



# Poudre Trails

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

Volume ?, Issue ?

[www.fortnet.org/pwv](http://www.fortnet.org/pwv)

Summer 2002

## Field Reports

By Kevin Cannon

I want to thank you for completing your PWV patrol assignment by sending in your Field Reports. These reports are the "eyes and ears" for the Canyon Lakes Forest Ranger District.

Let me explain a couple of important ways we use these reports. They provide us with information on trail conditions; condition of posted signage at trailheads and other locations like entry into wilderness areas or travel zones. This information along with information about "blow downs" (trees across trail) that need to be removed allows me to set priorities and assign trail crews to take corrective action.

Another important aspect of your field report is providing needed statistics showing the utilization of our forest and wilderness area. This data helps the Forest Service establish budgets and manage resources to maintain and hopefully improve our forest and wilderness areas.

So in closing if you have not sent in your Field Report please do so, and please remember to include any of your PWV hiking/riding partners on your report. You can submit your report online: [http://firi.com/~pwv/pwv\\_login.html](http://firi.com/~pwv/pwv_login.html), by mail or drop off a paper copy at the Forest Service Visitor Center.

—Thanks again



## Trail Host

By Jill Sanford

It is a beautiful Saturday morning and people are parking their cars along the road because the parking lot is full for the Greyrock trail. Families pour out of their cars to climb the mountain. Many of these people are ill prepared for the hike, wearing poor shoes and carrying not much more than a soda in one hand.

If you were one of the many hikers that morning, you might wonder why I am standing on the far end of the bridge at the base of Greyrock. The answer? I am a trail host. I will hand you a nice little folded pamphlet that tells you about your trail so you can see what you are about to embark upon. Additionally, it briefly explains the Leave No Trace philosophy.

I also might make a few suggestions about the need for plenty of water and inform you that the weather is likely to change as the afternoon progresses. If you have a dog that you want to run free, I will explain the problems with that on this particular trail, and may even suggest a trail where a leash is not required.

We are testing this host program to see if there is a benefit to the public and more importantly to our forests. I have spoken with a few people who have shown an interest in this endeavor. PWV is still looking for a few more volunteers to act as Trail Hosts.

This program is another opportunity to serve PWV and we are crediting this work as a hike. If you would like more information, please contact Jill at [jilli@quixnet.net](mailto:jilli@quixnet.net) or call 970-221-3617. Happy Hiking!



## Who is Kevin Cannon?

By Glenn French

A big welcome goes to Kevin Cannon as the new Forest Service Liaison Officer for the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. Kevin has been associated with the National Forest Service and its management of forest and wilderness areas for some 18 years. His extensive experience includes: Timber Management, Recreational Information Analyst, Recreational Planning, Wilderness Coordination, and a number of special assignments including training in Leave-No-Trace principles.

He joined the Canyon Lakes Ranger District in September of 2001 as a recreational manager. His first association with the

Forest Service was as a high school volunteer in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Kevin comes to us from the National Forest Service Region 6 Area that encompasses the states of Washington and Oregon.

Weekends are spent getting needed office work completed while providing him time to be in the field during peak-use days. Kevin is very appreciative to be associated with a volunteers group like PWV with the mission to preserve and protect our pristine forest areas and trails. As the Liaison Officer he views his function as that of assisting PWV in its mission while representing the Forest Service to assure that we operate within the policies and regulations of the Forest Service.



## Fire Ban

A Fire Ban remains in effect. Thank you for monitoring this fire ban and stressing the important regulations under the existing fire danger conditions.



