

Trail Log 2015

March 20, 2015. Thirteen crocuses in the front yard up near the porch. All the old ones that used to bloom in February right at the porch seem to be gone.

March 23, Monday. Jane and I drove to RMNP, her first such outing since she broke a bone in her foot. Nice day. Rather dry lower down in park, though typical snow further up, on the Bear Lake Road. 12 deer. Nothing in Moraine Park area. Drove to Bear Lake and I walked into the lake, with lots of people, dicey walking on snow packed down and icy. Slipped here and there but made it without falling. Try the crampons next time. Mountains were clear and fully snow covered, quite scenic.

Returned and lunch in the Village Pizza/Sandwiches where I have eaten several times. Good but messy sandwiches, Italian sausage and meat balls. Returned to Horseshoe Park and about fifteen elk there, two bulls with quite nice antlers, and some running around. Drove on to Hidden Valley and took a nap. Returned and five turkeys crossed the road in front of us, quite nicely seen for a minute or so. All hens. When a car came from the opposite direction, several tried to run up on the snowbank on the side of the road, and their feet broke through the snow repeatedly but they managed to get off onto bare ground.

Elk still in the Horseshoe Park area, though now closer to road. Home about 5.30 p.m.

March 29, Sunday. Went to Lory State Park with Rolston and Ellie to find Pasqueflowers. Nice day. Found in the usual area, two big clumps with 10-12 in each clump, right at trailside. Found in that area another couple dozen, singles or twos and threes. Went on higher and found only a couple singles.

But we did find hundreds of Spring Beauties in fine bloom and often in more shaded areas. Returned. On the way back, still in the park, 14 sizeable deer raced across the road not far ahead of us, nicely seen. Mule deer.

May 10, Sunday. Unusually rainy weather for last ten days, several days and nights rain all day and night long. Yesterday was rainy, with some snow in it by twilight and about an inch on the grass this morning, no snow on the driveway or streets. Mother's Day today, cold day, freezing tonight.

May 18-26, 2015 - Wuhan, China

Conference on Chinese Environmental Aesthetics

May 18, Monday. Up at 2.00 a.m. and off at 2.45 without breakfast. I had to take the Jeep to Harmony Transfer Center because Green Ride did not have enough pickup drivers. Shonny will pick up the Jeep later today.

Reached Denver 4:35 am. Take off to Detroit 6.10 a.m. and uneventful flight.

Beijing flight delayed for takeoff about 40 minutes because they don't want us arriving before our allotted time. There is a strong tailwind and we could arrive 45 minutes earlier than expected.

Flew far north over Hudson's Bay, over the polar ocean and north of Alaska and down across Siberia. All of which I never saw, though it was daylight outside, the windows were closed.

Ground speed, 642 mph

Tail wind 120 mph - and you usually don't have tail winds on this flight

Altitude 33,000 ft. later and most of the trip 39,000 ft.

Distance 6,729 miles.

14 hours.

I had a good aisle seat with window seat next, the two seat row.

My entertainment screen wouldn't go off the bright welcome screen, a nuisance. They tried to reset it several times. It worked once but soon returned to the unwanted bright screen.

May 19, Tuesday - though there never was a night.

Four hours in Beijing, and the Wuhan plane was about an hour late. Ate one of Jane's

sandwiches for supper. The domestic gate was very crowded and minimal English. We were put on a bus, crowded, and taken out to the plane. China Southern Airlines, a Delta affiliate.

Met at the airport by Xie Meng Yen and Gao Shan. She instantly took my photo with the two of them (taken by a bystander) and sent it out to all her friends on the Chinese version of Facebook. Taken to a car with a university driver, and driven 45 minutes to the hotel. On the way in drove over the famous long old bridge over the river.

Decent hotel, on campus. Got to bed about 1.30 a.m.

May 20, Wednesday.

Up at 7.00 a.m. and decent sleep. Breakfast in the hotel. It proved hard to get coffee, or milk. There was a hot yogurt of some sort. Decent food, and I preferred hardboiled eggs, some weiner sausages, and some of the breads that weren't bad.

I have the day before the conference starts this evening with a dinner.

