

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

A Newsletter for Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers

## Upcoming Events

### Contest Deadline

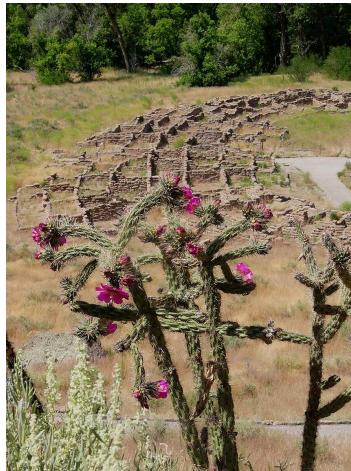
The photo and writing contest entry **deadline is July 10, 2023**. Check the RMOWP website ([rmowp.org](http://rmowp.org)) to download entry forms and contest rules.

### Conference Registration

**Conference Registration** and the conference schedule will be emailed in the next few weeks and will also be posted on the website ([rmowp.org](http://rmowp.org)). **We hope to see you in Los Alamos, October 3-6!**

### Conference Schedule

Be sure to check out **Page 6** for our Conference Schedule. We're planning guided field trips to Puye Cliff Dwellings, Valle Calderas, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and more... photography workshops... writing workshops... and celebrating RMOWP's 50th anniversary... our Golden Jubilee!



*Tyuonyi at Bandelier National Monument, photo courtesy National Park Service*

## Los Alamos Here We Come!

If you haven't done so already, it's time to find a place to stay in Los Alamos, New Mexico, site of RMOWP's 2023 conference, October 3-6. Check out [www.visitlosalamos.org](http://www.visitlosalamos.org). The official Los Alamos website has links to lodging and camping. And speaking of camping, if you don't mind dry camping/boondocking (no electric, water, or sewer hookups) there's a big open area next to the Sheriff's Posse Lodge, our conference headquarters, where you can camp free. Showers can be had at the YMCA, 1450 Iris St.

(505-662-3100; [www.laymca.org](http://www.laymca.org)) for \$4.

Top attractions here include **Bandelier National Monument** ([www.nps.gov/band](http://www.nps.gov/band)), which we're suggesting you visit on your own. During our time there the shuttle is expected to be running, and it's required you ride the shuttle if entering the park between 9am and 3pm. Bandelier is where you'll discover 13th-century ancestral Puebloan ruins, including cliff dwellings, a large pueblo, and an abundance of rock art. The monument also has a variety of trails, including one that leads to two picturesque waterfalls. Note: The Tsankawi Unit of Bandelier will be closed until mid-October due to extensive construction.

We're arranging a guided tour of **Puye Cliff Dwellings** ([www.puyec Cliff Dwellings.com](http://www.puyec Cliff Dwellings.com)), the ancestral home of today's Santa Clara Pueblo people, who lived along and above these cliffs from the 900s to about 1580 A.D. There are several levels of cave and cliff dwellings, as well as structures on top of the mesa, and a Harvey House built by the Fred Harvey Company as a bed and breakfast in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Our tour will be to the mesa-top dwellings via vans. You can also see additional dwellings if you come down a fairly steep ladder, but the terrain is rough, and we don't recommend it for anyone with mobility issues and/or a fear of heights. *(Continued on Page Two.)*

*(Continued from Page One.)*

The mostly undeveloped **Valles Caldera National Preserve** ([www.nps.gov/vall](http://www.nps.gov/vall)) is the result of a huge volcanic eruption over a million years ago, and boasts herds of elk and mule deer plus black bears and mountain lions. The preserve has miles of old logging roads - mostly closed to motorized vehicles – that provide easy access to the backcountry for hikers. We're working on a ranger-led walk and talk.