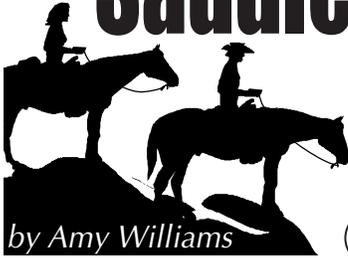
### PROHIBITED

- OPEN FIRES OR CHARCOAL GRILLS  
Petroleum-fueled stoves, lamps, or heating units are permitted
- SMOKING  
Except in an enclosed vehicle or building

- WELDING OR USE OF TORCH WITH AN OPEN FLAME
- COMBUSTION ENGINES WITHOUT A SPARK ARRESTOR

Effective June 29, 2002 and until further notice.

# From the Saddle



by Amy Williams

Llamas, dogs, a narrow bridge and scary backpackers were among the many obstacles which 20 PWV riders and their horses faced on a pleasant Saturday morning in May at Lory State Park. This annual training event helps prepare our patrol team for a safe summer season.

The training session gives new horse patrol recruits and returning members an opportunity to work through typical obstacles and encounters that can be found on the wilderness trails. Riders are observed throughout the course by select members to be sure that everyone displays safety, confidence and good communication with their horses, as it's imperative that riders representing PWV are good role models on the trail.

This year, Masonville resident Joel Hayward and his two sons Travis and Jake, generously gave their time along with two cooperative llamas to allow riders and horses the chance to meet these pack animals up close and personal. For some horses it was old hat while others needed more time to get acquainted with these unusual creatures.

After the course work ended, riders were offered the chance to go on a group trail ride through the Park led by Chuck and Nancy Bell.

Since llamas are also considered pack stock, here are a few tidbits for those unfamiliar with them:

- Llamas have the same trail restrictions as horses and mules. Treat them like any other pack stock and allow them the right-of-way on the trail.
- They are independent creatures and don't like their heads touched.
- Since they are related to camels, they can go two or three days without water!
- Finally, llamas are generally non-reactive to humans. Contrary to the common myth, llamas don't spit at people. However, they might spit at each other so you could get caught in the crossfire!

(From the Saddle continued on page 4)

# Trail Crew Report

by Garin VanDeMark



Several members of PWV have been working at clearing deadfall from the trails. It is hard work carrying a two man cross cut saw, a bow or smaller saw, an ax and three wedges while at the same time packing the things we all need on any patrol. The work, however, is rewarding when you know that you have walked and cleared an entire trail for those that follow, at least until the next wind storm or winter season. Not only do we have an opportunity to educate the visitors met on the trail while clearing it, but also to get the feeling of giving something back.

There have been three long weekend trips undertaken this spring and early summer in an attempt to clear many of the trails patrolled by PWV. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 14, 15, and 16, several volunteers camped at the Big South campground and cleared the Blue Lake, Roaring Creek, Big South and portions of the West Branch and Rawah trails.

The long weekend of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday June, 28, 29, and 30 were spent camping at Jacks Gulch and the attempt was made to clear the trails in the Comanche Peak Wilderness that are accessible from the Crown Point and Pingree Park roads. Much work was done while at the same time working around and staying a safe distance from the Fish Creek fire. The long weekend of July 12 through 15 was used to backpack into the Rawah Wilderness with the objective of clearing the trails of dead fall that are accessible from the Rawah and West Branch trails.

Special thanks go to Fred Tighe, the USFS seasonal Wilderness ranger, who has accompanied us on these outings providing training, safety awareness, and all around good guidance and leadership. Also thanks needs go to those that have done the "heavy lifting": John Fredrickson, Bill Tremblay, Mike Stajhuhar, Bill Dold, and Tom and DeLores Linnik.



If anyone is interested in joining the trail work effort, call and leave a message on the **PWV recorder phone (970) 498-2776** or call or e-mail **Garin VanDeMark**.

## New Web Site for PWV



First we want to apologize for any inconveniences that you may have encountered recently using the PWV web site. It has been undergoing some major renovations, however it remains a great resource for scheduling, field reports and general information. We have just made an arrangement with Front Range Internet to host the PWV web site. The old Jymis Internet provider for the reporting and scheduling was having numerous server problems and the PWV leadership opted to move to a different Internet provider. The old web site at Jymis was [www.jymis.com/pwv](http://www.jymis.com/pwv) and the new will be [www.frii.com/pwv](http://www.frii.com/pwv). By the end of July we hope to have an entirely new web page in place on Front Range Internet and will terminate the web page at Fortnet.

