

Colorado BHA Rendezvous: White River Nat. Forest (June 2-4, 2017)

Colorado BHA held its **9th annual Rendezvous** during June 2-4, 2017, in the midst of the 2.3 million-acre White River National Forest, which encompasses eight wilderness areas and ten peaks higher than 14,000 feet—the White River NF also played host to President Theodore Roosevelt, in 1901, while the chief executive hunted mountain lions.¹ A group of thirty-plus hunters and anglers from around the state set up camp in Sylvan Lake State Park, west of the 123,400-acre Holy Cross Wilderness about ten miles south of Eagle.

During the day Saturday folks dispersed to go hiking and fishing (the park has a 42-acre lake, that provided plenty of trout for weekend meals), returning mid-afternoon for a Habitat Watch Volunteers (HWV) training session facilitated by chapter HWV Program Coordinator, **Don Holmstrom**, and Central West Slope Regional Director, **Craig Grother**. This was followed by a general membership meeting to discuss where we've been, where we're going, and to recognize our collective contributions to BHA's growing list of conservation (and other) accomplishments.



We currently have over twenty **Habitat Watch Volunteers**, serving as our “eyes and ears” on Colorado’s national forests, grasslands and other public lands. And a big thanks to **Bill Roden**, **Devin Duval** and **John Noyes** for being our newest HWVs. We also still have Habitat Watch

¹ <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/whiteriver/learning/history-culture>

Volunteer openings: contact HWV Program Coordinator Don Holmstrom (donho2@comcast.net) for additional information. In addition, **Ivan James** has joined the Chapter Leadership Team (CLT) as Legislative Liaison.

Regarding other updates from chapter members/leaders, **Russell Bassett** (an Iraq War veteran) provided us with details regarding the chapter's upcoming public lands "Meetup" events. **Rick Seymour** (a U.S. Air Force veteran)—who was recognized as BHA's Member of the Month for May 2017—updated us on his joint effort with the BLM's Colorado River Valley Field office to post ATV/OHV enforcement signage on 10 trails where the BLM has detected illegal motorized access.

Geordie Robinson organized the chapter's 3rd Annual Wild Game Cook-Off at Grossen Bart Brewery in Longmont, with more than 70 attendees and over \$1,400 raised! We also have two Colorado BHA "Groups" (i.e., sub-chapters) forming: one in the greater Co. Springs area (contact **Ty Woodward** for additional information: woodward.tyrel@gmail.com) and another in the Denver metro area (contact **Jeff Finn** for information: jfinn@zvelo.com). Thanks, Ty and Jeff, for taking lead/the initiative on forming these Groups!

In addition, Colorado BHA was recognized as BHA's chapter of the month for May 2017. As stated (in part) in the award write-up: "It would seem the great state of Colorado has it all: a slew of fourteeners, the most elk of any state in the union, giant mule deer—and a team of butt-kicking BHA volunteers. The Colorado chapter is full of super active and passionate leaders working hard to represent BHA, educate sportsmen and protect our wild public lands and waters."

We were lucky to have **Craig Wescoatt**, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) District Wildlife Manager, join us for our HWV training session and general membership meeting. He thanked us for our hard work and encouraged us to keep it up! The membership meeting was followed by a wild game feed that included smoked elk roast, elk steaks and burgers, venison burgers, bison, antelope, and fresh-caught trout.

With our rapidly growing boots-on-the-ground membership (the chapter has 1,000 members, up 150% since June 2017), our collective voice in support of our state and nation's wild public lands, waters and wildlife will continue to reverberate across the country, reaching even further into the backcountry and the halls and chambers of the State Legislature and Congress.

Since the Colorado BHA chapter was founded by **David Petersen** (a U.S. Marine Corps veteran) in 2005 (the first official BHA chapter), we've grown our boots-on-the-ground presence at a rapid pace. And as BHA founder (and former U.S. Army officer), Mike Beagle, said: "We will continue to be a voice for core values of solitude, challenge, freedom and tradition so badly needed in the world where outdoor pursuits risk becoming more about selling products and technology instead of exercising skill and woodcraft. BHA is getting better and better. The best is yet to come."

