



QUARTERLY

Spring | 2024



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Artist-in-Residence Program Returns to William Allen White Cabin

By Karen Lloyd-D'Onofrio



After a hiatus of more than five years, the Artist-in-Residence program at Rocky Mountain National Park is once again inviting artists back to the recently renovated historic William Allen White cabin in Moraine Park.

Artists and writers have for generations been attracted to the landscapes of the Western U.S. where majestic mountain peaks, wide-open prairies, and bubbling streams captured their imagination. The paintings and literature produced by those early artists played a key role in the interpretation of the West, and they shaped how people thought about western landscapes. Many of the landscapes depicted then are public lands or national parks today. The National Park Service's Artist-in-Residence program reflects the close connections between our parks, artists, and landscapes.



Rocky's Artist-in-Residence program welcomed its first artists to the cabin forty years ago in 1984. One of the first artists—a writer—included Paul "Del" Brinkman who at the time was the Dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas. As a young student, Brinkman worked at the *Emporia Gazette*, the newspaper owned by White, before heading into academia in 1970. It seems fitting that Brinkman was one of the first to participate in the program where artists can immerse themselves in the rich cultural history and the beauty of the park during their two-week stay at the Cabin.

William Allen White first visited Estes Park in 1889. He and a few college friends from the University of Kansas boarded a train for Colorado, where they spent their

Continued on page 14

*Looking
forward to
the beginning
of elk calving
season in
the park.*



A Message from our Executive Director



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Dear Friends,

Baby bunnies are hopping around outside my window, and on any given day, I might be wearing a t-shirt or digging out of a 3-foot snowstorm, sure signs that spring has arrived in the Rockies!

While spring may be a quieter “shoulder season” in our gateway communities, it’s a busy time for the Conservancy as we prepare for summer. We are hiring and onboarding our summer staff, and planning and preparing for the millions of visitors coming to visit, and the millions of dollars of park projects we’ll fund this year.

In April, we are also celebrating a new chapter as our inaugural residents move into the Conservancy’s Rocky Terraces workforce housing units. While we’ll complete exterior painting and landscaping as the weather warms up, we are excited for this big milestone for our organization.

I have been at the Conservancy for over seven years now and have often been asked about the esteemed Artist-in-Residence program. The park had to close the William Allen White cabin for needed repairs for many years, but with the support of donors like you, the program is back in full-swing in 2024! I was thrilled and honored to serve on the Artist-In-Residence selection panel this year, and I can’t wait for you to get to know the selected artists and their work through the public programming they’ll offer this summer as part of their residencies. You’ll definitely see me (and my middle-school-aged daughter, whose artistic inclinations already far exceed my own) at many of the programs, where you’ll have a chance to not only learn about the artist’s process, but also try your hand at creating your own art in the process. Whether you’re a world-class artist yourself, or, if like me, you’ll be trying to untangle your embroidery yarns and spilling the paint, I think you’ll be delighted at the opportunity to see the beauty of Rocky Mountain National Park through a new lens of the artists who have been invited to share their talents with us this summer.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Quarterly, and that you find inspiration in whatever nature you’re able to explore this spring. Likely, whatever part of the country you’re in, you’ve also got some little bunnies on the hop outside your window to bring a little joy to your spring day too.

Warmly,



Estee Rivera Murdock

Estee Rivera Murdock
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ask the Conservancy

Quarterly reporters unearth answers to any questions asked by Conservancy members and park visitors. If you are curious about something in or about the park, email Communications@RMConservancy.org or write: Ask the Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Conservancy, PO Box 3100, Estes Park, CO 80517.

Shop Conservancy Nature Stores

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I heard that limber pines in Rocky are struggling with disease. How severe is the disease and how it is impacting the limber pines in the park?

Limber pines (*Pinus flexilis*) are five-needle pines in Rocky Mountain National Park. Limber pines are a keystone species that facilitate forest establishment and succession, provide food sources for wildlife, and aid in soil stability and snow retention. Within the park, limber pines are designated as a Species of Management Concern because of their importance in maintaining biodiversity in the park.

Limber pine populations in Rocky and the surrounding area are declining due to climate-exacerbated drought and mountain pine beetle outbreaks. Since 2010, limber pines in the park have faced the additional threat of white pine blister rust (WPBR) - a fatal disease caused by a nonnative fungus. Scientists predicted that the combined effects of these stressors would result in a 40% loss of limber pine by 2030 without intervention.

