, Illinois, Yellowstone National Park (to which we'll no doubt return next February!), Colorado's Roan Plateau, New Mexico's Otero Mesa, Arch Canyon in Utah, and many other places.

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Holiday Gifts for Loved Ones & Great Old Broads

In the holiday spirit, the following vendors have generously agreed to donate a portion of their proceeds to the Great Old Broads now through the end of the year. If one of these **books** or boating gear from Jack's Plastic Welding would make a **perfect** gift for someone in your life, please consider purchasing from these vendors and give Broads a little gift too.

We're in the Mountains, Not Over the Hill – Tales and Tips from Seasoned Women Backpackers by Susan Alcorn -This compelling collage of stories and advice, of older women backpackers, combines honesty, insight and humor with practical wisdom and proven tips to inspire women and men of all ages.

To purchase: www.backpack45.com or Shepherd Canyon Books, 25 Southwood Ct., Oakland, CA 94611 or 866-219-8260. Be sure to mention Great Old Broads when you order.
Cost: \$14.95 +shipping

Collier Publishing

Grant Collier is one of Colorado's premier nature photographers. His work has been published in magazines worldwide, and he is the author of the

highly-acclaimed book *Colorado: Yesterday & Today*. *Colorado: Moments in Time* is Grant's second book, and it presents his stunning color landscape photography.

To purchase:

www.collierpublishing.com or call 303-984-0801

Cost: *Moments in Time* - \$35; *Yesterday & Today* - \$29.95 + shipping. If ordering online, please mention Great Old Broads in the comment box.

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To purchase: www.jpwinc.com. Click on Products. Please indicate in the notes section of online payment that you are a Great Old Broad, and 30 % of your Paco Pad or Dry Bag purchase, or 20% of your boat purchase will be donated to Broads. For more information call (505) 334-8748 or email shop@jpwinc.com

Cougar Dave - Mountain Man of Idaho by Pat Cary Peek

The narrative nonfiction story of David Lewis, 1855-1936. He was a hunting guide in the Idaho wilderness and around his fire the idea of preserving the vast Idaho Primitive area first took shape.

To Purchase:

www.greatoldbroads.org/shop.htm
Cost: \$16.95 (includes shipping)

Living on Wilderness Time

by Melissa Walker
A book for those who have visited wild places and want to return, and for others whose overcommitted urban lives make them long for land where time is measured differently and human beings are scarce. Above all it is a call to join those who, like Aldo Leopold, see wilderness as vital to the human community. Author of the year in Memoir for the Georgia Writers Association.

To purchase:

www.greatoldbroads.org/shop.htm
Cost: \$15 hardback; \$10 paperback (includes shipping)
Visit www.greatoldbroads.org for more information

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a non-profit, public lands organization that uses the voices and activism of elders to increase, protect, and preserve wilderness.

BroadSides is a publication of Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Feel free to reprint articles, but please credit Great Old Broads. Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper using vegetable soy ink.

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness was conceived in 1989 by older women who loved wilderness and organized to protect it. The wisdom of their combined years (more than three centuries!) told them that the Broads could bring knowledge, commitment, high spirits, and humor to the movement to protect our last wild places on earth.

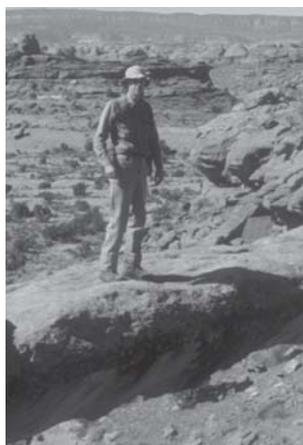
Today, the Great Old Broads has over 2,600 active members throughout the United States. You do not have to be female, or old, or even great for that matter! to join—but you must be “bold” for wilderness. Please join us on the adventure. Wilderness needs your help!

Broads in the Background

Thirty years ago Tom Messenger left the East Coast on a trip to see the Grand Canyon. Up until then, he had never seen “Canyon Country,” but at first sight the sparse, simple beauty of the redrock desert took a powerful hold on Tom’s imagination and it remains today a strong part of Tom’s psyche.

Returning from his first trip with a deep passion for the desert landscapes of the West, Tom began to take frequent trips around the West with his father. Then, in the early 1980’s there was talk of using Lavender and Davis Canyons, near Canyonlands National Park, for a high-level waste repository.

“That was a personal insult to me,” said Tom. “This was a place I had learned to love. Right then I joined SUWA (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance), the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society.”



Tom standing on top of Great Old Broads Arch. Photo by Bill Devore

Since then, Tom has been actively working to protect wilderness-quality lands from development and destruction. Now

retired, Tom lives in Moab, Utah and devotes many hours of his free time to wilderness volunteer work. One of the volunteer projects Tom is currently working on is Broads off-road vehicle (ORV) monitoring program known as Broads Healthy Lands Project.

