



Central Rockies Wilderness Volunteer Workshop

By Dave Cantrell

The Central Rockies Wilderness Volunteer Workshop will be held here in Fort Collins, April 10-12. Have you ever been to one of the volunteer workshops? If “Yes,” you know how great they are. If “No,” here’s your chance: Volunteers from all over the region will gather to learn about best ways to take care of our wilderness areas, and get to know others in the wilderness community.

Workshops have often been hosted by federal agencies, but our own Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is hosting the event, along with Friends of Wilderness from Steamboat Springs, generously supported by the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.



Dave Cantrell with guests from other volunteer groups at the 2018 PWV Spring Training

This won’t be a “sit in your chair and listen” gathering. It’s by Volunteers, for Volunteers. The presentations will be short, focused talks, with lots of chances for questions and small-group discussion. The focus for every event will be: “How can this make me a better volunteer?”, “How can this event help my organization thrive?”

Some of the events we have lined up:

- “What keeps wilderness stewardship volunteers coming back?” Important new research
- “Strengthening your Group by Engaging your Members” Insights from other volunteers
- “Rapid Trail Assessment” a mobile app to monitor impact on trails
- “Apps Galore” New tools to help you do a better job (and have more fun) on patrol
- “The Human Element of Wilderness Stewardship: from Teddy to Today” A keynote to inspire
- “A morning with Money” What’s new in D.C, writing great grants, local fundraising success stories
- “Volunteer Services Network” – Help your neighbors, take a vacation!
- “Fit to your Community” – New supporters, new members, new ways to support and be supported

And on Friday – Field Day. Young Gulch USFS Trail is still closed, but we’ll get in to see the reconstruction, a look at the latest principles of trail design, and educational stations to show our colleagues some of what we do on our trails.



2019 Central Rockies Wilderness Volunteer Workshop will be at the Block One in Fort Collins. (credit: www.rentblockone.com)

The Workshop has a great venue, right on the Poudre River at Block One – five minutes’ walk to Old Town, five minutes to our Wednesday evening hosts, New Belgium Brewing Co, or take a stroll in the Gustav Swanson Natural Area across the river. Did we mention: Snacks and three lunches for \$10?

Let’s show everyone a great PWV turnout!

Mark April 10-12 on your calendar.

Hope to see you there!

You can register at PWV.org.

Who do you see on the trails?

By Celia Walker

Although Fort Collins has a strong minority population, I can probably count on 10 fingers the number of minority trail users I have met in 4 years of patrolling. Why am I not seeing trail users more representative of our local population? At least 15% of Larimer County's population is non-White. Research has shown that minority populations do not visit National Parks proportional to their populations, either: 13.1% of the US population is Black, but only 1% of National Park Service visitors are Black.

At the Wilderness Workshop in Gunnison last October, presenters educated us on some of the reasons behind these statistics:

- We tend to affiliate with people "like us." Public images of outdoor recreating (ads) typically feature single individuals, male, affluent, not over 25 years old, not diverse, not engaged with the environment, and with a faulty message of "take nothing with you." It's the Rugged Nordic Dude image, and likely does not resonate as a role model to people of color, for a variety of reasons.
- Connotations associated with "outdoor adventure" or "outdoor volunteer service" vary:
 - "trees" and "solitude of the forest" may harken to lynchings in some cultures;
 - people who have grown up in extreme poverty might not view camping's austerity as enjoyable recreation;
 - being off the Reservation may feel unsafe;
 - people employed primarily in service industries may not find "volunteer SERVICE" appealing.
- Myths prevail. Who invented "Black Girls don't hike" or "Native Americans already know this stuff."

- People are often left with the impression that even starting outdoor activities is expensive.

Why does it matter who we see on our CLRD trails? The first reason, inclusion, is moral: these public lands belong to all citizens of our land, regardless of color, creed, or culture. The second reason is practical: By about 2045, people of color will represent 50.5% of the US population. Sustainability of public lands depends on their engagement. PWV is increasingly aware of a need to pay greater attention to this purpose, as the US Forest Service says, "To Create a Culture of Inclusion that Awakens and Strengthens All Peoples' Connection to the Land."

