



## PWV's Past Chair Overview of 2018

**Randy Ratliff**

**PWV Recent Past Chair 2017 - 2018**



It has been my great honor and privilege to serve as the Board Chair for this outstanding organization during the past year. During my tenure as Chair:

- PWV provided a total of 25,961 volunteer hours valued at \$640,977.
- Another highly rated Spring Training was conducted, in spite of the rain and cold.
- 300+ members submitted their Volunteer Agreements in 2018.
- Numerous PWV members attended the the October National Wilderness Workshop held in Gunnison.
- Planning is in process for a Rocky Mountain Wilderness Volunteer Workshop in 2019 co- hosted by PWV and the Friends of Wilderness.

Our members have always provided outstanding service in conducting patrols and educating the public and 2018 was no exception. In addition to performing our standard patrolling duties, our members:

- Provided needed assistance to a family lost & lacking food and water on Kreuzer/Mt. McConnel. Our Rangers who assisted this family were described by the family as “our angels ....as they helped us find the shorter trail out, gave us water and snacks, along with encouragement to continue on.”
- Assisted with the rescue of rafters stuck in swift current under a bridge on the Poudre River.

These are just two of many examples of how PWV volunteers have significantly impacted the lives and welfare of our Canyon Lakes Ranger District trail users.

*Read more: [PWV's Most Recent Past Chair Looking Back At 2018](#) or visit: [www.pwv.org](http://www.pwv.org)*

*“Our members have always provided outstanding service in conducting patrols and educating the public and 2018 was no exception.”*

## PWV's New Chair Looking Ahead to 2019

**Tom Adams**

**PWV Chair 2018 - 2019**



It is my distinct privilege to have been elected Chair of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers' Board of Directors for the 2018-19 season. I joined PWV in 2012 and have been very active in what I, and many others, consider to be the finest wilderness stewardship group in the nation. I especially enjoy working with enthusiastic new members. I have been an animal group leader (AGL) for five years and a mentor for six. AGLs lead a group of new members through the weekend of Spring Training in the mountains. Mentors take new members on their first couple of patrols to reinforce what they learned in Spring Training.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Board of Directors

Tom Adams, *Chair*  
Randy Ratliff,  
*Most Recent Past Chair 2017-18*  
Elaine Green, *Chair-Elect*  
Sandy Sticken, *Treasurer*  
Janet Caille, *Secretary*  
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Katina Mallon  
Jack Morgan  
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Mike Shearer  
Celia Walker  
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Kevin Cannon, *USFS Liaison*

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Caitlin Mohr, *Designer*

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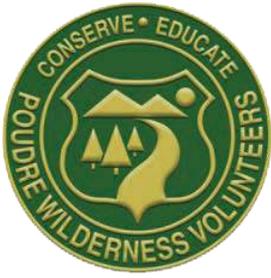
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PWV Board of Directors 2018 - 2019

*"I joined PWV in 2012 and have been very active in what I, and many others, consider to be the finest wilderness stewardship group in the nation."*



## 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.

### Impact in 2018:

**25,961 hours of service**

-

**Valued at \$640,977 to the US Forest Service**

-

**1,983**

Trees cleared from trails

-

**22**

Weed Patrols

-

**10**

LNT Training Patrols

-

**PWV is well respected in this area, throughout Colorado, the western US and indeed the country.**

*2018 statistics available in early 2019*

*(continued from page 1)*

I serve on the Strategic Planning and ad hoc Stock committees, and have attended the meetings of many other committees within the organization.

The success of PWV is attributed to the dedication of our volunteers who hike and ride with a purpose. Our accomplishments of previous years have been astonishing. Without our efforts, the trails in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District would be a

trash-laden maze of fallen trees, noxious weeds, illegal campsites and fire rings, uneducated hikers, backpackers, trail riders and campers.

