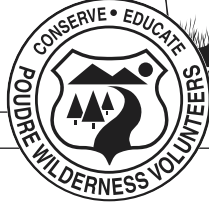


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Poudre Trails

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter



The Key to Hiking

By Mark L. Snyder

The key to many treasures can be found in hiking our wonderful national forests. In my first venture on Lily Mountain Trail, I discovered a gem.

A glance at the trail guide only shows an easy to moderate ascent, 1.75 miles meandering up the side of the mountain to the summit and that's where the trail ends. But wild flowers grace the trail, no less than a dozen varieties of many colors; hummingbirds zing around defending their territories; ravens yak away in their deep throttle croaking, as the trail climbs through the pine forest and interesting granite out-croppings.

A small bird's nest spotted with four jelly-bean size lightly speckled eggs is skillfully crafted and situated just off the trail by a couple of feet. Hmm.... I can only imagine a dog, a Labrador Retriever perhaps, coming along and taking a quick snack. On the other hand, as the Killdeer rockets from its nest to steer intruders away, I wished the best for the bird that brings so much color to our hike.

About a mile in, the trail ascends quickly and steeply in spots. The view on top of Lily Mountain is 360 degrees and a real treasure, an amazing prospect of the surrounding area as if from Long's Peak. Rocky Mountain National Park opens up, as if seen from an airplane. From this distance the town of Estes Park seems like a miniature version of itself. At 9,737 feet, the views from Lily Mountain are vast; clouds like daydreams makes Long's Peak appear and disappear.

After the hike, a day in the mountains isn't over yet: on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at the Rocky Ridge Music Center — a classical music camp for kids — has performances for the community at their designated National Historic District camp, located at the base of Long's Peak, just off Peak to Peak Highway. The performances by students and staff take place in the main lodge, which was built in 1907. The stage is situated in front of large windows looking toward Twin Sisters Peaks. Check Rocky Ridge Music Center out at www.rockyridge.org.

Key to Hiking continues on page 4

National Fire Plan Comes to the Canyon Lakes Ranger District

Reprinted from *Canyon Lakes Echoes*, courtesy of the Canyon Lakes Ranger District

Editor's Note: The following text was provided by the Canyon Lakes Ranger District and is from its publication, *Canyon Lakes Echoes*. The authors provide their perspective on efforts to reduce the amount of "fuel" (that is deadfall, undergrowth and high tree density) in our forests and thereby reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic fire.

Many hikers are astounded by the great amount of thinning on the Mount Margaret trail near Dowdy Lake. What follows may provide some answers and new insight.

The Arapaho-Roosevelt and Pike-San Isabel National Forests have teamed up with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, Rocky Mountain National Park, and state and local agencies to implement the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership. This partnership is part of the National Fire Plan and specifically targeted to the Front Range of Colorado to accelerate fuels reduction projects.

Over the next 10 years, the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership will help local, state and federal agencies set fuel treatment priority areas with the help of the public. Agencies have created maps identifying high value areas at risk, such as mountain subdivisions, communities, watersheds and important wildlife habitat. These maps will be used as tools to help agency managers and the public focus resources for fuel reduction treatments to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District is actively engaged in projects (see page 3) with a special emphasis on reducing high hazard fuels. A cooperative project planned for the Crystal Lakes Subdivision will work with landowners to reduce fuels through thinning and limbing trees. The result would lower the potential risk of wildfire to residents, homes,

firefighters and land values.

Dowdy Lake thinning improves habitat for wildlife and reduces fire risk

Under the National Fire Plan and the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership, projects like Dowdy Lake continue to thin dense forests to diminish the risk of disastrous wildfire. Thinning is also used to enhance the landscape for wildlife.

Thinning activities at Dowdy Lake are removing many smaller trees eight inches or less in diameter. In some areas, trees up to 12 inches are being taken out to reduce tree stand density.

Remaining trees are limbed to decrease the amount of ladder fuels. Ladder fuels allow fire to climb into the tops of trees, increasing the risk of crown fire during wildfire events. Crown fires jump between treetops in dense forests and may kill entire stands. A tree stand is an area with trees of similar characteristics.

Jolie Pollet, the Wasatch-Uinta National Forests, and Phillip Omi, Colorado State University, studied several areas of thinned and unthinned stands of trees and compared the results after each had burned. Their research concluded that "fire severity and crown scorch was higher in

untreated areas," suggesting mechanical treatments decrease fire intensity.

