



# THE MONOLITH

A PUBLICATION BY THE COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION ■ SUMMER 2004

## *Photo of Colorado National Monument Wins NPS Contest*

*By Denise Hight*

A photograph of Colorado National Monument taken by local photographer Walt Fite will be the 2004 Rocky Mountain Regional Stamp in the Passport To Your National Parks® 2004 Stamp Series.

Many visitors to national parks carry distinctive blue Passport® books into the visitor centers. The Passport program was introduced in 1986 by Eastern National Parks Association and the National Park Service. Each visitor center has a park cancellation stamp where visitors can cancel their passports with rubber-stamp ink markings that record the name of the park and the date of the visit. These park cancellations serve as a reminder of the visit and the memories gained.

Each year, a series of collectible Passport stamps is issued. There are ten stamps in the series, nine regional and one national stamp. The stamps are issued on a single sheet, and once purchased, can be placed in the designated areas of the Passport book. A photography contest is held each year to determine which parks will be represented in the stamps. Photographers must be NPS employees or volunteers to be eligible. For the first time since the stamps were introduced, a photograph of Colorado National



*It was "one of those foggy winter days," says Walt Fite, that inspired him to drive to the top of the Monument and snap this award-winning photo.*

Monument has won one of the coveted spots.

Walt Fite, a local amateur photographer, took his prize-winning photograph last January using a Canon G2 4-megapixel digital camera. "It was one of those foggy winter days, and I thought if I drove up to the monument I might be able to rise above the fog and get some good pictures looking down into the valley. I stopped at Grand View and just started snapping photos," explained Fite. "I submitted four photographs and one was selected as the winner."

Fite won \$500 from Eastern National for use of the photograph.

Fite recently retired after working 35 years for the Bureau of Reclamation. He retired in Grand Junction because he enjoys participating in the outdoor activities the area offers. His hobbies are hiking, skiing, mountain biking, woodworking, and of course, photography. He is a member of the Outing Club and the Southwest Photographic Arts Association. He also volunteers at Colorado National Monument, where he cleans litter from

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# Meet the Ranger – Leslie Spomer

By Denise Hight

If you've called the Colorado National Monument lately, you may have noticed a new voice answering the phone. That voice belongs to Leslie Spomer, the Office Automation Clerk and Volunteer Coordinator. As Automation Clerk, Leslie's duties include answering the telephone, preparing correspondence, responding to information requests, and handling travel arrangements for the superintendent. She is also in charge of recruitment, retention, and training of the volunteers at the monument, a job she particularly enjoys. "I have a soft spot in my heart for volunteers. I have worked as a vol-



*In addition to her jobs in national parks, Leslie has been a school teacher, school bus driver, and library director.*

unteer myself, and I love to work with volunteers."

Leslie has only worked at Colorado National Monument since last autumn, but she's no stranger to the National Park Service. She started her first job with the Park Service as a seasonal at Big Horn Canyon in 1968, when she was student at Montana State University. That job in Big Horn Canyon was also momentous because it is where Leslie met her husband, Richard. Richard was a career law enforcement ranger for the Park Service, so Leslie and Richard moved to several national parks over the years. Leslie has worked in a variety of jobs, in a variety of parks, first as a seasonal and later as a permanent employee. She has worked at Lake Mead, Glen Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton, and Canyonlands. She has worked in maintenance and in administration. At Grand Teton, Leslie was the budget analyst for the maintenance division,

which had over 100 employees. In addition to her jobs in national parks, Leslie has also held a variety of other jobs including school teacher, school bus driver, and library director.

Leslie and Richard moved to Grand Junction in 2002, upon Richard's retirement from the NPS. They chose Grand Junction because they enjoyed the climate and the amenities, and because they had a number of friends who lived here. Unfortunately, shortly after they moved to Grand Junction, Richard was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The progression of the disease was quick, and Richard died in November 2003. One of Leslie's plans for the near future is to start an ALS support group in western Colorado.

Leslie has two daughters, Lissa and Ketti, who live in Jackson, Wyoming. Ketti works for Fish & Wildlife, and Lissa is following the family tradition and working for the National Park Service. Leslie and her daughters are close, and they visit each other often. But for the moment, Leslie does not plan on moving any closer. For the foreseeable future Leslie intends to stay in Grand Junction. "I have a house, friends, and a beautiful place to work. I like the people here, and I just want to work at a small park for now."