Great Big Thanks to Our Supporters

PWV's Fund Development Committee was very pleased to announce that their goal to raise \$10,000 during the year end giving drive was a success. Over 75 folks participated this year mostly through "Colorado Gives Day". Also on "Boxing Day" (the day after Christmas), PWV was informed that The Clinton Family Fund had decided to donate again \$5000 for our operating funds. The Clinton Family Fund has been supporting PWV for nearly a decade.

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Dave Cantrell at the 2018 Wilderness Workshop in Gunnison





POUDRE WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS MISSION

The mission of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is to assist the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and backcountry areas within its jurisdiction.

To achieve this mission Poudre Wilderness Volunteers recruits, trains, equips, and fields citizen volunteers to serve as wilderness rangers and hosts for the purpose of educating the public, and provides other appropriate support to these wild areas.

Recognizing PWV Members

By *Jim and Margaret Shaklee*

When Jim and Margaret Shaklee retired and moved to Ft. Collins in 2006, they were both looking for a way to connect to their new home. Jim wanted to volunteer - perhaps for Search and Rescue. Margaret wanted to meet new friends, go for walks - or hikes, get involved in the community. A brief visit at the Ft. Collins New West Fest gave them both that opportunity. Jim visited a booth at the event staffed by volunteers of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. When he realized that he could VOLUNTEER AND HIKE, he was hooked! Margaret realized soon after that PWV was also the perfect place for her as well, but for very different reasons...



Jim Shaklee on a weed pull with Joan Kauth

Jim is a hiking enthusiast. He loves to go to the end of every trail - often at a rapid pace - even while stopping to talk to people on the trail, remove trees that are blocking the trail, remove illegal/inappropriate fire rings, and/or pull noxious weeds along the trail. He loves being involved with all things PWV - from patrolling all 57 trails multiple

times to becoming an active member of Trail Crew, to creating and leading the PWV Weed Crew on multiple weed pulls, to editing and updating the PWV Field Guide/Training Manual. Jim has served as a member of the PWV Board and Advisory Board and as Chair of the Board in 2010-2011.

When Jim and Margaret Shaklee retired and moved to Ft. Collins in 2006, they were both looking for a way to connect to their new home.

Margaret loves to patrol slowly and spend her time talking with and educating people on the trails in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District or training/mentoring new PWVs. She was heavily involved in the development and implementation of the Kids In Nature program. She formed and still leads the Surveys & Evaluations committee, which is responsible for evaluating all training programs, managing the PWV application for new members, creating surveys to schedule new member patrols in their first year, and internal recruiting for PWV activities. She was the leader for the new Non-Patrolling member program. In her first year in PWV, she joined and eventually became the leader of the Office Crew. She was active on the Fund Development and Supplemental Training committees. She was Spring Training chair in 2018. She was PWV Treasurer 2009-2012 and eventually became the Board Chair in 2016-2017. She

continues as an Advisory Board member. She remains an active member of the PWV Web team and the Strategic Planning Committee.

Both Jim and Margaret have served as Animal Group Leaders at Spring Training and mentored new members.



Margaret Shaklee, PWV Chair with Garin VandeMark (L) and Jim Gruel (R)

Believe it or not, they are winding down after more than 12 years in PWV - sort of. Jim will continue this year as a Patrolling Member and hopes to get his 6 patrols done soon. Margaret is now a Non-Patrolling Member and will continue donating her time with PWV in many ways. They are moving on to another town soon - Santa Fe, New Mexico, and hope that many of their PWV friends will come visit.

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Patrolling in Winter and Spring - a History

By Trail Report Committee

In 1995 PWV patrols began late spring after training and we continued with a summer patrol season for many years, starting after Spring Training or late April. In 2007, Winter Patrols were approved by the Board and Laura VanArsdale chaired the committee. At that time, we could patrol during the winter and early spring months, but the patrols did not count toward our 6-patrol-day commitment. In 2012, Jeanne Corbin took over the chair position, and the Board approved patrol credit for "Winter Patrols", though many were still skeptical. All it took was some data to show that we can have a great impact during this time. Many, many contacts were made, trees were cleared, the USFS got data on conditions, etc. Giving folks patrol credit greatly increased participation. Over the last 3 years, we've averaged 100 patrols from mid-January through April.



