



Rough Rider Reader

A QUARTERLY REPORT FOR OUR INNER CIRCLE • SPRING 2008



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The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership owes much of its early success to the support of a relatively small group of individuals that includes you. You are receiving this *Rough Rider Reader* because you have contributed directly to this young organization and helped us get us up on our feet.

The selection of the name "Rough Riders" for the group of you who make significant individual contributions to the TRCP was one of the easier ones we've had to make in our first five years. It's a natural fit. Just as TR's legendary band of brothers never would have been so effective had it not combined the talents of a broad base of willing volunteers, so too with the TRCP. Were it not for your belief in our mission and readiness to give whatever possible to help us achieve it, the TRCP would not have become the emergent force in conservation that I am pleased to say we represent today.

In doing so, you have lived up to a challenge put forth by the original Rough Rider himself: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." And you have helped us immensely in our efforts to live up to the same lofty goal.

You need not look far for proof that our combined efforts are working. In the days prior to this writing, more than 7,000 acres of wild Utah were pulled from the auction block for energy development as a direct result of TRCP protests. Senate leaders welcomed the TRCP to a forum on the future of American conservation and took great care to note the importance of the new ranks of union sportsmen the TRCP is bringing into the arena. TRCP Senior Vice President Tom Franklin was named to the first-ever EPA advisory committee on agriculture, the lone nominee from a hunting, fishing or conservation organization on the 30-member panel. And one of our television programs, *TRCP's Escape to the Wild*, set a new record high for total weekly viewers on the VERSUS network, reaching more than 425,000 people.

There's an inside joke amongst the TRCP staff that every policy development, from the most insignificant to the most essential, can safely be hailed publicly as "a good first step toward a brighter tomorrow." Occasionally, on our staff conference calls, enthusiastic recountings of various TRCP accomplishments occasionally find themselves met not with the excitement from his or her colleagues that a staff member expects, but rather by a stiff silence. Then, without fail, someone chimes in dryly, "That sounds like a good first step" right about the time the staffer remembers the joke.

I recently realized that the joke had evolved into something more for us than a thin attempt at humor. It's becoming a rallying cry – but one delivered in speaking tones. When one staffer hails another's accomplishments as a "good first step," it provides an instant reminder that we cannot ever rest on our laurels, and that there will soon be more hard work to be done. To borrow again from T.R., "It behoves every man to remember that ... in the end, progress is accomplished by the man who does things."

Indeed. You can rest assured that the TRCP will keep doing the things to be done to extend the 26th president's conservation legacy. We hope you'll enjoy reading more about our work in the coming pages, and we invite you to continue supporting our efforts in any way you can.

George Cooper

Featured Rough Rider

John M. "Mick" Seidl

TRCP Board Member
Location: Houston, Texas
Occupation: Business Executive

When and how did you become interested in the outdoors?

My interest in the outdoors was generated by the Boy Scouts of America. I grew up in Ohio, and our troop did plenty of camping, hiking and outdoor activities. At about 14 years old, I sold candy door-to-door in Delaware, Ohio, to pay for a two-week trip to Philmont Scout Ranch just outside Raton, New Mexico, which was my introduction to the West.



Mick riding through Eagle Pass coming out of Yellowstone National Park.

What is your most memorable experience afield?

Hard to pick a most memorable experience, but either the first time the dogs pointed and I flushed a covey of quail in South Texas or the regular horse-packing and fishing that I did with my brother and son in and around Yellowstone National Park for six or seven straight years in the early 90s. The first bonefish I ever caught in the Bahamas would be right up at the top as well.

What do you think are our most pressing conservation issues today?

Without question, loss of habitat for species and the loss of species. We are slowly paving this country at the expense of our spirit. Remember, Thoreau had it right, "In wildness is the preservation of the world."

What is your approach to facing conservation challenges?

We must be active in the face of conservation challenges and support organizations that are working to protect habitat, land and water resources and landscapes throughout the world. We also must be diligent stewards for nature in the policy process—at the state level and particularly the federal level (given federal lands)—to force developers to make intelligent, public interested decisions that take conservation values into account with regard to resource development.

How did you become involved with the TRCP?

I met TRCP Chairman Jim Range while working for the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation leading its effort in conservation and environmental giving. I was much impressed with Jim and his vision for the TRCP, including his desire to broaden the base of the conservation efforts in the US for the hunting and fishing community while balancing the requirements for habitat protection and resource development.

Why are you involved with the TRCP?

I am involved to protect habitat throughout the 50 states and increase the voice of hunters, fishermen, outdoorsmen, bird watchers, etc. in the federal and state policy processes.

What's this we hear about your split bamboo?