Tom first heard about Great Old Broads 10 years ago, hiking with canyoneering guru and former Broads’ Board member, Steve Allen. After his first hike with Steve, he joined Steve

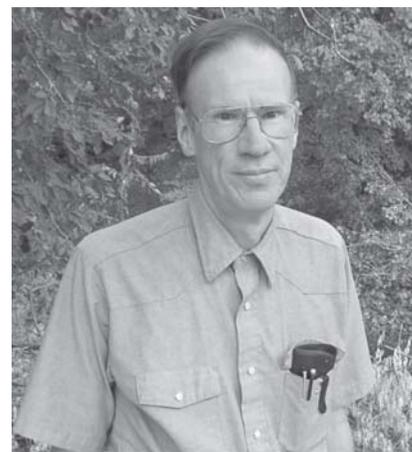
and Ginger Harmon, currently Broads Board co-chair, on many hikes through Utah’s wilderness, even hiking across the top of the Great Old Broads Arch (discovered and named by Steve Allen), in Shofar Canyon, part of the Grand-Staircase Escalante National Monument. Both Steve and Ginger were a strong influence on Tom’s joining the Great Old Broads.

In July of 2003, as Broads was just beginning to field test its ORV monitoring forms, Tom joined several Great Old Broads volunteers to do baseline monitoring of routes that were proposed to be part of the upcoming San Juan ATV Safari. He and Diane Tracy, the mastermind behind Broads monitoring program, were paired together and spent the day monitoring land conditions in the Bridger Jack area just outside of Canyonlands. Hearing more about Broads monitoring program from Diane, Tom became interested in helping out.

“OHVs are a big threat because of their numbers and because of the ‘forget the land and everybody else’ entitlement that some people feel,” said Tom.

He was drawn to Broads ORV monitoring program for two reasons. “The field monitoring is fun and it’s something you get to do with like-minded people,” said Tom. The second part dates back to Tom’s career as a naval architect, where he did a fair amount of computer programming.

For several years after retiring, Tom had been reading about dynamic, database supported websites. He decided to get involved with Broads because it was a “worthy project” and he thought it would be fun to put his years of reading into practice. “It was a double benefit for me,” said Tom, “Until you have something you want to do with what you’re learning, you can’t remember it.” Helping to put Broads monitoring data onto a



dynamic website that could draw directly from the database gave Tom the opportunity to put his newly learned skills to work. Tom’s help has also been a tremendous benefit for Broads—our monitoring program would not be where it is today without Tom.

Looking towards the future, Tom’s motivation to continue to work on this project is the potential Broads monitoring program has to continue to grow and impact public lands management and policies of public lands. What’s important about Broads ORV monitoring program said Tom, is that it “convinces land managers and people in general how important making sure that all users of wilderness lands observe limits that protect the wilderness.”

Tom also feels strongly that Broads is the right conveyer of a message of better land management policies when it comes to ORVs. “I think that the greatness of Broads is helping to show that just because you’re not 25 doesn’t mean that the only way to be in the outdoors is on some kind of motor vehicle. Older people can be active too,” says Tom.

But the true greatness of Broads is having wonderful, dedicated members like Tom, who put their passion to work. Thank you, Tom, for your many, many hours of volunteering (100+!).

To visit our Broads monitoring website and see Tom’s hard work, go to: www.goginger.org—BL

The Wilderness Act at 40: Celebration and Challenge

On September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act. That event 40 years ago marked both an end and a beginning. For the first time, the federal government formally recognized the value of land being left in its natural state, set aside for its intrinsic value rather than for recreation. (National Parks, in contrast, are set aside for both enjoyment and conservation.) President Johnson's signing capped an eight-year legislative campaign in Congress, involving 66 re-writes by principal author Howard Zahniser, but the Act was

Marshall, Olaus and Mardie Murie, and others promoted the idea of protecting wildlands. Both Zahniser and Marshall received much of their inspiration from the Adirondacks.

The 1964 Wilderness Act set aside approximately 9 million acres in the National Wilderness Preservation System. But that was just a start; 40 years and 110 wilderness bills later, we have nearly 106 million acres of land managed as Wilderness by the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land

Management, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Every president since Johnson has added to our legacy, from a high of 66.3 million acres (Jimmy Carter, much of them in Alaska) to a low of 500,000 acres (George W. Bush). Only six states have no federal wilderness at all: Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, and Rhode Island. In addition, seven states have set up their own state wilderness designations.

