

Celebrate Rocky!



The Rocky Mountain National Park 100th Anniversary Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2



A Billion Year Centennial

written by Mary Taylor Young

A centennial is 100 years, right? That's what I thought when I started to write *Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years*. Except the story of any park with "Rocky Mountain" in its name is going to involve stuff that happened a lot longer ago than 100 years.

I discovered that celebrating 100 years of Rocky really means celebrating a billion years. That's when the oldest rocks in the Park formed. And 20,000 years. That's when glaciers scraped Moraine Park and the Kawuneeche Valley. And 150 years. That's when the Estes family arrived in the valley that bears their name.

In researching this 100-year history, I discovered all the reasons why preservation of this 415 square miles as a national park is such a special thing. How lucky we, the downstream generations, are that the folks who set this place aside were so visionary.

Because they protected this area, those billion-year-old rocks are still here for all to see. Elk gather at dawn in those glacier-carved meadows and Longs Peak rises unfettered by roads or gondolas or hotels.

In that 100 years, millions of visitors have discovered the mountains and forests of Rocky Mountain National Park. Those who want to can find a spot in the wilderness with no sound, sight or evidence of people. How often do we have that opportunity in 21st century America?!

As we prepare to blow out the candles on Rocky's 100th birthday, there is plenty to celebrate—a billion years worth!

Mary Taylor Young is the author of 15 books on the wildlife and landscape of Colorado and the American West. *Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years* is due out in January 2014 from Far Country Press.

The Countdown Begins!

On September 4, 2013, Rocky Mountain National Park will celebrate its 98th anniversary. With only one year to go until a year-long centennial celebration kicks off, planning for our 100th Anniversary is going strong.

Although many events are still in the planning stages, be assured that a variety of fun-filled ways to celebrate our centennial are on the way!

Here are just a few:

- Rocky Mountain National Park will host a kick-off event on September 4, 2014, and hold a Re-Dedication Ceremony on September 4, 2015;
- A Centennial Speaker Series will feature special guest presentations at various park, community, and Front Range venues;
- Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters will paint the park Autumn 2014 and Spring 2015 with a week long show in August 2015;
- The Colorado Mountain Club will sponsor numerous 100th Anniversary climbs, hikes, and wildflower walks throughout the year to celebrate their part in the creation of the park;
- Cowboy Brad Fitch will perform a special Centennial Concert at Performance Park on July 25, 2015;
- Special ranger-led interpretive programs and family friendly guest lectures will be offered throughout the year;
- VintageTimetravelers.com, a chapter of Model T Ford Club International, will show off their historic cars and use Rocky Mountain NP as the starting place for their tour of the historic National Park-to-Park Highway on August 25, 2015;

Details surrounding these and other 100th Anniversary events will be updated on the park's website as they become finalized.

There is still plenty of time for your business or organization to become part of the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Creativity is encouraged! The 100th Anniversary logo is also available for retail use, print and electronic publications, and marketing. Please visit our website for details or contact Barbara Hoppe, Anniversary Coordinator at 970-586-1226.

www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/100th_anniversary.htm

Images of Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder

To kick off the one year countdown to the park's centennial celebration, the Rocky Mountain National Park 100th Anniversary Employee Committee recently sponsored a photo contest for current park staff and volunteers to find images to represent the upcoming Centennial celebration. The photographs were judged on their originality, artistic composition, and how well the photograph represented some aspect of the 100th Anniversary slogan, "Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder". Twenty-nine entries showcased stunning vistas, delicate wildflowers, natural phenomena, and an array of awe-inspiring wildlife encounters.



Volunteers-In-Parks Winner - Ann Schonlau

VIP Workgroup: Information Office, Alpineers, Photo Volunteers, Tundra Guardians

Ann has volunteered for Rocky Mountain National Park since 2010. Her stunning photo of a pika hard at work captures the essence of an animal that relies on the protected tundra of Rocky Mountain National Park for survival. "As Rocky gets ready to celebrate 100 years of being one of our nation's national parks," says Ann, "the park's Pika are in peril. For all of those 100 years, the park has give a home to the Pika, but climate change is causing the Pika to lose this suitable habitat. This Pika photo is my way of bring awareness to the Pika and the effort to save its wonderful home."