## A Thank you to Ron Wemple

By Kevin Cannon

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is lucky to have the talents of Ron Wemple in developing the PWV website. Ron is constantly improving his knowledge of the programs that he uses to improve the website. Ron's energy and attention to detail are big reasons why the scheduling and reporting programs are very high quality. In developing these programs Ron not only had to take into account what the Forest Service required, but also the levels of experience of the people who would be utilizing the website. In coordination with the development of the PWV website, Ron has also been doing quite a bit of revamping of the other volunteer databases that the Canyon Lakes Ranger District operates. At the PWV Spring Training, Ron was the first recipient to receive a polar fleece jacket with the Canyon Lakes Ranger District patch awarded to him for his outstanding effort in developing the PWV scheduling and reporting web page.



# Membership Report

by Garin VanDeMark, Chair

At the last count, the PWV membership is at 167 for the 2002 hiking and riding season. Some other statistics: 15% of these are folks who patrol on horse back and total membership is approximately 60% male and 40% female.

When Chuck Bell and Art Bunn founded PWV, Chuck envisioned that it would take approximately 170 members to cover the trails we patrol adequately. Chuck may have assumed that most of the volunteers would complete their six hike minimum commitment. So keep in mind that we must all make our best effort to hike or ride the minimum six patrols we all committed to when joining PWV.

It is estimated that typically we lose 30%

of our membership annually. This, I believe, is typical of a volunteer organization. People leave for all kinds of reasons - job transfers, college graduations, family changes, etc. However, whatever the reason folks drop out of PWV, it points out the need for all of us to work on our recruiting efforts just to maintain the membership. Good sources of new volunteers are friends and neighbors, along with the visitors we meet on patrol. If you find a potential recruit for next year have them call the PWV recorder phone (970 - 498-2776) and leave their name, address, and phone number and someone will be in contact with them and put them on the PWV mailing list. If we all work at recruitment throughout this year, we will be able to not only replace those that move on but, in addition, further increase the total numbers of active volunteers. As we grow our organization, PWV will be able to expand its capability to "assist the Canyon Lakes Ranger District in managing and protecting wilderness and backcountry areas within its jurisdiction."



## PWV Merchandise

Jackets, First Aid Kits, Name Tags & Patches



- Nametags can be ordered from Craft Trophy located at 202 B Air Park Drive in Fort Collins (482-1158).
- PWV patches (\$6.00 each) and Forest Service Volunteer patches are available. Call Bill Bolinger at 204-1906 if you need either.

- Jackets can be ordered anytime. Contact Bill, 204-1906.
- First Aid Kits are better ordered in bulk after Spring Training.

**NOTE:** There are PWV jackets, First Aid Kits and area trail maps available for loan in the PWV office at the Forest Service District offices at Pitkin and College.



# Streamlined PWV Office

By Jacque Bolinger

This summer the PWV Office has been running smoothly due to the support of several volunteers who have been coming in to help on a regular basis. Doug Jackman, Susan Douchet, Ron Mensack, Betsy Moshauer and Kathy Burgess have volunteered their time to answer the phone, prepare radios and equipment for checkout, file, keep in contact with members and other tasks. It is their behind-the-scenes efforts that help insure a good hiking season for all members.

A big thank you goes to each of these individuals for their contributions. Their help is not only very much appreciated, but essential for the benefit of our organization.



## Do you have an interesting story to tell?

We invite you to submit story ideas, anecdotes, tall tales, ripping yarns, wilderness experiences and other noteworthy items for future publications. Submit your material to [jpl@ideators.com](mailto:jpl@ideators.com).

