



# CRYSTAL CLEAR

# Fall, 2022

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## River Manipulation At Marble Airstrip

**John Armstrong**

On Sunday, August 7th, CVEPA responded to a citizen complaint about numerous large backhoes and loader(s) in the Crystal River adjacent to the Marble Airstrip along County Road 3 in the upper Crystal Valley. A contractor had essentially dredged several hundred yards of the river into a straight channel. Upon investigation, CVEPA saw evidence of extensive riverine manipulation and a swath of river that is devoid of any vegetation. No permit was displayed. This section of the Crystal River is the only significant stretch of the river (except Bogan Canyon) that is not visible from the road between Marble and Carbondale.

The next day, CVEPA asked Gunnison County and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to review the heavy equipment work performed in the Crystal River. Both entities were unaware of the extent of the excavation and earthmoving and neither office could confirm if the work was permitted through their agency.

CVEPA asked both agencies to send an officer to visit the site and determine if the manipulation being performed was within their regulations. When contacted that day, Colorado Division of Wildlife voiced their surprise at the magnitude of the ongoing project in the river and said they had not been consulted on the project.

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, Gunnison County investigated the site and issued an immediate stop work order (SWO). The SWO cited violations of "Protection of Water Quality, Inner Buffer Setbacks, Floodplain development and General Standards for Development in Sensitive Wildlife Habitat". Such activity as ditching or trenching of water is explicitly prohibited under Gunnison County's Land Use Resolution. The County ordered the property owner to complete an

application for a Minor Impact project review and Floodplain Development Permit or submit a plan for remediation and rehabilitation of the site by August 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Army Corps was unable to determine whether the work was compliant within their Nationwide Permit 3 (NWP 3)—as the land owner's Denver-based consultant, ERO Resources had maintained—until they sent an officer to visit the site. NWP3 allows limited stream bank stabilization projects without a special permit for rivers not subject to "Wild and Scenic" designation (or candidate status).

In researching this project the complexities quickly become apparent. The three airstrip properties and one adjacent parcel are all owned by out of state Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs). The owners of those LLCs have not been publicly disclosed. Furthermore, the thread of contractors, consultants and legal entities, all likely with some modicum of responsibility for the ongoing work, immediately confuses those concerned with the issue. Despite the shroud of LLCs, it is well known locally who the new neighbor is.

It is not expected that multi-billionaires double as project managers but who then is responsible for this end run of county (and perhaps federal) regulation? The environmental consultant is a well-reputed Colorado firm, the contractor one of long standing in the Roaring Fork Valley, and the owner's attorneys are long-term, well-respected Aspenites.

I don't have a lot of experience in projects of this magnitude but I have a simple understanding that a permit is needed to put large excavators in the river to manipulate the stream. A recurring

*Continued on page 2*

## “Airstrip,” continued

practice along the Crystal River, to ask for forgiveness rather than permission, affords the owner the chance that no one would question their work hence saving on permitting fees and precious time.

CVEPA is no stranger to witnessing this modus operandi. Indeed, CVEPA has been recently critical of the Army Corps' lack of enforcement of violations. When CVEPA expressed concern that the lack of consequence would empower other large entities to offend the federal regulations protecting our nation's waters the recently retired regional supervisor responded “we hope they would not.” CVEPA believes that hope is not the Army Corp's best tool.

People ask if Wild and Scenic designation would protect rivers against such unpermitted manipulation. The answer is “yes” in part; it would lead to greater public scrutiny in cases like the present one. If this section of the Crystal River had been designated as part of a “Wild and Scenic” river by Congress (or even a candidate “study river”), as many advocate, closer review by the Army Corps of Engineers would have been required. Riverbed construction of this kind could not “adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status” under the NWP3. State and local authorities remain empowered under their existing land and water use regulations.

Gunnison County is evaluating the response from environmental consultant ERO for the Marble Airstrip Project. ERO “helps clients... minimize damage to water resources and navigate permitting processes.”