I love fishing with split bamboo and have become a friend of Mario Wojnicki, who is a rod builder in Emeryville, California. More than a rod builder, Mario is an artist with bamboo, a terrific fisherman and a conservationist. There is just something special about having a cane rod on a stream.



TRCP's Rough Riders Program

The Rough Riders, Theodore Roosevelt's fully volunteer cavalry regiment, has permanently charged its way into our national memory. The TRCP has assembled a new group of Rough Riders for whom Roosevelt's conservation vision provides the marching orders. The TRCP's Rough Riders are a select group of passionate individuals determined to demand proper stewardship of our natural resources, who have invested in this vision for the future with financial contributions of \$500 or more. As a Rough Rider, your contributions help make a reality of the venerable conservation legacy of T.R., while enabling our organization's onward charge following Roosevelt's path. For more information, please contact Cary Ridder, Director of Development, at 202.654.4624 or cridder@trcp.org.

Washington Watch

By Tom Franklin, TRCP Senior Vice President



In more than 20 years of working on conservation policy in Washington, DC, it's clear to me that the election season is different this year; politicians are finally coming to sportsmen for our support. They want to know how Congress can help hunters and anglers protect habitat, obtain access to quality hunting and fishing and provide funding for

conservation programs. Clearly, times are changing on Capitol Hill. While Washington lawmakers are rightly concerned with the receding economy, the war on terror and universal health care, meeting the needs of hunters and anglers also is on minds of our elected leaders.

Witness a mid-February Hill meeting in which TRCP Chairman Jim Range and United Sportsmen's Alliance Partner Rich Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, met with Senate leaders to discuss sportsmen's needs. Fifteen key senators, including Majority Leader Harry Reid, greeted Jim and Rich personally and listened intently about the critical need to pass a Farm Bill that provides \$20 million per year for hunting access and funding for farmers and ranchers to establish, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on their land.

What is the TRCP Working On?

- Responsible Energy Development on Public Lands
- Growing Farm Bill Conservation Programs
- Strengthening Wetlands Protections
- Reforming the 1872 Mining Law
- Elevating Sportsmen's Voices in the Roadless Debate



T.R. Trivia

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Teddy's birth, making 2008 the T.R. Sesquicentennial.

The discussion then turned to energy development on our western public lands. Range explained that unbridled development is threatening the wildlife heritage of the American West; there is an urgent need to protect crucial wildlife habitat from poorly planned energy development and that public lands must maintain quality hunting and angling opportunities as energy development proceeds. Restoring Clean Water Act protection for wetlands was presented as a huge priority because recent Supreme Court decisions are eroding protections for wetlands that provide essential habitat for wildlife and fish in the vanishing American prairies and elsewhere.

It is extremely gratifying that Senate leaders are engaging in the TRCP's most important conservation priorities. Their enthusiasm should benefit all who care for the future of America's wildlife heritage.

As things evolve in Washington, "to the beginning of the first sentence of the last paragraph. Replace the second sentence of the last paragraph with "If sportsmen step up and take action, the current enthusiasm of our elected officials should benefit all who care for the future of America's wildlife heritage.

We all donate to the TRCP. Do you?



The TRCP has 26 staff members across the country working every day to address the conservation issues critical to the outdoor community.

Meet the Staff



Dwayne poses with a pronghorn he shot in Wyoming's Shirley Basin.

Dwayne M. Meadows

Job Title: Field Representative, Wyoming and Northern Colorado

Hometown: Saratoga, Wyoming

Current Location: Laramie, Wyoming

Hobbies: Trout fishing Western streams, mule deer, pronghorn and elk hunting, bird hunting and backcountry skiing in the winter

What did you do prior to working for the TRCP?

I worked for the Western Center for Historic Preservation in Grand Teton National Park.

How did you discover the TRCP?

Steve Belinda, TRCP energy initiative manager, told me about the TRCP at a St. Patrick's Day celebration put on by a few Wyoming Game and Fish biologists. He and I talked about energy issues in Wyoming and how they were affecting our hunting. He gave me his card. The rest is history.

When and how did you become interested in outdoor pursuits?

I do not remember when I became interested in the outdoors. Being afield is part of a cultural tradition in my family that goes back generations. We have always spent time outdoors both for subsistence and for sport. Growing up in a small town in the Rockies leaves you with little else to do besides going hunting and fishing after work or school. Television was hardly a part of my youth.

Why do you work for the TRCP?

Challenge. The most difficult thing facing the West is growth. I see the TRCP as an answer to the question I have always asked about the sporting community. Why are we as hunters and anglers not standing up to protect what we have, so the next generation can enjoy these resources?

What is the most difficult part of your job?