Trees cut at Dowdy Lake will be used for public firewood. Tree limbs and left-over material has been placed in piles. Most piles will be burned; however, one per acre will be left to benefit wildlife, such as rabbits and other small mammals.



The Big Elk Fire makes a run on Kenny Mountain last summer. The Front Range Strategy will help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Fire Plan continues on page 3

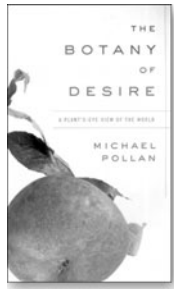
Book Review

By Mark L. Snyder

The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-eye View of the World

by Michael Pollan. [Random House, New York, 2001], ISBN # 0375501290, Hardcover \$24.95.

The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World weaves essays about four plants: the apple, marijuana, the tulip and the potato. Each satisfies one of mankind's basic desires—sweetness, intoxication, beauty and control over nature—as illustrated by the genetically modified potato.



This book offers fascinating look at our world through the four different plants and how they have evolved around us and how we have formed an interesting relationship with them.

Modern day apple trees have descended from the wild apple trees in Kazakhstan, where there are forests of three-hundred-year-old trees fifty feet tall and as big around as oaks bearing fruit as large as our modern cultivated varieties. Apple trees in America were distributed almost single handedly by John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed. The early pioneering families enjoyed the comfort of apples, reminding them of home as they worked out a living in what was then the wild Northwest Territory—Indiana and Ohio. The early pioneers made hard cider from their apples until Prohibition, when the apple trees almost disappeared. They were saved with the modern notion that apples are healthy and wholesome.

The tulip has been cultivated for years with a burst of activity in the early 1600s in Holland, where the tulip ruled. Paintings were commissioned to celebrate the beauty of the tulip. They were bred for bolder and brighter colors. The beautiful tulips in your garden today, in your garden have taken a long path of genetic improvement.

Marijuana has been cultivated just like tulips and the potato. Man has bred, changed, favored the desired traits in all these plants and today the plants we cultivate are just a reminder of their ancestors.

Look for *The Botany of Desire* at the library and local booksellers.

Spring Training 2003: Recap

by John Paul Lumppp

On May 16–18, about 130 PWVers, including 50 new recruits, set up camp at Jack's Gulch for PWV's Annual Spring Training. "I'm not braggin', but it was a great Spring Training. A lot of good vibes." says Jacques Rieux. Who could argue? The weather was perfect and training teams, both animal group leaders and role players, were well prepared and organized. The format and content of the training continues to be several teams at staggered intervals moving through a series of locations where various situations present the opportunity for learning about such cases as dogs off leash, distressed hikers, a horse camp, and an illegal campsite. An after-event critique by participants is being used to fine-tune the program in order to make it more effective as a teaching tool.

International Guests

Joining us once again were four South African wildlife rangers. Pierre Van den Berg, John Crowson, Marius Brand and Derek Clark. Since their last visit, they report that they have been able to start to build a sizable volunteer force, thanks in part to PWV's example.

Surprise Guest

David Braun, Traveling Trainer/Education Programs Coordinator from Leave No Trace, dropped in to find out more about PWV Spring Training. We hope to be able to get the LNT Traveling Trainers to do a presentation next year.

Great Food

PWVer Joe McCarthy wowed us with his culinary talents by arranging breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The coffee was hot and plentiful. Tasty homemade cinnamon coffe-cakes and biscuits were the highlight. Saturday night's steak dinner and/or vegetarian lasgna was catered by All Style Catering of Fort Collins. It was great!

Guest Speaker

Ralph Swain, USFS Region 2 Wilderness Program Manager, gave a compelling history



PWV co-founder Chuck Bell on the experiential trail with new members Jay Harlan (right) and Kirk Longstein.

of the Wilderness Act of 1964 through a PowerPoint presentation. It was interesting to follow the history of the Act which took more than 10 years to finally become law. Many compromises had to be made to reach a consensus. If you ever have a chance to hear this presentation, you'll enjoy it.

Missing Components

One thing that continues to be missing was a series of activities for returning members. Few members know that Spring Training is also the annual meeting for all members. The focus traditionally has been on training for new recruits and, to be honest, takes hundreds of volunteer hours to prepare. But many veterans would like to see a program in place for them. Whether it is advanced training in first aid, land navigation, or Leave-No-Trace, or a coordinated group hike with wilderness experts, we would like to develop a good program.

