



Intricate patterns of ice glaze over a sidewalk in downtown Durango.



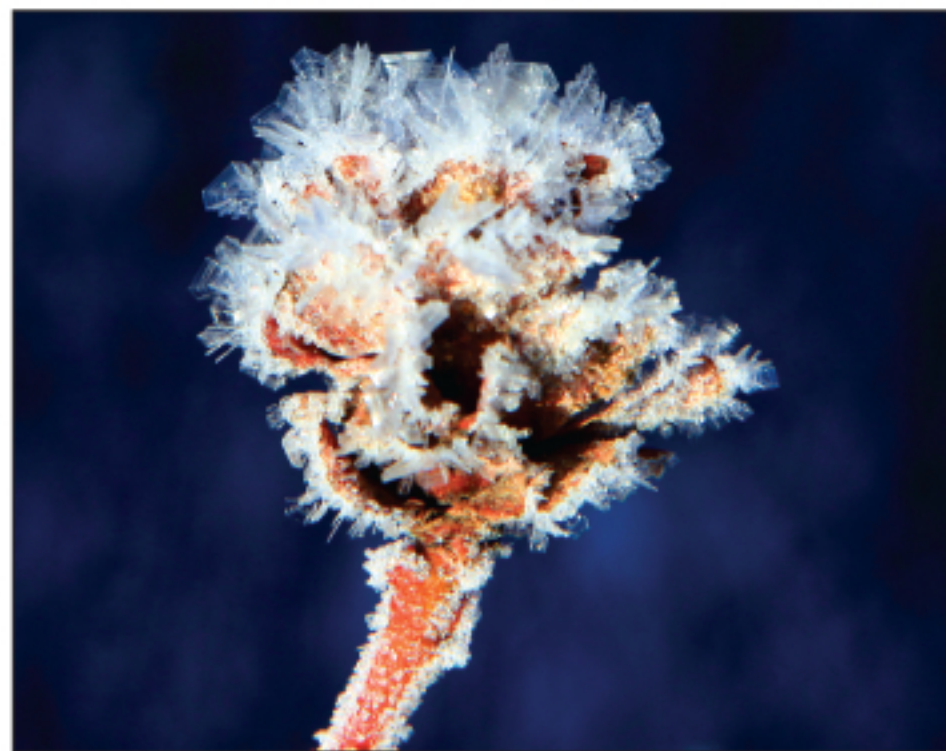
A delicate frosting of hoar feathers cling to a tree.

## S'Nice

by Steve Eginore

As subzero temps bottom out everyone's thermometers and morale, a crystalline world of snow and ice is brought to life by clear, calm, frozen nights. As water molecules slowly work their wintry magic, here's a few fun facts to ponder:

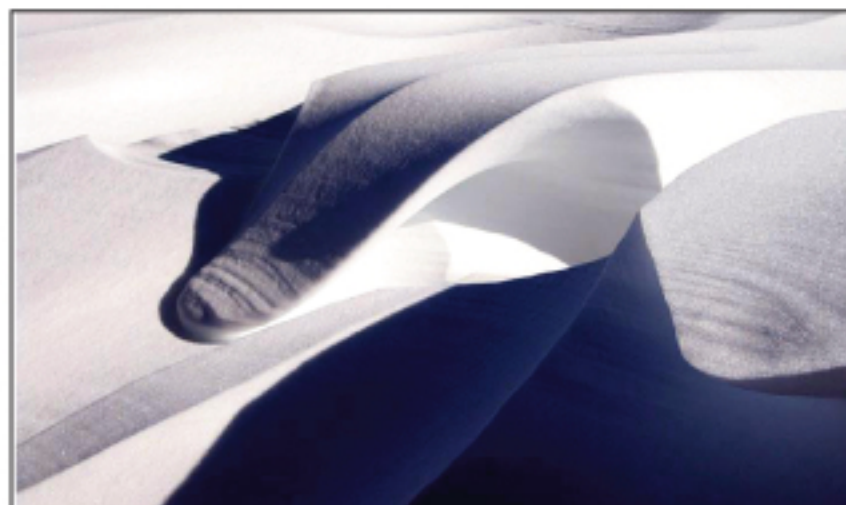
- 80 percent of all the freshwater on earth is frozen as ice or snow ... that's 12 percent of the Earth's surface.
- An average snowflake is made up of 180 billion molecules of water.
- The most snow ever recorded in a 24-hour period in the United States occurred at Silver Lake, Colo., in 1921 at 76 inches.
- "Chionophobia" is the fear of snow.



Surface hoar, or frozen dew, forms on a streamside stem.



Plates of ice bob along the banks of the Animas River.



Wind-sculpted snow, also known as sastrugi, pulls off a rarely encountered full curl.