*Bobcat, Valle Caldera, photo courtesy National Park Service*

Of course, Los Alamos is also known as the birthplace of the world's first atomic bombs, code-named the Manhattan Project. The **Manhattan Project National Historical Park** ([nps.gov/mapr](http://nps.gov/mapr)) is a work in progress and includes sites in Tennessee and Washington State in addition to Los Alamos, to tell the story of the development of the bombs. Los Alamos National Laboratory operates the **Bradbury Science Museum** ([www.lanl.gov/museum](http://www.lanl.gov/museum)), with exhibits on the

Manhattan Project as well as other scientific research, including non-military uses for nuclear energy; and the **Los Alamos History Museum** ([www.losalamoshistory.org](http://www.losalamoshistory.org)) highlights the human history of the area. We'll explore the history museum and take a guided walking tour of downtown Los Alamos to see Manhattan Project sites plus other historic sites including an historic homestead-era cabin.

We're still negotiating prices so we'll email registration forms by mid-July. But we anticipate lunches under \$20 each, dinners under \$30 each except about \$45 for the banquet; and the Puye Cliff Dwellings tour and Los Alamos History Museum walking tour will be about \$20 per person.

The 2023 conference is a group effort, with Linda Haehnle and Don Laine as conference co-chairs and Virginia Staat arranging workshops.



*Admiring the View, Valle Caldera, photo courtesy National Park Service*

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## Looking for Memories

Do you have a favorite memory or photo of Barb Laine? Please send it to us! We are compiling information to share at the Los Alamos conference. To share your memory or photo, email [barbmemory@att.net](mailto:barbmemory@att.net). Thanks in advance to all who participate.

## Conference Update

### RMOWP Welcomes Workshop Leader Ilana Lapid

Ilana Lapid will present a filmmaking workshop at RMOWP’s upcoming conference in Los Alamos. Ilana is a filmmaker and educator interested in telling stories of personal transformation, outdoor adventure, and environmental conservation. She has directed multiple award-winning short films, including *Red Mesa* and *La Catrina*. Her film *Yochi* (2017), shot in Belize and dealing with the illegal wildlife trade of endangered parrots, was Oscar qualified and played at over 30 film festivals around the world. Ilana is also a professor at the Creative Media Institute of New Mexico State University, where she teaches directing and environmental and social impact filmmaking.

Last summer, Ilana led 13 student filmmakers on a 12-day backpacking journey through the Gila Wilderness. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, her group interviewed forest firefighters, wildlife biologists, U.S. Forest Service wranglers, trail users, archeologists, community leaders and elders and non-profit organizers to make six documentaries as part of the 100-year celebration of the Gila Wilderness, the world’s first designated Wilderness Area. To date, four of the six films are completed. Ilana will screen one of the Gila documentaries during the RMOWP workshop.

Ilana believes that stories and narratives in media can be a powerful way to change minds and shift behaviors. Her workshop *A Filmmaker’s Journey: Visual Storytelling for Social and Environmental Impact* has been highly regarded as informative and introspective for both novice and advanced filmmakers. RMOWP welcomes Ilana, and we look forward to her presentation.

If you would like to view the film *Yochi* (no fee), follow this link: <https://dceff.org/film/yochi/>





## Writer's Corner

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### Why Write?

by Virginia Parker Staat

*There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle. ~Albert Einstein*

They had no time for shock or thinking. Instead, it was a race against the clock. Alexis and Steven received the diagnosis that their son would be born with spina bifida during a routine, 24-week gestation ultrasound. Doctors told Shepherd's young parents that the optimum time to perform surgery in vitro was at 25 weeks. The medical staff raced to complete tests and map a procedure to operate on the 1.5-pound baby.

Christmas week, Alexis went into surgery. The delicate operation, called fetoscopic repair surgery, was developed at Texas Children's Hospital in 2014. Since then, just over 100 operations of its kind have been performed. Surgeons partially delivered Alexis' uterus and used fetoscopic ports to enter it and close the open neural tube in Shepherd's spine. The following days and weeks were tense. Did Shepherd's surgery completely repair the lesion? Would he stay in his mother's womb until his due date at the end of March? Would he grow to walk?