In response, park managers have collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service to implement the Proactive Limber Pine Conservation Strategy. This multi-pronged strategy allows managers to monitor limber pine populations, apply bark beetle deterrents to limber pines in the form of verbenone packets, strategically prune limber pine branches with signs of WPBR (most easily identified by orange/rust-colored cankers that grow on the bark), collect limber pine seeds for seed banking, and plant limber pine seedlings to restore affected limber pine populations. The Conservation Strategy also promotes scientific research on limber pine genetics that can be used to further support conservation efforts. One study found Rocky Mountain National Park and the surrounding area has an unusually high percentage of limber pines that carry a WPBR-resistant gene – the “Cr4” gene!

Rocky has a Forest Health Program with dedicated staff who implement the Proactive Limber Pine Conservation Strategy. Park staff collect data on limber pine health and apply verbenone packets annually in 17 plots throughout the park. In September of 2023, park staff also planted 270 limber pine seedlings near Mirror Lake in the northern part of the park to restore a limber pine stand lost to the 2020 Cameron Peak Fire.

Paige Lambert, Science Communicator at the Continental Divide Research Learning Center



T-SHIRT RMNP ADVENTURE AWAITS

The back of this blue lagoon-colored t-shirt features a stylized view of Longs Peak amid a beautiful Rocky Mountain scene. The left front features an elk and the words “Rocky Mountain National

Park.” 52% cotton and 48% polyester. Price \$27.99

Member Price: \$23.79



WILDFLOWERS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Produced by the Denver Botanic Gardens, this comprehensive field guide is for anyone wishing to learn about the amazingly diverse wildflowers

of the region. Organized by flower color and shape, and including a range map for each flower described, the guide is as user-friendly as it is informative. Item #012655 Price: \$29.99

Member Price: \$25.49



RMNP NIGHT SKY BEAR HAT

This navy-blue hat features a white embroidered night sky constellation bear with the words “Rocky Mountain National Park.” Adjustable slide buckle closure.

Garment washed twill, relaxed and unstructured fit. 100% cotton, one size fits most. Item #013267 Price: \$22.99

Member Price: \$19.54



DENEEN RMNP PEPIN BLACK BEAR MUG

This unique 12-oz aqua glaze mug features a black bear strolling through the mountains with the words “Rocky Mountain

National Park.” The mug is safe for the dishwasher, oven, freezer, and microwave – however we don’t recommend going from one extreme to the other. Item #011691 Price: \$24.99

Member Price: \$21.24



NATIONAL PARKS TRAVEL STAMPS PUZZLE

America’s National Parks by Travel Stamps 1,000-piece puzzle. Completed puzzle dimensions: 26.75”x 19.25”. Item #013355

Price: \$18.99

Member Price: \$16.14

More memorabilia at
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Wildfire damage
in the Colorado
River District



Ann Schonlau



By
Anne Morris,
Communications
Associate

Biennial Research Conference: Science and Collaboration Help Rocky Navigate Challenges and Change



Vegetation crew at work | Ann Schonlau

More than 250 researchers, park staff, and community members attended the 2024 Rocky Mountain National Park Biennial Research Conference in Estes Park, March 6-7th. The conference theme was “Challenges and Collaboration for Changing Landscapes” and 26 presentations focused on everything from wildfire recovery and adaptive vegetation management to the wetlands ecosystem collapse in the Kawuneeche Valley.

Research is critical to the understanding, management, and preservation of the park’s natural and cultural resources. The Continental Divide Research Learning Center (CDRLC) oversees research at Rocky and issued 96 research permits in 2023. The CDRLC organized the conference that was sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy.

In a keynote address, CDRLC Director Scott Esser listed challenges affecting Rocky including climate change (temperatures at Bear Lake have risen 3-5 degrees in the last 100 years), wildfire, invasive plant and wildlife species, and human impact. In introducing the conference, Esser said, “Rocky can’t do it alone. Collaboration enhances productivity and increases funding opportunities.”

The results of some studies in the park have wide application such as one on the effects of wildfire on water quality. On Rocky’s west side, about 28 percent of the North Inlet area burned in the East Troublesome Fire. Nearby, the similar drainage of the East Inlet was untouched. Using a variety of sensors, researchers tracked and compared changes in sediment and water chemistry in the two drainages over time and following storms. The data helps to answer the question of how long changes in water chemistry persist following fire.

Many of the research projects focused on potential ecosystem collapse in areas such as the Kawuneeche Valley, brought on by the interactions of climate change, human interference, and

Scan QR code for
conference proceedings
and presentation
abstracts.