They took me around the campus, on a long walk. A sort of forested campus. There are more trees on the campus than in the rest of the city

Went to an art museum with Gao Shan.

large portrait of Mao

large painting of Chinese Soldier overlooking the Yellow River

and an interesting guide - a volunteer from the University studying English.

lunch - with the Dean of the College Ming Zhang, went to MIT

nap in afternoon

evening - dinner, big round table, two of them and many of the international guests had arrived.

Arto Haapala, University of Helsinki
Helmi Järviluoma-Mäkelä, University of Eastern Finland (formerly Joensuu), does a lot with native peoples
Yrjö Sepänmaa, University of Eastern Finland (formerly Joensuu)
Wu Zin, Chinese, teaches at William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
Yoshio Shmizu, older, Japan

Main conference host: Chen Wang-heng, School of Urban Design at Wuhan University

May 21, Thursday

spoke at 8.30 a.m. supposedly the kick off speaker.

went o.k. They got the PowerPoint to work well off my flash drive.

But they cut me to 25 minutes. Earlier I had been told 30-40 minutes, but they had some kid-student-who was a zealous time keeper. I don't think I would have come across the Pacific to speak 20 minutes. I just dropped the last two sections of the paper.

In the course of the conference, half the speakers were forced out by this time keeper.

Conference papers are not detailed here. See conference program in the Conference file.

Friday, May 22

I spent the morning in conference session. Speakers spoke in Chinese, with some English summary/translation, or in English with some Chinese summary/translation.

lunch at the restaurant 15 minutes walk away.

Afternoon: tour of the city arranged for by Zhao Hongmei. She wrote the book about me:

Zhao, Hong-mei. *Mei Xue Zou Xiang Huang Ye: Lun Luo Er Si Dun Huan Jing Mei Xue Si Xiang (Aesthetics Gone Wild: On the Thought of Rolston's Environmental Aesthetic)*. Beijing: Chinese Social Science Publishing Co., 2009. ISBN 978-7-5004-8146-1.

She also translated "From Beauty to Duty: Aesthetics of Nature and Environmental Ethics," in Arnold Berleant, ed., *Environment and the Arts: Perspectives on Environmental Aesthetics* (Aldershot, Hampshire and Burlington, VT: UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2002), pages 127-141.

Reprinted, translated by Zhao, Hongmei into Chinese, "Cong mei dao zeren: ziran de meixue yu huanjing lunlixue (From Beauty to Responsibility: Natural Beauty and Environmental Ethics). Pages 24-40 in Hubei University, Hubei Center for Morality and Civilization, *Jiazhilun yu lunlixue yanjiu (Axiology and Ethics)* (Beijing: Chinese Social Science Publishing Co, 2009). ISBN 978-7-5004-7967-3.

She is about 45 years old, teaches at Hubei University in Wuhan, which she pointed out to us. She has a son in college.

Yang Yinzi, who wrote the book: *Lunli De Shengtai Xiagglu, Ecological Direction of Ethics: Research on Holmes Rolston's Environmental Ethics*, 2010, a woman, was not present.

May 23, Saturday, last conference day

Google is blocked by the Communist government. But various of them seem to know how to get around it.

E-mail in the hotel no longer working.

Breakfast and back to last day of the conference.

I managed to send an e-mail to Jane on a student's computer.

Cloudy day.

On the poster for the conference, the mountain is Mount Everest, for which their name is Jolomo Lungma, or Qomolangma.

The Tibetan name for Mount Everest is romanized as Qomolangma, "Holy Mother." It is also popularly romanised as Chomolungma and (in Wylie) as Jo-mo-glang-ma or Jomo Langma. The official Chinese transcription is simplified is Zhumùlangma Feng ("Chomolungma Peak"). It is also infrequently simply translated into Chinese as Shèngmu Feng, "Holy Mother Peak"). In 2002, the Chinese People's Daily newspaper published an article making a case against the use of "Mount Everest" for the mountain in English, insisting that it should be referred to as "Mount Qomolangma", based on the local Tibetan name. The article argued that British colonialists did not "first discover" the mountain, as it had been known to the Tibetans and mapped by the Chinese as "Qomolangma" since at least 1719.

The building on the poster is the Forbidden City.