This September, more than 350 wilderness activists from around the country gathered in Washington, DC for "Wilderness Week" to celebrate these 40 years of wilderness preservation, to take stock of our past and current efforts, and to renew our commitment to preserving our country's remaining wildlands.

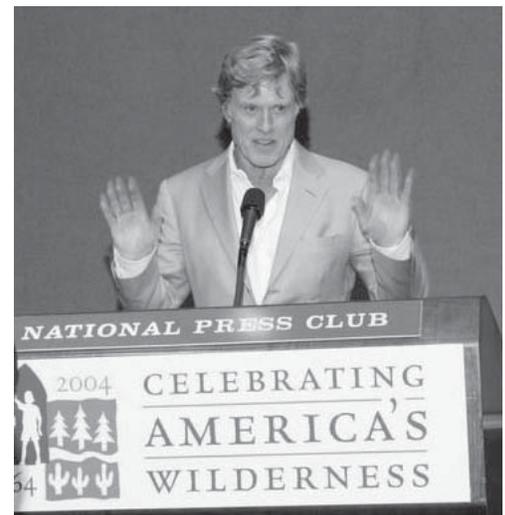
The week got off to a roaring start on Saturday evening with a



Mike Matz, Executive Director of Campaign for America's Wilderness, and writer Terry Tempest Williams at Wilderness Week in DC.. Photo by Patricia Fisher

finally passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

The idea for setting aside wilderness areas did not begin a mere eight years prior to 1964, however. In 1895, New York State amended its state constitution to set aside the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves, stating that they should be "forever kept as wild forest lands." Later in the 20th century, Aldo Leopold, Bob



Robert Redford speaking at the Wilderness Week gala. Photo by Patricia Fisher

reception and slide show at The Wilderness Society's headquarters. The gathering provided a wonderful opportunity to meet up with fellow advocates.

Sunday was spent in a day-long training session for activists, preparing us for meetings for the next three days with congressional staff. We learned more about the issues facing our various states and how to effectively discuss them in the offices we would be visiting. It was a day well-spent, where those of us who had been to Washington numerous times could answer questions and reassure those for whom this was the first trip to the marble halls of Congress.

For many, the highlight of the week came that evening, where a gala banquet took place at the National Press Club. Naturalist and writer Terry Tempest Williams was the MC for the evening. In an eloquent and passionate way, she spoke of the need for an "open space of democracy" where people of differing viewpoints can discuss the issues at hand, listening to what others have to say, rather than immediately jumping to conclusions or dismissing them

out-of-hand based on preconceived ideas. The evening was filled with reminiscences by Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, actor Robert Redford, Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, Dr. Edgar Wayburn and the late actor Christopher Reeve (both via video), and others.

Underlying all the celebratory remarks, however, was concern for the present, where wilderness is no longer the nonpartisan issue it

value of the places they love. And another afternoon, a rally was held at Upper Senate Park, featuring speakers like Ed Zahniser, son of the Wilderness Act's author. Finally, a reception was held in the Rayburn House Office Building, where members of Congress mingled with activists and staff from around the country.

By nice coincidence, the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian opened the same week we were in Washington.

Many Native Americans from North and South America took part in a large festival on the Mall. It was an interesting counterpoint, seeing the land's first stewards celebrating a long-awaited formal recognition while we were working to protect much of the same

land that they once inhabited.

While the week was one of celebration, everyone was very much aware that there is a lot of work ahead for all of us who care about wild places. There are more inventories to take, more legislation to draft, and more destructive proposals to fight against. But most of all, we need to find a way to make wilderness protection a nonpartisan issue once more.

Here's to the next 40 years!

"God bless America. Let's save some of it." —Edward Abbey

—Michael Painter is Coordinator for Californians for Western Wilderness. For more information on CalUWild visit www.caluwild.org

In a Broad Sense cont.

As I am writing this final paragraph, it is the "morning after" the election, and I feel slightly bilious at the prospect of what our beloved wild places, and their defenders, will have to endure for the next 4 years. As a non-profit organization, Broads cannot advocate for or against any political candidate or agenda.

Thus, I will confine myself to offering you a familiar, and timely, quote from that most steadfast wilderness defender, Edward Abbey:

"Do not burn yourself out. Be as I am—a reluctant enthusiast... a part time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it is still there. So get out there and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains. ..Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to your body...I promise you this much: I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those deskbound people with their hearts in a safe deposit box and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this: you will outlive the bastards."

Dear friends, Rose, Becky and I wish you all a warm, festive and blessed holiday season. Then, come January, be prepared to roll up your sleeves and get to work doing what Broads do best: defending America's wild places with all the passion we can muster. We will have many friends to help us in this work. Together, we will "hold the line" for Wilderness.