Winter Ptarmigan | Marlene Borneman

competition for resources among wildlife inhabitants. A presentation on “Fifteen Years of the Elk and Vegetation Management Plan” includes progress, but also emerging challenges such as a growing moose population. Moose were originally extremely rare, transient visitors to this area and are considered functionally non-native in Rocky because they did not co-evolve with the park’s vegetation communities.

Genetics featured in several research projects. One study looked at the effect of wildfire on the genetic diversity of trout populations. In another study in the higher elevations of the park, researchers collected breast feathers and toenail clippings from individual ptarmigan to look for insights into the species’ unique evolutionary adaptations.

In the introduction to his presentation on ptarmigan selection of habitat, Nicholas Parker showed a photo of himself as an eight-year-old visiting Trail Ridge with his family, and a recent photo of himself as a Rocky Mountain Conservancy Bailey Fellow conducting research in the same area, a reminder of the impact visits to national parks can have on young people and developing the next generation of stewards and scientists.

Presentations weren’t limited to the physical and biological sciences. Several focused on Rocky’s efforts to identify and collaborate with ancestrally-connected Tribal Nations whose traditional homelands include land that is now within the park. Among the goals are to, with the consent and involvement of the Tribal Nations themselves, collect and share their connections to the land through interpretative programs and inclusion in educational resources such as the Junior Ranger booklets.

The next research conference is planned for 2026.



2024 Awards Recognize Rocky Mountain Conservancy, Biologist Steve King, and Zoologist Dr. Erin Muths

Superintendent Gary Ingram presented the Rocky Mountain Conservancy with the 2024 Partnership Award at the Rocky Biennial Research Conference held in early March. The award acknowledged the Conservancy’s success in securing nearly \$1 million in grant funding for the Kawuneeche Valley restoration project, underwriting \$125,000 for applied research in the park, and providing \$2.5 million in philanthropic support across Rocky programs and operations.

The park honored wildlife biologist Steve King with the Community Science Award, recognizing his work spanning nearly 40 years in and around Rocky as a National Park Service scientist and volunteer. King’s accomplishments include the study of bighorn sheep in the park, including weekly surveys of the herd living in and around the Crater near the Continental Divide. U.S. Geological Survey research zoologist Dr. Erin Muths received the Stewardship Award for her work in studying and monitoring Rocky’s declining amphibian populations, which have been stressed by disease and the effects of climate change.

Estee Rivera with the Partnership Award presented by Superintendent Gary Ingram and CDRLC Director Scott Esser.





By
Amelia Gross,
Education Intern

Spotlight on Rocky's Amazing Volunteers

Editor's Note: Fifty years ago, the National Park Service (NPS) marked its first National Volunteer Week. In honor of this year's celebration April 21st-27th, we spoke with Rocky Mountain National Park's volunteer program specialist and some Volunteers-in-Parks (VIPs) to get their insights.

Conversation with Volunteer Program Specialist **Jordan Downie** on her role and the importance of the VIP program.

How did you get involved with the volunteer program at Rocky?

I started as a Community Volunteer Ambassador, which is an internship program. My cohort of 50 interns was placed at sites across the country. I fell in love with the program and getting to know the volunteers.

How many volunteers serve in Rocky each year?

We have over 400 recurring volunteers that log about 80,000 volunteer hours in an average year. We have around 200 people who come out for single-day volunteer events which the park hosts with the Conservancy.

Can you talk about some of the different positions?

We have volunteers in every division and they do just about everything except law enforcement. Some of our bigger programs are in Resource Protection and Visitor Services. We have volunteers up at Bear Lake and outlying Ranger stations. People will say you come to Rocky, and you may or may not meet a ranger, but odds are you'll run into a volunteer.

In Interpretation and Education, volunteers work at the visitor centers and support educational programming.

Volunteers assist education rangers with field trips to the park each school day, and help facilitate the dark sky astronomy programs, where VIPs share their own telescopes with the public along with their knowledge of the night sky. Volunteers also help the park offer multiple bird walks each week in the summer. And these are just a few examples of the amazing ways that volunteers support park programs.

We also have volunteers in the Information Office. Rocky is unique in that visitors can call the park and speak with a knowledgeable volunteer to ask questions and help plan their trip. VIPs save visitors so much time and stress, which is a huge asset to our park.

In the Resources Division, volunteers support research, vegetation, and wildlife. Some volunteers have skilled backgrounds in biology and working with wildlife and they come to Rocky to "give back." Other people are just happy to be outside, learn new skills, and help out.

How do people become volunteers?

We have a standard application that lets people share their availability and interests. So, someone could say, for example, "I was a teacher," and we can pair them up with our education team at Junior Ranger Headquarters



Jordan Downie and VIP Kelly Lester | NPS Photo

or something similar. We bring on new volunteers every year.