This project is now stalemated while agencies figure out how to proceed. CVEPA voices concern that basic stabilization of the disturbed area be completed before winter so the river is prepared for high water and spring run-off. People voice concern over “too much government” and cumbersome and time consuming processes. CVEPA believes that the private sector running unbridled is far more dangerous than a governmental process designed to protect public resources.

The plan submitted for review appears to fall short of our expectations. Although riverbank stabilization was most likely needed it is not possible for CVEPA to fully evaluate that section of river as it is not visible. We have no baseline with which to compare it. We do see that the revegetation proposed doesn't compare to the adjacent riverine environs. We want to believe in the good intentions of the new owner of this beautiful part of the valley. We realize the unique nature of this case as our neighbors have daunting financial resources. If entities of profound wealth and resources are proposing land use changes shouldn't the public be informed who the proponent is rather than merely a post office box of an LLC? Rivers are not private property!

As concerned as CVEPA is with the environmental health of the valley and river, we are as concerned about the integrity of process. Without a transparent and accountable system by which all landowners must abide, inevitable abuses will continue.

Once again, CVEPA reminds us that “if you see something that doesn't look right, it probably isn't!” Pay attention and speak up! Without your observations CVEPA is unaware, the County is unaware and oversight is evaded! United we stand, alone we are not heard.

## Lead King Loop Recommendations

About one year ago, Gunnison County entered into an agreement with the Center for Public Lands at Western Colorado University (CPL) to facilitate public listening sessions and stakeholder workshops to address the impacts of increased use of the Lead King Loop, especially by off highway vehicles. The convening agencies also include the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest and the Town of Marble. The goal of the agreement was to identify challenges in managing an increase in recreation, and to recommend management options to the convening groups.

The process began with a Public Listening Session in December 2021 that was held at the Marble Fire House and via Zoom. At that meeting, participants broke into small groups and suggested words and phrases that reflected their personal values about recreating and how their quality of life may have been impacted by recreation. Those words were then put into a survey (called a Q-Ranking Worksheet) that was circulated to the public via CVEPA, the Town and Marble and other entities. It asked participants to rank the words that were generated at the first listening session in order of their importance to each individual. Those results were studied by the Stakeholder Group at its first workshop, and provided the focus for its subsequent meetings about management options.

Stakeholders met at two-day workshops over a period of months. At the second Public Listening Session, they presented seven areas the group had studied as possible management options. Feedback was gathered and again focused the work of the Stakeholders at their next meeting.

In June, the stakeholders again synthesized community feedback and applied it to the development of a number of management recommendations. Once finalized, the Stakeholders will hold a final vote and present them to Gunnison County and the White River National Forest this fall.

Recommendations include a range of actions that could impact both the recreational experience and quality of life for those who live in the upper Crystal Valley. CVEPA's representatives ensured that environmental issues will be addressed by the recommendations.

It is likely that recommendations will be implemented in the short term, through the 2023 season, and assessed on an ongoing

basis which will provide the opportunity to address any changes that might be needed going forward. A short trial period will mean actions will be evaluated sooner than later. Stakeholders are committed to seeing these recommendations through and responding to future needs.

Dr. Melanie Anderson, the Executive Director of CPL, says she has “a deep appreciation for the challenging work taken on by this stakeholder group, to respond to rapid change out of care for the land and people.” She has been “impressed by the group's willingness to listen to each other and learn. I think we all have developed deeper understanding of the opportunities and limitations faced by land managers and our local governments...I hope that this is the first step towards the Upper Crystal River Valley becoming a global model for sustainable, community-appropriate, environmentally-respectful recreation.”

CVEPA representatives have been participants in the effort to manage the impacts of OHV use on the Loop since the working group began three years ago. CVEPA has been supportive of the facilitated process and has appreciated the opportunity to synthesize ideas and learn from the experiences of our friends and neighbors in the upper Crystal Valley. While we support many of the upcoming recommendations, our position, as dictated by our mission statement, is that Gunnison County should revoke the exception on County Road 3 that allows OHV traffic, and uphold the state law which prohibits OHV traffic on county roads.