On Valentine's Day, Shepherd must have decided the outside world was too enticing. He arrived six weeks earlier than expected and weighed just over four pounds. The next day, Shepherd had a second operation to further repair his spinal column. The butterfly-shaped scar left by the surgeons covered the baby's entire back. Before his release from the hospital, however, Shepherd was kicking his legs and wiggling his tiny toes. We are filled with optimism that this little boy will, indeed, one day walk.

For me, Shepherd's story is the stuff of miracles. Stories like his are the reason we write... to inspire... to encourage... to offer hope. Even when we write to inform or persuade, we still must have a story-worthy issue to capture our readers' interest and, hopefully, change them or at least change a portion of their hearts.

How do we do this? Bethany Cadman in her article *Use Your Writing to Inspire*, suggests, "You may wish to shock your reader, to anger them, to make them laugh or cry — but having a firm idea of how you would like to or have intended for them to

react will help to shape your piece and make you consider how you hope to evoke that reaction as your story progresses." She continues, "the knowledge that your writing does have a moral, a purpose, and could potentially reach out to someone and make them think they are not alone, or that they are a little bit more understood, or inspire them to be more generous, kinder, or braver — that can be a beautiful thing."

Annie Dillard in *The Writing Life* suggests, "Write as if you were dying. At the same time, assume you write for an audience consisting solely of terminally ill patients. That is, after all, the case. What would you begin writing if you knew you would die soon? What could you say to a dying person that would not enrage by its triviality?"

Think of the stories that have made a difference in your life. What was it about them that impacted you? As a child, the first book to make a difference for me was Marshall Saunderson's *Beautiful Joe*. As an adult, Dennis Miller's *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years* inspired me. Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods* changed me.

Baby Shepherd's story is still unfolding. His and stories like his are those that make a difference... for a young mother facing a similar situation... for a family... for a generation. There are other stories to write: stories about challenges, adventures, our amazing natural world, and other miracles. You have it in your power to write them. I encourage you to do so.



*Baby Shepherd, photos compliments of proud papa, Steven*



## Member News



Bob Hyde

### Bob Hyde Dies

Long-time RMOWP member Robert “Bob” Hyde, 85, of Sterling, Colorado, has died. We recently learned of his passing, which occurred November 25, 2022, according to Tennant Funeral Home in Sterling.

At that time, Bob, who joined RMOWP in 1975, was the longest-serving member. Bob was an ordained minister, serving throughout Colorado, and a missionary for five years in Tehran, Iran.

His writing and photography were published in the *Sterling Journal-Advocate* newspaper and *Traveling Tripod*. Bob was a member of the Colorado Press Association and Northern Colorado Press Association. He also taught photography and darkroom techniques at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling.

In RMOWP, Bob won numerous awards for his writing and photography and was president in the mid-1980s.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy. Survivors include daughters Tamara Buchleiter and Sherrie (Mast) Ertle and son Gary W. Harms, Jr.



Ann Lukacs

### RMOWP Member Wins Prestigious Award

Ann Lukacs of Breckenridge, Colorado, has been

awarded a Governor’s Creative Leadership Award, according to a press release from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. The awards are presented to recognize “Coloradans who have demonstrated a significant commitment to the state’s creative landscape,” according to a press release, and Ann won in the Arts and Community Action category.

In addition to being a RMOWP member, Ann is the video and video clip judge for RMOWP’s annual contest.

A videographer, camera operator, and photographer, she is also a location scout with extensive motion picture credits. Ann has produced documentaries including *Behind the Chutes*, the story of professional bareback riders; and *Thunder Over Europe*, about a World War II B-17 crew. She has also had juried shows featuring western photography.

Colorado Governor Jared Polis recently named her a Colorado Change Leader for “exceptional community development efforts,” and she has served on the Board of Arts for Colorado and the Advisory Board of the Colorado Women’s Economic Development Council.

