

The mighty Zippo lighter



Tips from the Posse

By Mark Rackay

Mr. Caster's pockets were a virtual treasure trove of useful artifacts, tools, toys, garbage, fishing tackle, ammunition, and a wide assortment of other things, all of them very intriguing to the hyper-active, short attention spanned 10-year-old, always by his side. You see, Mr. Caster was my old man mentor of all the outdoor sports, and some of the indoor sports that I am sure my grandmother did not want me to learn.

In a shirt pocket, there was always a plug of tobacco used when he could not smoke. When he smoked, it was Chesterfield Kings. I am convinced that Chesterfields were made from barn floor sweepings and rolled up in newspaper, but Mr. Caster sure enjoyed them.

I tried one once: once. The dry heaves lasted a mere two hours, only to be replaced by the world's worst headache. Lesson learned.

Whenever Mr. Caster lit up a smoke, he grabbed his Zippo lighter. A flick of the wheel produced a flame that ignited the cigarette, and then extinguished the flame by closing the



Zippo lighters have a huge place in the outdoor world, and a historical significance. (Mark Rackay/ Special to the MDP)

lid which did so with a satisfying clack sound. Mr. Caster carried that lighter all across Europe during the war. I really wanted a Zippo lighter.

A gentleman by the name of George Blaisdell created the Zippo lighter in 1932, in the town of Bradford, Pennsylvania. He received the patent in 1936. Blaisdell was an oil engineer who wanted to make a pocket-sized lighter that would operate in windy conditions. He named the lighter "Zippo" because he really liked the sound of the word "zipper."

I guess every genius has an eccentric side.

Anyway, the Zippo was classified as a windproof lighter, and was able to stay lit in most moderate wind conditions. The Zippo is no match for some of the newer butane operated lighters available today. Some of the newer lighters are actually a pocket-sized blow torch.

Zippo lighters have a tiny fuel tank that was stuffed with a cotton type fluff, so the liquid fuel did not spill out in your pocket. The fuel used was good old white gas or lighter

fluid, consisting mostly of naphtha, a flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixture that is generally odorless.

All the parts on a Zippo are replaceable. A wick brings the fuel to the flame by capillary action. There is a wheel you roll with a thumb that makes sparks from a replaceable flint. The flints are replaceable and were sold in a pack of five. Most folks carried a couple extra flints inside the fuel compartment of the lighter. If I recall correctly, a flint was good for about 3,000 lights. You needed to keep a

can of lighter fluid around when you used a Zippo. The fuel would evaporate from the lighter in about two weeks, rendering the empty lighter useless.

A fresh fill was enough to take care of most survival and campfire needs so Mr. Caster seldom brought the can along on trips. He carried a few strike anywhere kitchen matches as a backup.

Zippo lighters were a high-quality item. The company offered a lifetime guarantee, that if it ever breaks down, no matter how old, the company

will repair or replace the lighter for free. I never knew of one that failed except for when it was out of fuel or a flint needed to be replaced.

The real popularity for Zippo lighters came during the Second World War. The standard silver colored lighter was standard gear for just about everyone in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. During that time frame, all Zippo lighters produced went to the Allied war effort.

During the war, brass was needed for ammunition casings, so Zippo had to make their casings from stainless steel. Once the war ended, the Zippo lighter went back to the traditional brass case.

Zippo lighters maintained their popularity during the Korean war and Vietnam. It is estimated that 200,000 Zippo lighters were used by military personnel in the Vietnam war. There are several war stories floating around about a Zippo carried in a shirt pocket stopping an enemy bullet.

The usefulness as a survival tool for an outdoor person was somewhat limited with the Zippo. While it was a reliable tool for the fire-starting business, you were limited by the fuel supply. It was necessary that you remember to fill the lighter before every trip or carry an extra can of fuel with you. It was best served with a backup of something else. Every campfire Mr. Caster and I shared in the woods was pleasantly ignited by his Zippo.

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Tracing my own time



Outdoors

By Bill Harris

I just finished reading Craig Childs's book "Tracing Time."

The book is about the rock art of the Colorado Plateau. He delves into the cultural milieu that created the petroglyphs and rock paintings by the people of the desert Southwest. It's the eighth book

of his that I have read. I marvel at his ability to tell a story. His use of metaphors and descriptors is truly inspiring. What I like particularly about his writing is his ability to relate the science and the study of a particular subject, but also weave the personal and experiential into his story line.