John Armstrong, CVEPA president, says “CVEPA cannot endorse any effort that seeks to accommodate or provide infrastructure to the very activity that is causing the problems we are all trying to mitigate. This includes providing special parking for trucks and trailers to import a use that, by state law is prohibited.” He goes on to say “the Gunnison County Commissioners need to provide its citizens with the same protection the State of Colorado and the rest of Gunnison County benefits from.”

CVEPA encourages the county to put it to a vote, not just to residents of the Town of Marble, but all Gunnison County residents in the Crystal Valley.

The commissioners are due to take up this issue at their January 3, 2023 meeting.

# Looking Forward with the Marble Quarry

**Dale Will**

It is understandable that tensions might hang over the rapport between CVEPA and Colorado Stone Quarries (“CSQ”), which now operates the marble quarry. After all, CVEPA had alerted others to both the diesel fuel spill at the marble quarry in 2017, and again sounded the alarm over CSQ’s diversion and filling of approximately 1,500 linear feet of Yule Creek in the fall of 2018. While we might wish those things hadn’t happened, both are now subject to oversight and remediation under the watchful jurisdiction of State and Federal agencies. CSQ is now working on the rehabilitation of Yule Creek in its new alignment.

Against this backdrop, on August 23 John Armstrong and I met with CSQ’s new General Manager Jean St-Onge and Katie Todt, their Senior Consultant at Lewicki and Associates. Given that neither CSQ nor CVEPA are likely to disappear anytime soon, we felt it important to seek a civil dialogue, and to explore our common interest in the Crystal Valley. Each side came to the table (a picnic table at CSQ headquarters) in a good faith effort to clear the air.

We were heartened to hear that Jean declare that watchdog organizations like CVEPA have an important role in ensuring responsible use of our natural resources. He acknowledged that some of CSQ’s past actions might have been better, and he vowed to ensure a more careful approach moving forward. We spent significant time pouring over the plans for the stream restoration that is already underway. While marble blocks will be used to create a cascading structure to hold the streambed, these will be textured to create a more natural texture that plants and invertebrates can more easily adhere to. Willow plantings will be spliced into the construction, and a series of pools and drops will ensure that upstream sediment, seeds, insects and etc., will spread into the new channel. We pointed out that this work could be an interesting living laboratory, and we invited CSQ to consider more public viewing and involvement as Yule Creek begins

***“CVEPA and the general public share a certain pride in our beautiful white marble. We have renewed hope that ongoing mining of this unique and beautiful world-renowned natural resource will be compatible with our ongoing protection of the Crystal Valley.”***

to heal.

Katie mentioned some hard feelings at CSQ about misinformation that has come from other sources. Specifically, she noted that no diesel had ever found its way into the creek, as some had reported. Also, a rumor that they had “blown up” the old McIntyre Cabin was simply untrue. (The cabin was apparently dismantled carefully and sent to a new home) We agreed to make every effort to report fairly on such matters.

Another hopeful insight we gained was their explanation that the best marble deposits lie underground, on the west side of Yule Creek. Given that CSQ has acquired lands on both sides of the drainage, we were fearful of someday seeing a large open pit mine digging away at the hillside. Jean and Katie both reassured us that this is very unlikely because the best vein of marble is underground, and winter operations are not possible in an open quarry. Consequently, they believe that the surface is not likely to see additional significant disturbance over time.

A final topic was the public trail. We were shown renderings of historic interpretive panels that will be placed along the trail. Jean explained that his project is taking longer than expected due to the need to install railings and other safety features to ensure that the public does not enter the active mining area. He hopes the trail will reopen next spring.

CVEPA and the general public share a certain pride in our beautiful white marble. We have renewed hope that ongoing mining of this unique and beautiful world-renowned natural resource will be compatible with our ongoing protection of the Crystal Valley.

All in all, we were quite pleased with the positive tone of our conversation. Each side appreciates that both CSQ and CVEPA have a legitimate role to play moving forward. We look forward to continuing this dialogue in the best interests of our fragile valley.