When Leslie isn't working, she has plenty of hobbies to keep her busy. Her interests include reading, especially mysteries. John Grisham and Sara Paretsky are two of her

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# Message from the CNMA President

By Beverly Kingsley



Serving on a board of directors is both challenging and rewarding. One of the greatest rewards of serving on the

CNMA board is meeting CNMA members at our special events. So far this spring, I have attended several of our Spring Walks & Talks programs and our Art & Photography Exhibit at the CNMA annual meeting in April. It was a great pleasure to meet so many CNMA members at these events. Some of these folks have been members for many years, and others are new to the area or new to the CNMA. What they all have in common is a love of Colorado National Monument. Even if you have not been before, I would like to encourage all of you to come out and attend some of our events this year; I know you will have a great time. The CNMA was founded in 1964, and we are currently planning a special 40th anniversary event for CNMA members this fall.

Another great reward of serving on the CNMA board is working with the other board members. We have an enthusiastic and dedicated board, and I am honored to be a part of this group. Of course, it is the nature of boards to change, with new board members joining as other board members leave. This year, two of our board members are leaving: Don Baars and Bill Hood.



*Beverly Kingsley addresses attendees of the Art and Photography Exhibit at the CNMA annual meeting in April. Sixteen artists and more than 100 attendees made the event a great success.*

Don Baars and Bill Hood are both prominent geologists at the top of their field. They both offered their extensive knowledge and experience to the board. They also offered that most valuable commodity: their time. Both Don and Bill spent many hours as volunteers at Colorado National Monument. For many years, Don was a regular volunteer each Saturday afternoon at the Visitor Center, sharing his wealth of knowledge with the visitors. Don also worked on the CNMA newsletter, served on the publications committee, and was involved in geological planning and presentations at the monument. Several of his publications are on sale at the Visitor Center bookstore. Don is leaving after four years of service on the board.

Bill Hood served six years on the CNMA board, two of them as board president. Bill also volunteered at the monument, first at the Visitor Center with his wife, Sandy. Bill then spent over 1500 volunteer hours developing an “electronic ranger” for the exhibits room. The

electronic ranger is an invaluable resource, and Bill and Sandy are now preparing similar projects for other national parks. As board president, Bill presided over the transition to a point-of-sales system in the Visitor Center, and oversaw the financial health of the organization. It was my privilege and honor to serve with both Bill and Don, and their guidance will be sorely missed. The CNMA board and staff thank them for their years of service, and wish them well in their future endeavors.

The CNMA has recently appointed Shane Corbin, manager of REI in Grand Junction, to fill one year remaining on Don Baars’s term. On behalf of the board and staff, I would like to welcome Shane to the board of directors. As I write this, we are planning an election to elect a new member to fill the other vacancy. The CNMA is a great organization, and I invite anyone who wishes to serve on the board to contact me or any board member for more information.

# CNMA Bookstore Bests

By Renee Creeden



It's finally happened! Colorado National Monument is the featured park for the Rocky Mountain Region for 2004 in the *Passport to Your National Parks Program*. The National Parks passport program was started in 1986 by Eastern National, a cooperating association that serves many NPS historic sites in the east. Based on the international passport idea, participants purchase an NPS passport that contains spaces for stamps and interpretive information and take the passport from park to park. At each park, they collect a cancellation, a rubber-stamp ink marking with the name of the park and the date of the visit. Every year one park from each region is featured

in a collectable stamp series consisting of one national stamp and nine regional stamps. These stamps with adhesive backings are adhered to the passport book pages, and cost \$3.95.

The photo on the Colorado National Monument stamp was taken by Walt Fite, a Colorado National Monument volunteer and Grand Junction resident. Congratulations, Walt! We're delighted to be featured this year!



*Plateau Journal, Volume 7, Number 2 – Passages*, published by the Museum of Northern Arizona (\$9.95). Passages through time and culture is the subject of this issue beginning with a mini-history of the origins of the Earth and ending with a look at the unique gravesites in cemeteries of the Colorado

Plateau. In between are the stories of individual journeys of people of the Colorado Plateau – the evolving history of ranchers on the Arizona Strip, the life of a master Hopi katsina carver, anthropologist Gladys Reichard's life among and observations of Navajo weavers, and canyoneering through the slot canyons on the Plateau. As always, the photos are spectacular and the *Journal* provides a unique way of looking at and experiencing the Colorado Plateau.

