

POUDRE TRAILS

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

<http://www.fortnet.org/pwv>

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FROM THE CHAIR

Chuck Bell

A Wonderful First Two Years

This is the final column from the chair I'll write for *Poudre Trails*. My two year term is up at the end of this year. I said from the very outset that I would take the top position in our new organization for only two years. I felt that if Poudre Wilderness Volunteers was to be truly viable, it could not be sustained by one or a few people. Now is the time for change.

I am very proud of having founded Poudre Wilderness Volunteers and am extremely gratified by what we have accomplished in just two years. While I have put a lot of personal time and energy into getting us up and running and setting up our institutional framework, this is not my organization. It is yours.

We now have scores of you very actively involved in running the organization, as well as out hiking and riding the trails. This is the way it should be. In just two years we have developed from a concept into a large community organization – by, of and for the

A Good Time Was Had By All

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers celebrated the end of a second successful season with a sun-kissed picnic at Sylvan Dale Ranch. We are indebted to Kirsten Maddux, John Young and Ken Owen for organizing and staging the event. There was plenty of food and drink, and Chuck Bell handed out certificates of merit to members who excelled in pursuit of the organization's goals.

Sylvan Dale granted us use of their beautiful ranch in return for 90 minutes of clearing debris from wild areas of the ranch and rocks from the hiking trails.

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people of Northern Colorado and the many visitors who come here over the summer. I am really thrilled to see the dedication among so many of you to our organization and its goals.

I am also thrilled that we are beginning to make a difference in the wilderness. We've all noted improvement in some of the most popular hiking areas – they are cleaner, and more people we encounter are aware of the need to do things right. After only two years, our efforts are beginning to produce results.

With these solid beginnings, we are now firmly established. To become a mature organization the mantle of leadership needs to be passed. New leadership will be chosen at our January board meeting from a group of highly qualified volunteers.

As our new leaders take charge, they will need lots of support and help. I call on all volunteers to get even more involved in whatever way you can

to help the new leadership improve and expand our organization.

I intend to stay very active. I will remain on the board, assume some other committee functions, and spend as much time as I can next summer on the trail.

And I urge everyone to work together in this time of transition to assure that our organization becomes even more effective in the future in keeping our wilderness areas pristine.



**Joy is a light that fills
you with hope and faith
and love.**

Adela Rogers St Johns

**Here's wishing you and
yours a most joyous
holiday season!**

Think of all the beauty left around you and be happy.

Anne Frank



Off-Season Classes Resume

Our off-season wilderness education classes resume Saturday, January 17, with a session on tree and shrub identification. The class will be held in room 228 of the CSU Lory Student Center from 8:30 - 11:30am. Tom Riley of the Forest Service will be our instructor.

The series of classes, set-up Dan Wethington, opened with an introduction to llamas. The Buckhorn Llama Co. of Masonville hosted the class.

Horse Patrol Update

— Ken Owen

An important part of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers mission is to patrol trails listed as "horse pack". The aspect of horse operations of concern to the Board of Directors is safety. It is very important that while serving the public through conservation and education in the wilderness areas that we do everything possible to prevent injuries to riders, their animals and the public.

This year Jacques Rieux will

head the committee to screen, education and train riders and their horses. Jacques came to the PWV with about 30 years experience in the Colorado backcountry and with horses. He has always practice a minimum impact/leave no trace philosophy whether on foot or horse back and feels that the horse patrol has some valuable and unique aspects to add to the effectiveness of the organization. Horses and riders can cover trails quicker, carry more gear and relate better to recreationists with horses. Jacques is quick to point out however, there are several inherent dangers associated with horses.

Horses are big and powerful. When not properly trained, they spook easily in an environment they haven't been exposed to before. The horse and rider need to be physically and mentally fit to safely patrol the backcountry. They must be helpful to the public and the USFS rather than becoming the ones that need help.

The PWV are now actively seeking horses and riders to patrol and to train others to do the same. Jacques would like to hear from anyone with helpful ideas, time and experience to train, or from new or existing volunteers who would like to participate in the horse program. He would especially like to hear from anyone experienced in a structured training program for horse operations of our sort.

Jacques can be reached at 970-490-2012. You can also contact committee members Vita Young at 970.221-7174 or Amy Williams at 970-881-2147.

Poudre Trails is a bi-monthly 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 back-country areas. Mail should be sent to P.O. Box 271921, Fort Collins, CO 80527. Phone: (970) 498-2776



Chair Chuck Bell
Co-Chair Art Bunn
Secretary Martha Moran

Newsletter committee:

Editorial Coordinator Ray Sons
Art Director Becky Valentinelli
Reporters Glenn French
Jill Reynolds
Ken Owen

Happy Trails from Ray and Becky

As our two year terms on the PWV board come to a close, we are truly proud of all that this organization has accomplished. It has been such a pleasure working with everyone involved with the Poudre Wilderness and especially the volunteers who have helped so wonderfully with the newsletter.

Starting with the next issue of **POUDRE**

TRAILS, Chuck Bell will be our new editor.