"Wilderness is not defined by the absence of certain activities but rather by the presence of certain unique and invaluable characteristics. The answer to the oft-asked question, "why do you want this area to be wilderness?" is that these areas already are wildernesses, we simply want to preserve them as they are and as they have been for generations."

Nick J Rahall, II
Ranking Democratic Member
House Committee on Resources

used to be, where economic values trump wilderness values.

The week continued with three days of citizen meetings on Capitol Hill. The various state wilderness campaigns organized activists into teams to meet with Senate and House staff, bringing them up-to-date on issues, asking them to sign on to letters, or to support wilderness proposals in Congress. The sheer number of volunteers that descended on the Hill couldn't help but impress our representatives, and in ways that paid lobbyists simply can't. It was quite a showing!

There were several other events that also allowed the public voice to be heard. One afternoon a public hearing was held at Freedom Plaza, where individuals could present testimony on the

Great Old Broads 15th Anniversary C

Genesis by Susan Tixier

(Excerpts from Susan's speech at the 15th Anniversary Conference)

This account begins with a recollection. Staring into the eyes of an old sea turtle, sharing the time we have jointly shared on this earth, she in the waters of the Sea of Cortez, the Pacific Ocean, and God only knows where else, and I in the waters of the Escalante, the Rio Grande, and not only God, but too many people know where all else – sharing with that ancient being, temporarily trapped for weighing and tagging before being released, sharing thoughts, if you will, about “genesis,” about beginnings.

What I “heard” from the old turtle was this: things look bad, I know, but whether I make it out of here or not, or whether you do or not, is not as important as it is that so long as there is a planet earth with wild waters, we’re part of a cosmic whole, a regeneration, regeneration, of generations of wise old things. Your Great Old Broads and my great old broads have always been, are now, and will always be – so long as there is water to bring life forth, as long as there is earth.

15 years ago, we did not “begin” Great Old Broads, we just filed the



Susan Tixier and MB McAfee reminisce, both past Executive Directors of Broads. Photo by Tootie Hagan.

IRS documents, got a couple of tee-shirts out into the world, and began. However, we’ve always been around. We’re here now. And we’re not going away.

The day that I am writing this speech, Marilyn Price-Reinbolt, a founding member of the Great Old Broads Board of Directors, and I took our dogs for a hike on a very hot, fall, northern New Mexico afternoon. From where we live it takes no time at all to get to places without people and not much longer than that to get to bona fide wilderness.

On that day, the day the law banning assault guns was due to sunset, we were turned back on our hike because some nutcase guys were shooting rifles apparently aimlessly into the narrow chasm we were hiking up the side of, just for pure joy of...whatever kind of joy that is. Noise? Things dying? Breaking apart? Power in their hands? They saw us and made no indication that we should continue our hike or that we’d be safe. Quite the opposite. All I can say is that we were frightened, with good reason, and turned around and headed for some place else.

As it turned out, we hiked back down along the Rio Grande, over magnificent, water-carved black volcanic rocks the size of Volkswagens. We floated in water so clean and pure you could see the bottom of the big eddy holes. The sky was bluer than anyplace in the world.

A magic place. Quiet. The dogs paddling all around, we two in our middle aged spreading bodies happy in our element. We’ve had kids, have grandkids. We’ve known each other for thirty

years or more, when our daughters, who are now approaching forty, were in grade school, before grad schools, before professional jobs, through more lovers than we care to acknowledge, husbands, divorces, deaths, decisions. We recall when neither of us had phones, slept in lofts during graduate schools, and made many, many mistakes.

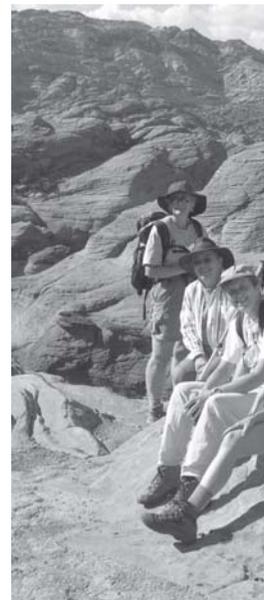
Some of what the Great Old Broads for Wilderness is about is that: loyalty, trust, a philosophic underpinning that can be shared without ritual, about what wild places mean. Great Old Broadness means being in, communing with, rolling around in, eating and sleeping in the outdoors.

Because that place is where we are close to what our bodies were made for: creation, re-creation. It is not just a salve, just a quiet respite from a busy, more productive albeit totally insane world.

As we walked away that day, I entertained visions of sneaking up, grabbing the men from behind, taking their stupid guns, pointing them into their faces before tossing them (the guns) beautifully arching into the



Dottie Fox, Ginger Harmon, Frandee Price-Reinbolt, all founding members of Broads. Photo by Tootie Hagan.