In addition to being stewards of our wildlands, we are making great strides in becoming a social as well as a service organization. Consult the PWV calendar and check your emails to be informed of all upcoming events. PWV will co-sponsor a Wilderness Volunteer Workshop for Rocky Mountain stewardship groups April 11-12, 2019.

We will be increasing our focus on retaining our current membership as well as recruiting dedicated new members, with an emphasis on those who patrol on horseback, as they have a unique impact on our forest visitors. We are also working on a strategic plan to guide PWV into the future.

A special thank you to all our Board and Advisory Board members and the many committees that make our organization function. We should all take pride in our many accomplishments and commit to continuing our service to the Canyon Lakes Ranger District.

### PWV Celebrates 23 Years at 2018 MEMBERS' ANNUAL YEAR END EVENT

The 2018 PWV Annual Meeting was held at the Drake Center. PWV members have been steadfast in providing outstanding service in conducting patrols and



*"... when I was given the chance to be a PWV board member I was grateful to have the opportunity to learn, grow and participate."*

educating the public and 2018 was no exception. This past year, PWV provided 25,961 hours of service valued at \$640,977 to the US Forest Service.

PWV revitalized a lot this year: the Bylaws were updated, an ad hoc stock committee was formed, the weed management program was revised, the 2015 Strategic Plan is being updated, the Training Manual was updated and the Trail Guide Book was updated, printed and available for sale. The Guide is available at the USFS and at various retail outlets throughout Larimer County.

PWV has kept our members engaged by offering our popular Affiliation Gatherings and we also had several social summer events that were well attended. We

recruited 40 new patrolling and 4 non-patrolling members.

We reached out by hosting other friends organizations at Spring Training. We presented at the Wilderness Volunteer Workshop in Denver and also at the USFS Wilderness Managers' Winter Meeting.

We have reinforced First Aid and CPR certification and also offer a Wilderness First Aid program. And we expanded the weed management program, and had training programs in Geology, Mushrooms, Map & Compass, Leave No Trace, GPS Navigation, and on and on.

We continued our core patrolling activities and in addition, PWV offers a wide range of other programs and activities including Kids In Nature, that introduces children to the wonders of the national forest. Camaraderie is always present on Adopt-A-Highway clean ups and one lucky participant wins a prize for the most interesting item retrieved. Weed patrols are filled with discovery education and fun.

We completed 22 weed patrols and removed almost 2000 trees from trails (1,983 in 2018). Almost all of the trails in Rawah have been cleared of downfall, the first time in many years.

Additionally, members were recognized for their service and contributions at the 2018 Year End Event. Service Awards were presented to members with 5, 10, 15 or more years of service and 30, 60, 90, 120 or more patrol days were recognized. Others receiving awards for having the most contacts during the year were Madeleine Lecocq (727), Janet Caille (435), Jeanne Corbin (426). Most trees removed: Mike Shearer (339), Steve Musial (214), Joan Kauth (144). Most fire-ring work: Mike Shearer (37), Elliot Cooper (17). Most stock patrol days: Lynn Walter (15), Jeanne Fitzgerald (10), Mari Murphy (9). Most Wilderness patrol days: Mike Shearer (27), Mike Corbin (20), Jeanne Corbin (19). Most trail work days: Joan Kauth (58), Mike Corbin (35), Fred Sprague (26). Most distinct trails patrolled: Joan Kauth (33), Mike Corbin (30), Mike Shearer (25),

Jeanne Corbin (25). Most hours, non-patrolling members: Renee Skiba (335), Sarah Johnson (28), Geri Braden (17). Most non-trail hours, OVER 500: Margaret Shaklee, Mike Corbin, Joan Kauth. OVER 300: Jeanne Corbin, Celia Walker, Janet Caille, Randy Ratliff, Renee Skiba, Jim Shaklee.

PWV is well respected in this area, throughout Colorado, the western US and indeed the country. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

## Getting to Know our Newly Elected Board Members

PWV continues to be gifted with a membership who want to contribute their time to the Mission of PWV and share their many talents. We don't always get a chance to meet one another face to face, so these new members of the PWV Board have elected to share some of their history with all of us.