Employee Winner - Justine Booth

Employee Workgroup: Division of Interpretation

Justine has worked for Rocky Mountain National Park since 2011. When asked about her photo, Justine explained, "This photograph celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park because it is a celebration of continued growth, renewal and hope for the future. This photo showcases all aspects of our 100th Anniversary slogan "Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder". The burned trees in the background are from the recent Fern Lake Fire. Fire is a necessary part of wilderness that provides opportunities for new growth to occur and for plants and wildlife to flourish. The blooming Columbine is an aspect of "wonder" that something so remarkably beautiful can emerge so quickly out of the ashes. As we continue in to the next century we will have opportunities to flourish and for new growth to occur. We will continue into the next 100 years renewed and strengthened from our past experiences. This photograph is also a celebration of hope for the future, not only for Rocky Mountain National Park but for our planet and the heavy challenges we will be facing over the next 100 years. I believe that we can face these challenges head on and emerge blooming from the ashes."



The 100th Anniversary Employee Committee would like to thank all the talented photographers who submitted entries for this contest. Look for these incredible photographs throughout the centennial year as examples of the "Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder" we celebrate everyday.

Questions about how to get involved or how to use the logo?

Information about 100th Anniversary planning can be obtained by emailing Barbara Hoppe, Anniversary Coordinator, at ROMO_100th_anniversary@nps.gov or calling 970-586-1226.

Official 100th Anniversary Logo Use

The following vendors have applied and been approved to use the 100th Anniversary Logo and Slogan for merchandise and advertising beginning in January 2014.

- Pendleton Woolen Mills
- Howard Neville
- Rocky Mountain Nature Association
- Brad Fitch
- Trail Ridge Quilters
- Powder Hill Photography, LLC
- Far Country Press
- Colorado Mountain Club
- The Rapids Lodge and Restaurant
- Embassy Suites Loveland
- Grand Lake Marketing Committee
- www.rockymountainnationalpark.com
- Daven Haven Lodge, Backstreet Steakhouse, Stone Creek Catering, Wildwod Cabins

Coordinator's Corner

by Barbara Hoppe, Anniversary Coordinator

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Ninety eight years ago, a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens worked tirelessly to protect the parcel of land that eventually became Rocky Mountain National Park. In a year, Rocky Mountain National Park will lead a celebration to honor those people and the one hundred years of connections that have made with his beautiful place since then.

To fully celebrate a place that was created by the people for the people and that has come to mean so many things in so many lives requires more than just a day or even a week of special events. The full year celebration may only begin to scratch the surface of what we are actually celebrating.

Similarly, Rocky Mountain National Park cannot be the only setting for this celebration. This would be like viewing only one facet of a sparkling diamond. Instead, it is the people who have been touched by this place that hold the power to shine a light on all the facets of this crown jewel park and create a fitting Centennial Celebration.

Every organization, business, or group that chooses to add an event to the Centennial Calendar of Events will showcase a different facet of this place and will celebrate a different connection that has been made over the years. For the last 100 years, this place has shaped and influenced daily life, interactions between friends and family, recreation, and appreciation of the natural world. Only those who use and protect this park can truly say how to celebrate it.

By the end of the celebration year, Rocky Mountain National Park will be shining brightly - polished by the thoughtful, concerned citizens that love and cherish this crown jewel of the National Park System. All of its facets will have been on display. And thankfully, those same thoughtful, concerned citizens will pass this jewel down through their family for the next 100 years until it comes time to polish it again.

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Celebration
Conversation!

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RMNP
Employee Reunion!

Did you work at ROMO or know someone who did? Plans are in the works for a RMNP employee reunion. Send your email address to ROMO_100th_Anniversary@nps.gov to get on the reunion mailing list!