Great Old Broads out hiking. Photo by Libby Ingalls

Celebration!



Susan Johnson, Susan Tixier, and Marilyn
of BroadS, sing Happy Birthday to

canyon far below. Wilderness, the cycle of life, does include death and pain, and anger. That's also what Broadness is about. We Great Old Broads for Wilderness can become very angry about the ripping off of Mother

Earth's skin with ATV's, bulldozers, or blocking up her arterials with dams.

That day Marilyn and I sucked it up, and we found a place of beauty, instead. Broads know when to walk away, too, to win another day.

Which brings me back to the sea turtle. Do you know a sea turtle can travel 3000 miles per year and can find its place of birth some 25 years later? Scientists believe they follow the reflection of the moonlight of the ocean surface to find their way to the sea. How much like that are we Old Broads? We seek our place of birth, in wildness. And I love the image of finding it by the reflection of the moon's beams on rolling waves, the magic of something reflected onto a never static, always flowing element.



in Snow Canyon State Park.

We Broads are THE bridge from the social to solitude. We, as women represent, and in fact participate in generation, regeneration, and carrying on of civilization in our genes. We, as women, know that the paradox is that we also carry its destruction. We, as wilderness women, bring the two together in our goddessness, in our animal selves, the part that howls at the moon. This is something like what I heard from the old sea turtle, I think.

At the end of *Desert Solitaire*, when he was leaving his solitude in the canyon country, Ed Abbey talks about his time in the wilderness of Southern Utah in just his perfect way, in a way that, I believe, reflects the need for Great Old Broads for Wilderness. He says, "Whether we live or die is a matter of absolutely no concern whatsoever to the desert. Let men in their madness blast every city on earth into black rubble and envelope the entire planet in a cloud of lethal gas – the canyon and hills, the springs and rocks will still be here, the sunlight will filter through, water will form and warmth shall be upon the land and after sufficient time, no matter how long, somewhere, living things will emerge and join and stand once again, this time perhaps to take a different and better course. I have seen the place called Trinity, in New Mexico, where our wise men exploded the first atomic bomb and the heat of the blast fused sand into greenish glass—already the grass has returned, and the cactus and the mesquite. On this bedrock of animal faith I take my stand, close by the old road that leads eventually out of the valley of paradox."

When "somewhere, living things will emerge" it will be done through generation, through the genes, through the giver of life – woman. The Great Old Broads for Wilderness are powerful beyond measure, as conveyers of ancient wisdom, and present leadership, because we, like



Barbara Sevee holds a Kingsnake, a native to the Snow Canyon area.

Photo by Tootie Hagan

Abbey, take a stand on the bedrock of animal faith. We represent the paradox. And we bring it all together: present, past, human, and animal, one raucous, rumbling grey-haired delight!

This Old Broad

sung to the lyrics of This Old Man

This Old Broad she hates cows
Especially when they empty their
bowels
On the trails in streams
And in the meadows green
The word to describe it is obscene

This old Broad after dark
Took a hike up in the park
With no light she soon found
Much to her dismay
Many slippery spots along the way

When she got back she checked
her boots
And found the slipperyness
Had it roots
In manure cows had plopped
Along the way
She's ticked off suffice to say

This old Broad joined a group
Dedicated to eliminating all cow poop
From the public lands where cows
have so long trod
If you'd like to join its called Great
Old Broads!

—Sung by lyricist and Great Old
Broad, Dunbar Susong, at BroadS
15th Anniversary Celebration.

Firsts

by Barbara Sutherland

A young life is full of memorable firsts. First day at school. First love. First date. First job. First child. At 64, however, I find fewer events achieve the significance of those youthful milestones. It is true that there are still canyons to be explored, desert silence to be absorbed and new friends to meet. But, as my skin thins and develops little brown spots, the mirror reflects more wrinkles, gray hair emerges from my scalp, and my memory becomes less reliable, there are fewer and fewer truly momentous occasions to call a FIRST.

On September 30th, I went to the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Great Old Broads in Snow Canyon, Utah. This is my first year as a Broad and my first Broadwalk. It was a grand

and inspiring FIRST by any definition.

Normally shy and uncomfortable in crowds, I felt very much at home despite a gathering of 50 or 60 people. It is not inherent in my nature to feel at ease with that many folks that I don't know. Yet, I sensed that I had arrived at a place where I belonged. As Robert Frost says, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." Broads took me in. I'm not sure how the universe conspires to bring together so many copasetic individuals in one place to experience harmony and synergy in such a powerful way. But indeed it does happen on rare occasions. This was one.