### Bob Hansen



I'm a military brat and have been around. I distinctly remember my first camping experience in Massachusetts. It's not what you would ever imagine. I was in cub

scouts and they had a camp right next to the flight line. Well, boys will be boys and a group of us crawled under the fence and went onto the flight line. It was great watching the planes come in for a short while until a couple of trucks came screaming toward us, they were MPs and had K9 dogs. Luckily for us there was a huge wood pile a short distance from us which we got to and dug our way in while the K9s were actively trying to get at us, or so we thought. That was scary but not as bad as what happened when our scoutmaster and parents got hold of us.

Moving to Colorado in '65 I joined the scouts again and that started my longing

and love for being outside and what it has to offer people. I loved it up there and still do, even more so now. I worked at Stubb Creek in '70s and got a real good feel for that area. Life took over with me visiting many wildernesses in Colorado. In '99 I joined PWV as a way to repay all the enjoyment and peace that I have found being in the mountains. This will be the third time that I have been a board member. For a number of years, when we were smaller, I did the scheduling by hand but now that process is pretty much automated thanks to Joan Kauth and Fred Sprague. I have also run the Affiliation Meetings for a number of years.

The people in this organization are simply fantastic and what we do is needed. Is there a better way to give back then doing what you love in an organization that is doing what you believe in? I don't think so and that's why I wanted to serve again.

### Katina Mallon



I grew up obsessed with horses, and spent every bit of time I could carve out with them over the years. My riding style changed from competitive and more intense to just enjoying my horse and the great outdoor long ago. I moved to Laporte in 2013 and started the process of learning about all the beautiful wilderness areas available and getting my horse ready to go

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on these adventures. I originally found PWV because I was looking for riding companions with my interest in getting out on the trails! I just finished my second patrolling season and it has been great to meet so many wonderful people through this organization and help protect and maintain the areas we visit.

I have been an RN in Women's Health for 22 years. One of the things I learned along the way, whether in healthcare or other organizations is to really know what is going on and understand how things work, you need to attend the meetings and engage with others to make things happen! Therefore when I was given the chance to be a PWV board member I was grateful to have the opportunity to learn, grow and participate.

### Mike Shearer



Although born a Hoosier, I have lived in Colorado for 37 years, and my wife Laurie and our children are all "locals". I taught science in the Thompson School

District in Loveland for most of thirty years, retiring in 2014 with Laurie to begin traveling and playing at will. The science classes I taught ranged from Physics to Biology, but the last handful of years were Earth and Environmental Science classes. We have lived in the same house for 31 years in south Loveland, so I either have a fear of change or faithfulness to the location. My daughters both live in Fort Collins while my son has migrated to Albuquerque to continue his career.

During my time in Colorado I have made sure to enjoy some of the opportunities that are available in this state. I downhill skied some, but that was not a great fit for me. Cross country skiing provided a better chance to find the quiet of the back country so I occasionally participated in that activity for many years. (While teaching I also coached high school wrestling, so free

time in the winter was limited.) Every summer I would take one or two short backpacking trips, and biking around the trails of the Front Range has always been appealing to me. Our family also traveled extensively in a pop-up camper every summer. We traveled coast to coast and from Canada to south Texas, shoulder to shoulder, visiting state and national parks everywhere we went. Despite the inevitable conflict our kids look back on those times as some of the best adventures they can remember. I do too.... mostly.

Since retiring I have had the good fortune to travel much further, but every summer my primary activity is volunteering with PWV. The majority of my patrols are completed by backpacking because I love the opportunity to get out a bit further and enjoy having the evening time for fishing the high lakes. I can convince myself that I am a good fisherman there, catching and releasing lots of fish, but that illusion shatters when I fish again on the front range.