One final criticism is how things were handled regarding those who wanted to help out at Spring Training. Some were never contacted. This complaint was heard loud and clear by the Board and every effort will be made to insure that volunteer coordination will be handled better in the future. Everyone who expressed an interest in helping out is greatly appreciated, even though word may not reach you.

If you have any suggestions, please contact any member of the Board of Directors know. All ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Round Mountain Revisited

By Bill Dold

You may recall the exhaustion expressed in my Round Mountain report last year. I tackled it early this year and chose a pre-season Thursday to avoid the little kids who pass me going uphill. "Are you ok, Mister?" It didn't seem as difficult this year; maybe it shrunk with all the recent wet weather. Jesse Owens still would quake at my speed; rather, the lack of it.

After several dry seasons, the reappearance of the usual springtime streams crossing the trail between the 3 and 4-mile markers was

comforting. I spotted the brightest tanager ever, possibly because it was closer than ever. Having noticed a myriad of wildflowers as I hiked in, I counted 23 different species on my return trip.

Someone had wedged two quarters in a crack of the 4-mile marker post. Thinking that this was too much of a gratuity for the meager amount of trail work I was doing, I left two nickels in place of the quarters. All things considered, it was once again a profitable day on Round Mountain.

Fire Plan continued from page 1

Remaining trees and standing dead trees, called snags, will improve shelter and forage habitat for a variety of wildlife, including bald eagles, flammulated owls, northern goshawks, osprey, elk, deer and other species.

Fuels treatments target different forest needs

The U.S. Forest Service uses several treatments to achieve objectives in the National Forest, including clear-cutting, precommercial thinning, overstory thinning and group shelterwoods.



Clear-cutting is used to regenerate tree stands. Reasons for using this treatment may include: that trees are dying as fast as they are growing, or a young stand is infested with mistletoe. Pre-commercial thinning removes small diameter trees. This treatment is for fire mitigation or stand regeneration. By taking out smaller trees and ladder fuels, it is less likely that a fire will crown. Stand regeneration leaves healthy trees as a seed source.

Overstory thinning is implemented when taller trees are diseased or infested and the understory is relatively healthy. This treatment will help the smaller trees grow vigorously with less competition.

Group shelterwoods are small clear-cuts used for regeneration. The technique protects smaller trees from the drying effects of wind.

Current and Planned Projects

The following are a few of the projects either underway or planned for the future to focus on healthy forests.

Dadd/Bennett Prescribed Fire Project:

This project is currently in the implementation phase with burning occurring when weather and fuel moisture conditions are favorable. Prescribed fire has been used on over 450 acres to reduce fuels and improve wildlife habitat with more treatment scheduled to take place this fall. Total project area is approximately 7,000 acres.

Cache la Poudre Fire Restoration

Project: The Cache La Poudre project is an opportunity to restore fire as the dominant force of change on the wilderness landscape. Prescribed fire is needed to accomplish this goal. A decision on this project will be available in spring of 2003.

Sheep Creek 2 Project: This project proposes a variety of vegetation management treatments including prescribed fire and timber harvesting. These treatments will be used to improve wildlife habitat, provide a mosaic of forest vegetation across the landscape, and reduce high hazard fuels.

Housmer Park Project: An environmental assessment is being prepared to determine whether a nonsystem trail being used by an outfitter should be included as part of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests trail system. Please contact Kevin Cannon at 970-498-2719 or kcannon@fs.fed.us for further information

A Letter to Members



by John Paul Lumpp

If you have not received your copy of the 2003 PWV *Field Guide*, call the PWV office and arrange to pick one up. After more than 120 hours of researching, rewriting, editing and creating a handful of maps, the *Guide* finally went to press. It has been well received, yet I was a bit taken aback by all the attention (and praise) headed in my direction. This was a "labor of love" and not in the least a burden. And, more to the point, a great pleasure to have been the managing editor on the project. I am appreciative of the accolades, but must give credit where credit is due.

It is easy to stand tall while perched on the shoulders of giants. My work began by taking years of hard work by a number of dedicated individuals who framed the original *Guide* and continue to oversee its evolution. This book would not have happened without their original and continued efforts. **Dave Cantrell** wrote most of the original text in the *Guide* and **Frank Lilley**, who has actually hiked every trail, repeatedly for more than 30 years, provided the trail descriptions, recorded the distances, and generated all the profiles. **Chuck Bell**, **Art Bunn**, **Jacques Rieux** and **Garin VanDeMark** provided guidance, insight, and wisdom in the *Guide's* preparation. PWV Chair **John Cochenour** was the first person to actually take the Word® version of the *Guide* and put it into an actual publishing program. **Kevin Cannon** and **Kristi Wumkes** of the USFS were constantly supportive. And, there were a number of other individuals who contributed their time proof-reading and offering suggestions. All I did was to organize it.