And then we have people who say, “I was an accountant for 40 years, but always wanted to help at a national park and be out in nature.” We can pair that person up with the Bighorn Brigade which educates visitors and protects the bighorn around the Sheep Lakes area. To see them fulfill their dream of working in a national park and doing something completely new is really rewarding.

Is that the best part of your job?

Matching somebody with a position that they say, “feels like it was meant for me,” is one of the best parts of my job. The other best part of my job is the relationships I build with volunteers. Now that I've been here almost two years, it's exciting when volunteers I know start returning each season.

Advice for people who want to join the team at Rocky?

Don't be afraid to try new things. We have people who say “The Bighorn Brigade, what is that?” Then you see them a month later, and they're like, “This is the best thing ever!” So, just give it a try!

Tales from the VIPs

They're known as Roadhogs, Sled Dawgs, Tundra Guardians, Bighorn Brigade, Elk Bugle Corps, Trailmasters, Desk Docents, Weed Warriors, Polar Bears, and many other nicknames. Each of these names represents a group of dedicated Volunteers-in-Parks (VIPs) who work alongside NPS employees to help preserve Rocky's natural, historical, recreational, and cultural treasures. You'll find them along Rocky's roads, on trails, in visitor centers, on the Hidden Valley sledding hill, patrolling the tundra, in the greenhouse, and even releasing toads in the wetlands.

“We could not do what we do without our volunteers,” said NPS Director Charles Sams recently of the VIP program. “We are truly fortunate to have so many citizen stewards supporting our work.” At a recent Conservancy-sponsored volunteer appreciation potluck, RMNP Lead for Interpretation and Education Kim Swift said, “The impact of our VIPs is almost unquantifiable. It's not just the hours they give, but the community they build.”

VIPs at the potluck shared their experiences at Rocky. Common themes were the sense of community with other VIPs and visitors, the opportunity to learn about the park's landscape and wildlife, and encouraging people considering volunteering to go ahead and jump in.

Loraine Neuberger started volunteering about 20 years ago with the Elk Bugle Corps, VIPs who assist during the elk rut. She has served in several groups since but says “the elk never let me down.” She enjoys talking to people who are happy to be in the park and thrilled to watch the action of an elk rut. Her advice to people considering volunteering is, “Just go for it. It's a lot of fun to be in a beautiful place surrounded by people happy to be here.”

Bonnie Seals has volunteered with the Bighorn Brigade at Sheep Lakes, in the Information Office working the phones, and in the Lost & Found Office where she says one of the most unusual items turned in was an unused catheter.

Continued on page 15



Volunteer with Jr. Ranger | NPS Photo



Tundra Guardian Linda Koshio Rogers and RMC Intern Jax Maldonado | NPS Photo



Roadhogs saving the plows | Lisa Payden



VIP assisting visitor at Alpine Visitor Center | NPS Photo



📷 Liza Grant | Conservancy Photo



📷 Greg Danielson | Conservancy Photo



Greg Danielson and Liza Grant Join the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Board of Directors



📷 Lion Lake | Alex Ho

Greg Danielson and Liza Grant are the newest members of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy board of directors, having started their terms at the organization's board meeting Feb. 23rd in Estes Park.

The board is responsible for planning, fundraising, and the oversight of operations at the Conservancy, one of the nation's oldest and most successful national park friends' groups.

"We're very excited for Liza and Greg to join the board, not only for their leadership and specialized skills, but because they share our passion for protecting and enhancing Rocky Mountain National Park and public lands," said Walt Borneman, who assumed responsibility as board president at the meeting from Brian Ross. Other board officers are Charles Cofas of Estes Park, vice president; Howdy Fry of Grand Lake, treasurer; and Rich Fedorchak of Estes Park, secretary.

Greg Danielson recently retired after 20 years as a partner at the Denver law firm Davis Graham & Stubbs and currently works on a limited basis as Senior of Counsel. He graduated from the University of Colorado

"My grandfather and father taught me to love, appreciate and cherish Rocky Mountain National Park. Our family has instilled in us the importance of open space, wildlife and all aspects of nature."

— Liza Grant,
Conservancy Board Member

and earned his law degree from the University of Denver. He has done pro bono work for and volunteered with environmental organizations in and around his home in Silverthorne, including the Rocky Mountain Land Library and the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, including tackling invasive weeds and other backcountry field work.

Danielson came by his love of Rocky in part through regular visits to his grandparents' home in Loveland. He and his wife, Peggy, raised their

three children to share their love of the outdoors. Danielson says “hiking is life” for Peggy, but he also enjoys skiing and fly-fishing throughout Rocky. They look forward to welcoming their first grandchild in the coming year.