I volunteered for the PWV Board because I value the work that we all do and feel that I can bring some ideas that are unique to the backpackers' perspective. It has been my good fortune to learn to reduce my backpack weight by Karl Ritters, to clear acres of big trees by Steve Musial, and to never underestimate anyone by every PWV member with whom I have hiked. I look forward to continuing the fun work for many years to come.

### Sandy Sticken



I grew up in Texas all my life, other than a brief stint in Maine. In 2007 a friend asked if I wanted to go camping with her at a Texas state park. Since it was November I agreed

to go, Texas is not a place one camps out between June and September. I developed an interest in camping, backpacking and hiking after that weekend. In September 2010 my husband was offered a position in

Fort Collins so we happily moved to Colorado.

In 2011 while returning from a backpacking outing in RMNP we encountered a PWV trail crew working on North Fork Trail. We chatted with a member for a few minutes and learned a bit about what PWV did. In 2012 we joined PWV so we could learn about trails in the area and give something back to our adopted state. We had an interesting first year, at Spring Training we had a cold wet day which left the brave souls who camped out Saturday night with iced tents and our first mentor hike was the weekend the High Park Fire broke out. I began wondering what we had gotten into!

In early 2013 I responded to an email regarding a need for a bookkeeper. I casually responded that if no one else applied I did have some ancient experience as a backup bookkeeper. Be careful when replying to those blast emails! I did the bookkeeping for about two and a half years, took a year's break and came back to in 2016.

In addition to doing PWV's bookkeeping I have worked a couple of trail days and in summer of 2017 volunteered as a host at Arrowhead Lodge.

With some coaching from the former treasurer, I agreed to accept the board position, I'm again wondering what I have gotten into!

## Leave No Trace: Looking Back and Looking Forward

In 2018, the PWV Leave No Trace (LNT) program conducted 10 LNT training patrols and provided LNT training at Spring Training. In addition, LNT Committee member (and new chair) Lucretia Krause completed the five day LNT Master Educator course. Congratulations Lucretia!

For 2019, we'll be exploring the possibility of offering LNT training patrols as one of the four post-mentor patrols for new members. In addition, we'll offer two 2-day LNT trainer courses, one as a backpacking trip, one as a dispersed car

camping trip. Look for an email with details in early 2019!

## PWV Stock: We all know about the Leave No Trace Principles, right?

There's an outfitter who left a filthy campsite in the Rawahs for some time. Our trail crew was appalled at seeing this and an email was sent to our PWV stock volunteers to see what could be done to help rectify this situation. Several individuals responded, but timing didn't work out for everyone to help. Lynn Walter was able to help clean up this campsite which is located off the McIntyre Creek trail.

Lynn made two trips, August 10 & August 29, 2018. On the first trip, she spent over ten hours riding and hiking, on August 29, Lynn spent about nine hours riding and hiking. Lynn didn't have a pack horse, so rode into the campsite where she tied bags of trash as well as hauled out a toilet seat. She then hiked over eight miles out leading her horse. These times don't include drive time.

Mari Murphy accompanied Lynn to help dismantle this campsite on August 29, 2018. Unfortunately, after several miles, Mari's horse became lame so she had to hike, leading her horse back to the Link/McIntyre trailhead.

Lynn continued up the trail to continue dismantling the outfitter's campsite. Joan Kauth was able to gather trash at this site when on a trail maintenance patrol leaving the trash bundled up in a tarp and secured to be hauled out. Lynn dismantled a hitching post and ended up hauling out 43 pounds of trash on her steady steed. Again, all this trash and debris was secured to her saddle.

Much credit to Lynn, Mari, their horses and Joan Kauth. It takes a special horse to not balk at hauling all this garbage!

Packing clinics are being planned in the next few months. These clinics will be led by some of our experienced PWV volunteers including some founders of

PWV, all but one of our founding members are riders.

## PWV Trail Crew

Thanks to all PWV members who helped clear trees off our trails this year! Primarily we rely on individual members who carry small saws and remove trees while on regular trail patrols. As a backup to this, PWV trail crew sends out teams with two-person crosscut saws for clearing larger and more difficult trees. Use of a saw longer than 21" requires the participation of a USFS-certified sawyer, and PWV has fourteen active members with this certification.

