

June 2014

# VISTAS



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

*Courtesy Photo by Jim Westfall*

### *Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder*

Rocky Mountain National Park's 100th Anniversary celebration is just around the corner, and there are many ways to celebrate with us!

**Host or Attend an Event.** New events are being added to the Centennial Calendar of Events every week. Whether you visit the Climb On! Exhibit at the Estes Park Museum, experience the thrill of a night-time hike through the park by visiting the Images of RMNP Gallery, or celebrate Halloween in Grand Lake by dressing up in your favorite park, wildlife, or history inspired costume, there is an event just for you! Visit our website to find out more about what is being offered, and then keep checking back for updates. The deadline to submit events for 2015 is September 1.

**Look to the Big Screen.** Fall River Productions, Inc. of Estes Park, CO has been awarded a contract to produce a 23-minute Centennial Film that will be shown in the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneechee Visitor Centers starting in 2015. This film will highlight the many ways that people have made connections with Rocky Mountain National Park over the last 100 years. Fall River Productions will be working to collect stunning natural shots and historic footage over the course of 2014.

**Share Your Stories.** Do you have a story to tell about an experience or adventure in the park? Do you have photos from past trips that you'd like to share? Rocky Mountain National Park is excited to open our Family Album up to your submissions! This on-line scrapbook is a chance to share experiences and photos from the last 10 decades in a place where everyone in the Rocky Mountain National Park Family (that's you!) can experience them. This album was opened to submissions on May 1, as a way to test the system before launching it to the world in September. Visit [rmnp100.com](http://rmnp100.com) to be one of the first to share your memories.

**Go Digital.** Like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/rockymountainnp](http://www.facebook.com/rockymountainnp)) to stay up-to-date on 100th Anniversary events and initiatives. Starting in September, our Facebook Friends will have the chance to view weekly Moments of Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder, 1-minute videos highlighting the natural beauty and diversity of the park, and participate in conversations about the past, present, and future of RMNP. Special social media events will be hosted throughout the celebration year for RMNP friends who won't be able to make it to the celebration in person.

# Rocky Mountain National Park Centennial

## Merchandise

Check out 100th Anniversary Merchandise!

100th Anniversary merchandise is now available from many vendors in Estes Park, Grand Lake, and on the web. Products like mugs, t-shirts, patches, throw blankets, and much more will continue to become available as the year progresses in order to help you celebrate your connection with Rocky Mountain National Park. A portion of the proceeds from all 100th Anniversary merchandise supports the 100th Anniversary celebration.



### In this issue...

## Keep up on the Latest With Rocky....

Park Website [www.nps.gov/romo](http://www.nps.gov/romo)

Like us on Facebook at **Rocky Mountain National Park**

Twitter <http://twitter.com/rmnpofficial>

Flickr [http://flickr.com/photos/rocky\\_mountain\\_np](http://flickr.com/photos/rocky_mountain_np)

Park Information 970-586-1206

Trail Ridge Road Recorded Status Line 970-586-1222



### Page 2

- Rocky Mountain National Park Centennial Merchandise
- Keep up on the Latest With Rocky

### Page 3

- Greening Our Fleet

### Page 4

- Meet the New General Manager for Rocky Mountain Transit Management ~ Janice A. Crow
- Rocky Mountain Nature Association's New Name and Logo ~ Rocky Mountain Conservancy

### Page 5

- Progress and Promise Shown in Rocky Mountain National Park Nitrogen Deposition Reduction

### Page 6

- Inspiring Rocky's Future Home Town Stewards - RMNP's Environmental Education Program at Work in Estes Park

### Page 7

- Girl Scout Brownie Troop Selects RMNP Search and Rescue as 2014 Hometown Heros

### Page 8

- Flood Impacts Will Close Old Fall River Road Through 2014 - Backcountry Travelers May Encounter Different Conditions

### Page 9

- Rocky's New Donation Wall
- Help Us Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014!

