



# POUDRE TRAILS

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers ~ SUMMER 2014

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## Notes from the Chair



### What a winter/ spring for PWV!

We had a record number of potential recruits interested in joining our organization. We realized we could not adequately train all of them. A survey process was developed as a pre-interview step to determine who might be willing to wait until next year or serve as non-patrolling (off trail) members. The interview process was revamped resulting in more information being transferred in both directions.

Kick-off night was a resounding success. Things were running smoothly; what could go wrong? Well, Mother Nature decided to throw us a real curve. Five days prior to the start of spring training, thirty inches of fresh snow fell on our training location at the Cub Scout Camp. Several people walked/snow shod the training trail on the Wednesday before Spring Training. The decision was made to dramatically alter the location and schedule at 10 pm that evening.

**Hats Off** to **Mindy Cooper**, **Nate Donovan**, and the many committee chairs who altered their well-laid plans. Spring Training started thirty-six hours later at the USFS building in Fort Collins. The execution by the committees was flawless, and after many bottles of antacid, the weekend was an overwhelming success. Fifty-nine recruits successfully completed the weekend training.

### Recruiting Enhancements

We have twenty-five potential recruits interested in *shadowing* veteran patrollers, and have developed a process for this activity. Thanks to **Bob Hansen** for driving this.

### Off Trail Involvement

Other potential recruits have expressed interest in helping with non-patrolling activities. A big thanks to **Margaret Shaklee** for leading a group that developed a process for making this run smoothly.

### Trail Restoration

Much planning has also taken place by both the Trail Crew and the Restoration Committee. They are focused on repairing our fire and flood ravaged trails. We received several grants amounting to almost \$50,000 to fund restoration efforts. Thanks to **Fred Allen** and **Ronda Koski** for spearheading the grant writing.

### New Website Rolled Out

A new and enhanced scheduling website was introduced. This is the result of several years of development work. Many thanks to **Joan Kauth**, **Alan Meyer**, and **Fred Sprague**, who were involved in the design and coding, with **Kevin Cannon** providing objectives. The public website was also updated so more timely information about our organization and its activities could be posted. So as you can see, we have been very busy prior to the start of the hiking season.

### Kudos to PWV Members

Lastly, I want to emphasize that this terrific organization is entirely run by **volunteers**...no paid staff. All of the committee work that is done to make our patrolling season run smoothly is a result of volunteers. With that in mind, this is the time to let you know that we have several open or soon-to-be-open committee chair positions. I encourage each of you to consider committee work. Interested? Please contact me. We need your energy and skills!!!!

Thanks for everyone's efforts throughout the year.

*Jerry Hanley, PWV Chair*

## 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.*

## PWV Introduces the Updated “Non-Patrolling/Off Trail” Member Program

At the April Board Meeting **Margaret Shaklee** was given the task of developing a formal plan that identifies the PWV Non-Patrolling Activity and designing a plan of management for those volunteers. The program has existed since March 2012, but due to its growth and changing needs, it was time to give it a more accurate description and place in the organization and develop specific criteria and management.

PWV, being an all-volunteer organization, requires the help of all members to manage the 260+ membership and its programs. There is definitely a place within PWV’s membership for people to volunteer and contribute to PWV beyond the patrolling aspect.

The original concept was that non-patrolling members would be one type – permanent – those unable to hike or ride our trails, but still wanting to be a PWV volunteer. However, our second year brought us another type of member – someone who couldn’t join PWV in the current year as a patrolling member due to a scheduling conflict for completing the training requirement. We offered this group a Temporary non-patrolling membership and set them up with a sponsor and a project. The management of the two or three non-patrolling members was simple and straightforward at first. However, with the overwhelming response to the 2014 recruiting effort, applications were submitted that identified more than 20 individuals who were interested in being non-patrolling members. We knew that we needed to develop a plan to manage this classification of membership.

The proposal was developed and presented at the June Board meeting and was approved. To summarize the content, the objective of this program is to provide sponsors to off-trail members in various aspects of PWV activity, and keep them informed and engaged in PWV as they carry out their valuable support to PWV.