## Coal Basin Advisory Group in the Mix

Over the last several years, the mineshafts in Coal Basin have been acknowledged for their release of methane into the atmosphere. It is estimated that the five portals are responsible for one third to one half of Pitkin County’s contribution to global warming. A feasibility study, spearheaded by the Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE) and scientist Chris Caskey, has been federally funded to explore the possibility of a methane collection system in Coal Basin. It was determined that an Advisory Group would be necessary to ensure that the project aligns with the community, the involved scientists, and any affiliated parties. The group consists of a broad representation, including but not limited to Holy Cross Energy, Wilderness Workshop, Pitkin County, and CVEPA.

The project is in its early stages, and the momentum is currently focused on implementing systems to collect data. Chris presented to the advisory board that the team is considering temporarily installing a methane collector that would collect the gas from specific mines and burn it off, while in the process record flow rates and their consistency. From this data it can be determined if the site has adequate off-gassing to power an energy generator, as well as which mines should be prioritized. Several permits and approvals would have to be granted for this to happen, so the process is ongoing. The advisory board discussed the implications of this system and the overall project, including access, construction procedures, and overall disturbances to the area. Several recommendations from the advisory board included prioritizing stormwater management and erosion control, minimizing disturbance to areas that have been part of restoration projects, and implementing additional restoration areas as part of this project.

As the study continues and the advisory board continues to be more involved, these discussions will help to determine if and how this project aligns with the community and the environment. As we all know, Coal Basin has been through a lot, and is struggling to recover. CVEPA wants to ensure it is taken care of.

# CVEPA's 50th Anniversary: What a Bash!



Future Environmentalists. Photo by Suzy Meredith-Orr.



CVEPA Board members past and present, including Peggy DeVilbiss, Bill Spence, Jay Engstrom, Grant Stevens, John Armstrong, Karin Lindquist, John Hoffmann, Dorothea Farris, Dale Will, Tait Andersen, John Stickney and Mike Mechau. Photo by Sue Rollyson, "Sopris Sun."



Chuck Ogilby, keynote speaker Maggie Fox, Diane Kenney, Meredith Ogilby, Carolyn Kaufman, and others enjoy the celebration. Picture by Sue Rollyson, "Sopris Sun."



CVEPA's resident troubadour Dale Will and Paul Holsinger kicked things off with a performance of the Pete Seeger favorite, "Living in the Country." Photo by Sue Rollyson, "Sopris Sun."



On Tuesday, August 23, Governor Jared Polis visited with CVEPA Vice President Suzy Meredith-Orr, Pitkin County Commissioner Francie Jacober, Carbondale Mayor Ben Bohmfalk and CVEPA President John Armstrong to learn more about CVEPA's work to protect the Crystal River.

## Letter From the President

I must confess that I am writing this letter under the influence. Under the influence, under the euphoria of a celebration of CVEPA's 50 years of service that warmed the hearts of over 150 lovers of the Crystal Valley who gathered on the banks of the Thompson Creek in August. If there was a theme perhaps it was overwhelming gratitude for the myriad blessings we all share daily under the bosom of Mount Sopris. The gratitude of place, for Jason Sewell, great grandson of Myrin Thompson for inviting us to Camp Foster. For the parting of the skies that rained one inch on us the night before, for our ancestors that grubbed out the sage and hand dug the ditches that water the verdant fields surrounding our community. For our CVEPA forefathers and mothers who galvanized and said no to the profane development of Marble Valley and for their "David and Goliath" success. It goes on.

Euphoria from the walk along the Crystal River with Governor Jared Polis on the following Tuesday. Polis contacted CVEPA and wanted to personally congratulate CVEPA on our 50 years of stewardship! Polis wanted to hear about our resolve in the inclusive protection of the Crystal River.

The front porch of the pioneer cabin at the Sunfire Ranch barely held the CVEPA family of past board members and family representatives. Historian Darrell Munsell presented his book "Protecting a Valley, Saving a River" (which chronicles CVEPA's early days) to Karin Lindquist. Karin is the last surviving member of the original founding board of CVEPA. At almost 85 years old, Karin drove up from the Front Range and camped in her tent at the Redstone campground in order to attend the celebration. True grit! The petite Karin is still the font of positive energy and enthusiasm that helped sustain our early group of environmental defenders.