### Page 10

- Welcome Russ Jobman ~ New General Manager for Xanterra
- New Chief of Facility Management at RMNP

### Page 11

- Snowy 2013-2014 Winter
- Top 10 Visitation Days in 2013

### Page 12

- Two Stewardship Awards Presented by RMNP for 2013
- Pierre Perney

### Page 13

- Discover the New Discovery Center
- Remaining Fee Free Days in the Park for 2014

# Greening Our Fleet

From 2001 to present, RMNP has operated an improved visitor transportation system along the popular Bear Lake Corridor with two main routes. The Bear Lake Route moves visitors from RMNP's transportation hub, known as the Park & Ride, to Bear Lake with stops at popular trailheads. The Moraine Park Route connects RMNP's two main campgrounds to the Park & Ride. Shuttles run from Memorial Day through Columbus Day with over 450,000 people riding these routes in an average year. Operating the Bear Lake shuttle routes during this period reduces the motor vehicle miles traveled in the park during the busiest summer months when pollution is higher.



*NPS Photo*

Beginning in 2006, RMNP, in conjunction with the Town of Estes Park, launched a pilot project to test an integrated visitor transportation system. This integrated system provides easy access from lodging establishments, the Estes Park Visitor Center and the town's Fairgrounds Park and Ride to downtown shopping and RMNP access. The Town of Estes Park provides four routes as part of their portion of the integrated system; two routes serve lodging establishments along Colorado Highway 34 and Colorado Highway 36, while the third is known as the "campground route" which serves private campgrounds in the Estes Park area. An additional shuttle provides access from the Town's Fairgrounds Park and Ride. RMNP added a connecting route known as the "Hiker Shuttle" which is an express route that runs from the Estes Park Visitor Center to RMNP's Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, and on to the Park & Ride. In 2012, over 53,000 people rode the Hiker Shuttle which reduces the number of motor vehicles in the park during the busiest summer months when pollution is higher. The 2013 park shuttle fleet, including more than ten diesel buses, was fitted with diesel particulate filters to remove much of the soot particulates from shuttle exhaust. The 2014 shuttle fleets includes two hybrid electric buses that are up to 30% more efficient and have greater passenger capacity.

Since 2011, the park has conducted a pilot Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) program aimed at providing early information on traffic congestion and limited parking to park and Town of Estes Park visitors. This system uses dynamic message signs to provide information on alternate parking facilities and shuttles for accessing the park and downtown destinations. This project is being conducted in partnership with the Town of Estes Park, the Federal Highways Administration – Central Federal Lands, and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

RMNP is increasing efficiency of its fleet by adopting hybrid electric technology, educating drivers on fuel saving practices, and optimizing fleet size and consumption. RMNP's 2013 fleet contained 219 vehicles including 19 hybrids (up from only four in 2007) and one full electric. In 2013, RMNP was awarded funding through the Department of Energy's Clean Cities National Parks Initiative. The Initiative supports transportation projects that educate RMNP staff and visitors on the benefits of reducing dependence on petroleum, cutting greenhouse gases, and easing traffic congestion. With support from the local Clean Cities coalition, Northern Colorado Clean Cities, RMNP purchased two Chevy Volts, installed electric vehicle charging stations for official park use, and adopted idle-reduction programs as well as an education and outreach program for staff and visitors.



*NPS Photo*

# Meet the New General Manager for Rocky Mountain Transit Management ~ Janice A Crow

Rocky Mountain Transit Management's General Manager, Janice Crow, is a transit professional with over thirty years' experience. Prior to this position, Ms. Crow was the General Manager for the Bryce Canyon Shuttle at Bryce Canyon National Park for the past four years. One of the many accomplishments while at Bryce was to implement a clean air program of Diesel Particulate Filter units for the Bryce fleet.



During the Bryce Canyon National Park off season, Ms. Crow prepared and managed the Winter X Games shuttle service in Aspen, CO. Other responsibilities during the off season were to assist the Corporate Office with providing support/training to General Managers, conduct the Corporate Quality Assurance Reviews, and assist with business development.

During her career, Ms. Crow has developed system programs and participated in several system startups. Many of Ms. Crow's clients have consisted of cities, county rural services, job access programs, senior and disabled services, and charter services. She was also a member of the executive construction team for the Fort Worth Transportation Authorities Trinity Railway Express Commuter Rail construction project.