Broads stay in formation and help each other up moki steps while hiking. Photo by Jim Case

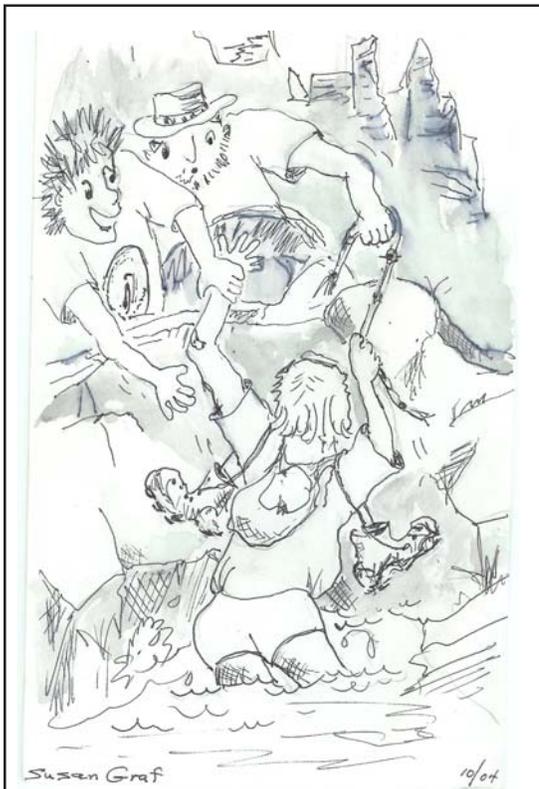
it is commitment. It is what I feel when I am "out there." The Broads feel it too.

I no longer have the money or professional position that I sought when my career was interrupted by Multiple Sclerosis. I survived the humiliation of being fired by a corporation that believed they could no longer afford to have a leader who could not speak clearly or walk without looking drunk. The power of the Broadwalk somehow created a convergence of interesting experiences with others who have had an intimate relationship with similar personal road blocks. My first hike during the event was an introduction to several women who are living with every day challenges greater than mine. Their equanimity, strength and courage are an inspiration to me. Later in the weekend, I met a number of others who have found peace and healing in wild places as they sought their footing through life altering grief and loss. I am deeply touched by the mettle and resilience of these Great Old Broads.

When I returned home, an e-mail awaited me with the words of an unknown author:

"When you see geese heading south for the winter—flying along in V formation—you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way.

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While Broads V-formation may be a little off kilter, we're always there to help each other out. Especially on those difficult and adventurous hikes!

I have NEVER been at a gathering where at least four other VW Westfalia camper bus owners showed up...female owners at that! These are a special breed of wilderness wanderers on a journey beyond the limitations of mind, body and well-traveled highways. But, we don't find each other very often. That was a FIRST.

In the mid 90's, I guided river trips for novice canoeists down the Colorado, Green and Gunnison rivers. I loved it because I had the opportunity to introduce the uninitiated to their first wilderness wonderment and watch a transformation of spirit that has no match on Wall Street, in winning the lottery or breaking the bank in Las Vegas—it is beyond intellect, politics, and power. It is passion, it is love,

Firsts Cont.

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range, than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and a sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed in the same direction we are. When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs with people or with geese flying south. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Finally—and this is important—when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until it dies, and only then, do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group.” Indeed, Great Old Broads know how to fly in formation.

Since that first Broadwalk last month, I have become what Ed Abbey called a “part-time crusader.” I pass out Broads brochures to future Broads wherever I go. Today, I am a member of a powerful flock of Broads flying in formation. I can look forward to

Being a Great Old Broad

by Tootie Hagan

The Great Old Broads is a special fellowship. Each time I attend a Broadwalk I am inspired by those individuals who are diligently advocating for wilderness and additional wilderness areas. One can see by the presentations given by environmental advocates at the 15th Anniversary Conference that it takes



Tootie Hagan (left), proud winner of Frandee Johnson's (right) watercolor painting of Snow Canyon.

years of lobbying, planning meetings, researching and a great deal of passionate energy to make things happen. It is this passion and heartfelt energy that keeps us going when things are not going well or when the current political environment is not supportive.

After seeing Steve Allen's photographs and listening to his 40-year exploration of Southwest Utah, I am convinced that this area needs to be saved from development and destruction. Being an Old Broad, I am inspired to advocate in small

ways by continuously writing and sending photographs to my local Congressman and other local/federal government representatives, including President Bush.

Great Old Broads is more to me than an environmental activist group. It is a fellowship of women/men who feel passionate about making a contribution to their future world. I feel connected to this group like a family member who is trying to protect these wild areas for their children.

More importantly, these women and men, whom I have met through Great Old Broads, have been an inspiration for my own aging process. I have been shown that I do not have to become sedentary, cynical and negative. Rather, I can be inspired, motivated and positive with possibility.