Many thanks to Gail Eynon, Jeanne McLain, Ron Corbett and Dolores Schroeder for helping with our spring bookstore cleaning. Thanks to Anton Steinle and Dolores for the uniquely constructed and very useful poster bin inserts. And, thanks to Dick Sells for installing new shelves in the CNMA office. Your help is greatly appreciated!

We are currently in the midst of selecting photographs for the 2005 Colorado National Monument calendar. We're also reviewing new products for the summer season, so look for new and wonderful things coming to the store in the future. The Visitor Center and CNMA bookstore are currently open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, but hours will soon be extending for the summer season.

## Young Naturalists' Camp Slated for June

Colorado National Monument will again be participating in the Young Naturalists' Camp sponsored by the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens. Ranger Nancy Zaenger will be leading the Monument's portion of this popular day camp.

Young Naturalists' Camp I is for students entering 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grades and will take place June 1–4 from 9:00 am to noon. Young Naturalists' camp II is for students entering 4th, 5th, or 6th grades and will have two sessions: one on June 7-10 and the other on June 14–17, both from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Call the WCBG offices at 245-3288 to register or stop by the WCBG offices to pick up a brochure.

# <sup>Last</sup> A few thoughts from the superintendent...

By Palma Wilson

Wildflowers are in bloom! A sure sign that spring is here and with it a little moisture that we most definitely need. Another sure sign of spring: CNMA's Walks and Talks Series, which began on April 4. And last but certainly not least, CNMA's annual meeting. Again, it was my pleasure to see and chat with many of you at the meeting in April.

As for activities at the monument, here's a quick summary:

The Trails & Rails Program, a joint program between the National Park Service and Amtrak which places volunteer interpreters (and in some cases paid staff) on the train to talk about the natural and cultural history of the area, did not quite make it "on board" last summer. But, we're a go for this summer. The final touches are being made to the script and the summer schedule completed. The first run will be the weekend of June 17. With volunteers in Denver and the Grand Valley, we will be crisscrossing the state, Thursday-Sunday, talking about the natural and cultural history of the area. Our thanks to CNMA for supporting this program.



Palma Wilson

The General Management Plan is out for public review! The National Park Service (NPS) released the Draft General Management Plan and Environment Impact Statement

(GMP/EIS) for Colorado National Monument. This Draft GMP/EIS describes and analyzes a proposed action and two alternatives for managing and using Colorado National Monument. It was developed over the last two years with public involvement and consultation. The purpose of a general management plan is to map out a clear vision for management of Colorado National Monument for the next 15-20 years. The main issues addressed by this plan revolve around the rapid urbanization occurring around the monument, and how to

*"It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as the superintendent of Colorado National Monument for the past three years."*

manage the monument in the face of this change.

Copies of the Draft GMP/EIS can be requested by mail from Colorado National Monument, Fruita, Colorado, 81521, or by

calling 970-858-3617. It is also available on the internet at <http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>. The Draft GMP/EIS will be on public review for 60 days and comments will be accepted until June 30, 2004.

We continue to work closely with the BLM as they proceed through the planning process for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area. The public review period for the CCNCA Resource Management Plan closed at the end of January. BLM staff are reviewing the comments and working on finalizing the plan. For more information on the Colorado Canyons NCA and their planning process, visit their Web page at [www.co.blm.gov/colocanyons](http://www.co.blm.gov/colocanyons).

The BLM and the NPS continue to look for ways to work together after the plans are completed and, in some cases, before the plans are completed. We're currently working together on fire management planning and a public lands information center. The "unmanned" information center will be located at the Fruita Welcome Center and provide

information, via an interactive DVD as well as printed material and exhibits, on all public lands in the area including NPS, BLM, USFS, CO-State Parks, CO-

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## **Art & Photo Exhibit A Great Success**

Over 100 people attended the Colorado National Monument Association Annual Meeting Art & Photography Exhibit held April 12, at Redlands United Methodist Church. A wonderful time was had by all. Thank you to the following artists and photographers for exhibiting their work: George Callison, Shirley Dickinson, Walt Fite, Nancy Eversole Hutcheson, Richard Johnson, Jeff Kochevar, Rob Kurtzman, Bud Markos, Janet Mayerik, Darlyne Merkel, Jo Ann Moon, Judy Morehouse, Charles Morris, Rose Nordenberg, Lorraine Sells, and Steve Traudt.