Ms. Crow has a Bachelor of Arts from Austin College, has completed the Community Transportation Associations of America's Community Transportation Manager's training and a myriad of other training and educational credits. An active member of the International Professional Organization Women's Transportation Seminar, Ms. Crow had the honor to serve as the Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter President. She also held the position of both the Vice President and Treasurer for the Georgia Transit Association.

## Rocky Mountain Nature Association's New Name and Logo ~ Rocky Mountain Conservancy



On May 1, 2014, our partner, The Rocky Mountain Nature Association changed its name to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy.

Started in 1931, the Association focused its efforts on providing interpretive and educational materials through sales at park bookstores. Since then the organization has evolved and expanded its focus, responding to park needs and opportunities to better help preserve Rocky Mountain National

Park. The Field Seminars program; the Next Generation Fund; the American Conservation Corps; land acquisition; and the numerous projects supported by the Sustainability Fund are just a few of the cooperative efforts between us.

The name change to Rocky Mountain Conservancy better describes the myriad of collaborative projects and programs, and reflects a dedication to providing assistance in park stewardship.

# Progress and Promise Shown in Rocky Mountain National Park Nitrogen Deposition Reduction

By Jim Cheatham, Biologist

Over 25 years of scientific research has shown that atmospheric nitrogen deposition in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) is about 15 times greater than the natural background deposition rate. Nitrogen emissions from a variety of human made sources, including nitrogen oxides from fossil fuel combustion and ammonia from agricultural production, contribute to excess atmospheric nitrogen deposited in RMNP.

High elevation ecosystems in the park are especially susceptible to excess nitrogen due to their development and adaptation to low nitrogen conditions. Within these ecosystems, alpine tundra, aquatic plants, soil, and water quality are most affected. Ecosystem health first began to decline at high elevation areas on the east side of RMNP between 1950 and 1964. The beginning of this shift corresponded to exceeding the critical load of nitrogen deposition of 1.5 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare per year (kg N/ha/yr).

Rocky Mountain National Park is classified as a Class 1 air quality area (cleanest air designation) as defined by the Clean Air Act. Regional haze, ground-level ozone, and atmospheric nitrogen deposition are issues currently affecting air quality, park resources, and visitor experiences. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the National Park Service, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Environmental Protection Agency are working collaboratively to implement a 2007 RMNP Nitrogen Deposition Reduction Plan (NDRP). While the NDRP will also help improve park visibility and ozone conditions, the plan's focus is to address the ecological impacts of excess nitrogen and reduce nitrogen deposition by approximately 50% (from 3.1 to the 1.5 kg N/ha/yr critical load) over 25 years. The plan includes interim milestone reduction goals every 5 years, in order to achieve the critical load goal by 2032.

In 2012, the 2.9 kg N/ha/yr deposition rate did not reach the 2012 milestone reduction goal of 2.7 kg N/ha/yr. The MOU agencies are optimistic that current and developing strategies will decrease nitrogen deposition towards the next milestone goal of 2.4 kg N/ha/yr in 2017. Although nitrogen deposition is not yet decreasing, progress has been made in stabilizing deposition in recent years, so that trends are no longer increasing. Decreasing nitrogen deposition trends are anticipated in the next several years because of state and federal air quality regulations that anticipate 37% reduction in Colorado nitrogen oxides emissions by 2018. The NDRP 2012 Milestone Report containing these findings and determinations is available at [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rmnpinitiative](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rmnpinitiative).

The MOU agencies are also collaborating with Colorado agricultural producers to develop a 5 year plan to voluntarily reduce their ammonia emissions through use of science-based best management practices (BMPs). Broader use of BMPs can help reduce agriculture ammonia emissions by: 1) reducing nitrogen inputs, 2) keeping more nitrogen in the final agricultural product, or 3) preserving more nitrogen in the soil on the farm.

