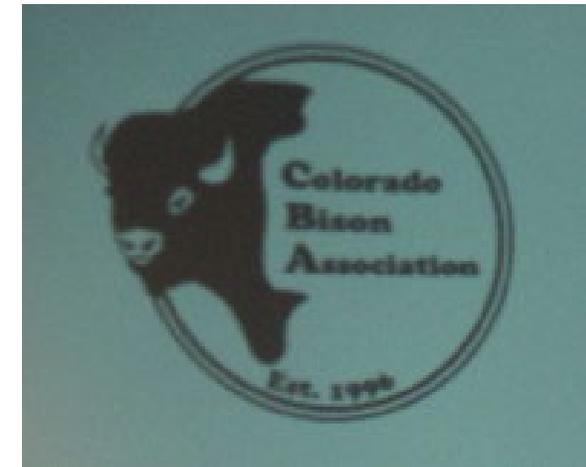


30 Years of  
Promoting and  
Preserving  
Bison Through  
Education,  
Research, and  
Marketing.



# The Start of Something Great

- On April 27, 1996, 37 ranches met at the Red Lion Hotel in Denver, CO to discuss the idea of forming a local bison association.
- The Colorado Bison Association was established.



# Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association

- On September 25, 2004, the membership voted to operate as the Colorado Bison Association, dba Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association, to be a more regionally focused association.

## **Bison association extends name**

DENVER — The Colorado Bison Association established in 1996, with members in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Arizona, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Kentucky, will now be known as the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association (RMBA.)

“During the association’s fall meeting, members voted to change the name, thereby extending their represented area,” said RMBA President Marlene Groves. “The name Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association better reflects our regional group of bison ranchers and will enable the association to expand services to its members and offer more educational opportunities for consumers.”

The next event for RMBA is the spring conference at the Holiday Inn Northglenn (I-25 & 120th) March 11, 2005. (AP)



# Rocky Mountain Bison Association

- On March 2, 2019 the membership voted to operate as the Colorado Bison Association, dba Rocky Mountain Bison Association, to more accurately reflect the name of the animal we represent.



# Association Accomplishments and Projects

- 1996
  - Established
  - Printed Newsletter began
- 1997
  - First formal meeting
- 1998
  - Published a membership directory
  - Established a mailing address
- 2000
  - Sponsored Girl Scout Buffalo patches
  - Sponsored MCF research
  - Created CBA Logo
  - Published cookbook and educational brochures

# Association Accomplishments and Projects

- 2001
  - Received non-profit status 501(c)(5)
  - Established a phone number
  - Began going to NWSS with an educational booth
  - Participated in the Colorado Science Teacher's Conference
  - Began sponsoring Colorado Chef's Association
- 2002
  - Launched website – [www.buffaloranchers.com](http://www.buffaloranchers.com)
  - Published Ranch Direct Meat brochure
- 2003
  - Began going to Colorado State Fair with an educational booth and meat promotion

# Association Accomplishments and Projects

- 2004
  - First year of Peak-to-Peak Sale
  - Name changed to Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association and new logo
- 2008
  - National Bison Association started the Junior Judging Contest at the GTSS which RMBA helped sponsor and put on
- 2012
  - RMBA joined Facebook and Instagram
- 2013
  - Last year of Peak-to-Peak sale
  - Began attending Colorado State FFA Convention with an educational booth and meat promotion

# Association Accomplishments and Projects

- 2015
  - Added Junior membership level
- 2016
  - Redesign of the RMBA website
  - Added Dual Lifetime membership level
- 2018
  - Attended Bison Day at the Denver Zoon with an educational booth
- 2017
  - Separated Secretary/Treasurer position from one to two
- 2019
  - Name changed to Rocky Mountain Bison Association and new logo
  - Large update and expansion of RMBA website – [www.bisonranchers.com](http://www.bisonranchers.com)

# Association Accomplishments and Projects

- 2020
  - Supported the federal The Real Marketing Edible Artificials Truthfully (MEAT) Act, and the Colorado Misbranding Nonmeat And Imported And Artificial Meat bill, both requiring artificial meat to be labeled as such
  - Supported the federal Truth In Buffalo Labeling Act, ensuring that water buffalo are labeled as such and the bison can be labeled as bison, or buffalo
  - Opposed Colorado ballot initiative, Proposition 114, calling for the release of wolves in Colorado
  - Supported the delisting of wolves from the Endangered Species Act to allow them to be better managed
  - Supported a compensation fund to be established for depredation events against livestock producers in Colorado