In "Tracing Time" Childs weaves a story of his visits to numerous rock art sites, their impact on him and his companions in a way so familiar to those who read his books. He talks about what the rock art may represent and includes the viewpoints of cultural anthropologists, archaeologists, long-time residents,

as well as descendants of the Ancestral Puebloans from Hopi and Zuni.

"Tracing Time" is not a guide on where rock is located. Most everyone would find it difficult to retrace Childs's footsteps. He is obviously sensitive to the current influx of adventure seekers to the Colorado Plateau looking to "bag" another rock art panel.

The internet is rife with detailed directions to Native American sites. The use of GPS devices has virtually destroyed any sense of adventure that led me and many of my outdoors companions to explore the Colorado Plateau 40 or 50 years ago.

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Alan Reed and Jon Horn inspect the Great Gallery in Utah's Horseshoe Canyon. (Bill Harris/ Special to the MDP)



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Application period for big game licenses begins March 1

By Special to the MDP

Hunters hoping to draw a big game license in Colorado in 2023 are urged to review the changes in license requirements and fees in the 2023 Colorado Big Game brochure prior to the March 1 opening of the primary draw application period (March 1 — April 4 at 8 p.m.)

Hunters are encouraged to submit their applications early to avoid complications or delays. Get prepared ahead of time so that if problems do arise, CPW staff members have ample time to assist you.

Important information for hunters to take note of this season includes:

Qualifying licenses

Hunters must purchase a 2023 qualifying license to participate in the big game draws. All qualifying licenses are available beginning March 1 and must be purchased, or put into your online shopping cart prior to applying for all big game licenses or preference points. A 2022 license is not a qualifying license for 2023.

Limited license allocation and preference point requirements changes

The three-year preference point average used to determine the high-demand deer, elk, bear and pronghorn hunt codes that fall into the 80/20 allocation split has been modified to a rolling three-year average updated annually, with a one-year lag. See “Nonresident License Allocations” on page four of the big game brochure for more.

Mandatory testing for chronic wasting disease

CPW will require mandatory submission of CWD test samples (heads) from all deer harvested



The application period for big game licenses begins March 1. (Wayne D. Lewis/CPW)

during rifle seasons from specific hunt codes. Hunters that harvest a deer in the specified hunt codes will be required to submit their deer head to a CPW submission site for testing.

There will be no charge for mandatory testing. Get more information about where and how to submit a CWD sample: cpw.info/cwd.

Voluntary CWD testing for 2023

Testing fees for voluntary submissions will be waived for all moose statewide and all deer from hunt codes that were not selected for mandatory testing but are within the same GMUs that were selected for mandatory testing.

Voluntary submissions

are accepted annually statewide. See page 22 of the “Deer” section of the big game brochure for a list of the mandatory GMUs and page 13 for more about CWD.

License surrender period

Customers who are successful in the primary or secondary draw will be provided with a short period when they can decide to surrender their license if they no longer want it, receiving preference point restoration to the pre-draw level, a refund of the license fee and removal of the license from the customer’s account. See page eight of the big game brochure for more details.

Youth preference draw reminder

If youth enter more than one hunt code on their application, all hunt codes must be youth-preference-eligible hunt codes and/or youth-only hunt codes to qualify for youth preference.

Eligible hunt codes for youth preference are limited license hunt codes for:

- Doe pronghorn
 - Antlerless and either-sex elk
 - Antlerless deer
 - Any hunt code with a “K” in the season is a youth-only hunt code, such as D-F-043-K2-R. See “The Draw(s): Youth Draw Preference” on page 17 of the big game brochure for more information on youth hunting.
- Archery clothing sug-**

gestion

Archery deer, elk, moose and bear hunters are encouraged, though not required, to wear fluorescent orange or pink during the overlapping archery and muzzleloader seasons to help address safety concerns. The overlap for these seasons is Sept. 9 — 17. See page 15 of the big game brochure for more information.

Plan your hunt

If you have questions about setting up your accounts, planning your hunts or applying for licenses, call center agents and hunt planners are available Monday — Friday from 8 a.m. — 5 p.m. MT at 303-297-1192. Hunting resources are available at: cpw.state.

co.us/bg/hunting.

Be sure to read the “What’s New” pages in the big game brochure and the sheep and goat brochure to get a full list of game management unit specific changes for 2023.