This year nearly one thousand trees were cleared on regular Trail Patrols over 145 days and involving 156 different PWV members. Nine hundred additional trees were cleared on 54 Trail Maintenance patrol days that involved 30 PWV members. Trail crew effort focused mostly on a long backpacking/car camping weekend in June during which we cleared a number of Pingree Park area trails, and two Rawah backpack trips in July (5 days) and August (6 days).

Due to this extraordinary effort and the help of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy crew, (who themselves cleared more than 400 trees), we ended the season with most of the 57 trails we patrol clear of down trees. Thanks!

For those of you who love to cut trees and those who just want to give it a try, we are always looking for people to join the effort. If you would like to be added to the trail crew email list for 2019, send an email message to Joan Kauth (get my address via the [clrdvol.org/groups](http://clrdvol.org/groups) website). The Forest Service and PWV trail crew provide training and equipment. Get involved! We need you!

*"I want to live here."  
-kid on Kids in Nature Hike 2018.*

## PWV Weed Management

The 2018 PWV Weed Management program may have set a new record for the number of individual PWV members participating in Weed Pulls. During the season, from June through September of 2018, PWV conducted twenty-two Weed Pulls, and a total of twenty-three individuals participated. Several of our members participating were on their first Weed Pull, learning how to identify noxious weeds, and then remove them. Many of these first-time weed pullers said that they actually enjoyed the experience and would be back for more next year.

It's important to know that we are making a difference in our natural environment, and it's gratifying to return to sites of previous Weed Pulls and be able to see a reduction from year-to-year in the number of noxious weeds in these areas. We are concentrating our efforts on only a few of the areas within the Canyon Lakes Ranger District where noxious weeds are known to exist and on only a few of those weeds. We would like to see as many members of PWV as possible be able to identify the few weeds that we are dealing with and be able to report an estimate of the number of weeds and their location by GPS coordinates. This would enable us to develop a map of identified infestations and develop a plan for dealing with them. Participating in a few Weed Pulls is the best way to really get to know these noxious weeds.



## PWV Treasurer's Report for 2018

PWV continues to enjoy a terrific level of financial support from PWV members and external groups in 2018. Our member giving is a very big part of PWV's ability to have matched a National Forest Foundation \$8,900 grant for Trail Restoration this year. The level of member donations has increased compared to this time last year. Since our members typically focus upon our year-end campaign in late November through December, keep in mind "Colorado Gives Day" (December 4, 2018)!! PWV gifts on that particular day qualify for limited "matching" by ColoradoGives.org with their \$1 million incentive fund.

Our corporate, governmental, and non-profit partners continued with generous gifts and grants. We started off 2018 with a very chilly "Catch Me If You Can" fundraiser. A hardy group of PWV volunteers assisted with this 5K/10K race, resulting in PWV receiving \$2K from Odell's and "Green Events". Very notably, we received a generous \$9,503 grant for use by our Photo/Video Committee to acquire cameras & equipment. With this grant the committee put in hundreds of hours creating three PWV outreach/training videos. These talented PWV members created high-end professional products our organization will be able to use for years to come. "Word" must be getting out about PWV as we have recently received a \$1,000 donation from a California wilderness foundation.

As one of our Fund Development Committee members likes to describe it, the donations we received from PWV members' use of King Sooper's cards are "free money"! So far this year we've received about \$2K strictly through the use of members and member friends use of these cards. Please keep recharging those cards during the holiday season!!

The Endowment Fund is healthy thanks to a strong fund performance managed by the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. The fund balance has grown to

about \$75K, with earnings now available for distribution. No specific "endowment fund" fundraiser is planned in 2019 but remember as part of your year-end giving, a designation can be made to the endowment fund to assist the fund in its growth and available future grants. Absent unforeseen circumstances, the Fund Development Committee will be awarding the inaugural endowment grant in 2019.