Old Broads live with grace, love and enthusiasm. We advocate for our strong beliefs about the environment in peace.

One of the evenings during the 15th Anniversary Conference I was lying awake, waiting for sleep. I could hear the laughing, giggling and the high hopes of conversation about the silent auction. The energy was so uplifting to my soul. This is one reason why I come to the out of doors to be with these Great Old Broads—it fulfills my life and especially my spirituality.

finding new ways to help pave the way for future generations to experience their own firsts in America's wild lands.

—Barbara is collecting the personal stories of people who have experienced

unexpected life altering events and the role that solitude and/or wilderness have had in influencing their lives. If you would like to share yours for eventual publication in a collection, please e-mail Barbara@durangolive.net.

Broad Thoughts

"A big Yoo-hoo thank you for an inspiring anniversary weekend experience in Snow Canyon Utah! Broads' validation of older women's strength and spirit is a message to our culture who often mistakes us for 'little old ladies in tennis shoes.' You gave this longtime trekker one heck of a hike for my money."

—Dee Lange, San Diego, CA

"I thoroughly enjoyed my first outing with the Broads, and will look forward to many more."

—Molly Campbell, Snowmass CO



Mary O'Brien, Chuck McAfee, Margie Padgett, and Vera Snyder practice their GPS skills. Photo by Tootie Hagan

"The Red Rock country is so special for me. I was particularly thrilled to be able to join Jim Case and others for exploration into the Cottonwood

WSA, a less well known area to us non-locals. Jim's nonchalance, ("I THINK this is the right canyon," "There wasn't this much water here last year,") might have put off a less secure group of hikers, but boy, not these Broads! Up and off we went, Jim pretending to be exhausted by US. What a trooper!"

—Susan Graf, Nevada City, CA

Words From A Young Broad

by Andrea Flatley

When my mom first asked me if I wanted to come and hang out with her in St. George, Utah during a Great Old Broads for Wilderness event I was a little uncertain. Did I really want to take my vacation time and spend it camping with a group of Great Old Broads? I had heard horror stories from the Illinois Broadwalk, about the cold and rainy days and nights, the lugging around of huge bags of trash, and the slashing of tires by an anti-wilderness group...did I want to be a part of that?

I guess I did. I bought a plane ticket and got ready to head down to the desert to spend 5 days with my mom and the Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Boy, am I glad I did!

Everything, and I mean everything, during the 15th Anniversary Celebration was perfect. Great food,

great company, beautiful country, and tons of fun! I was able to spend time with my mom, but also able to meet a ton of other fabulous Broads during the weekend. I was awed by the amount of knowledge that each individual had in so many different areas. I realized then how unique and special the Great Old Broads for Wilderness organization really is. Every member has their own unique passion, yet they are all joined together by a common thread...the desire to make our country a better and more beautiful place to live.

I left for home as excited as ever, with a mind stuffed full with new information. I couldn't wait to get home to call my friends and tell them to join this organization. I was so excited to share my experiences with them and hoped we could become Great Old Broads together. Thanks Mom, and all you Great Old Broads, for a great weekend and for showing

Thank You Sponsors!

Great Old Broads for Wilderness would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their donations to our silent auction at our 15th Anniversary Celebration. We were able to raise over \$3,000 for Broads!

- Andrea Flatley - Pullman, WA
- Campaign For America's Wilderness- Seattle, WA
- Canyon Cove Spa & Salon - SLC, UT
- Chaco, Inc. - Paonia, CO
- Collier Publishing - Lakewood, CO
- Diane Tracy - SLC, UT
- Don Kloetzke, Brownsville, WI
- Dottie Fox - Snowmass, CO
- Epic Valley Salsa - Salida, CO
- Frandee Johnson - Boulder, CO
- Ginger Harmon - Ketchum, ID
- High Country News - Paonia, CO
- Jack's Plastic Welding - Aztec, NM
- Jo Ann Valenti - SLC, UT
- Katherine Corson - Moab, UT
- Kathleen Kershaw - Nevada City, CA
- Kathy Barth - Ivins, UT
- Libby Ingalls - San Francisco, CA
- Jean Poulsen - Grass Valley, CA
- Maria's Bookshop - Durango, CO
- Mark Miller Subaru - SLC, UT
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- Pat Cary Peek - Viola, ID
- Patagonia Clothing - Reno, NV
- Petzl - SLC, UT
- Pine Needle Mountaineering - Durango, CO
- REI - SLC, UT
- Rich Bryant - Ivins, UT
- Susan Alcorn - Oakland, CA
- Susan Graf - Nevada City, CA
- Terry Tempest Williams - Castle Valley, UT

me how wonderful and special our country's wild lands are!