The *PWV Field Guide* is a living document and will be revised constantly, or at least until it's perfect, [which may never happen]. In the next edition, there will be simplified maps for nearly every trail, a wildlife identification section, and an expanded section on personal development in wilderness skills.

I invite all PWVers to become involved in future editions of the *Guide*. Next time you are out on the trail, review the trail description and check it for accuracy and let us know your suggestions. Perhaps make note of some points of interest—share with us your own experience on the trail. Also, take a look through the rest of the book with a critical eye and make suggestions on how the *Field Guide* can be improved. What other information would you like to see in there?

Please contact us with your suggestions: Dave Cantrell (cantrell@verinet.com) or John Paul Lumpp (jpl@ideators.com) or send a letter to the PWV office at P.O. Box 271921, Fort Collins, CO 80527.

For the Record

2002 Colorado Wildland Fire Highlights

Number of fires:	2000
Acres Burned:	502,000
<i>The ten-year average for these numbers is 3,119 fires, but only 70,000 acres.</i>	
Suppression costs	\$152 million+
<i>The state's cost for suppressing the Hayman Fire, alone, totaled \$5.1 million.</i>	
Number of Firefighters:	16,500
Firefighters Lost:	9
Evacuations	81,000+

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued emergency declarations on seventeen Colorado fires. The previous record for FEMA declarations was three and occurred during the 2000 season.

Source: 2002 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests, Colorado State Division of Natural Resources, Forestry Division.

From District Ranger
Ellen Hodges



Dear PWV,

I know I don't say THANKS enough for all you do for the district, the natural resources and the public. I was reminded of this as I reviewed the latest field guide. What an impressive and professional piece of work! AND what a great reflection on the Forest Service. You're constantly raising the standard in everything you do. Thanks so much!

Ellen



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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*If you like what you see in this newsletter and want to join the **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** or support our cause, please mail us at*

P.O. Box 271921,
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or contact us at (970) 498-2776

End-Of-Season Party

Huh? This is July, what's with End-of-Season? Well, we wanted to get the word (and date) out early so everybody to mark their calendars for **October 25, 2003**. We will forward the GPS coordinates when we get them... for those of you who are digitally guided. We will be announcing the time and place in September.

PWV Schedule of Events

JULY

17 PWV Board Meeting*

AUGUST

21 PWV Board Meeting*

SEPTEMBER

18 PWV Board Meeting*

OCTOBER

4 Fall Foliage Ride and Hike Fund Raiser

16 PWV Board Meeting*

25 End-of-Season Party. Time and location to be announced.

* PWV Board Meetings are open to all members and are held at the USFS Arapahoe & Roosevelt NF Supervisor's Office, 240 W. Prospect Ave. in Fort Collins.

Fall Color Benefit Trail Ride/Hike Planned for PWV

Saturday October 4, 2003

Mark your calendars for October 4th if you'd like to donate some time to help or donate some money to ride the trails or hike the forest lands near Beaver Meadow Resort Ranch in beautiful Red Feather Lakes. This event is being organized by PWV and is a benefit event so there is an admission required. The price includes a prime rib dinner late that afternoon and silent auction. For more information call 970-881-2902 or 881-3715.

Key to Hiking *continued from page 1*

Dinner at the Bald Pate Inn—built in 1917 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places—is the key to it all. The inn, located across the road from Lily Lake, has a collection of keys hanging from the ceiling, the walls and on the counters—thousands of keys that each tell a story. Their specialty is homemade soups, salads, breads and fresh baked pies with a dining area that has astonishing views looking towards Lily Mountain, Cheley Camp and the town of Estes Park. Check them out at www.baldpateinn.com.

By now, the summer patrol season is going full blast, and our national forests that we PWVers pledge to help protect and maintain by assisting the Canyon Lakes Ranger District are also home to the rich history found in places that have brought people to these areas for many, many years. So, next time you go on patrol, consider not only the beauties of the natural world but the possibilities of discovering the historic backgrounds of the areas you hike.

Possibilities abound. Let's us know what you've found and enjoyed.

*Printing of this newsletter is provided "at cost" by **Lithographic Press**, Loveland, CO. Please support this local merchant.*