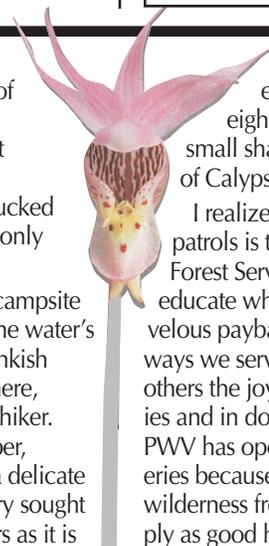
# Trail Notes

By John Paul Lumpp

As PWV members, I'm sure you share my appreciation of our forest and wilderness areas. Even if we were able to spend a hundred years on these trails, I guarantee you that over the next hill there would be a completely new discovery. In mid-June, my wife, Susan, and I patrolled the North Fork Trail and, as is our custom, we talked to nearly everyone we came upon, playing the good "trail host" role. As we were going up, we met a charming woman, perhaps in her mid-60s dressed in a long cotton denim dress, sneakers, and carrying a single water bottle—not your usual hiking apparel. She told us that she frequently walks this trail to look at the wild flowers. Then she rattled off a dozen or so names, then paused, smiled and said with delight, "The Calypso." How grand

she made it sound. Calypso is one of the few species of native orchids in Colorado. Orchids! I had heard that Colorado was actually home to six species, but thought they must be tucked away in some remote location that only botanists knew.

"Just over the bridge right before campsite 3, she told us, "look down next to the water's edge and you'll see three or four pinkish flowers." Sure enough, they were there, though easily missed by the casual hiker. The Calypso Bulbosa, or Fairy Slipper, stands only a few inches tall, with a delicate pink flower. Apparently, this is a very sought after flower by nature photographers as it is very elusive and blooms briefly in early summer, then all traces of the flower disappear. Due to the very dry spring, there were very few Calypsos in bloom and was surprised to see any. Our new friend went back down the trail after reaching this point, how-



ever we continued on past camp eight and, around the next turn, in a small shady meadow, there were dozens of Calypsos among the Columbines.

I realize that the main purpose of our patrols is to provide a presence for the Forest Service, help fellow hikers, and educate when needed, but what a marvelous payback. Perhaps one of the best ways we serve, as volunteers, is to share with others the joy we experience in our discoveries and in doing so help in their preservation. PWV has opened new doors for new discoveries because we are now looking at the wilderness from a different perspective: simply as good hosts.

*John Paul Lumpp is a PWV member who grew up in the Denver area and as spent extensive time enjoying and experiencing the Colorado back country including the Eagle River Valley from Vail to Eagle when it consisted of Ranches and one-room school houses.*



Poudre Trails is a quarterly publication of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit corporation organized to assist the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and other backcountry areas.

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## From the Saddle

(Continued from page 2)

Joel owns a company called **Llama Walk Colorado**. He and his wife Pat are naturalists and offer guided, interpretive day hikes using the llamas to carry a load. In addition, Joel's neighbor Stan Ebel of the **Buckhorn Llama Company** offers leasing of llamas for backcountry treks. You can reach Joel at 970/613-0239 or for leases, Stan Ebel at 970/667-7411.

*A special thanks goes to Chuck and Nancy Bell for helping to organize the May training session. Also thanks to Jacques Riuex, Jacque Bolinger, Bette & Gail Blinde, Garin VanDeMark, Bob Hansen, Jill Sanford, Dan and Tina Speed, Linda Knowlton and Jane Viste for their help as observers, obstacles and registrars.*

—Happy Trails!



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**P.O. Box 271921,  
Fort Collins, CO 80527**  
*or contact us at  
(970) 498-2776*



**USDA Forest Service  
Canyon Lakes Ranger District**  
1311 So. College  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

**Mark Your  
CALENDAR**

The PWV Fall (end-of-season) Get Together is scheduled for statutory evening, October 26, 2002. The time and location will be announced later.