(Above) Winter Patrolling keeping our trails cleared
(Below) Winter Patrolling with traction footwear

When the Trail Patrolling Committee was formed in 2015, they took in the entire season of patrolling so the Winter Patrol Committee was included. Now we look at mid-January through September as our patrolling season, with Trailhead Hosting year-round. There are visitors out there all year, and work to be done educating and conserving. The only difference is a bit more preparedness for bad weather and some extra layers.

We patrol all our accessible trails except those that are patrolled by the Cameron Pass Nordic Rangers – Blue Lake, Montgomery Pass and Zimmerman Lake, plus some winter-only trails up there.

There's a lot to do in the Forest, many winter and spring visitors and many gorgeous days await during this season. It's fun to see the trails in different seasons and the animals and birds are there year-round! Tracks in the snow are fun to see, too. Keep in shape and help the USFS year-round! Look for those sunny days and get out and patrol!

What is Kids in Nature?

By Jeanne Corbin, Chair

It's a Poudre Wilderness Volunteers committee that partners with agencies and established groups to take kids on ranger-guided hikes on one of our District trails. We lead small groups of kids with their adult leaders or adult family members, enlightening them to the availability of the USFS land – It's All Yours! – teaching basic LNT and basic safety. We hike at the kids' pace and usually don't go far, but spend time exploring the things that interest the kids – maybe map and compass, flowers, lichen, mushrooms, rocks, trees, bones, bugs ... Most of the kids we take on a hike have never been in the mountains nor on a trail before and they are all excited to be in our beautiful wild lands! Asking a child participant: "What was your favorite part of the day?" "EVERYTHING! EVERYTHING! EVERYTHING!" – And the staff? "It was the



KIN presents interactive lessons in town with various agencies or groups.

best thing we did all summer; the kids are still talking about it."

We also occasionally present interactive lessons in town with various agencies serving children and youth.

Kids in Nature (KIN) Training!

Help us educate the next generation to care for our wild lands – and have fun with kids on Kids in Nature hikes!

Kids in Nature (KIN) Training!

Tuesday, March 26th

6:00-7:30 pm

USFS Conference Room:

2150 Centre Ave., Bldg. E,

Fort Collins

You can RSVP by logging into www.pwv.org first, then click "Contact Us".

This training is required for participation in KIN hikes. Others who are simply interested in finding about the KIN program are also welcome. If you wish to participate in KIN but are unable to attend that date, please contact Jeanne for a make-up date.

Kids in Nature is a Poudre Wilderness Volunteers committee that partners with agencies and established groups to take kids on ranger-guided hikes on one of our District trails.

PWV Affiliation Meetings

April - May 2019

Monday, 8 April: Find out about the fish in the Poudre River!

Chris Myrick, a professor in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, will be talking about the fish in the Poudre River. Let Bob Hansen know if you have any questions for Chris.

Monday 13 May: Educating, Maintaining, Observing, & . . . Wisdom Hiking?

This presentation by Joe Cox will give prospective members and new recruits an overview of PWV activities and Spring Training and will include a lively discussion with everyone about our "Teachers." Joe will share a video of some of his experiences with indigenous elders from around the world as well as his family of bison, wolves, and birds of prey. He will bring some of the "sacred's" from his Sundance experience to share with us, too. Bring your friends, prospects, and an open heart and come ready to participate!

All meetings at the Collindale CB & Potts, 1441 E. Horsetooth Road, at 6:30 pm.

Come early to visit, grab something to eat & drink!



PWV Affiliation Meeting at CB & Potts

NOW

By Margaret Shaklee

Need Recognized: Wild lands being loved to death, people coming into nature to hunt, fish, hike, ride, climb, kayak, canoe, explore, learn. Longtime overuse, abuse, taking for granted that the "wild" will always be there for us to enjoy.

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers | pww.org

Opportunity Seized: Agencies and Entities to support and be supported, the economy preventing them from doing what they should, accessibility, permission, opportunity to protect, responsibility to protect, provide for future generations. We expect those agencies to keep our wild areas clean, wildlife safe and available for our enjoyment and our use; our rivers clean, our trails clear and safe; we expect them to put out wildfires, rebuild when floods wash away access, prevent noxious weeds from spreading and choking out native plants or protect trees from disease or invasive insects. We expect this to be done with reduced budgets and reduced political support.