The plan includes research, monitoring, outreach, and development of an early warning system ([www.rmwarningsystem.com](http://www.rmwarningsystem.com)). The early warning system would advise agricultural producers to avoid high nitrogen-emitting activities (manure handling and crop fertilizing) during specific weather events that can readily transport nitrogen into RMNP.

The MOU agencies plan to review and update the 2010 Contingency Plan, continue work on ammonia and nitrogen oxides emission inventories, continue stakeholder collaboration, and evaluate nitrogen deposition reduction to evaluate if additional steps are needed to meet the next milestone in 2017. Learn more about "What's in the Air" at RMNP at [www.nature.nps.gov/air/Permits/ARIS/romo](http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/Permits/ARIS/romo).

# Inspiring Rocky's Future Home Town Stewards - RMNP's Environmental Education Program at Work in Estes Park

By Katie Phillips, Education Specialist

Rocky Mountain National Park’s Education and Outreach program was created as the park’s K – 12 and youth outreach resource education program in 1992. Since then, it has provided opportunities for students and youth to access Rocky Mountain National Park as an extended classroom of their school and community. The program provides accessibility to Rocky Mountain National Park for students from our gateway communities of Estes Park and Granby, as well as students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to visit the park from farther flung Front Range and west side communities. Since its inception, the program has grown and each year reaches over 12,000 learners from throughout Colorado and the United States.



Estes Park School Program Topics at a Glance	
Kindergarten	Rocky Mountain is My Home
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	At Home in the Rocks
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Community Components
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Geology of Rocky
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	RMNP History
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mapping Habitats
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Fire Ecology
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Pine Beetles/Forest Ecology

The program’s work locally has increased accessibility to Rocky Mountain National Park for students from gateway communities by building strong working relationships with school administrators and classroom teachers. For example, each year in Estes Park, education rangers provide programs for all 540+ students in each grade from Kindergarten to 7th grade. In addition to a field day in the park, Estes Park students have the unique opportunity of having a ranger program in their classroom prior to their field day to make the most of their experience. Field days are jam packed with learning stations, hikes, arts and crafts, a picnic lunch, and games. Students arrive in the park, by buses paid for by a generous annual donation from the Estes Park Lyons Club, with teachers and chaperones in tow and ready to explore topics that range from bugs

to elk to rocks. As students continue through their school years in the Estes Valley school system, field day program content builds on previous years so that students can foster more complex skills, knowledge, and familiarity with their national park. To make all of this happen, each school year Rocky’s education rangers dedicate over 1,000 hours of staff time to Estes Park school programs due to the support of education interns made possible by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Additionally, education rangers often provide further programming support to students in the Estes Valley through the after school program, the adventure program, or local scout troops.

Rocky’s Education program is proud to have developed these partnerships and created opportunities for Estes Park and Granby students to utilize their own backyards as their outdoor classrooms. We look forward each year to providing these programs to inspire students, our future park stewards.



# Girl Scout Brownie Troop Selects RMNP Search and Rescue as 2014 Hometown Heros



Each year, Loveland Girl Scout Brownie Troop 74394 chooses a local hero to give donated boxes of Girl Scout cookies to. This year, the troop chose Rocky Mountain National Park Search and Rescue as their 2014 Hometown Heroes. Eighty-nine boxes of cookies were donated by citizens. *NPS Photo*

On April 3, Troop 74394 showed their special appreciation to all of the personnel at Rocky Mountain National Park involved with search and rescue efforts by providing a delicious spaghetti luncheon to say thank you.

Troop 74394 sold over 2,200 boxes of cookies this year and donated 20% of profits to Rocky Mountain National Park Search and Rescue. During the luncheon, they presented a plaque honoring park Search and Rescue personnel for all of their dedicated service.

Rocky Mountain National Park's Search and Rescue team is grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of Troop 74394!



*NPS Photos*

# Flood Impacts Will Close Old Fall River Road Through 2014 - Backcountry Travelers May Encounter Different Conditions

Rocky Mountain National Park received significant damages on bridges, roads and trails in the historic floods that occurred in September of 2013. However, impacts in the park were relatively minor in comparison to the disastrous flooding that downstream communities east of the park experienced. The west side of the park was largely unaffected by the storm with flooding occurring only east of the Continental Divide.