Anyone interested in taking over as Art Director can contact Becky Valentinelli at 482-3561 for more information.

We extend our best wishes to the new board members and to all the volunteers who make this organization truly special.

TiD BiTs

Local Breweries Support PWV

Good news on the fund-raising front! PWV has received two major contributions in the last few months. Thanks to Wayne Hockley, Anheiser Bush made a generous donation of 300.

And through the efforts of Mike Stajduhar and Kirsten Maddux, we received a wonderful contribution of \$1,000 from The New Belgium Brewing Company of Fort Collins. Mason Lathrop, chair of New Belgium's Philanthropy committee, felt the PWV was a very worthy volunteer organization that they wanted to support.

For information on fund raising contact Frank Lilley at 472-1450 or Chuck Bell at 498-8580.

For Your Consideration

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) asked the PWV for volunteer help at the Corral Creek Ranger Station located on Long Draw Road near Cameron Pass.

Since our charter is clear in assisting the U.S. Forest Service, the Board of Directors had to decline. A similar request received earlier from Lory State Park was declined for the same reason.

However, any PWV member may choose to contact RMNP or Lory State Park and offer assistance outside of official PWV involvement.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Marilyn Peterson of Greeley. Our condolences to her husband Richard, a charter member of PWV.

Annual Recruitment Underway

— Ray Sons

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers has a greater need than ever for new members willing to join us in protecting our precious wild areas. Chairman Chuck Bell has set a goal of 150 members, up from 116 who served the season just passed. The expansion will permit a more thorough job of covering the busiest trails in the Estes-Poudre and Redfeather ranger districts of the Roosevelt National Forest.

The need is evident as population booms along the Front Range and recreationists flock to the mountains. PWV members contacted 7,000 persons on the trails this year, up from 5,657 in 1996. We put in more than 700 staff days, patrolling on foot and horseback, in 1997! And still there were some trails that we couldn't cover adequately.

Members are urged to encourage friends to apply, as such contacts have been our principal source of enlistees in the past. We need men and women willing to backpack, day-hike or serve our horse patrol. Anyone interested in joining should phone 970-498-2776.

More members mean more equipment so Bell has set fund-raising targets of \$5,000. to buy additional radios and uniform rain jackets.

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The "work" turned out to be little more than a pleasant walk.

Unfortunately, Ellen Vollmer Hodges, district ranger for the Estes-Poudre and Redfeather districts, and Martha Moran, our secretary and liaison with the Forest Service, were out of town. But they sent profuse thanks on behalf of the USFS. "You are all so important to our wilderness program, and your skill, professionalism and genuine caring are appreciated more than you know" said Ellen. Martha added "I really enjoyed every one of your ranger reports, visits in the office, phone conversations, stories and insights to help the wild lands become better for generations to

come. I hope you all felt it was an enriching experience. The Forest Service believes this organization is of utmost value to our goals, mission and principles: caring for the land and serving the people."

"You are all so important to our wilderness program, and your skill, professionalism and genuine caring are appreciated more than you know"

New Board Members Announced

As we approach the end of the terms of charter members instrumental in the organization's founding two years ago, we welcome three new members, Jacques Rieux, Amy Williams and Bill Dold.

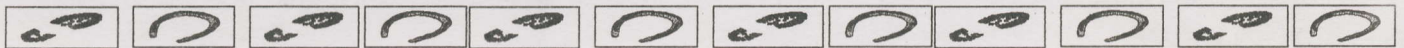
Since moving from the East Coast in 1966, Jacques spent a couple of years in Laramie, ranched in the Yampa area and taught at CSU's English department for 12 years. Jacques operated the Stone Lion Bookstore in Fort Collins for 14 years. Selling the bookstore has given him time for hiking and horseback riding, and tending to various business interests and investments from his LaPorte home.

Amy and her husband, Todd (also a PWV) moved here from Wisconsin two years ago. They jumped at the opportunity to satisfy their love of the outdoors and animals by becoming caretakers of the 100-year-old Lazy D Ranch on the Pingree Park Rd. Amy had been a marketing specialist for a hospital in Madison. While in Wisconsin her

hobby was training horses and judging horse competitions. With this background it was natural for Amy to join the PWV horse troop. Amy has also been active in the fund-raising activities of the organization.

Bill, who lives outside of Berthoud, recently retired from a 23-year chiropractic practice in Longmont. He remains active in the field as a consultant for the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners and for the State of Colorado in its licensing of chiropractors. But retirement also gives Bill time to indulge passions that he's had since boyhood when he dreamed of being a forest ranger or a veterinarian. Bill joined the PWV to be a volunteer ranger and he's currently taking a course in veterinary research technology at Front Range Community College.

All PWV directors shoulder specific leadership roles within the organization. Bill has volunteered to be our first community education coordinator, handling the requests we receive for wilder-ness education outreach. Jacques and Amy will pick-up the baton passed by Z Steinhart. At its last meeting, the board expressed its appreciation of Z's good service, his help in screening prospective volunteers and especially his leader-ship of the horse program when Chuck Peterson was sidelined by injuries.



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