Feng Su (Sue) wants comments on Prof. Chen's book. She translated the book.

175265857@99.com

suesue0606@qq.com

May 24, Sunday.

Quick breakfast, 7.30 a.m., taxi, 7.45, to train station, with Gao Shan.

There at 8.00 a.m., Nice train, high speed train, at 8.36 a.m.

Train to YiChang Dong, smooth ride, 2 hours. Before the high speed train, the ride was 5 hours.

Lots of washing seen hanging out the apartment porches.

Gao Shan's husband is doing a Ph.D., at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, on Global Information Systems.

The city I was in is Wuhan, which is in Hubei province. Three Gorges Dam is also in

Hubei province.

Went by lots of tall apartment buildings, better and worse. Also industrial areas, frequent construction.

Sizeable fields of corn
Extensive rice paddies

terrain got more mountainous

some gorges
went through Fairy Stream Tunnel

reached Yi Chong Dong

taxi to bus station, forty minutes,
then bus

reached the hotel. Wu Chang, the name of the town where the hotel is. Bus just put us off with 200 yard walk to the hotel. Fancy hotel. Checked in 10 minutes in hotel

and walked some distance in some confusion about how to catch the boat.

Finally reached a place where we could buy tickets.

With more confusion about which bus to get on to go to the boat.

Reached the boat and had to ride down a high-water-low-water elevator cable car
and finally got on the boat.

Got on the upper deck, open, where we could see better, and for which we had to pay more.

Boat cruised maybe an hour to Xi Ling Gorge, a dangerous one, now flooded, and then turned around.

Gray skies, hazy with pollution

stark drawdown scar line a couple hundred feet thick

On the return not far from where we started, they claimed you could see the upper rim of the dam - not very evident in the haze.

Returned to the hotel.

Decent hamburger while Gao Shan had noodles, and was much amused by our having Western food and Eastern food at the same meal.



May 25, Monday.

Walked down to center area, as yesterday.

Waited until 8.00 a.m., to get tickets, window not open, though we were told the bus was leaving at 8.00 a.m.

Got on bus.

Passed lots of power lines, from the generating stations.

Drove over something crossing the river, looked like it might be some part of the dam.

Bus drove down, then climbed a hill.

Got to an area where we got off the bus and rode escalators and walked some to get to a high viewpoint.

Dim view of the dam from the top.

Huge chunk of granite on display, said to be an unusually good granite, well-suited for situating the dam and for use in building the foundations of the dam.

A "divine dam site" !!!

Walked to another site, above the dam, where you could see two ships in the locks.

Long walk down, and eventually caught the bus.

To third sight, closest to the dam.

You were always seeing the dam through a haze. Walked 15 minutes in to the viewing site, and 15 minutes back.

See separate notes on the Three Gorges Dam.

Caught a bus back to the center.

Went across a big white suspension bridge going and coming.

Back to the hotel with a good walk and got bags, and caught # 8 bus with some wait.

Bus went through long tunnels

In eight days, I barely saw once a tiny blue bit of sky.

train back to Wuhan



Good ride. Good seat.

Reached Wuhan. Train station very crowded.

250 people in line to get a taxi. But they pleaded that I was a foreigner, and we got a taxi in ten minutes.

I was met at the train station and taken to my former hotel, but I had to transfer to a new one, in town.

They said it would be no problem transferring the Chinese money I had been given for the air ticket (some of which I was spending for the Three Gorges Trip). But the banks were closed.

Made the hotel transfer and then had a meal with Zhu Jie, my principal host, drove Volkswagen, and Qi Jun, to whom I gave the money. He said he would transfer it to Gao Shan and her husband would transfer it to me in the U.S. Which did happen, but with some hassles a week later, with Wells Fargo hardly knowing what was going on.

So-so night in a hot room, but the e-mail did work.

Gao Shan
Room 406 B2 Building
R&D Residential Apartment
No. 366 Linqun Street
Suzhou Dushu Lake
Science Education & Innovation District
Suzhou, P.C: 215123 Jiangsu Province
CHINA

May 26 Tuesday, flew home

Up at 4.00 a.m., Swiss miss and cheese crackers for breakfast. Picked up at 5.30 a.m. Raining hard. They helped with baggage.