The bookkeeper position demands many, many hours to maintain PWV's QuickBooks ledgers, pay bills, and attend to mail. Sandy Stickin has devoted many hours to attend to PWV's ongoing financial needs, even while she and Kirk conducted a 2-month Canadian tour this past year. As of October 2018, Sandy has stepped up her game, volunteering for a 3-year stint as PWV Treasurer! After she and I complete a transition period during the next few months, we will be looking for a few folks interested in assisting with the various financial pieces of PWV (regulatory reports; sales tax licenses; bookkeeping). The success PWV has experienced in its growth has resulted in more complexity and time to keep everything on track. If you think you have an interest, contact Sandy or me to talk about the possibilities.

Anyone having questions regarding our finances are more than welcome to contact me!

Bob Meyer, Past-PWV Treasurer,  
[bmeyer@pwv.org](mailto:bmeyer@pwv.org)

## PWV Restoration Program

The PWV Restoration program had an active year in 2018. We worked on three Forest Service trails and started a new project helping to restore the Arrowhead Visitor Center. Our trail work activities included four public work days, two days with the employees of the Neenan Company and twelve days with high school trail crews – one crew from the Rocky Mountain Conservancy and one from Larimer County. Finally, we had one day with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy college-age trail crews.



Neenan Company Work Day



Rocky Mountain Conservancy High School Trail Crew

The Young Gulch trail is coming along and we hope to have it completed next summer. Most of the tread work is completed but there are still some difficult sections to finish. Also, we have the three bridges to build which will be a major task. We had sixteen work days on the trail this summer and built approximately 1.4 miles of new trail. Much of this new tread was built by our Larimer County trail crew which worked with us for eight days. Trying to keep up with eight high school kids on the trail was a real challenge for us older crew members and listening to their verbal interchanges made our heads spin. But they got a lot of work done and seemed to have fun doing it. In addition to the high school crew we had four public days, two days with the Neenan company and two days with just PWV members.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy provided us a high school trail crew for four work days on the Lion Gulch trail. PWV had rebuilt this trail following the 2013 floods but had not built one log stringer bridge over the first creek crossing. The Rocky Mountain Conservancy crew along with a number of our PWV folks built the bridge and also did one day of drainage work on the trail. The bridge looks great and

everyone had a great time doing it. Check it out next year when you patrol!

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy provides college-age trail crews to both the Park and the Forest each summer. In their last week of summer work, all their crews came to work with us for one day. This year they worked with us on the Bulwark Ridge trail. There was a large section of the trail that had been severely damaged by erosion and we built a 1600-foot new section of trail to replace the washed-out section. Working with a bunch of college-age folks building trail is a wonderful experience if it does not kill you. They get a lot of work done while having a lot of fun. Then at the end of the day they talk about what they are going to do that night, while us PWV'ers knew what we were going to do and it involved a recliner.

This year PWV accepted an additional task of helping to restore the Arrowhead Visitor Center. This year we stained the main building, repaired many of the window screens and started to do some maintenance on some of the cabins.

The year has been busy with a lot accomplished. The end of the Young Gulch project may be in sight, which will be welcomed, and the work on Arrowhead is a new challenge. In all we contributed 2500 hours of work, built a lot of trail, one nice

bridge and started restoration of Arrowhead Lodge.

## PWV Kids In Nature (KIN)

Ever wonder what the PWV Kids in Nature committee does? We partner with agencies or 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 also have a 'tool kit' of activities that we can use, including map and compass lessons and always one of three interactive, in-depth curricula: Aquatic Macroinvertebrates, Mammals in Our Mountains or We Need Trees.

We hike at the kid's pace, stopping to smell, touch and explore the wonders of nature that interest the kids. We also present interactive lessons in town with various agencies or groups. Feedback from one agency: "It was the best thing we did all summer; the kids are still talking about it."