“The Colorado Big Game brochure is a must-have resource for planning a hunt and it’s available at all CPW office locations and online,” said CPW Public Information Officer Joey Livingston.

“We encourage all hunters to apply early and check their online accounts to ensure their contact information and credit card information is up to date. Hunters will receive email updates on their draw results and the status of their payments.”

ZIPPO

FROM PAGE A10

The famous Zippo lighter was the king of the heap until 1973, when something new pushed them down the hill. In accordance with the “disposable society,” Bic introduced the disposable butane lighter. The “Flick My Bic” can produce 3,000 lights before you have to pitch it.

You can buy disposable lighters for very little these days. I have seen 10 packs of the Bic knockoffs for a couple bucks. For what a good Zippo and a can of fuel will cost you, you can buy a shoebox full of disposable lighters.

The disposable lighter is cheap enough that you can carry a handful with you when you head to the woods. I have them in several places in my pack, in my first aid kit, and a couple in my pocket. The one drawback to butane is that it does not work in extreme cold

weather. To solve that, carry the lighter in a warm pocket, close to your body.

You can still buy a Zippo today, but their popularity is almost nonexistent. I still get a warm memory of Mr. Caster every time I hear the lid on one clack shut. I never did buy a Zippo for myself, nor did I take up smoking Chesterfield Kings. I guess I learned something along the way.

Mark Rackay is a columnist for the Montrose Daily Press, Delta County Independent, and several other newspapers, as well as a feature writer for several saltwater fishing magazines. He is an avid hunter and world class saltwater angler, who travels around the world in search of adventure and serves as a director and public information officer for the Montrose County Sheriff’s Posse. For information about the posse, call 970-986-1071 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org

TRACING

FROM PAGE A10

Based on Childs’ descriptions of rock art designs at different sites, I recognized several that I have visited. Over the years I have visited many rock art sites. Many I came upon by chance. Some I found following word of mouth directions.

I wasn’t interested in step by step directions. For me the most important part of exploring the landscape is the excitement of discovery and viewing a remote, rugged canyon or mesa without much, if any, hint of what it may hold.

During the throes of the pandemic, I followed Childs via his Facebook page. Many of the photos he posted were of places that I have visited in and around the West End. He resides in that country, so it was relatively easy for him to explore the neighborhood. There’s plenty

of rock art nestled in the many canyons of the West End. It just isn’t as well known as the rock art elsewhere on the Colorado Plateau.

Another aspect of the book I enjoyed was his interactions with people I know. He describes his discussions with Carol Patterson, a cultural anthropologist and Glade Hadden, an archaeologist who I had crossed paths with as members of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS). Carol, Glade, and I have shared many a day traveling the backcountry when they lived in Montrose.

I have had the distinct pleasure of meeting Childs on several occasions. He was the featured speaker at a CAS meeting several years ago and also spoke at a program sponsored by Colorado Mesa University.

Both times I spoke with him briefly. A third encounter with him in

2018 was a bit more memorable. Kathy and I were attending a winter solstice gathering in Bluff, Utah.

For several years noted Bluff sculptor and artist, Joe Pachak, built large figures out of native woods. He would then burn them down the night of the winter solstice. One year he built a mammoth, another year dancing bears. In 2018 he fashioned a 20-foot high coyote. As the winter sky darkened the temperature plummeted, a local Native American drum group pounded out a beat while chanting. An eerie yellow moon peaked through scattered clouds.

As the sculpture was torched the crowd gave out a primal yell that sent a chill down my spine — quite the scene. All sorts of oddly dressed creatures danced around the pyre. We crossed paths with Childs and his partner, Daiva, and spent a few minutes chatting about

the crazy scene we were experiencing.

Our plan was to meet up with longtime friends Fred Blackburn and Victoria Atkins, Winston Hurst and his spouse, Kathy. We wandered around just taking it all in. Eventually we met up with Fred and the others. I’ve known Fred, Victoria, and Winston for over 30 years. The next morning Kathy and I were breakfast guests at the Hurst home in Blanding. It was a rare opportunity to catch up.

Many years ago, we had spent long days wandering through the canyons of Cedar Mesa. We discovered and documented historic inscriptions mixed in with the rock art attributed to the Ancestral Puebloans. “Tracing Time” took me back to those days and the many since that I have spent exploring the dry, twisted landscape of the Colorado Plateau.

News tip or story idea?

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