Plane take off 7.50 a.m.

Decent cup of coffee on the plane.

Reached Beijing. Hassle getting through the airport. I had to pick up my luggage and wheel it, in a cart, about a quarter mile but one of the staff was very helpful leading me and helping me.

Got on the trans-Pacific plane, Delta, with little time to spare, but then we were held on the runway for an hour—didn't want us to arrive too early in Detroit.

Plane was only two-thirds full. I had an aisle seat with an empty seat beside me.

Flew polar route as before, at 39,000 ft., ground speed 550 mph.

Reached Detroit.

end of Wuhan, China trip.

June 4-7, 2015. California trip. Conference "Seizing an Alternative: Toward an Ecological Civilization," held at Claremont. Flew to Ontario and got a shuttle, o.k., and took me to Pitzer College where I was staying. Twenty minute walk or so to the main location of the meetings, which was inconvenient. They eventually managed a shuttle, which I sometimes used. Good food in a dining hall.

Main speakers: Bill McKibben, who was there only a few hours to speak, then off to speak somewhere else. Vandana Shiva. Wes Jackson. Sheri Liao (whom I did not know). John Cobb, Herman Daly (via pre-recorded video). David Ray Griffin, last night at an outdoor dinner.

Barely got the pickup shuttle back, but managed o.k.

Interesting vegetation on the campuses, dry desert type larger plants, trees.

Pomona has a good view on the immediate horizon of San Gabrielle mountain.

June 4, 2010. Up to 4 feet of hail fell in one Denver area. The hail pounded a Denver neighborhood between 10 and 11:30 p.m. and turned a block of South Irving Street into a massive pile of fused and impassable hailstones that trapped a dozen cars. It required not just snowplows but a front-end tractor to dig it out Friday morning, filling more than 30 dump trucks. *Denver Post*, June 5.

Bahamas

June 26-30, 2015

June 26, Friday. Flew Denver-Charlotte, Charlotte-Nassau, uneventfully and on time. Long wait in customs and long taxi ride in.

Evening dinner, at which I was placed at a head table, which didn't amount to much. Turned out that John Barrow and I were the only Templeton laureates there.

June 27, Saturday. Templeton meeting, with the usual worshipping of Sir John.

June 28, Sunday. Templeton meeting. There was an early Sunday worship service at which I was one of five, giving a 4-minute talk. Rather mushy interdenominational service.

Gail Zimmerman, married Jack's sister, now dead, Wyoming rancher, has a granddaughter at CSU, a freshman in 2014-2015, made all A's, and wants to do vet medicine. I met her with Gail after the opening dinner.

Durre Ahmad, Pakistani woman, was a Templeton judge and is now on their prize committee. Several good conversations with her.

June 29, Monday. Powerboat Adventure. See notes from June 14-24, 2007 for an expanded version of the same trip.

Their medium sized boat, maybe 50 people on board. I got a good seat out of the sun, with good visibility.

Reasonably calm sea, with waves enough to make a bouncy ride going from crest to crest. Good fast ride to Allen's Cay, a de facto nature reserve.

I got off at Allen's Cay, wet to the waist, and got staff to steady me walking in. Sand washing out from under my sandals left me a little unsteady. Fed iguanas (Cyclura spp), grapes on a stick, or, for the more cautious ones, tossed to them 3-4 feet away. Gulls got as many as the iguanas.

Back on board and ten minutes to Ship Channel Cay, where the company has an installation, dock, sheltered eating area, kitchen, with some staff that stays here.

As on the 2007 trip, members of the group, after demonstrations by staff, fed stingrays, big flat fish. They really do not have teeth but eat on their underside. So they put strips of fish on the back of their hand, held them kneeling in the water with their hands in the sand. They stingrays swam by and nibbled up the bits of fish.

They also fed nurse sharks, maybe four feet long, by tossing out fish left over from preparing the meal, grouper. The fish carcass was strung up with a rope through the gills and tossed out, pulled back in to lure the sharks in closer. They managed to grab a couple and pull them out on land for a half a minute for people to see. About 10 sharks.