Keynote speaker Maggie Fox wove for us the fabric of connectivity to place and culture that comes from beneath us deep in the soil and the love for all life that resides deep within us. It is this strength that will guide us as we move forward. This affirmation soaked into each of us like the weekends rain.

We were being watched while we traveled up and down the road into Camp Foster to set up the event. A Great Horned Owl was sitting 15' above Thompson Creek and sat there all day, never moving, presiding over our work. I am not superstitious but I respect my omens. Was this founder Fogel Neale or Marge Orlosky or just a bird? I felt an endorsement for the efforts of CVEPA from this visitation and I believe that it is our responsibility to give back the blessings we have received by living in the Crystal Valley. Maggie Fox touched on this in her conversation.

Is there a theme here with so many wonderful women in our CVEPA history? Engagement of women in the path forward is essential to our work. Meredith Ogilby's book "A Life Well Rooted" is an inspiration to all who love our Valley.

It is with great appreciation that we honor Suzy Meredith-Orr for organizing and creating this event which was such a testament to the work of our forefathers and mothers. It is an inspiration to the generation to come. Suzy began planning this event in January and shepherded the process from beginning to end. Suzy is the driving force behind the *Crystal Clear* newsletter, and, along with the talent and work of her husband Denny, the CVEPA website: [cvepa.org](http://cvepa.org). These are our in-house outreach tools responsible for so much of the revitalization of CVEPA!

The power of the people is no greater than the power of a free press. Free press provides community outreach and is a forum where you can express yourselves. Support your press. Not everyone can be a David Brower, John Muir or Rachel Carson but everyone can and must engage and contribute to the protection of the Gaia. The Crystal Valley has given so much to us all. You, the members of CVEPA, young and old, male and female, are the guardians of this Valley. We look forward to working together the next 50 years!

Please thank our Sunfire Ranch hosts, Jason and Alex Sewell, and event sponsors, Bob Young and Helene Gude of Alpine Bank and the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Board. We are also grateful for our friends and contributors Redstone Historical Society, especially Deb Strom and Ron Sorter, Seed Peace as led by Casey Piscura and Kristen, PJ at Backdoor Catering, Kiko and Johnnie at Sopris Liquors, Melissa McBurney at The Church at Redstone, and all the great CVEPA volunteers. We are indebted to our keynote speaker Maggie Fox for traveling to inspire us with her deep insight.

—John Armstrong

# Local Food in the Crystal Valley

**Dale Will**

It wasn't long ago that many were predicting the end of agriculture in our valley. Rising real estate values were seen as the death knell to our local capacity to grow food. Fortunately, we're now in the midst of a true renaissance in public concern about local food systems.

Can the Crystal Valley produce food? In a word, yes. In 1912, Eugene Grubb characterized the valley's fertility as follows: "No part of the world is better fitted by nature for growing potatoes than the mountain districts of Colorado... The Roaring Fork and Crystal River Valley section of Colorado is as nearly perfect in soil conditions as can be found, and the potatoes grown there are not excelled anywhere in the world, and are equaled in but a few places." Eugene H. Grubb, [The Potato](#) (1912.)

Between 1910 and 1945, Pitkin County annually produced 120-220 thousand bushels (6,000,000-11,000,000 pounds) of potatoes. The farm census from those years also shows a very significant production of cattle, dairy cows, and cream.

The loss of agricultural lands was identified decades ago as a significant threat. The central mountains lost 655,000 acres to suburban sprawl from 1987-2002 (See "Losing Ground" Environment Colorado (2006)). We are fortunate that much of the Crystal Valley's agricultural lands are now protected by conservation easements. These legal restrictions permanently retire development rights and protect land for continuing agricultural production. The Darien Ranch, Cold Mountain Ranch, Sustainable Settings, and other key irrigated lands in the Crystal Valley are now safe from development.

