



River Currents

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A Quarterly Newsletter from the Roaring Fork Conservancy

INSIDE:

How did the Conservancy Hatch?.....1

Working with the Town of Basalt and Others1

Formation of the Four Rivers Coalition.....1

Conservancy to Coordinate River Study Sites.....2

Volunteer Opportunities!.....2

Initial Fundraising Campaign Meeting with Success.....2

Conservancy to "Cast Off" with River Guides.....2

Conservancy's Current Board of Directors.....2

River Watch Tip.....2

Next Issue...2

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Roaring Fork Conservancy
P.O. Box 323
Basalt, Colorado 81621

Jeanne M. Beaudry
Executive Director

Tel: 970-927-1290
Fax: 970-927-1264

E-Mail: rfconsv@rof.net

How did the Conservancy Hatch?

Formed in the fall of 1996 by the partners of the Roaring Fork Club, in cooperation with the Town of Basalt, the Roaring Fork Conservancy initially played a "monitoring" role during the Club's river restoration construction. Now, six months later, the Conservancy is actively participating in the Club's on-going physical development and operating programs. One such recent area of development includes a mile-long spring creek trout fishing habitat.

Aquatic and Wetlands Company founder, Dr. Jay Windell, a former University of Colorado biology professor, created spring creek from an old irrigation ditch on the Club's property. By placing 50,000 plants along the spring creek, "we're creating an environment with over thirty separate pools, lots of cover logs and log spurs, which fish love," said Windell.

The Conservancy is not only seeing the Club's initial river restoration to its completion, but also embarking on its own projects such as establishing monitoring systems, collecting river data, determining access points and areas of conservation, developing educational and art programs, contacting local fishing guides and outfitters for fundraising opportunities, increasing the level of Conservancy awareness within the Basalt community and with the general fishing public, and completing the video on the current river restoration work.

Working with the Town of Basalt and Others

The Roaring Fork Conservancy is actively working with the Town of Basalt to coordinate long-term strategic planning for the Roaring Fork River which runs through the Town of Basalt.

After an initial meeting with the town planner, Glen Hartman, the Conservancy met with town administrator, Kent Mueller, to visit potential nature center, river restoration and fisheries sites. The Conservancy will be assisting in the coordination and collection of data over the next two months for the Town.

The Conservancy is also working with the local schools and the Division of Wildlife to conduct monitoring programs called "River Watch" for the 97/98 school year.

Formation of the Four Rivers Coalition

Along with the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, Colorado Mountain College, Roaring Fork School District RE-1, and the Science Outreach Program, the Conservancy has formed the *Four Rivers Coalition* (Frying Pan, Roaring Fork, Crystal and Colorado rivers). The Coalition is working with the BLM to select and develop potential natural areas for educational purposes. Two areas have been preserved, a 22 acre parcel on the Roaring Fork, and a 40 acre parcel on the Crystal River. With the BLM, the Four Rivers Coalition will protect and utilize these valuable river parcels.

Conservancy to Coordinate River Study Sites

In conjunction with the *Roaring Fork Watershed Coalition*, the Conservancy will coordinate possible study sites near the Town of Basalt. Study sites will be established to help monitor the health of the river and the surrounding wetlands. A program, utilizing local school children, will soon be established.

In addition, the Conservancy has approached *Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers* to discuss the possibility of a future rivers/fisheries project. This suggestion was well-received by Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, and the Conservancy plans to begin working with them in the near future.

Volunteer Opportunities!

The Conservancy is listed with Aspen Foundation Outreach services in an effort to secure a team of volunteers to help with various projects including: school art and education programs, stream clean-up and data collection, fundraising and special events. To join the team of dedicated Roaring Fork Conservancy volunteers, please call Jeanne Beaudry at the Conservancy or Ellen Freedman at Outreach Services @ 970-925-9300.

Initial Fundraising Campaign Meeting with Success

Thanks to the contributions received from the Roaring Fork Club cabin owners/partnership holders, the Conservancy is well on its way to meeting its initial fundraising goal. In addition, the Conservancy has received positive local and national press coverage since its inception which is leading to an increase in awareness and individual memberships.

The Conservancy's current video project, documenting the Roaring Fork Club's river restoration, was edited into an eleven minute Video News Release (VNR) which led to much of the press coverage. The documentation video will be a necessary tool in both the Conservancy's future public relations and development efforts. Inasmuch, the Conservancy will be working with actor, *Robert Wagner*, recording the narration for the video.

Conservancy to "Cast Off" with River Guides

A major goal of the Roaring Fork Conservancy is to protect and improve the fishing habitat of the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan rivers. These world-renowned "gold medal" trout waters serve both local and visiting anglers alike. The Conservancy is working with area fishing guides and outfitters to implement programs and to educate the fishing community.

One such program will encourage the guides to donate a set trip fee to the Conservancy. This fee will generate income to support educational programs and to help promote community events that focus on the Roaring Fork River corridor. The Conservancy is committed to educating the community and the general public about the uniqueness of the river's ecosystem, to increasing community and public participation in its mission, and to protecting and increasing community and public access to the local rivers.

About the Executive Director

Jeanne Beaudry comes to the Roaring Fork Conservancy with 25 years of experience as a naturalist and river enthusiast. Returning from Tonga, South Pacific where she performed her tour of duty in the U.S. Peace Corp as an Environmental Technical Advisor, Ms. Beaudry is a longtime resident of

the Roaring Fork Valley. An avid fly-fisher, Ms. Beaudry worked in environmental education with organizations such as the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, U.S. National Park Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Please phone her at 970-927-1290 with any questions about the Conservancy!

Conservancy's Current Board of Directors:

- **William D. Browning**, founder of *Rocky Mountain Institute's "Green Development Services"*
- **Shane J. Harvey**, land use and water attorney and avid fly-fisherman
- **James W. Light**, partner in the *Roaring Fork Club*
- **Christopher R. Myers**, Town of Basalt trustee and architectural lighting consultant
- **David A. Wilhelm**, partner in the *Roaring Fork Club*
- **Andre Wille**, Basalt High School biology teacher, river enthusiast and avid climber

River Watch Tip...

Use biodegradable soap when washing your cars or trucks outside. Soap suds make their way up to the gutters, through the drainage pipes and into the rivers! Biodegradable soap is much safer and healthier for the rivers and their inhabitants.

Next Issue...

Do you wish to receive your "River Currents" newsletter via electronic mail? It is more cost effective and environmentally sensitive for the Conservancy to use electronic mail. Please send us your e-mail address at rfconsv@rof.net!