Damages on Old Fall River Road are extensive and the road will remain closed to vehicles through 2014. Old Fall River Road has remained open to pedestrians through the winter. Once the construction begins, the road will be closed to all uses. The closure will extend from the east end of Endovalley Road just west of the Lawn Lake Trailhead parking area, to the upper west end of the road to the Alpine Visitor Center. This closure includes the Alluvial Fan, and the east and west Alluvial Fan parking areas. The closure extends 200 feet from the center line to both sides of the road corridor. The closure does not include the Fall River waterway and bank. Areas affected by this closure may be adjusted as construction work proceeds.

Once the construction begins, the best place to view the flood damage in the Alluvial Fan area is from Rainbow Curve on Trail Ridge Road.

Repair work has been completed in the Wild Basin parking lot, the Twin Sisters Road, the McGraw Ranch Bridge and the Aspenglen Campground Bridge. Known damage to trails are mainly in the Fall River, Lumpy Ridge, Northfork, Twin Sisters, Wild Basin and a few sections in the Bear Lake area. Some trails in these areas are closed to stock use. There were twelve major landslides in the park.

Due to the flood, backcountry travelers may encounter different conditions than they have experienced in the past. Visitors may find missing foot bridges, missing trail segments, uneven trail surfaces, unstable slopes, falling trees due to soil moisture, rutted trails, damaged water bars and steps, difficult water crossings, and missing directional signs. Visitors should be prepared. Most of Rocky Mountain National Park is designated wilderness, where self-reliance, discovery and adventure are expected.

Since the flood occurred just prior to the winter season, the first priority will be to replace missing foot bridges, such as the Ouzel Falls Bridge. The next steps will be to assess at what level park staff will "repair" damaged trails. The flood was a natural event which will be taken into consideration as park staff move forward to determine what repairs should be made.

For more detailed information about flood impacts to trails please visit the park's website, [www.nps.gov/romo](http://www.nps.gov/romo) or call the park's Information Office at (970) 586-1206.



*Alluvial Fan Bridge*

*NPS Photo*



*Old Fall River Road*

*NPS PHoto*

# Rocky's New Donation Wall



Maintenance Worker Graham Kopp puts final touches on the wall

If you go to the lower level of the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, one thing will surely catch your eye. Along the north wall is a new, 17' long donor wall that lets us thoughtfully say "Thanks" to the many who have donated to the park. The wall recognizes significant donations made to our long-term partner, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, for special park projects or programs.

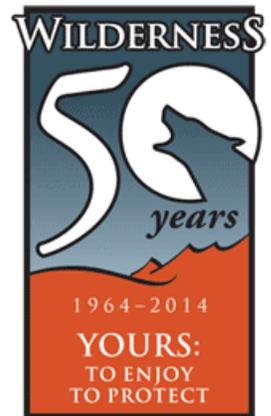
The National Park Service recognizes private philanthropy as both a noble tradition of the national parks and as a vital element of the Service's success.

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy wish to appropriately recognize donors for their financial support.

After a year of planning and painstaking craftsmanship, the donor wall with its tree silhouettes and leaves of silver, gold and rose, hints to a park trail made a bit brighter because of the consideration of those who supported the park.

## Help Us Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014!

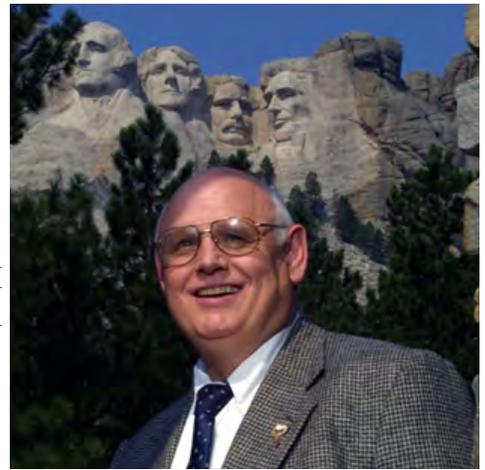
Fifty years ago this September, the United States changed the way the world would look at wild land with the passage of the Wilderness Act. The 1964 Wilderness Act provides the highest level of protection for some of our most iconic, wild landscapes through wilderness designation. Thanks to the wisdom and foresight of those who dedicated themselves to its passage, we now have legislation "...to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness". Since the Act was passed in 1964, American wilderness has increased tenfold, with the majority of it being west of the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian. Over half of National Park Service lands are designated as Wilderness. And, right here in Rocky Mountain National Park, 249,126 acres of this mountain landscape were designated as Wilderness in 2009, after years of us managing the land "as if" it were Wilderness.