Following are a few of the off trail volunteer opportunities available and the Committees that sponsor them: Managing equipment inventory, purchasing, and delivery to storage of items needed for Kids In Nature program and Agency coordinator (KIN); PWV Field Book and Handbook updates, content management, and production; Office Administrative duties for USFS-PWV (General).

It was unanimously agreed among the planning committee that the name “Non-Patrolling Member” should be changed to “Off Trail Member” which is more descriptive of the many hours and value these members contribute to the goals of the organization.

## Stock Patrol

### Prelude to Spring Training — Stock Patrol Evaluation

All aspects of Spring Training for new members are planned with much care and consideration to the success of potential new members being ready to go on the trails. Stock Patrol volunteers receive additional pre-patrolling training. Stock Evaluation is held annually before Spring Training to verify horsemanship skills of individuals wishing to join the ranks of PWV as a rider. As a prerequisite for spring training, the evaluation was held May 3rd at Lory State Park. The park’s terrain resembles a trail that PWV may patrol and the scenarios can be presented as if the riders are patrolling. Recruits bring a horse or mule that they plan to use for the patrolling season.

Obstacles negotiated by riders included a back-packer with a large pack, a bicyclist, a hiker with a dog, a tent with camper, and llamas. Riders also needed to ride across a bridge, have their horse move backwards on the trail and stand tied to hitching post. The weather was beautiful and resulted in many other park users – hikers, bike riders, dog walkers – unknowingly participating in testing the skills of the recruits.

All eight riders successfully completed the evaluation. Stock patrollers attend Spring Training and, like hikers, are required to complete mentor patrols. PWV Stock Patrol members perform the same maintenance tasks and educational efforts as patrollers who hike. New PWV Stock Patrol members include **Richard Blankenheim, Elisabeth Ervin-Blankenheim, Joan Dooley, Marsha Eilert, Randy Ratliff, Julie Brantner, Linda Johnston** and **Jim Pendleton**.

### Challenge Response

After PWV co-founder Chuck Bell issued a challenge last fall to increase overnight patrols in the wilderness, the Stock Committee engaged the expertise of co-founder **Chuck Peterson** and long-time member **Tony Schock**, to help stock patrollers meet this challenge.

Tony structured three Low Impact camping sessions for stock patrol volunteers. Tony showed us you can ride into the wilderness and spend up to nine days carrying everything you need on your horse. Part of the training included ways to safely confine your horse overnight.

Tony will be escorting several overnight patrols into the wilderness this summer as a result of these sessions. Tony is a Leave No Trace master trainer.

PWV co-founder Chuck Peterson held an intensive, one-day packing clinic on May

24. Five PWV stock patrollers attended and received the Peterson stamp of approval to pack into the wilderness. The skills of these new packers will be tested in the Rawahs. They will accompany Chuck to remove remnants of a large, now defunct, outfitter’s camp. One of the goals of this training will benefit the PWV trail crew. There are now additional trained individuals who will be able to take pack animals carrying tools and materials to work sites.

## Recent Board Actions of Importance to Members –

### Modification to the Operating Manual, Policies and Procedures

PWV has not had a clear policy regarding photos and videos of PWV-related activities. The policy now states that photos and videos of PWV-related activities submitted to PWV or the USFS may be utilized for non-commercial purposes, as deemed appropriate by PWV or the USFS, without request or documentation of additional permissions. Use of photos/videos include, but are not limited to, postings such as on Internet, publications, posters, brochures, calendars, training/promotional videos. The photographer and whoever provides the photos or videos must have verbal acknowledgement from any person pictured that it is permissible to use the material as described above. On occasion, there have been members who have specifically requested that their picture not be used, and where this is recognized, the requests will be honored; however, their pictures may be inadvertently submitted and used.

The only exception to the preceding is that pictures of children participating in Kids in Nature programs will be used only if documented permission form the parent or guardian is on record.