Borneman said Danielson’s experience working with the federal government and brokering complex land transactions will assist the Conservancy in efforts to acquire and protect key parcels of land in and near Rocky.

While Danielson is new to the board and brings a fresh perspective, Liza Grant has a long and deep association with the Conservancy and Rocky. Grant’s late father, William Peter Grant III, “Peter,” served 12 years on the board when the Conservancy was known as the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. In 2018, Liza Grant completed an earlier term as a board member, serving for a time alongside her father.

Earlier generations of the Hendrie-Grant family acquired much of their land bordering the Big Thompson River from the Earl of Dunraven in the late 1800s as payment for debts—about 20 years before Rocky was established. Since then, Grant family descendants have resided on and stewarded the land around what was the original park entrance and worked with Rocky through the years as good neighbors on issues of mutual concern. The Grant family was instrumental in the Rocky

Terraces workforce housing project which is on schedule for spring completion.

Grant brings this abiding connection to the land along with leadership skills honed in the world of competitive sports and education. Grant graduated with a degree in math and education from Colorado College where she also excelled in soccer, recognized as an All-America player her senior year. She spent more than a decade in collegiate athletics and Olympic development programs, coaching at the University of Washington, the University of New Mexico, and establishing and coaching the Division 1 women’s soccer program at the University of Wyoming.

Feeling the pull to work with younger students, in 2001 Grant returned to the classroom to teach math at the high school and middle school levels. She completed a master’s degree in education from Regis University in 2011 and has since established a business providing private tutoring in math.

When not working with students, Liza enjoys hiking in the U.S. and Europe, nature photography, gardening, golf, and tennis, and spends as much time as she is able at her property adjoining Rocky.

“My grandfather and father taught me to love, appreciate, and cherish

“We’re very excited for Liza and Greg to join the board, not only for their leadership and specialized skills, but because they share our passion for protecting and enhancing Rocky Mountain National Park and public lands.”

— Walt Borneman,
Conservancy Board President

Rocky Mountain National Park,” Grant said. “Our family has instilled in us the importance of open space, wildlife, and all aspects of nature.”

One of Grant’s goals for her tenure on the board is to “continue to make Rocky accessible to all.” She also looks forward to helping young people have the kinds of positive experiences in nature that will inspire them to continue the work to preserve our public lands.

Give the Gift of Membership



RMConservancy.org/join-or-give/join

In Case You
Missed It



New Colorado River Stream Gauge



The Conservancy and Rocky are working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to fund and replace a critical stream gauge on the Colorado River at Baker Gulch. The existing gauge, installed in 1986, has collected information on stream flow for multiple government agencies to monitor and predict water availability, runoff rates, and water quality. The park uses the data for research and monitoring programs.

The cost of the project is \$33,500, with the replacement gauge installed this spring in a new location that will increase the durability of the monitoring station and equipment. Data from the stream gauge will be critical in planning and evaluating ecological restoration projects in the Kawuneeche Valley.

Hydrology Trivia: If you follow USGS reporting on this and other streamflow monitoring, you're likely to see "gauge" spelled "gage" and "stream gauge" as "streamgage." USGS uses these nonstandard spellings in acknowledgment of the contributions (and early spelling decisions) of Frederick Haynes Newell, appointed the first director of the Irrigation Survey in 1888.

Conservancy Round-Up

Conservancy Now Accepting Donations of Vehicles

Donating your car is an easy way to support Rocky Mountain National Park! Donating a vehicle you no longer need directly contributes to Conservancy funding of projects at Rocky, including habitat restoration, wildlife protection, search and rescue, and environmental education programs.

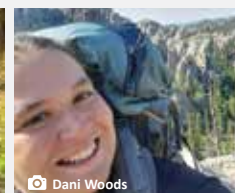
The donation process is hassle free. The Conservancy handles all the paperwork and logistics, and your donation may qualify for a tax deduction.

For more information or to donate your car, please email info@RMConservancy.org or call 970-586-0108.

New Hidden Valley Warming Hut Mural

Rocky's environmental education outreach intern Taylor Brant designed and painted a large mural inside the Hidden Valley warming hut which not only enlivens the décor but also serves as an education tool—giving young Junior Rangers and their families a visual guide to life in Rocky's various ecological zones and seasons. Taylor's internship was funded through the philanthropy of Conservancy donors—and the Conservancy even purchased the paint!