## **Superintendent**

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DOW, city of Fruita, and the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway. Through CNMA, we have been able to provide financial support for the purchase of equipment and the development of the DVD and exhibits.

One thing that you can guarantee with the NPS is that staff changes are inevitable. And so I have a couple to report to you. Leslie Spomer has replaced Todd Overbye as the Office Automation Clerk. Her duties also include being the full-time, year-round Volunteer-in-Park (VIP) coordinator for the monument. Stop in and say hello the next time you come visit the monument.

And finally... there is one last

staff change to mention. I have been offered and accepted a new position in Flagstaff, Arizona, where I will be the superintendent of three areas—Wupatki, Sunset Crater Volcano, and Walnut Canyon National Monuments. I will be leaving for my new assignment on May 16th. Bruce Noble, currently the superintendent at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska, has been selected as the new superintendent for Colorado National Monument. He will be arriving in the Grand Valley the first part of June.

I am looking forward to the challenge of a new area to manage, but it is with some sadness that I leave the Grand Valley. It has been a great place to live and work the past three years. So, if you're ever in the Flagstaff area, please stop in and say hello.

My thanks to CNMA—the staff, Board of Directors, and the membership—for the support that you have provided during my tenure. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as the superintendent of Colorado National Monument for the past three years. And, oh yes... a lot of fun!

## **Meet the Ranger**

*Continued From Page 2*

favorite authors. Leslie also likes crafts, particularly dried and silk flower arranging, and creating dried flower wreaths.

When Leslie is at work, she is often the friendly voice on the phone

answering inquiries about Colorado National Monument. She also recruits volunteers for the information desk, maintenance, and resource management. She is always looking for new volunteers, so if you have a desire to volunteer, or if you need further information, please call Leslie at 858-3617, ext. 300.

## **CNM Photo Featured**

*Continued From Page 1*

Monument Canyon Trail. He also served as a volunteer in the bighorn sheep count that took place in the monument last year.

In addition to the photograph that was selected for the National Parks Passport®, Fite also has several of his photographs featured, including the cover, in the 2004 City of Grand Junction calendar.

“I’m not a professional photographer,” explained Fite, “I just take pictures. Photography is a hobby I really enjoy. I go out hiking or skiing and take the camera with me, and if there is something interesting to photograph I take out the camera and start snapping. I enjoy the hiking, taking pictures, and the opportunity to share the pictures with others.”

The Passport To Your National Parks® and the 2004 Stamp Series

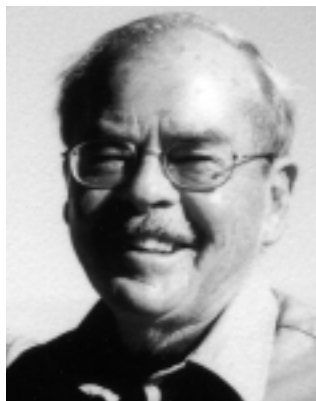
featuring Walt Fite’s photograph of Colorado National Monument are available at the Colorado National Monument

bookstore. The passport book is \$7.95, and the set of commemorative stamps is \$3.95.



*Walt Fite*

# Robert Zeis: October 13, 1932–February 7, 2004



One of Colorado National Monument's long-time volunteers, Robert H. Zeis Jr., passed away on February 7, after a long battle with cancer.

Bob was a graduate of Notre Dame University, and worked for 27 years for the Denver Post, retiring as Business Manager. He moved to Grand Junction in

1989. Bob loved Colorado National Monument, and served as a volunteer for several years, until ill-health forced him to retire. Bob will be sorely missed by the staff and volunteers of Colorado National Monument.

Bob is survived by his five children, eleven

grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters. Bob's family established a memorial fund in his name at Colorado National Monument. Thank you to the following individuals and groups who have made contributions in his memory:

Genevieve & Stephen Bartula	Walter & Betty Lou Rumpf
CNM Staff	Dick & Lorraine Sells
Compliance Audit Team of Wells Fargo Bank	John & Lauren Spanbauer
Renee & Paul Creeden	Leslie Spomer
Thomas & Claudia Henshall	John & Pamela Waage
Robert & Mel Patridge	William Production RMT Company
	Nancy Zeis

Anyone wishing to make donations in his memory, please send checks to CNMA, Colorado National Monument, Fruita, CO 81521.

## Thank You CNMA Members!

*Thank you for supporting the CNMA. Your membership supports educational programs at Colorado National Monument.*

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