## Trail Restorations Underway

The Forest Service, along with PWV and assistance from friends, CSU students, Camp Cheley participants, and various groups and individual volunteers have made major strides in reclaiming some of the lost trails in our most popular areas. The major effort of course has been concentrated on Lion Gulch and North fork, however if you are a PWV member and want to see what’s been going on in many of our wilderness trails, you can take a look at the patrol reports. For our Restoration projects the report numbers are 62, 63, 196, 203, 300, 301 and 302.

If you’ve had the opportunity to be part of any of these efforts, you will appreciate the

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*A picture is worth a thousand words...*

## Images of PWV

### 2014 Spring Training



### Stock evaluation at Lory State Park & packing for low impact wilderness camping



### Lion Gulch restoration



*Packing in*

*Off to work we go*

*It takes a team*



*Lunch is on the way*



*A well deserved lunch break*



*The reward: Pam's chocolate chipper*



**Kids in Nature...** *"My favorite part of the hike was..."*



*...flying over the water with Mr. Phil."*



*...looking for aquatic micro-invertebrates."*



*...climbing the rocks going across the water."*



*Sensory scavenger hunt*



*Learning about Leave No Trace*



*Stream crossings are a fun challenge*



*One of the finds from the scavenger hunt*



**PWW Endowment Fund Backyard Party**



*Welcome to the party!*



*Backpacking with Llamas - what fun!*



*Everything you need on the trail...*



*Silent Auction Tent*



*Decisions, Decisions - Pies or Cakes?*



*Larry Stroud encourages a higher bid as Martha Shepard tallies the winners!*



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tremendous amount of labor that went into putting our trails back together, but most importantly when you look at “before” and “after” even one day’s work, you will be impressed with the accomplishment. You can also check out the website for postings on the progress and future dates being scheduled for restoration work.

Although it’s been hard work, and even a labor of love for our lands, there was fun to be had as well and some relaxation when lunch breaks were taken!

## Introducing New Members - In Their Own Words

*From the Editor:* While assisting with activities leading up to Spring Training, mentoring, participating in the Lion Gulch restoration work, and the Backyard Party, I enjoyed the opportunity to encounter some of our new members. I also realized that they have a story to share. Here is the beginning of a series that will give us all an insider view of who our volunteers are and what prompted them to join PWV. In conversations, some new members offered ideas for topics they’d like to see in the Newsletter that not only include information about newest members, but highlight those in our ranks who deserve recognition for what they do for PWV and other topics that may be of interest to all of us. **The invitation is open to all to submit any suggestions or articles to: newsletter@poudrewildernessvolunteers.org**

### Now, to the introductions:

#### ALI BORIS



I grew up in the coastal town of Newport, Oregon with the Pacific Ocean less than a mile from my house, and a forest in my back yard. I’ve studied environmental studies and chemistry, and finally landed in Fort Collins to work toward a PhD in atmospheric chemistry. I love being outdoors and exploring the world beyond man-made environments, and enjoy the idea of fostering environmental ideals in kids and other adults alike through wilderness experiences. I joined PWV last year as an off-trail member (I traveled to a conference in Japan last spring training weekend), and became a patrolling member this spring.

I recently received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study the chemistry of fog in South Korea. I’ll be collecting and analyzing fog on a small island called Baengyeongdo June through August, and also spending time working with fellow

scientists in Seoul. We are specifically interested in finding out whether certain chemical reactions occurring in fog droplets can form solid and liquid matter, which could then reflect/absorb sunlight (impact climate), allow more fog droplets to form (impact sea and land traffic), or be deposited into ecosystems or human lungs (impact health). I’ll be keeping track of my experience in Korea on my blog: <http://aliboriskorea.blogspot.com/>. See you in August for more great hikes in Northern Colorado!

#### MEGHAN KEATING



Coming from Modesto, California to grand ol’ Colorado was quite the change, but boy was it a good choice! I moved out here to study wildlife biology at Colorado State and fell in love with the mountains, the scenery, and the snow. Although, to be fair, I’ll never quite understand the weather patterns here!