# Association Accomplishments and Projects

- 2021
  - Did not charge dues in 2021 to help members during the pandemic
  - Opposed Colorado Ballot Initiative 16, the PAUSE Act, that would severely restrict providing veterinary services to livestock, among other things
  - With the National Bison Association, renamed the annual Bison Junior Judging contest The Larry Higgins Bison Junior Judging Contest
- 2022
  - Affirmed that bison should remain a non-amenable species
- 2023
  - Opposed the proposed Denver City and County ballot initiative Prohibition of Slaughterhouses
  - Supported the 2023 Truth In Buffalo Labeling Act, ensuring that water buffalo are labeled as such and the bison can be labeled as bison, or buffalo
  - Started to do eNewsletters in addition to printed ones

# Association Accomplishments and Projects

- 2024
  - Opposed the Denver City and County ballot initiative Prohibition of Slaughterhouses
  - Opposed the Denver City and County ballot initiative Prohibition of Fur Products
  - Issued a letter to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, requesting that bison be included in the Colorado Wolf Depredation Fund, bison were erroneously excluded from the depredation fund outlined in the Wolf Management Plan
  - RMBA launched its new Mentorship Program

# Association Accomplishments and Projects

- 2025
  - Provided facts and edits for the State of Colorado law designating bison as both livestock and wildlife, ensuring member's concerns were protected
  - Funded the Bison Body Condition Score Field Guide and Bison Conformation Field Guide, developed by the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies at South Dakota State University
- 1996 – today
  - Constant support of members and the bison industry through various small and large programs, projects, presentations, and partnerships.

# 2026 and Beyond

- Continue to ride with us as we look forward to supporting our members and the entire bison industry for years to come

“In the early days I was the founding President of the Colorado association at Brian Wards insistence. I had more on my plate than I could handle with the ABA, helping Laurie Dineen at the new office in the Livestock Exchange Building and taking care of my staff for my employer. I only agreed with Brians request if Bill Rogers could relieve me as soon as possible. The early success of the Association really is because of Brian Ward, Bill Rogers, Laurie Dineen, Patty Smith, Dan Martin and others. I was only a figurehead. They deserve the credits.”

Merle Maass



# 1st Members of the Board



pres. merle • v.p. Bill • Dan Martin • John Painter  
DIRECTORS  
sec/treas Patty • Brian Ward • Barbara Caudill

# 2nd



Brian Ward • Patty • Dan Martin • John Painter  
DIRECTORS  
V.P. Bob Dineen • Pres. Bill Rogers • sec/ April  
treas Chaffin

# RMBA Board of Directors

Boyd Meyer 9	Tom Stelmach 9	David Hayes 8	Ace Ward 6	Nicole Jeffries 6	John Painter 5	Kyle Stodola 5	Tiffany Castle 5
Jill Klawonn 4	Larry Higgins 4	Patty Smith 4	Rick Forepaugh 4	Ron Lewis 4	Dan Martin 3	Debbie Thieman 3	Mike Guenther 3
Mike Stanley 3	Tom Sowle 3	Anthony Detomasi 2	Brent Ginther 2	Brian Ward 2	Dave Whittlesey 2	David Groves 2	Greg Nott 2
Marlene Groves 2	Mike Duncan 2	Ray Thieman 2	Roy Rozell 2	Susan Popp 2	Vance Forepaugh 2	Barbara Caudill 1	Bob Frey 1
		Carrie Bennett 1	John Graves 1	Katherine Jonjak 1	Kent Fullerton 1		

# RMBA Officers

Patty Smith  
15

John Graves  
11

Debbie  
Thieman  
10

Jennifer  
Graves 8

David Hayes  
6

Larry Higgins  
6

Boyd Meyer  
5

Bob Dineen  
4

Marlene  
Groves 4

April Chaffin  
4

Tudi Arneil  
4

Bill Rodgers  
3

Katherine  
Jonjak 3

Kyle Stodola  
3

Nicole Jeffries  
3

Tami Nott  
3

Roy Rozell  
2

John Painter  
2

Merle Maass  
1

Dave  
Whittlesey  
1

Melissa Kuper  
1



Bill Rodgers



Ron Lewis



Larry Higgins

**Board Members that are no longer with us**

# Thank you to so many others who helped with



PEAK-TO-PEAK  
SALE



SCRAP BOOKS



NEWSLETTERS



EVENTS



EDUCATIONAL  
BOOTHS



MENTORS



SPONSORS



RMBA's success is also because of its members, events, and commitment to help each other succeed.

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