Conservancy Welcomes New Team Members



Joshua Johnson and **Ann Wagner** have joined our Philanthropy team as the new donor services manager and member & donor services associate respectively. Call or stop by the Conservancy to meet them. They can help with membership, donations, license plates, and general questions. Like all Conservancy staff and members, they are passionate about Rocky and you may meet them and their families out on the trails. You might also encounter Josh playing banjo in a local bluegrass pick. They fill the shoes of Madison Abbott and Jenny Eckhardt, who both moved out-of-state to be with family.

Katie Colson, from the Pacific Northwest and a graduate of Colorado State University, joins our education team as the Field Institute manager. She will oversee registration and operations for the expanded catalog this year, which includes a dozen new topics and more courses available on Rocky's west side. Registration for spring and summer courses continues. Check out the Field Institute course catalog by visiting www.RMConservancy.org.

Dani Woods moved down from Montana (where she graduated from Montana State University and competed in professional lumberjack competitions!) to become our Field Stewardship manager. In her new role, Dani will coordinate with Rocky and other federal land managers on trail, vegetation, and historic preservation projects and ensure the safety and personal development of the young people serving in our Conservation Corps and High School Leadership Corps.



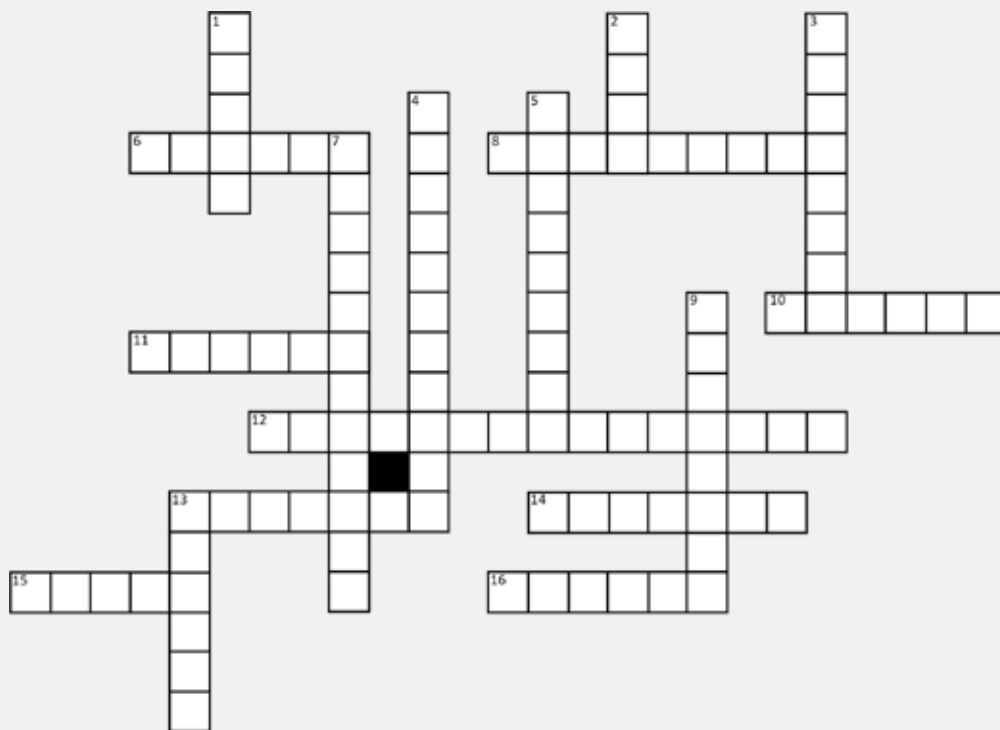
Rocky Mountain Conservancy Park Puzzler

Across

6. Name of Enos Mills' dog, often pictured with Mills in photos.
8. The elevation of this well-known ridge seen when traversing Trail Ridge Road is 11,722 to 17,762 feet above sea level.
10. Dorr G. _____ wrote the classic novel "Bob Flame Rocky Mountain Ranger" and was Rocky's first chief naturalist.
11. Not Ted, but Jim, a famous early Estes Park mountain man who guided (or carried) Isabella Bird to the summit of Longs Peak in 1873.
12. Rocks that have been transported by ice and deposited elsewhere.
13. Handsome black and white birds with long tails (body length about 19 inches; tail length about eight inches) that often catch the eye of visitors from the eastern U.S. where these birds are not found.
14. This ecosystem in the park occurs at altitudes between 5,600 to 9,500 feet.
15. *Cervus canadensis* use this call to deter competing bulls or to assist in keeping a harem of females in close proximity.
16. The acronym name of automated data collection stations within Rocky that measure and report snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and other climate information.