I’ve always had an interest in wildlife so, being a student, I’ve dabbled in many volunteer positions in places such as veterinary clinics, Micke Grove Zoo, and the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program here in Fort Collins. Being skilled in the art of unpaid service, an organization that worked alongside the Forestry Service was a no brainer for me. I hope to one day work for the Park Service or the Forestry Service, so while I was hoping PWV would give me some experience in that realm I never imagined how much I would get out of it. All I wanted was to see some native Colorado wildlife, but it has been so much more rewarding than I could have imagined! I get paid in fresh air, a lot of fun, some beautiful animals and wildflowers, and some great stories from the PWV veterans. So far I’ve learned more about Colorado and wilderness ethics than in any other organization. This being my first year, I hope to continue to give my time to aid in any way needed and gain more experience. Go Elk Group!

#### SONYA AGNELLO



I’m from Seaside Park, NJ and lived on or near the ocean for my entire life. Eight years ago I traveled to Colorado to visit a friend, went to Rocky Mountain National Park, and I knew my life was forever changed.

I made the decision to relocate to Colorado for the pristine beauty, the pride people

have in their beautiful places, and a new way of life.

I currently am majoring in Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism at CSU with a minor in Sustainability and Business. My future dream goal in life is to establish an “earthship” bed and breakfast and give customized tours to small groups. I want others to experience the connection I felt when I first came to Colorado. Joining PWV is the perfect way for me to spend my free time and enjoy exploring nature while helping to maintain these beautiful places for future generations.

#### JEANNE and MICHAEL SMITH



We’ve been lifelong Ohioan natives, before moving to Fort Collins over seven years ago. The mountains, wildlife, sun and snow are some of the main reasons we moved to this beautiful state.



Jeanne is currently employed by KinderCare as an Assistant Director. When she’s not working with children, she enjoys being outdoors hiking and backpacking, taking nature and wildlife

photographs, and being around her animals.

Michael is a software product consultant for Siemens Corporation and occasionally travels for business. When he has spare time, he enjoys web developing and designing, social networking, hiking and backpacking, and spending time with his dogs.

With our two college-bound daughters currently busy with their own lives, work and study, we found ourselves with more free time on the weekends. So to fill that void, we saw the opportunity to give back to the community. With some research on the Internet, we came across PWV and learned more about its organization, structure and people; that’s when we knew PWV was a perfect fit for us. With trail restorations, hike and backpack patrols, or just getting to know other PWV members, we knew this was exactly what we’ve been looking for.

With the various committees such as Web Team and Kids in Nature, we’ve found additional opportunities to give back to the community, and to help educate and increase public awareness about the positive impacts that PWV is making across northern Colorado.

## “It’s Almost as Good As a Video Game.”

PWV’s Kids in Nature program is in full swing. Six of the 2014 KIN hikes were completed as of July 1, with just four remaining to be done.

Kids in Nature goals are to:

- Connect kids with nature via fun, hands-on experiences,
- Educate kids about natural processes, wild animals and plants,
- Encourage kids to respect natural areas and practice land stewardship,
- Introduce kids to selected outdoor skills,
- Instill in kids a sense of wonder and appreciation for nature.

On these hikes, kids learn basic safety in the mountains, what a Natural Forest is, and Leave No Trace principles, i.e., (“Can I keep this backbone piece? No wait, I’ll leave it behind so another kid can see it!”) Whatever cool things are along the trail are the most fun – a stump dug out by a bear, beautiful spring flowers, a red squirrel and the fun challenge of crossing a stream without wet feet.

With education and support provided to our members by the City of Fort Collins Utilities Education Department, some days we learn about and catch aquatic macro-invertebrates and learn about water quality. (“I’m a scientist!”) Other hikes include learning games related to trees and their importance to the ecosystem, a mini-curriculum developed by PWV. (“I learned how trees protect themselves from the pine beetles by putting out that sticky stuff.”)

Most of the kids we take on a trail have never been in the mountains or on a trail before. Things change for them. “The kids have lost their fear of going out in the mountains. At first they were asking lots of questions about snakes, bears, etc., but now they don’t even mention them,” one agency staff member told us. Soon they relax and start enjoying the wonders of nature and the fun of the hike. Kids who are super active calm down; kids who are extremely quiet open up. All of the kids want to hike again.