Something of a slow day, partly because there was snorkeling, which I do not remember from

2007. They went far down the beach, then pretty much across to the next cay, circled back. Did this twice.

Good lunch with lots to eat.

Staff member said there are no longer any boar on the island.

Back on the boat and headed to Nassau. Smoother trip on the way back.

Tuesday, June 30. Flew home, again uneventful, though it took the whole day to do it.



Kiel, Germany, trip. Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel

July 21, Tuesday. Left home 6.45 a.m. on Green Ride. In Denver 8.35 for a 10.00 a.m. flight and loading by the time I got to the gate.

Taxied out and waited 2 hours because Newark air traffic control was too busy to let us take off. So I was apprehensive about making the overseas flight.

But I did make it; they were boarding when I got there. And, again, taxied out and waited 2 hours, this time for a thunderstorm to pass.. Otherwise, decent flight.

July 22, Wednesday.

Arrived Hamburg, and, now with Marion Hourdequin, caught the Kielius shuttle easily. Reached hotel Consul about 12.30 p.m.

Nap, and caught the city bus to the University, something of a challenge finding the bus loading spot and finding the building on campus. Konrad Ott is the main meeting organizer.

6.00 p.m. First meeting. Keynote Thomas Potthast, "Biocoenosis as Living Community in Marine Zoologist Karl August Moebius, 1877."

July 23, Thursday.

Michael Hannis and wife Shian Sullivan (pronounced Shawn) staying in the hotel with us. Both teach at Bath Spa University, UK.

Thursday keynote: Daniel Moellendorf, "Poverty and Dangerous Climate Change," and papers the rest of the day.

Dinner with the conference organizers at a sort of yacht club. Conversation with Veronika Surau Ott, Konrad Ott's wife. She teaches theology.

July 24, Friday.

David Wood is here, Vanderbilt University, and was in the group that invited me there years ago on the Robert Penn Warren lecture series.

Friday keynote: Clare Palmer, "Climate Change: Facilitated Adaptation and Wildness."

Should animals be genetically modified to help them adapt to climate change. Took the pika in Rocky Mountains as a hypothetical test case.

Field trip. Dasenmoor. Took bus some 25 km away and walked from there. One of the last bogs of Schlenwig/Holstein, the name of this part of Germany.

The area was once dug for peat and is a restored mire. They have to control the water level bog depth to keep Sphagnum there.

Saw Sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, nicely several times.

The birch is mire birch. *Betula pubescens*.

Cut across more or less dried bog and a rough walk for me. Jan Dierks helped me walk through the rough parts.

Dinner that night in a more or less outdoor restaurant park, with loud band outside. But we were inside and could have decent conversation, as I did with David Wood.

July 25, Saturday.

Keynote Alan Warde, "Sustainable Consumption." Argued that we need nudging to change group behavior. And papers until 4.00 p.m. End of conference, though field trip tomorrow.

Rode back to the hotel with Jurij Dobravec, Slovenia, and his wife, a children's dentist. He has been translating some of my articles into Slovenian, and wants to translate my Routledge *New Environmental Ethics*.

July 26, Sunday

Field trip to salt marshes and North Sea.

Left 9.00 a.m. on bus. Drove through Rendsburg to Friedrichstadt, and thereafter back roads to Westhever

The Wadden Sea is an intertidal zone in the southeastern part of the North Sea. It lies between the coast of northwestern continental Europe and the range of Frisian Islands, forming a shallow body of water with tidal flats and wetlands. It is rich in biological diversity. In 2009, the Dutch and German parts of the Wadden Sea were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and the Danish part was added in June 2014.

The Wadden Sea, with its tidal flats, tidal creeks, estuaries, salt marshes, beaches, dunes and islands is one of the last original unspoiled nature areas in Europe. Ebb and flow determine the pace of life in the Wadden Sea and lead to continuous change. 4,500 square



Following the Shepherd / Auf der Spur des Hirten / Za pastirjem

photo by Jurij Dobravec

kilometres of its sea bed dry out twice a day and make the Wadden Sea the world's largest continuous mud flats.