A most recent conservation success story is Sunfire Ranch, a 1240 acre spread at the mouth of Thompson Creek, owned by Jason and Alex Sewell, direct descendants of its original homesteader Myron Thompson. In the early seventies the Ranch was subdivided into 29 separate 35-acre parcels, spread over the canyon and ridgelines. The full development of those lots would have significantly degraded its remaining farmland as well as important habitat along Thompson Creek. The irrigated portions of the ranch have been in continuous agricultural production for over 130 years. In December of 2020, the Sewell brothers conveyed a conservation easement to Pitkin County Open Space and Trail, permanently protecting these lands. (Visit [www.sunfireranch.farm](http://www.sunfireranch.farm))

Of our historic commercial crops, until recently only beef remained in large scale production. However, with the renewed interest in local food, "bioneers" such as Jerome Osentowski have shown that virtually any plant that grows on earth can be made to grow here, albeit sometimes under cover.

Of all the new faces changing agriculture in the Crystal Valley, perhaps none is more innovative and talented than Casey Piscura, owner of Wild Mountain Seeds, based at Sunfire Ranch just south of Carbondale. Wild Mountain Seeds is a vegetable producer, transplant nursery, a seed breeding farm and a high altitude research and education facility. Casey founded Wild Mountain Seeds to "share the love of farming through the collection and adaptation of food-plant diversity, the development of innovative growing systems and the distribution of health giving food and seeds with a story." See [wildmountainseeds.com](http://wildmountainseeds.com). Casey's produce is available every Wednesday at the Carbondale Farmers Market.

CVEPA was very proud to showcase two inspiring pieces of our valley's local food movement at our recent anniversary celebration; a permanently conserved historic ranch, now home to a cutting edge farm.



**A field of vegetables growing happily at Wild Mountain Seeds this past July.**

# A Community Conversation with Maggie Fox

Tait Andersen

Maggie Fox, a long-time climate activist, spoke with the revelers at CVEPA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to spark conversation and give perspective to the stewardship efforts of the organization. Her talk was personal, she shared insights into her own motivations for joining the battle to protect natural lands and fight climate change. She posed questions to the audience, asking each of us to dig into what motivates us, and to find strength through those motivations to continue advocating for wild lands.

Maggie's own story has deep roots in the Crystal Valley, where she first worked at the Marble Outward Bound School in her 20's. In her words, she "learned how to mountaineer overnight." She went on to describe falling in love with the Crystal Valley, and how her deep bond with this landscape has stuck with her through everything she's done and been involved in since.

"When there's a place that's as special as the Crystal Valley," she said, "people come together to keep it special." She said that the success that CVEPA and the community have had in protecting the Crystal from development is an optimistic story. "Environmental groups don't always win. Use your victories to motivate you for the challenges ahead."

The main challenge, she described, is the daunting reality of a climate that is rapidly warming. Couple this with unprecedented loss of global biodiversity, and there's real need for urgency and perseverance. "Victories against insurmountable odds help us believe that victory is possible", she said, looking out into the audience, "your victories against the Marble Ski Area have given you the hope to keep fighting, and that's key." She went on to honor the CVEPA members in attendance who had been part of that initial battle that galvanized CVEPA and showed that the Crystal Valley is home to people who will put all of their weight behind defending the natural integrity of this special place. "Keep those people who have experienced victory close", she went on, "they know that victory is possible, and they know that it's worth fighting for."

I approached her after her talk and asked how she has stayed optimistic during 40 years of climate advocacy. She said two things have been most important. Firstly, she said, "I spend quality time in nature every day. A couple of hours is optimal." Secondly, she went on, "I've connected with my heritage. The perspective of understanding where my people have come from, and the trials that they have faced for hundreds of years, gives me courage to keep going."

Today, the beauty of the Crystal River Valley is a showpiece of what a community is capable of when it comes together to protect shared values that center on a deep and abiding love for a place, and a culture that resides there. There will always be threats and pressures to change the Crystal, but if we can, as a community, dig into the collective love that we all share for the Crystal, I, and I'm sure Maggie Fox, see a bright future ahead for this wondrous valley.