Willingness Cultivated: We need to respond, encourage, connect, focus, and evaluate what we do, how we do it, how much we do, how much it costs. To support and counteract or mitigate the barriers: We have many folks who want to work with each other, to volunteer, to make sure that our forests, deserts and prairies, rivers and lakes, mountains and cliffs are conserved; PWV has been able to harness that energy through the foresight of our founders, the energy of our longtime members, and the enthusiasm of our recruits.

Support PWV

PWV thrives and prospers with support from people like you! For the past two decades, dedicated individuals have served the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers by providing countless hours patrolling and maintaining trails, educating users of the backcountry and wilderness areas of Northern Colorado, thus creating and preserving a legacy of these cherished areas for future generations.

Donations to the Poudre Wilderness Volunteer and the Endowment Funds qualify as a tax deductible charitable donation. PWV is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Note: When making a donation, you might want to explore whether your employer has a matching donations program. www.pww.org/donate



PWV recognizes the generosity of sponsors and contributors.

Our success is enhanced by their participation:

- **The Clinton Family Fund**
Chicago, IL
- **Smiling Wolf Foundation Fund**
Orange County, CA
- **Walmart Foundation**
Bentonville, AR
- **Odell Brewing Company**
Fort Collins, CO
- **287 Craft Spirits**
Fort Collins, CO
- **Avery Brewing Company**
Boulder, CO
- **Pour Brothers Community Tavern**
Fort Collins, CO
- **New Belgium Brewing Company**
Fort Collins, CO
- **Colorado Gives**
Arvada, CO
- **Welsh Insurance Agency**
Fort Collins, CO
- **KRFC FM Radio**
Fort Collins, CO
- **Raining Rose**
Cedar Rapids, IA

Special thanks to:

- **National Forest Foundation**
- **National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance**

NOW

Need Recognized
Opportunity Seized
Willingness Cultivated

It's Recruiting Season!

By Jim Zakey & Celia Walker

Even though you've been through the process when you joined PWV, you probably aren't aware of the "behind the scenes" efforts to recruit new members. When does it start? What does it entail? What's the schedule? What are the results?

Actually, recruiting occurs all year long, because our very best advertising method is you, our current PWV members talking with folks on the trails, your neighbors, fellow club or church members, and with colleagues at work or school. Emphasizing how much fun the organization is and what worthwhile work we do is so appealing; offering lip balm or a card with the website address, PWV.org, puts potential applicants in touch with us year around. We also collect names of people who stop by our booths at community events, such as Earth Day, the Rist Canyon Festival and others. However the recruiting committee finds out about a potential new member, they are sent a welcoming e-mail thanking them for their interest, telling them about the application process and the mentioning the ways they can be involved with PWV before applying as a patrolling member.

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The on-line application opens in January for around two months, with the link posted to the lead article on our web page. During that time Recruiting is busy posting and distributing fliers and brochures; arranging for public service announcements and other publicity; e-mailing to our list of people who have expressed an interest in joining in the last 3 years; hosting several community information events; and answering questions. From past years, we know that

life will intervene for approximately 35% of applicants before they make it to Spring Training, so over-recruiting is necessary.

After the application closes come the interviews. Each year we try to schedule the approximately 70 applicants into two days of interviews in late March. It's here we learn more about special skills and see the passion applicants have for wilderness stewardship. And it's here they realize "no dogs" is non-negotiable, being in Timbuktu precludes attending Spring Training, or that we're safety-serious about their needing to be able to hike 4 miles with a 15-pound pack. We never know exactly how the numbers will play out: not enough new members? Just the right number (50 this year)? Or way too many applicants for the number we can train that year? Deferring applicants to next year is always difficult, but some join as non-patrolling members just to stay involved with PWV. After the letter of invitation is e-mailed, there is always excitement as the training cycle begins and fresh legs, perspectives, and abilities join PWV. And then we begin looking to recruiting for 2020.