Most of the kids we take on a trail have never been in the mountains or on a trail before and they are all excited to be in our beautiful wild lands!



*Kids in Nature in Action.*

Quotes from the kids on the hikes this year: I love climbing rocks by the waterfall. The forest is better than the city. I like this better than the other activities and want to come back again. Richard inspired me to be a ranger. I like the sound of the river. It's calming. It's relaxing. So many flowers! What was your favorite part of the day? "EVERYTHING! EVERYTHING! EVERYTHING!"

## PWV at the National Wilderness Workshop

Every autumn, wilderness stewards from all over the US gather to meet each other, trade ideas, learn how to do our job better, and set goals for the future – build a stronger and stronger wilderness community. The gathering is called The National Wilderness Workshop, and this year it was held here in Colorado, at Gunnison! (And what a drive it was, over Monarch Pass with a dusting of fresh snow on aspen at their prime!)

Six PWV's attended this year's Workshop: Janet Caille, Dave Cantrell, Jeff Dean, Elaine Green, Mark Snyder, and Celia Walker. Good thing there were so many of us, because with three main threads there

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was a lot to cover! Wilderness science (What are the effects of sound and light from “outside” on wilderness ecosystems?) and wilderness management (What will wilderness look like as climate change proceeds?) both held lots of interest. But the core theme carried the day: “INSPIRE and nurture life-long connections between people of diverse cultures and wilderness. Build respectful, long-term partnerships among wilderness managers, educators, Tribal leaders, cultural resource managers, and citizens from diverse traditions, to develop and implement programs and products that enhance connections to wilderness.”

The theme could have been all negative, and even heavy handed, and we did hear some tough questions:

- If your mother survived China’s Cultural Revolution, how does sleeping on the ground strike her?
- If your association to a lone tree is to lynching’s, are you comfortable going deeper into the wild?
- If a sign at the trailhead seems to say “You are only welcome here if you know how to not do any of these things,” do you turn around?

But the overall message and effect was positive. We heard from groups and individuals who have successfully increased diversity – not just “recruiting for diversity” but doing the more difficult work of creating environments that allow success for those who are taking their first steps into the Wild.

The sessions had real impact, deep impact, and there will be many conversations about how we can all build on the good start. The PWV-Front Range conversation has already started: How can we best be part of a nationwide community that values, protects, and cares for wild areas? Right here, does PWV membership represent our full community? Can we build alliances here that will increase our great-grandchildren’s ability to take care of our wildernesses?

Next year’s National Wilderness Workshop will be next October in Bend,

Oregon, just a bit over 1,000 miles through some of the West’s most spectacular country. Maybe we should organize a caravan of PWVs!

## PWV Video Project

Initial PWV videos produced and submitted to National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance as part of grant proposal commitment to NWSA are now available. To view videos click on titles or go to the PWV homepage:

- [Introduction to PWV](#)
- [Kids in Nature](#)
- [Trail Crew](#)
- [Introduction to Weeds](#)

Completing videos appears to be a never ending process. As the Team refines the videos, the above links will be updated.

It was like Christmas in May. Thanks to an \$9,500 grant from NWSA we had boxes to open, cameras to charge up and microphones to plug in. Members of the Photo Video Committee helped launch the effort to create videos at a box opening party for video equipment ordered for the grant.

We didn’t know at that time that the party’s euphoria would transform itself into frustration and criticism by ourselves and others as we learned what it takes to make good videos.

We learned by making mistakes. Like the time we traveled to Jack’s Gulch only to discover that our memory cards were not in the cameras or discovering that a sound track was not recorded because a switch was in the wrong position on the camera.

Frustration was ever-present during the editing process when our computers shut down for no apparent reason, or the program froze up at a critical editing point. We are still learning.

We enjoyed the interaction with volunteers and the public as we recruited them along a trail for an interview. We look forward to creating more videos and hope we can meet you on the trail.