Wilderness is everyone's to share and enjoy - let's honor wilderness together! Rocky Mountain National Park is actively participating in *Wilderness50*—the national coalition of government agencies, organizations, and tribal and citizen groups working to commemorate 50 years of wilderness. In 2014, we will honor the 50th anniversary by presenting a variety of events and activities that celebrate our nation's Wilderness heritage. Look for our new methods of integrating the Wilderness theme into interpretive programming in our walks, talks, trailhead information, publications, outreach efforts and exhibits. We invite you to get involved: attend our speaker and film series this summer to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and join our Walk for Wilderness around Lily Lake on September 6, 2014. Check out the new items Rocky Mountain Conservancy has for sale to highlight the anniversary. For national news check out [www.wilderness50th.org](http://www.wilderness50th.org); for Rocky Mountain National Park events, look at the listing on [www.nps.gov/romo](http://www.nps.gov/romo). Join other Americans across the country in celebrating your wilderness heritage. Wilderness needs YOU to be a steward of these special places to ensure their protection as part of our unique American landscape.

# Welcome Russ Jobman ~ New General Manager for Xanterra

I was born and raised in Sidney, Nebraska the home of Cabela's sporting goods. As a youth, my family would alternate vacations each year to Rocky Mountain National Park then the next year we would go to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Upon graduation from high school in 1968, I took a seasonal position at the State Game Lodge in Custer State Park until I started college that fall. The next summer I started my South Dakota career and worked at Mount Rushmore National Memorial for the Mount Rushmore Mountain Company, TW Recreational Service and finally Xanterra. That portion of my career lasted 45 years, the first 6 years as a do everything employee. I graduated from National American University in 1972 with a bachelor of business administration then in 1974 I was promoted to Human Resources/Operations and stayed in that position until 2001, when I was promoted to General Manager.



*Russ Jobman, Xanterra General Manager*

I have been married to my wife Carol for 38 years, and we have two sons. It is only fitting that I end my career several years from now at Rocky Mountain National Park and complete my travel life full circle having worked at both places from my childhood dreams.



*Alpine Visitor Center and Trail Ridge Store*

*Courtesy Photo by Ann Schonlau*

## New Chief of Facility Management at RMNP



Steve was born and raised in South Dakota where his family ran a ranching operation in the north central part of the state on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. He attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Structural Engineering. Following college, he went to work for the National Park Service at the Denver Service Center (DSC) where for the first three years of his career he worked as a Project Supervisor for construction projects throughout the north central part of the US. After three years he took a Structural Engineering position at the DSC and was involved in the design of many interesting design projects including new visitor centers at the San Jose Mission in San Antonio and Zion National Park. In

1998, he accepted the Chief of Facility Management position at Wind Cave National Park which is located in southwestern South Dakota. He remained in this position for approximately fifteen years prior to accepting the Chief of Facility Management position at Rocky Mountain National Park in February of this year.

# A Snowy 2013-2014 Winter



Bear Lake Kiosk - Sunday, February 9, 2014. NPS Photo



Avalanche Studies below Andrews Tarn. NPS Photo



Plowing of Trail Ridge Road at Milner Pass on the west side of the park. Note snowpoles which guide plow drivers. NPS Photo

## Top 10 Visitation Days in 2013

Rocky Mountain National Park recreation visitation was 2,991,141 visitors in 2013, a 7% decrease from the recreation visitation numbers in 2012. September, typically one of the park's busiest time of year with some of the highest visitation days, and October were both greatly affected with closures in the park due to historic flooding, main access roads to the east side of the park being closed, and the government shutdown.