At the same time, the Wadden Sea is one of the world's seas whose coastline has been most modified by humans, via systems of dikes and causeways on the mainland and low lying coastal islands. The Wadden Sea stretches from Den Helder in the Netherlands in the northwest, past the great river estuaries of Germany to its northern boundary at Skallingen north of Esbjerg in Denmark along a total length of some 500 km and a total area of about 10,000 km². Within the Netherlands it is bounded from the IJsselmeer (a shallow artificial lake in the Netherlands) by the Afsluitdijk.

The islands in the Wadden Sea are called the Wadden Sea Islands or Frisian Islands, named after the Frisians. "Wad" means "mud flat."

The area we were in is a national park, apparently rather much managed by WWF, the World Wildlife Fund.

We left the bus, walked to a berm, on which sheep were grazing to keep the grass mowed. Then we descended to salt grass and tidal flats, at more or less low tide. We walked over these flats, most of the group barefoot, but I had my boot overshoes on. Often the sand was blowing fine and low, in waves about ankle level, which, with the blue sky and clouds above, was aesthetically quite interesting. Along parts of the walk there were many dead clams in the sand which those barefoot had to watch for, especially one called the Razor Clam, with sharp edges (an exotic introduced from the United States).

Walked about two hours and reached the North Sea proper. Got a glimpse of half a dozen harbor seals breaking water. Birds: Oyster catchers, black headed gull, herring gull.

With time running out, we divided into two groups, one to walk more hurriedly and go further around the loop and another to return more directly.

We returned to reach a lighthouse, the Westhever Lighthouse, with a shop and toilets. Stayed here maybe forty minutes.

Then walked back to the bus on a somewhat narrow trail of bricks inlaid into the mud, supposedly one way in the direction, but a number of groups were coming the wrong way and that sometimes made passing difficult.

What follows is mostly taken from a WWF handout:

Millions of tiny algae, thousands of small worms, crabs, snails and shellfish abound on and in each square metre of the mud flats. The Wadden Sea is seen as a nursery for many fish species, on which the seals feed.

The Grey Seal, once extinct in the Wadden Sea, has returned, and is now thriving again



Wadden Sea - Westerhever Excursion

in this protected environment. Harbour Porpoises are found in the Wadden Sea, although they are less numerous than in historic times.

Particularly characteristic are the birds: Oystercatcher, Redshank, Arctic Tern and Herring Gull are coastal birds that nest here. In the spring, around one million birds build their nests on the ground on salt marshes, dunes and some of them even on the beaches. Ten times as many, about 10 million, waders and water birds such as Brent Goose, Red Knot and Dunlin come from breeding areas in the Arctic, migrating and dependent on the area to rest, for fattening, moulting or wintering.

Threats include oil and gas production, the laying of cables and pipelines, construction of dams and barrages, deepening of shipping channels, and the extension of harbors in the estuaries. More coal power plants are planned on the edge of the Wadden Sea. Nutrients and pollutants find their way into the sea. Shipping accidents, such as that with the "Pallas" in 1998, show the continuing risk of oil spills. Fishing harms the mud flats and does not allow the fish to become mature.

The biggest threat is climate change. The accelerated sea level rise caused by this threatens the Wadden Sea in its very substance. Thus, the habitats in the transition between land and sea, the mud flats, salt marshes, beaches and dunes, could be eroded and, in the long run, may disappear. At the same time the risk from storm tides will increase for the populated areas on the islands and the mainland.

July 22, Monday. Flew home.

Good breakfast again, with Phil.

Taxi 7.40 a.m. and caught Kielius shuttle. Light rain.

Good ride to airport, lots of traffic, rain.

Much confusion in the airport. I found out that my first flight leg, though with a United Number, was on Germanwings. 400 people in line waiting to be checked in, but the line did move. Made it to the gate, and had a wait there.

Delayed take off but only 15 minutes. Sandwich lunch.

Reached London and long walk and had to go through security again, all of which took time and I had to check in with United and barely made it to the Chicago plane, already boarding.

Reached Chicago. Crowded flight and only fair. In Chicago again, I barely made it to the Denver plane. A lot of walking to go through customs, catch the train to another terminal and more walking.

Made it to Green Ride, and home about 12.30 a.m.
end of Kiel trip.

Rabbit in the front yard nibbling near the spruce tree one morning.