Thanks to Don, Craig, Bill, Devin, John, Ivan, Russell, Rick, Geordie, Ty, Jeff and all the other Colorado BHA members for making this year such a successful one for our BHA chapter and its

efforts to protect wildlands and wildlife for future generations of hunters, anglers and other outdoorsmen and women. If we all do a little, we can accomplish a lot!

For additional information related to the efforts/issues addressed above see:

-Photos from the 9th Annual Colorado BHA Rendezvous (June 2017): https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOvZ6-m1_d7_2ATZ8LgUD2QbUotEJnNWRnlw-mjY3lMi6cnPUWf_gtA2whexZqCQQ?key=RWINdUZPWfHvb1BTS3RzV2kwTjNUYjZncGJneVJB

-Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Appoint Legislative Liaison (**Ivan James**) And Habitat Watch Volunteer (**Bill Roden**):

http://www.backcountryhunters.org/colorado_backcountry_hunters_anglers_appoint_legislative_liaison_and_habitat_watch_volunteer

-CO BHA Habitat Watch Volunteer **Devin Duval**-Routt National Forest (May 2017):

http://www.backcountryhunters.org/co_bha_habitat_watch_volunteer_devin_duval_routt_national_forest

-Colorado BHA Habitat Watch Volunteer **John Noyes**-Uncompahgre National Forest (June 2017): http://www.backcountryhunters.org/colorado_bha_habitat_watch_volunteer_john_noyes_uncompahgre_national_forest

-**Rick Seymour**: BHA (May 2017) Member of the Month:

http://www.backcountryhunters.org/rick_seymour_co_bha_member_of_the_month_may_2017

-Colorado BHA Teams-Up with **BLM** Field Office To **Protect Habitat & Access**:

http://www.backcountryhunters.org/colorado_bha_teams_up_with_blm_field_office_to_protect_habitat_access

-Colorado BHA's 3rd Annual **Wild Game Cook-Off** Report (May 2017):

http://www.backcountryhunters.org/colorado_bha_s_3rd_annual_wild_game_cook_off

-Colorado BHA Spring 2017 Update: http://www.backcountryhunters.org/colorado_bha_spring_2017_update

Also check out:

-The **Colorado State University** (CSU) Backcountry Hunters & Anglers: <https://www.facebook.com/BHACSU/>

-The **Western State Colorado University** (WSCU) Backcountry Hunters & Anglers:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Western-State-Colorado-University-Backcountry-hunters-anglers-1241248652614524/posts/?ref=page_internal; <http://www.western.edu/current-students/leadership-engagement-and-development/inter-club-council>

Theodore Roosevelt's Principles of the Hunt

- 1) Preserve large tracts of wilderness ... and game ... for all lovers of nature, and ... for the exercise of the skill of the hunter, whether he is or is not a man of means.
- 2) The conservation of wildlife, and ... all our natural resources, are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method.
- 3) Public rights come first and private interests second.
- 4) The genuine sportsman ... is by all odds the most important factor in keeping ... wild creatures from total extermination.
- 5) The true hunter ... loves all parts of the wilderness.
- 6) A peculiar charm in the chase ... comes from the wild beauty of the country.
- 7) The rich ... who are content to buy what they have not the skill to get by their own exertions—these are ... the real enemies of game.
- 8) When hunting him (wapiti) ... He must be followed on foot, and the man who follows him must be sound in limb and wind.
- 9) Skill and patience, and the capacity to endure fatigue and exposure, must be shown by the successful hunter.
- 10) I wish to preach, not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life.²

² Jim Posewitz. *Rifle In Hand: How Wild America Was Saved*. Helena, Montana: Riverbend Publishing, 2004, p. 87.



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