

## THROUGH MY LENS

### The Speedy Snail

BY KAREN SCHUMAKER



I watched one of our snails climb vertically up a wide blade of grass. He would stretch himself and then, clinging desperately to his progress, he'd rebalance the heavy shell on his back with a mighty heave forward. I don't have a record of what spring day this was, because I was preoccupied with trying to draw a sketch of him. I failed—the little fella was just too fast for me. Every time I had something like an outline, his position had already changed, skewing perspective. The drawing turned out to

be a series of images, depicting motion itself. I was in awed admiration of this tiny creature's athleticism. I know of no human who could scale a sheer vertical face while carrying his entire worldly house on his back. The US Postal Service may or may not be slow: to call it "snail mail" is, to quote Charlotte's Web, "a terrible case of injustice," an insult to shelled gastropods everywhere.

By **Karen Schumaker**, reprinted from her excellent nature publication, the **Newhaven News. NN** is a publication of **Newhaven Private Wildlife Sanctuary**, founded in 1992, and currently protecting 142.5 forested acres for the non-human indigenous species. For information, contact **Karen Schumaker**, POB 217 Deary, ID 83823.