Down

1. What animal is the centerpiece of the NPS ranger badge in use since 1970?
2. A one-time preacher in Estes Park, Rev. Elkanah _____ traded in his ecclesiastical career for mountain guiding after surviving a harrowing and now infamous 800-foot fall on the flank of Longs Peak.
3. What design is tooled into the leather of NPS uniform belts?
4. Members of the insect order Trichoptera, their larvae look something like aquatic caterpillars.
5. The North American _____ is a mammal that is proposed to be listed as "threatened" in Rocky Mountain National Park under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.
7. _____ Big Owl is a memoir by Katherine Garetson who "proved up" her 160-acre quarter-section near the present-day town of Allenspark.
9. One of Rocky's well-known tundra hikes.
13. "Two Guides" is the English translation for what the Arapaho people called Longs Peak and this adjoining mountain.



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Continued from page 1

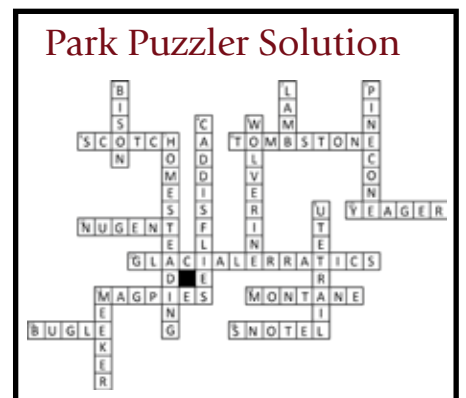
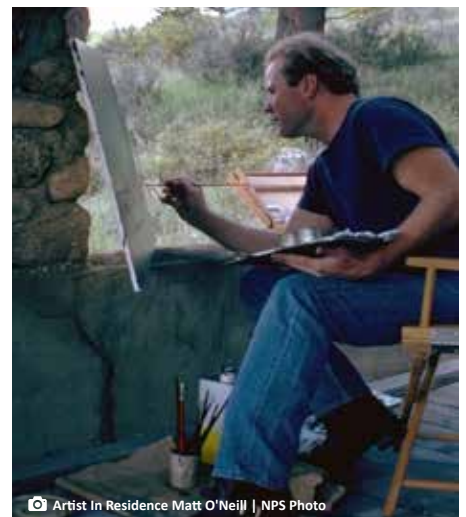
White was a confidant to several U.S. presidents, including Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt,



 Interior of William Allen White cabin | NPS photo

The historic cabin represents not only White's history but also the history of Moraine Park as a tourist destination. It retains many of the historic details, with the exterior looking much as it did when White stayed there. The interior has been modernized in some areas – the kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom – but the main living room remains much as it did when White entertained his notable visitors, including the presence of some of the original furniture. The cabin, with its rich cultural and social history and its role in cultivating intellectual

There are many ways to experience and explore Rocky's ecosystems and wildlife, and much like the early paintings and writings inspired tourists to head West, today art, in all its forms, will engage new visitors with Rocky's beauty at the William Allen White Cabin.





Rocky Mountain National Park's Artist-in-Residence Program



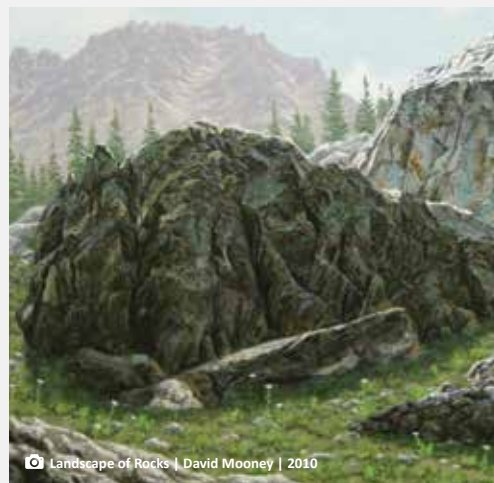
Established in 1984, the Artist-in-Residence program at Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the longest running in the National Park Service and typically hosts five to six artists each summer for two- to three-week stays. Artists from virtually any medium or

genre are welcome to apply, which can include painting, sculpture, dance, music, film, photography, and experimental art forms.

To apply, artists submit resumes, examples of recent work, a statement of purpose, and their vision for how they would present their Artist-in-Residence experience to the public. Those selected agree to present at least two public programs and donate a fully finished artwork along with the rights to allow the Rocky Mountain Conservancy and the park to share the work with the public.