September 18, 2015. Friday. Trail Ridge solo. Excellent day.

Left home about 8.30. Lovely day. Reached Trail Ridge about 10.30 a.m. It had snowed the night before, but little was in evidence, more snow as I got to the west side. A little black ice in parking lots. Quite scenic with white clouds weaving in and out of the peaks, mostly with sun overhead. Plenty of traffic. Quite windy, about 50°, almost hard to stand up. I ate an early lunch in the Jeep with lovely view at the overlook above the visitor center, never went down to the visitor center. Saw all the flanks of Long's nicely but never saw the summit, hidden in clouds.

Returned to Horseshoe Park and Fern Lake Trailhead area. Took a good nap on the Fall River road, and then went to Fall River picnic area. Returned, couldn't get parked at Lawn Lake Trailhead, but I did across the road in the little road that goes out a bit into the meadows. Walked the trail about an hour and a half. Nice day, climbed it slowly but o.k. Flowers essentially gone. Heard 8-10 elk bugles, some quite good ones. Coming down I could see well in binoculars a harem and calves and the bull less well, about ten elk. Plenty of magpies, Stellar's jays. No elk seen in the main meadows, but I was leaving about prime time, 4.15 p.m. Home about 5.30.

Sept. 27, 2015. Sunday. Eclipse of the moon. Harvest moon, blood moon, and full eclipse. Nicely seen from the street in front of the house. Started about 7.15 p.m., eclipsed part moved from left to right, and reached full eclipse maybe 8.30, stayed fully eclipsed for an hour. Then appeared bright arc on the left bottom side and full moon reappeared maybe 10.00 a.m.

Hottest September on record in Colorado!

October 11, 2015. Perhaps 100 Franklin's gulls (probably) resting in the center of the Moby field.

October 13-22, 2015. Trip to Virginia, Richmond and the Valley. Flew to Richmond, Nov. 13. Stayed with Ann Bryant that night and Wednesday night, Oct. 15.

Thursday, Oct. 16. Drove up to the Valley. Stopped at Bybees's Road Church Cemetery. Lunch on the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park on a rock at an overlook. Walked a bit on the Appalachian Trail as it leads toward the old Rip Rap trail. Witch hazel in good bloom. Decent fall colors, not great. Returned and went to Hebron Cemetery to see Mary Jack's grave, where her ashes were put last summer. Visited the organ factory.

Stayed at 320 N. New Street in the basement bedroom. Got oysters at the old train station.

Friday. Drove to New Providence and found the old graves. Drove to Lexington and Rockbridge Baths. Lunched at Goshen. Nice drive. Then drove back to Richmond.

Oct. 20. Tuesday. Spoke at Westminster Canterbury Richmond, "Three Big Bangs: Are We the Greatest?" Decent audience and hosts. Main host: Irving Stubbs, whom I knew in college. This talk is online at my CSU Library Digital Archives.

Oct. 22, Thursday, flew home.

Nov. 23, 2015. Five hundred geese on Moby gym field.

Nov. 26, 2015. Thanksgiving Day. Ran--really fast walked--the Turkey Trot in snowstorm, with snow falling and trotting on slush and packed snow. Some slippery spots. With Shonny, Rolston, and Ellie Jane. cold, 23°. Did o.k.

Dec. 24-25, 2015. Coming home from Christmas Eve service at church, about 8.30 p.m. there was a full moon, nicely seen. Actually the moon was at its peak fullest at 4.11 a.m. Christmas day. The last time this happened was in 1977, and it won't happen again until 2034, when I no longer expect to be around. The image of a full moon on Christmas eve is in the poem, "The Night before Christmas." Actually, there are a number of contributing factors. The Metonic cycle is the lunar cycle in question. After 19 years, the lunar phases are repeated on nearly the same calendar dates. It was discovered around 432 B.C. by the Greek astronomer Meton (although some believe that the Babylonians knew about it before he did). After 19 years, the lunar phases are usually repeated, but these are upset by leap years and some other discrepancies.

Late Christmas day it started snowing. So we had both full moon Christmas eve and a white Christmas.

end of 2015.



Finishing with Ellie Jane and Rolston