## CVEPA Reps Honored by Pitkin County



CVEPA is proud to claim as its own three of the most recent recipients of the Pitkin County Community Cares Awards. On Tuesday, September 13, CVEPA President John Armstrong and former board member Bill Jochems were each awarded the Environment Award, and CVEPA Vice President Dale Will was honored as part of an Exceptional One Time Event award.

Pitkin County Commissioner Patty Clapper presented the awards by reading a personalized proclamation to each. John's proclamation referenced his 50 year history in the valley, his love of the Grateful Dead, his devotion to his family and to high country recreation, and his role as champion of the Crystal Valley, particularly as president of CVEPA. The County was "honored to recognize John's lifelong passion for giving back and protecting his community."

As is typical for him, John gave credit in his remarks to those who came before whom he called great role models. He pointed out Pitkin County's Environmental Bill of Rights as important to CVEPA's work. John stated that protecting what we are so fortunate to have is not an option, it's an obligation.

Bill Jochems's proclamation highlighted his 51 year residency in Redstone, his contributions to research, protection, education and preservation of the history of the area though his long association with the Redstone Historical Society, and his important

championing of the Miner's Monument near the Coke Ovens. He was also honored for his work to protect the Crystal River, and particularly for his significant role in preventing the placement of dams in the valley.

Bill spoke of his motivation to preserve the Crystal Valley as he first knew it in 1960 and after moving to Redstone in 1971. He credited the progressive and unusual features of Pitkin County government like 1041 regulations, historic preservation, Open Space and Trails and the Health Rivers Board that aid in preserving the outstanding values of the Crystal Valley and Roaring Fork drainage.

Dale Will, along with George Newman, Graeme Means, Howie Mallory and Tim McFlynn, were recognized for creating the Hunter Creek Historical Foundation to stabilize and preserve historic resources in the Hunter Creek Valley, including the historic W . E . Koch homestead and the Adelaide Ranch dating back to 1893.

A record 21 outstanding Roaring Fork Valley residents were chosen from nominations received from a cross section of the community throughout the summer . Now in its 22nd year, the purpose of the program is to honor individuals and groups for their outstanding service, leadership, and civic involvement .

CVEPA is thrilled to congratulate these three dedicated environmentalists!

# Thank You to TSC!

As an all-volunteer, grassroots organization with a very small budget, CVEPA found itself challenged to produce a newsletter that would not only inform and educate but also engage readers visually. We believe colorful photos help illustrate one of the reasons behind our dedication to protecting our beautiful valley. We also consider the "Clear" an outreach tool that keeps our members informed while making more people aware of our work.

Printing is expensive, especially color printing, so we felt an amazing sense of relief and gratitude when Colin Laird, Executive Director of the Third Street Center in Carbondale, agreed to lend us a hand. He has provided the skillful and colorful printing of our newsletter more affordably than we could find elsewhere, and has done so for two and a half years.

The local community and nonprofit sector benefits greatly by having a place like TSC to hold events, find affordable office space and useful services that enable a variety of important work. TSC is a vital and buzzing place whose tenants impact many issues, and all of its electricity comes from solar power! CVEPA supports its mission to build community and a sustainable future.

Like CVEPA, TSC is supported by donations. To learn more about them, visit [thirdstreetcenter.net](http://thirdstreetcenter.net).

If you receive the "Clear" via the post, and would prefer email instead, just let us know by sending an email to [cvepa@outlook.com](mailto:cvepa@outlook.com).

*The "Crystal Clear" is published quarterly by the Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association, a 501c3 organization. CVEPA has been the environmental watchdog of the Crystal Valley since 1972. Past issues of the "Clear" are available at [cvepa.org/newsletters](http://cvepa.org/newsletters)*

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As a grassroots non-profit organization, we rely on your support to help us protect the Crystal Valley. Please consider becoming a member by visiting <https://cvepa.org/become-a-member>.



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