—Andrea is Karen Fischer's daughter, a member of the Board of Directors.

Drilling Plans Halted

In 1997, Gloria Flora, former supervisor of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, declared the Rocky Mountain Front off limits to future drilling. Since that time, even after leaving the Forest Service, Gloria has continued efforts to protect the Front. Now, seven years later, the Front is finally going to receive some of the protection it deserves.



Gloria Flora, speaking at Broads 15th Anniversary, just after appearing on Bill Moyer's NOW program and learning that oil exploration on the Rocky Mountain Front would be halted. Photo by Tootie Hagan

On October 5, Assistant Interior Secretary for Land and Minerals, Rebecca Watson, announced the Department of the Interior (DOI) would indefinitely stop work that could have led to oil and gas development in the Blackleaf area along the Rocky Mountain Front. This decision came after a PBS special (NOW with Bill Moyers) exploring the drilling issue. Host David Brancaccio announced on air that the Department of Interior intended to drop the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) because of overwhelming public comment and the complexity of the issue. A few days later the DOI publicly announced a halt to looking at drilling opportunities along the Front.

Two weeks prior to the DOI's decision, The Wilderness Society released a report showing that nearly 99 percent of the people who commented on the proposed natural gas project opposed oil and gas exploration on the Front.

According to Gloria, the voicing of strong public opposition is one of the key factors to the DOI dropping its plans to drill in the area. The BLM received about 50,000 pieces of correspondence from the public, with 49,064 people in support of protecting the Front from development.

In a *Great Falls Tribune* article, Gloria said, "We applaud the BLM and the public for speaking so forcefully."

Startech Energy Inc. of Calgary, Canada was asking to drill three wells in the Blindhorse Outstanding Natural Area. The EIS that was recently dropped was for these three wells.

While the announcement gives cause for celebration, Gloria reminded Broads at the 15th Anniversary that it is only one small victory and that

New Advisory Board

Great Old Broads is pleased to announce the creation of an Advisory Board. Advisory Board members have a long history with Broads and in the environmental community. Their wisdom, support and participation in Broads future endeavors will help us to make insightful and productive decisions. Their knowledge and connections will help Broads get in touch with the right people at the right times. Welcome Advisory Board and thank you for continuing on with Broads in the journey to protect our country's wild lands.

Steve Allen - Boulder, CO
 Dave Foreman - Albuquerque, NM
 Dottie Fox - Snowmass, CO
 Maggie Fox - Boulder, CO
 Fred Goodsell - Anaconda, MT
 Vicky Hoover - San Francisco, CA
 Dale Johnson - Boulder, CO
 Frandee Johnson - Boulder, CO
 Linda Liscom - Kenwood, CA
 Chuck McAfee - Lewis, CO
 MB McAfee - Lewis, CO
 Liz McCoy - SLC, UT
 Sarah Michael - Sun Valley, ID
 Erin Moore - Bellingham, WA
 Cindy Shogan - Washington, DC
 Susan Tixier - Embudo, NM
 Liz Thomas - Moab, UT
 Joro Walker - SLC, UT
 Melyssa Watson - Durango, CO

there are still many battles to fight. "Land managers need to remember that they are here for sustainability and future generations," said Gloria.

—After resigning from the Forest Service, Gloria Flora started SOS (Sustainable Obtainable Solutions), a non-profit whose goal is to increase the understanding of sustainability and the interrelationships of people and nature, especially on public lands. www.s-o-solutions.org —BL

Give the Gift of Broads

Don't forget that special Broad in your life this Christmas. Give a **gift membership** to Broads to help protect our wilderness. While you're at it, don't forget all the other great items like **Broads t-shirts, nalgene bottles, and tote bags**. To purchase any of these items, call 970-385-9577, or visit us online at www.greatoldbroads.org

Join The Great Old Broads Today!

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There is no place Broads are more at home in than desert sandstone. Photo by Barbara Eaton

Send a **ONE-YEAR GIFT MEMBERSHIP** to a Broad-minded friend! Please enclose additional dues for this membership.

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Broads Paraphernalia

Item	Size	Cost	Quantity
Broads Tee (natural)	S, M, L, XL	\$15	
Long Sleeve Tee	S, M, L, XL	\$20	
Scoop-neck Tee (white)	S, M, L	\$15	
Slim-fit Tee (sage green)	S, M, L,	\$15	
Button or sticker (please circle)		\$1.50	
Canvas Tote		\$15	
Nalgene Bottle w/ logo (violet)		\$15	
Dung to Dust Booklet		\$4.05	

If you are making a \$100+ contribution, please be sure to circle your size for the Broads t-shirt on the order form.

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