The application window has closed for 2024 and Rocky is expected to announce selected artists in May. Work on this summer's program is just beginning, however, from opening the historic William Allen White cabin for summer occupancy to facilitating the public programs. The first artist is expected to arrive in June.

Rocky's Artist-in-Residence program is conducted with the support of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, which accepts the donated art and funds an intern to assist with program publicity and logistics. The program also includes support from Rocky's volunteers to manage the occupancies and regional art experts who serve as jury members to evaluate applications and select participants.



Volunteers

Continued from page 7

Bonnie's husband, Gordon, an avid backpacker, joked that his VIP journey started one day when he realized his wife knew much more about the park than he did. He worked at Bear Lake as a Trailmaster, assisted visitors along Trail Ridge Road as a Tundra Guardian (where much of the job is traffic control around "elk jams"), but really recommends working in the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Information Office to learn the most about the park and its operations.

"The Info Office is in the park headquarters, the nerve center of the park," Seals said. "We come into contact with and learn about aspects of the park that most visitors will never see." Besides questions from the public, VIPs also receive phone calls reporting

incidents where it's critical to relay accurate information for a proper response.

Assisting visitors throughout the park can lead to some unusual encounters.

One Polar Bear (a year-round VIP) recalled educating a visitor that "traction devices weren't designed to fit on your flip flops." A Trailmaster had a visitor show up with a ferret on his shoulder that he said was his service animal. VIPs are advised, "If it gets complicated, turn it over to a ranger."

Not all VIPs interact directly with the public and some jobs are unique. Bill and Lisa Payden are among a group that recycles camp propane bottles. Used propane cans are collected at the campgrounds and taken to the park utility area, where VIPs use a machine that sucks out any remaining gas and then crushes the can. "It's a pretty cool machine," he said. Lisa also works in the Volunteer Office.

Bill and Lisa are also Roadhogs, one of the most physically demanding VIP roles. As maintenance volunteers, Roadhogs assist park staff with everything from removing rockfall from roads and cleaning runoff drains to constructing wood piles for wildfire mitigation.

Betty and Rich Herzfeldt are also very "hands-on" VIPs. Betty and her brother Bill Payden are part of VIPs who remove fallen trees from backcountry trails. Betty and her sister-in-law Lisa Payden says, "We call the wind 'job security!'" Rich also works with the Roadhogs shaving bark off logs to prepare the wood for use in benches and bridges and works with the Bighorn Brigade and Elk Bugle Corps. He loves talking with all the visitors.

What's the advice from a Roadhog? "Just do it! You'll have a great time and never feel like the new person or outsider. The other VIPs will bring you right in."



Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Estee Rivera Murdock, executive director
Anne Morris, *Quarterly* editor
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Rocky Mountain coyote looking out for the return of spring.

Visit RMConservancy.org
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Nature Notes

- While hiking up Flattop Mountain around New Year's, **Marlene Borneman** found many ptarmigan tracks, but no ptarmigan, the only birds that turn white in the winter to blend into their surroundings and be harder to spot by predators (and evidently, hikers, too!). The consolation on the cold, blustery day was spying a pika sunning himself on a large boulder sheltering from the wind.
- **Ashley Bruce** ventured to Sprague Lake one morning to watch the sunrise and enjoyed capturing some beautiful photos. Ashley said she "loves going to work after seeing a stunning sunrise in the park!"
- **Richard Lillie** got to watch a moose cow stride across the Hidden Valley parking lot in March.
- As a budding nature photographer, **Michelle Hertzog** and her husband took an early drive through the park and were delighted, as always, to observe and photograph elk and mule deer near Moraine Park. As Michelle said, "Rocky Mountain National Park never disappoints!"
- Also near Moraine Park, many residents

and visitors have enjoyed observing an active pack of coyotes in the area. **Linda Delano** got to see and hear a trio of coyotes howling in unison at sunset (she called it a "serenade").

- **Michael Phillips** watched a ranging female coyote move back toward her mate on a ridge when he called.
- **Donna Mae Pierce** and friends enjoyed having the peace and beauty of the snow-covered Bierstadt Lake Trail all to themselves one recent morning.

- **Bruce Davies'** favorite photo from recent visits to the park was capturing this pure white long-tailed weasel in the Sheep Lakes area. Bruce worries that climate change is interfering with the weasel's camouflage.
- After reading about Kawuneeche Valley restoration efforts in the last Quarterly, **John Streun** from Texas wrote a note to share his memories of a hike on the trail to Lulu City back in the 1960s. He marveled at the beaver working the stream in the meadow and was astounded by beaver swimming right by him as he explored the ponds. He hopes future generations will get to experience the same wide-eyed amazement.