Fund Development Committee

By Jerry Hanley

Late in 2017 the Fund Development Committee and the Endowment Fund Committee merged into one committee. The start of 2018 saw this combined committee better defining how it was going to work, developing timelines, responsibilities, and identifying targeted grant possibilities. We were awarded a grant for \$9503 from NWSA to purchase video equipment and produce educational videos for PWV. Although many folks were involved, a special thanks to Janet Caille (writing and managing the grant), and Peter Skiba, Renee Skiba, and David Fanning for producing and editing the videos. Two other grants are currently being investigated for other projects. We held a "funraiser" at Pour Brothers in August, and have kicked off our annual year-end

fundraiser in conjunction with CoGives Day on Dec 4. Our King Sooper card program continues to gain steam. A big thank you goes out to all of our major corporate donors, whose names and logos are on the PWV website. We continue to explore other fundraising ideas, for both our operating fund as well as our Endowment Fund.

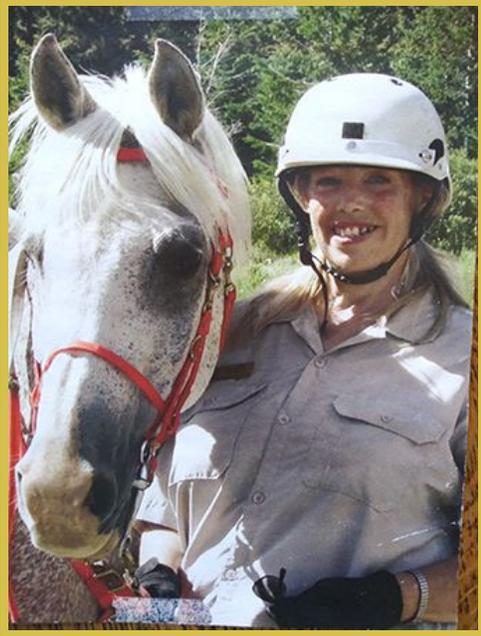
Strategic Planning Committee

By Jerry Hanley

This committee was made permanent this year after an initial strategic plan was developed in 2015 – 2016 by an ad-hoc committee. The strategic planning process identifies: where the organization wants to be 2 -3 years in the future (objectives), how we will get there (projects), and how we will measure whether we are successful (performance metrics).

The new permanent committee has spent time identifying its charge, reviewing the PWV Mission Statement, and identifying the 2015 – 2016 plan for projects still open. It was agreed to develop a new plan for 2019 – 2020. From the initial plan the committee reviewed and updated the SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats), and identified potential performance metrics for the organization. The committee will be sending out a questionnaire to all committee chairs, and BOD and Advisory Board members, asking for input on our future plan. Once the input is analyzed and summarized, a final plan will be presented to the BOD for approval in early 2019.

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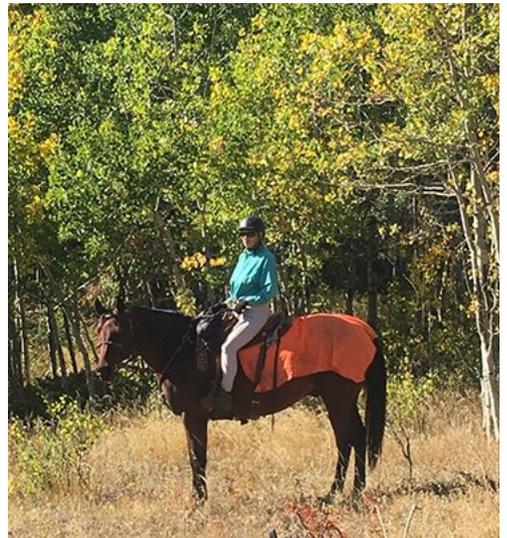


~ Sandy Erskine ~ Remembrance

As the latest PWV Trails Newsletter was going to press, PWV member Sandy Erskine has ridden off into the sunset. We want to remember her especially with photos. Sandy was a PWV stock member, Committee Chair, Board Member and most recently an Advisory Board member. Many of us met her at Spring Trainings, where she was one of the role players at the Horse Camp station.

Sandy enjoyed patrolling with her horse Mokie, where both enjoyed meeting hikers on the trail. Sometimes a sleight of hand would deliver horse treats into the waiting hands of willing hikers who would reward Mokie's welcoming greeting. One of her greatest joys was riding her horse.

Additional information and stories will be posted on the PWV website.



PWV on the Trail