### Top 10 Days in 2013:

- 1 August 3
- 2 July 6
- 3 July 21
- 4 July 5
- 5 May 26
- 6 August 4
- 7 July 20
- 8 July 4
- 9 August 11
- 10 August 10

### Top 10 Days in 2012:

- 1 September 29
- 2 September 2
- 3 August 5
- 4 July 22
- 5 September 16
- 6 August 12
- 7 September 3
- 8 July 15
- 9 September 15
- 10 July 30



Mills Lake May 2014

NPS Photo by Crystal Brindle

# Two Stewardship Awards Presented by RMNP for 2013

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) presented two Stewardship Awards for 2013; one to the Federal Highway Administration, Central Federal Lands Highway Division and one to Mr. Dennis Black, Project Engineer for the Federal Highway Administration. Honoring each for the road reconstruction program in RMNP from 2001 - 2013 and for their part in serving the visitors and protecting the resources of the park.



*FHWA, Central Federal Lands Highway Division*

Since 2001, RMNP and the Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have reconstructed or resurfaced 49 miles or 80 percent of the mainline roads in the park, reducing the park's backlog of deferred road maintenance by \$66,000,000, improving visitor and employee safety and protecting the adjacent resources. Innovative solutions were required to accommodate the park's short construction season, high altitude and high visitation challenges.

The partnership between the FHWA and the National Park Service is exemplary of the quality results that can be achieved when employees of different agencies work together to achieve benefits for the public and the environment. The roads built by CFLHD are a great achievement to help us celebrate the forthcoming 100th anniversary of RMNP. Since 2003, Dennis Black was the Project Engineer for the Federal Highway Administration. Dennis built strong partnerships between the FHWA staff, park staff and contractor management. His work will be appreciated by millions of visitors for many years to come.



*RMNP Vaughn Baker & FHWA Dennis Black*

## Pierre Perney ~ April 21, 1959 - December 29, 2013



Our dear friend and coworker, James 'Pierre' Perney passed away on December 29, 2013 surrounded by his friends and family.

Pierre worked at Rocky Mountain National Park for over 30 years. He wore many hats in the park's Auto Shop. He focused his efforts on keeping the park's automotive fleet running in a safe and dependable condition for all employees.

Pierre's unique style and fun spirit in the Auto Shop was respected, welcomed and enjoyed by everyone who knew him.

Pierre will be greatly missed by all, especially so by his wife Sue and son Alec. He is also survived by his brother Abner, and his sisters Ann and Susan and their families, as well as friends and relatives all over the country.

We miss you so much Pierre and will never forget you. Thanks for all of the laughs and good times!

# Discover the New Discovery Center

Have you been to the “new” Moraine Park Discovery Center? Well, the building might not be new, but what's inside is. After being closed for the summer of 2013, the Moraine Park Visitor Center reopened as a collaboration between Rocky Mountain National Park and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy.

The idea behind the new center is to provide a “home” for the variety of educational programs offered by both the park and the Conservancy.

Built in 1923, the Moraine Lodge, as it was originally called, served as the central building of Mrs. Imogene McPherson's summer resort. It was also the center of social activities by the summer residents of Moraine Park. The federal government purchased the lodge in 1931, remodeled it, and since 1937 the building has served as the principal “museum” and a visitor center of Rocky Mountain National Park.



As we approach our 100th anniversary it seems fitting that a place that started as the center of social activities has been transformed into a place of educational activities. So stop by and check out the variety of programs now being offered including Jr. Ranger, Artist in Residence, and Environmental Education.

## Remaining Fee Free Days in the Park for 2014

August 25 (NPS Birthday),  
September 27 (National Public Lands Day),  
and November 11 (Veterans Day).



The National Park Service proudly recognizes the National Park Foundation as its official charitable partner.

 **National  
Park Foundation**<sup>™</sup>  
Join the park community.  
[www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)