### The kids tell the story:

*“You know, I don’t want to leave. I could live here.”*

When asked to name favorite parts of the hike, kids reply - *the stream crossings ... the listening minute ... flying over the water with Mr. Phil ... being the leader ... climbing the rocks going across the water ... the flowers ... getting so close up to the squirrel and seeing the fire [damage] up close ... the flicks of “gold” in the water ...*

## REMINDERS

Two important dates to note:

July 29 - New Members gathering at Odell’s

October 26 - Year-end Event and Annual Meeting

Members are invited to attend monthly PWV Board Meetings held the third Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm at USFS

*Check website for schedule of events and current news*

When asked what they learned: *“about where the Indians lived, and the settlers ... not to pick things off trees ... the larvae of the crane fly are really big ... there are mayflies, stone flies, caddis flies and crane flies ... about Leave No Trace ... there are ‘bad’ thistles and ‘good’ thistles ... the beaver is a rodent like a mouse or a squirrel ... a bull moose is bigger than an elk ... elk poop is round ... owls eat the whole animal, fur feathers guts and all ... the door to a beaver’s house is under water.”*

The reward to us, the PWV volunteers who participate in the program, is hearing the many comments from the children and sharing their enthusiasm. Enjoying nature is magnified when viewed through the eyes of a child!

## Endowment Fund Grows in the Backyard!

Judy and Rhys Christensen’s beautiful backyard was the setting for a fantastic start to the summer. The food was terrific, the auctions were grand fun and in spite of a brief wind and rain event everyone really enjoyed the afternoon.

The live auction was very entertaining thanks to our own PWV volunteer auctioneer Larry Stroud. He held our attention and really made the bidding fun and exciting. Live auction items ranged from stays in beautiful mountain cabins to a gorgeous roping saddle and gear. There was also a silent auction with over 45 items and services that saw a lot of action. Over 100 PWV members attended and took a great deal of pleasure in meeting new members and getting reacquainted with members not seen in a while.

The PWV Endowment Committee thanks all of you who joined us for the afternoon and to those who participated in the auctions or made donations on the money tree. \$7,300 was raised pushing the endowment fund past the half way mark in reaching the initial goal for the endowment of \$50,000. The PWV Endowment is instrumental in providing long-term financial support for PWV. Funds from the endowment cannot be used until we reach \$50,000. Once the initial endowment goal is reached we will be able to help fund special PWV projects. The

only amount from the endowment that can be allocated to projects is 60% of the interest earned so we will continue to add to the fund after the \$50,000 goal is reached in order to build our endowment and provide secure future funding for PWV. To learn more about the endowment go to the PWV website and click on the **get involved tab**.

Many thanks and Happy Patrolling to all.

## “Forever Wild” Film Event sponsored by PWV

Two showings of a film narrated by Robert Redford are being sponsored by Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Organization to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The film features prose of Terry Tempest Williams and highlights some of the heroes who have led local efforts to protect the wild places they love.

Dates and locations for showings are July 31 at the Fort Collins Downtown Library, 7:00 pm and August 14 at the Fort Collins Discovery Museum (Cash bar 6:30-7:30 pm, Film 7:30-8:30pm). These film events are free to the public.

## Affiliation Gatherings

We’re looking forward to monthly gatherings returning in September so be sure to check the website for date, location, time and topics.

We’re hopeful to reschedule **Erik Molvar**, Wildlife Biologist and Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director with WildEarth Guardians, a non-profit organization committed to protecting and restoring the wildlife, wild places and wild rivers of the American West. Erik will introduce us to Wyoming’s Red Desert by way of a photographic journey through this vast and beautiful landscape.

Other possible gatherings topics will be **Chuck Bell’s** photo tour that may include polar bear pictures from his planned September trip to the north shore of Alaska, and a return visit from **Mary Ann Bonnel**, Park Ranger with JeffCO Open Spaces with a topic yet to be determined.

As always, please let Bob Hansen know if you have a topic or speaker that you think would be of interest to these gatherings, bhansen@fwi.com.