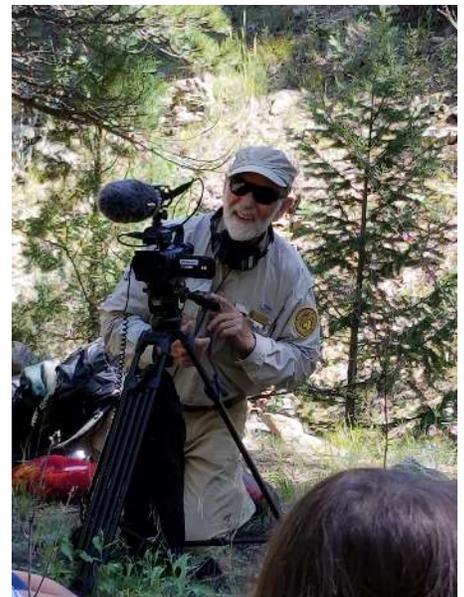
If you are interested in becoming involved with the Photo Video Committee let us know.

- Peter Skiba, Photo/Video Committee Chair

*“INSPIRE and nurture life-long connections between people of diverse cultures and wilderness.”*



Photo/Video Team at the PWV October 2018 Year End Event.



Peter Skiba filming PWV members

*“We heard from groups and individuals who have successfully increased diversity – not just “recruiting for diversity” but doing the more difficult work of creating environments that allow success for those who are taking their first steps into the Wild.”*



Filming Joan Kauth removing a tree on the trail.

## PWV Affiliation Meetings January - April 2019

### **Monday, 14 January: How to get to Gannett Peak Cirque, the heavy way**

Come, listen and learn how to train and the rigors involved in preparing a climb to the highest peak in Wyoming, Gannett Peak. Peter did a 14 day backpacking trip into the Wind River Range using ultra heavy technology, enduring a 20 mile horseback ride to get heavy packs closer to the Gannett Peak Cirque. Gannett Peak is a glaciated peak and requires use of snow climbing tools to safely summit.

### **Monday, 11 February: Trekking and hiking in Nepal with Karma Sherpa**

Trekking and hiking in Nepal is a bucket list location for any hiking enthusiast, and for good reason. Nepal is a land of towering mountains, endless trails, that makes perfect for exploring natural beauty and a cultural experience

unmatched. Join Karma Sherpa for a captivating talk about trekking in Nepal Himalaya Mountains.

### **Monday, 11 March: Let's visit Canada!**

For a wonderful time come and listen to the Sticken's and check out their photos about a number Canadian National Parks that they visited this year. They had a wonderful time and saw a good amount of wildlife.

### **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.

**Remember all meetings are held at the Collindale CB & Potts, 1441 E. Horsetooth Road and start at 6:30 pm.**

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



PWV recognizes the generosity of sponsors and contributors.

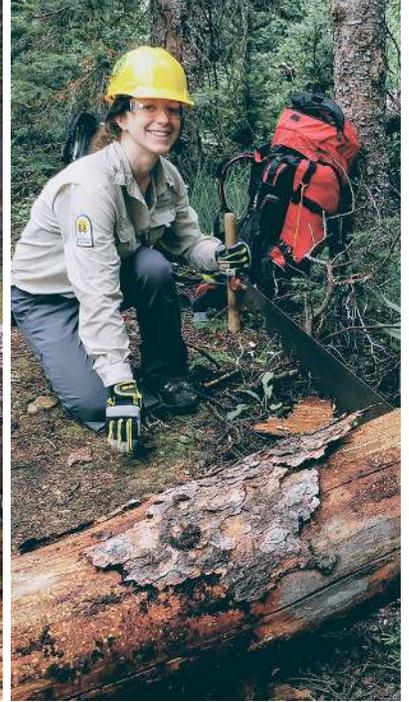
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Fort Collins, CO

Special thanks to:

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

*PWV in the Rawah Wilderness*





## 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.pwv.org/donate](http://www.pwv.org/donate)

# Join Us!

