

NEW BOOK CELEBRATES and BENEFITS GLACIER NATIONAL PARK CHALETS

the Era of the Chalets 1914 - 2014

May 8, from 5 to 9pm, during ladies night at the Sportsman Ski Haus in Kalispell, photographer/author Bret Bouda of Kalispell will introduce his latest book: *1914-2014 the Era of the Chalets*. Certainly Bouda's crowning achievement, the book presents a priceless collection of photographs taken at Granite Park and Sperry Chalets and on the trails that fan out from them through Glacier National Park's magnificent and relatively seldom-seen backcountry. The timing of the book is perfect with 2014 marking the chalets' centennial celebration. More than just a masterpiece of awe-inspiring photography, this book has a mission of helping raise public awareness of the comparatively fragile stone chalets nestled in the midst of avalanches, fires, natural aging and the whims of government cutbacks. Originally built by Great Northern Railway president, Louis W. Hill, Sr. from the very rock upon which they stand, the chalets face an uncertain future. Both chalets were closed for a period of time during the 90's. In 1993, Save the Chalets Foundation was established to secure funding to restore and reopen them. The slogan for the campaign was *Without you, they are history*. According to Kathleen Larson Aasheim, Granite Park Chalet concessionaire, ". . . without the publics' continued passionate support . . . these century-old-buildings . . . will be faced with an uncertain future." The hope is that by raising the publics' awareness of the chalets, more support will be available to them when they need it in the future. Also included in the book is an acknowledgment to Save the Chalets Foundation and volunteers who have worked to keep them repaired, open, and accessible to future generations.

Booksigning
Thursday, May 8th
5:00pm - 9:00pm
Sportsman Ski Haus
Kalispell Store

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- Kathleen Larson Aasheim, Granite Park Chalet concessionaire

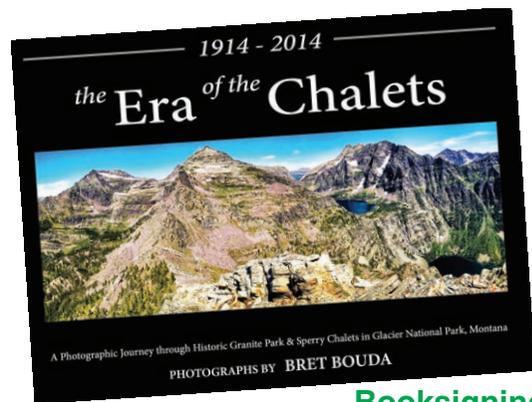


Granite Park Chalet



Sperry Chalet

Chalet photos: Bret Bouda



Photographer/Author
Bret Bouda

After publishing four other books, Bouda thought he had ended his publishing career until he realized there was another book growing in his heart. That book came to life through the inspiration of a dear friend who shares Bouda's love for Glacier National Park. In the summer of 2013, Bouda and his friend, inspiration, and hiking buddy, Terry Abell, spent two nights staying at and exploring the hidden treasures around Sperry Chalet. Bouda had hiked the trails many times but never spent the night at the chalet. A revelation came over him as he realized that staying overnight allowed multiple leisurely day hikes rather than a long day hike in and out. Hiking with the chalets as a center opened the possibility of hiking Gunsight Pass, Comeau Pass, Swiftcurrent Pass, Sperry Glacier, Fifty Mountain and more. Thus was born a new appreciation for the chalets. Bouda has been hiking and photographing Glacier National Park since 2005. His friend Terry has been doing the same . . . for the past 50 years! They delight in each others' appreciation of the ever-changing vistas and the adventures of the backcountry. Bouda decided he would make a book . . . just one book . . . of about 200 pages as a Christmas gift to Terry. He finished the project in September 2013, and was so excited, he couldn't wait for December so he presented Terry his Christmas present in September! Terry came back to him and said, "You have to make a book about the two chalets . . . the time is right . . . it's the centennial!" With the support and urging of his friend, the book Bouda had been carrying in his heart began to take on a life of its own.

To print the book, Bouda partnered with the chalets' concessionaires, Kathleen Larson Aasheim and Kevin Warrington, and they will be distributing this title. This means proceeds from book sales will help to operate and preserve Granite Park and Sperry Chalets. The 240 pages of the book are the next best thing to visiting Glacier's interior with thoughtfully laid out sections that include historic photos, comparative photos of "then" and "now", photos from the trails that are accessible from the chalets, sweeping vistas, sunsets, glaciers, lakes, wildlife, wildflowers, and wonderful views of stunning geological formations.

After the debut and booksigning at the Sportsman Ski Haus on May 8, the book will be available in area book and gift shops and in Glacier National Park shops. You can see more of Bret Bouda's photographs and find out about his other books at www.digitalbroadway.com.