Awards were presented June 1 at the Colorado Creative Industries Summit in Crested Butte, Colorado. For more information about Ann and her work, see [www.behindthechutes.com](http://www.behindthechutes.com) and [www.thunderovereurope.com](http://www.thunderovereurope.com).

**Just Published!!**

"I didn't set out to become a witness to climate change. But if I had, I couldn't have chosen a piece of land that better represents the many chapters of the story. Our land tells the saga of climate change in microcosm —a century of fossil fuel extraction; extremes of weather; drought; species change; wildfires; even the mark of the last mass extinction, exposed here like a warning. This landscape that shows so many impacts of climate change was also a party to creating it."

**BLUEBIRD SEASONS**

*Witnessing Climate Change in My Piece of the Wild*

MARY TAYLOR YOUNG

Available in print, e-book and audiobook from Amazon, B&N and Indie Booksellers!

Information, book trailer and purchase links at [MaryTaylorYoung.com](http://MaryTaylorYoung.com)

from Chicago Review Press

## President’s Column

by Virginia Parker Staat

The photo and writing contest entry deadline is July 10. I’ve spent the past several days looking through my year’s photos, deciding which I like best. I look forward to this time... it’s a walk down memory lane. It seems funny now, but I was very reluctant to enter the contest when I first joined RMOWP. I had entered enough competitions in the past to know that it can get pretty cutthroat.

When David and I arrived at our first conference in Taos (2012), I had no idea what to expect. To my delight, I found friendly faces. I found a learning and sharing environment. And after the banquet and awards ceremony, I saw folks congratulating one another. No sour grapes. No sullen looks. Just congratulations. It gave me confidence to enter the photo and writing contest the following year... and every year since.

RMOWP is made up of a very special group of people. We come from all walks of life and from all over the country. Yet when we come together, differences don’t seem to matter. Instead we share our passions for writing and photography, learn from each other, and have a wonderful time together.

I hope to have the opportunity to greet each of you in Los Alamos this October. I look forward to seeing where you’ve been over the past year with the photos and writings you share. I particularly look forward to rekindling friendships. It will be a great time to reminisce, to learn new techniques, to share our love for the great outdoors, and to celebrate RMOWP’s Golden Jubilee.

**S**tudy nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you. ~Frank Lloyd Wright

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## Tentative Conference Schedule



### RMOWP Conference

**Tuesday-Friday, October 3-6, 2023**

Los Alamos Sheriff’s Posse Lodge,  
650 North Mesa Road, Los Alamos,  
New Mexico

#### Tuesday, October 3

- Board of Directors Meeting
- Registration, Opening Reception, Happy Hour and Light Buffet (included in registration fee)
- Presentation of Contest Submissions
- A Celebration of Barb Laine's Life, with Kent Taylor

#### Wednesday, October 4

- Welcome, Announcements, and General Membership Meeting
- Guided Tour of Puye Cliff Dwellings at Santa Clara Pueblo
- Workshop - "A Filmmaker's Journey: Visual Storytelling," with Ilana Lapid
- Workshop – “Fire and Ice,” with photographer Kristen Honig
- RMOWP’s Golden Jubilee – Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The Formation and Early Days
- Showing of Past Contest-Winning Photos

#### Thursday, October 5

- Explore Bandelier National Monument on your own
- Introduction to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park
- Los Alamos History Museum and guided walking tour of historic sites
- Photo Critique
- Members’ Showcase with a twist – Favorite photos from all attendees
- Meet RMOWP’s new website

#### Friday, October 6

- Sunrise Photo Shoot at White Rock Overlook
- Ranger Walk & Talk at Valles Caldera National Preserve
- Workshop – “The Art of the Personal Essay,” with editor and writing coach Adrienne Pond
- Anne Sullivan Writing Critique OR The Story Behind the Photo
- Auction
- Banquet and Awards Ceremony