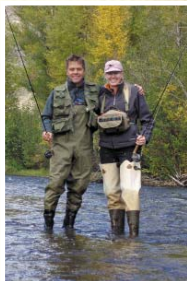
I live in a region where many people make their livelihoods off the extraction of minerals, and taxes on these minerals pay for much of the local infrastructure. These same people are the hunters and fishermen who want to protect the resource. The hard part is showing them how a balance can be achieved, where we protect the wildlife and still work to get the energy from the ground. When over a million acres are over-laid with gas fields in the course of a few years, as has happened in Wyoming, people feel very disempowered that they can make a change.

What is the best part of your job?

Educating people that as sportsmen they are a voice that can create change on so many issues in America affecting their interests. The hunting and fishing all over Wyoming and Colorado is not bad either.

What goals do you have for yourself and the TRCP in the next year?

My main goal is to make sure sportsmen's voices are heard, especially by those individuals making critical choices about energy development and the many facets of life it affects. I want them to be weighing the sporting community's input when they make decisions regarding America's energy.



Dwayne and his wife, Laura, fishing the Upper North Platte River in Wyoming.

Portfolio

Those who love the outdoors deeply appreciate the artwork of John M. Williams Jr., as do those who love the beauty found in the scenes of everyday American life. Streams, fields and forests find their way into John's works as frequently as do chairs, flowers and the occasional sleeping dog. Williams lives in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania and finds constant inspiration in the Delaware River. Along its banks, his works are shown widely in inns, galleries and private collections. The long-time proprietor of the Morning Star Carriage House Gallery in Lambertville, New Jersey, Williams now markets his works independently, assisted by his wife, Mary Carol Williams, herself a folk artist.



Williams contributed several paintings to the TRCP's recent "Growing Conservation in the Farm Bill" report, and has been published on the pages of PF Journal, the magazine of Pheasants Forever. "It's hard for me to say no when someone from the conservation community asks if they can use my work," Williams says, "often because it's my stepson, Tim [Zink, TRCP Director of Communications], on the line."



For more information about this artist, please visit www.jmwportfolio.com.

artwork of John W. Williams Jr.



Outtakes from the Open

By Ken Barrett, Host TRCP's Life in the Open



Ken Barrett, center, after a successful mule deer hunt with Mule Deer Foundation President/CEO and TRCP policy council member Miles Moretti, left, and TRCP Field Representative Dwayne Meadows, right.

I have one of the best jobs anybody could possibly have. I get paid to go hunting and fishing around the country and the world with a cameraman in tow. The result, with the help of others along the way, is a show that entertains and informs a national audience about the wonderful outdoor experiences that await them and the issues that will help decide the future of hunting and fishing. And I get to do it all under the banner and image of Teddy Roosevelt, our organization's iconic name-sake, and a man still revered and held in high esteem by a broad spectrum of Americans - Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike.

We all like to claim Teddy as our own, which in these days of political rancor and polarization is a rare thing indeed. The old Rough Rider still holds sway, and that's a terrific thing for our partnership. We could not have a better name or symbol for our work and mission. People from all walks of life, especially hunters and anglers, gravitate to T.R.'s image and words; they want to be associated with him and his conservation legacy.

I cannot tell you how many times in the last few years I have been approached by a viewer and told how much he or she loves T.R., or to comment on an episode of "that Teddy Roosevelt show," as so many call *TRCP's Life In The Open*.

I have experienced many wonderful times, places and people during the taping of LITO, and in upcoming issues of the

Rough Rider Reader I'll tell you about some of them. You'll read about the time two lions walked within ten feet of sleeping TRCP board chairman Jim Range, the cold wet April morning my cameraman fell out of board member Jim Martin's boat into the Columbia River and the shot TRCP's deadeye Terry Riley missed at a giant ram ... on camera ... at 25 yards ... broadside. I'll also tell you about the emails we get from viewers thanking the TRCP and me for producing a show that's "real" and which they can "relate to." In the meanwhile, happy hunting, tight lines and don't forget to get out and enjoy life in the open.

TRCP's Life in the Open travels the world searching for sporting adventures while exploring today's pressing conservation issues. Both LITO and TRCP's Escape to the Wild air on the *VERSUS* network. For complimentary copies of the show, please contact Britta Blodgett at bblodgett@trcp.org or 202.654.4613.



We need you ... and your friends.

T.R.'s conservation legacy and the example he set have given Americans the hunting and fishing opportunities that lie at the heart of our national outdoor heritage. You can set an example by continuing your support for the TRCP and asking your friends to become Rough Riders, too. For more information, please contact Cary Ridder, Director of Development, at 202.654.4624 or cridder@trcp.org.

Visit www.trcp.org to join the TRCP today.