



POUDRE TRAILS

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers ~ SUMMER 2015

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Notes from the Chair



So far this year seems to be going very well. The PWV **Recruitment and Outreach Committee** did a great job of recruiting an excellent group of new members. Thanks to all who were involved in the application review and interview process.

Spring Training Was an Outstanding Success

Of course great weather and wonderful food always help. New recruits reported that the weekend proved to be both FUN and educational. The Spring Training Co-Chairs **Nate Donovan** and **Lynnette Liley** and their entire Committee deserve a round of applause, as well as all returning members and our wilderness first aid expert, **Mark Rosoff**, who contributed to the success of the weekend. The new folks are now implementing skills learned, finishing up their mentor patrols and completing the six patrols to which they have committed.

Results are Coming In

The summer is going well and we have gotten a lot done but the season always goes quickly so we all need to get out on the trails. As of the first of July over three hundred fifty patrols have been completed — a great start to our patrolling season! I hope we all continue our trail activity and do a lot more patrolling

this summer. The snow has left the higher trails so we need to get up there to enjoy the wonder of the wilderness and see what is happening on those trails.

Trail Restoration - We've Been Busy!

PWV Trail Restoration is underway. Primary goals are to reopen North Fork Trail by Fall. We've had four public work days on North Fork, with six more planned. Current efforts are concentrating on the lower section of the trail from the Trailhead to **Cheley Camp**, creating new trail and building several major rock walls. Although this section is a bit challenging due to the difficult terrain, progress has been measurable. We appreciated the **Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps**, a group of high school age youths with a lot of energy, who worked with us two weeks this summer. They removed all brush from the trail corridor and assisted us in building tread.

We also scheduled a weekend in late July, on the Hewlett Gulch trail to build a crib wall to support a fifty foot long trail segment. Employees of **New Belgium Brewery** joined our efforts on this project. It was a new type of work for us, but the Forest Service supplied expertise and supervision to make sure things were done right. My personal thanks to all our crew leaders for assisting in the organization of all these project efforts.

Our public work days have also been productive with both our own PWV members and members of the general public coming out to help us with the project.

Anyone interested in getting involved can sign up for a work day by going to pww.org/restoration.

Michael Corbin, 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.

Spring Training 2015



New member training was held in May at the Ben Delatour Scout Camp near Red Feather Lakes. Forty-eight PWV applicants each successfully completed 12 hours of training.



Sunrise greets trainees, many of whom stayed in tents in their animal group camping areas. The weather was great...



Most of the time spent at new member training was outdoors, however, the dining hall was the perfect setting for discussing some of the technical aspects of patrolling Canyon Lakes Ranger District as PWV.

The Endowment Fund Continues to Grow

Chuck Bell had the vision ten years ago of starting a PWV Endowment Fund. The goal was to ensure funds would be available for future projects supporting the mission of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. The seed money for the PWV Endowment Fund came from a \$10,000 gift from Chuck and his wife Nancy. He put the wheels in motion and PWV members and friends, with their generous donations, have brought his dream to reality. It is very rewarding to see Chuck's vision come to fruition.

"Icing on the cake"

This past spring PWV signed an agreement with the **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado** to help manage and guide PWV in the development of its endowment fund. We look forward to the knowledge and continuity the Community Foundation brings to our organization.

More Fun in the Back Yard

It was another fun, very successful **BackYard Party** with ninety PWV members and friends enjoying a very beautiful afternoon together at **Larry and Vicki Stroud's** home. What a "Back Yard"! The setting was ideal, weather cooperated, the food was the best and the beer and wine added sparkle to the day.



The Endowment Fund grew by \$7,000 after more than 90 PWV and friends enjoyed the BackYard Party (BYP) that featured both a live and silent auction.

The event raised \$7,000, thanks to the incredible, donated auction items for both the Live and Silent Auctions. The bidding was particularly lively on the Steamboat Springs getaway and the Duck Decoy. Kudos to the BYP Committee on "making the party happen". We'd also like to thank **New Belgium Brewery, Snowbank Brewery, SuperMarket of Liquors, RC Events, Best Event Rental, Jax and Ranch-Way Feeds** for their continued support of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers.



Larry Stroud, auctioneer and BYP host, has assistants display items for bid.

The PWV Endowment Fund is now very close to our initial goal of \$50,000. Your financial support has made this possible. The Endowment Committee will continue its

efforts to increase the fund. We are currently seeking new members to the Endowment Committee. We welcome you to join us in strengthening our endowment and taking it to the next level. Our meetings will be posted on the PWV calendar if you are interested. For more information, please contact **Judy Christensen, Judy77777@hotmail.com**.

What's New With Kids In Nature This Year?

Kids in Nature is off to a great start this year, with more hikes scheduled than ever before! We are working with **Partners Mentoring Youth, Boys and Girls Club, Aztlan Northside Community Center and Grandparents Raising Grandkids**. We are also offering two hikes for PWV kids and grandkids. And we are doing two pilot hikes with pre-teens and young teens in addition to our usual elementary-age hikes.

We increased our outreach beyond the hikes with kid activities at the **NoCo Get Outdoors Day in City Park** on June 13th and also at the 50th Anniversary of **Lory State Park** celebration on July 11. Additionally we've developed a "**Hiking with Kids in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District**" brochure and web article which will be ready soon.

Please contact **Jeanne Corbin** for more information on Kids in Nature.



The next generation of PWV.

PWV Board Approves New Committee

In March of 2015, the Trail Patrolling Committee was formed, for the purpose of overseeing patrolling activities and working any issues regarding them. This committee is reviewing all patrol reports in an effort to improve their accuracy and usefulness and assure that issues are referred to the appropriate person. We are also promoting patrols on the high priority trails and on high-use days, such as weekends and holidays. For example, holiday weekends are best times to meet our USFS visitors!

Patrol Report Tips:

- Use the new “trail segments patrolled” text field to show which part(s) of the trail you patrolled. This helps trail crew, weed crew and future patrollers know what part of the trail the rest of your report refers to.
- Please report size, location and conditions of down trees in the searchable data fields under the “Maintenance Needs” tab when you file your report, so the Trail Crew can locate the data easily and can locate and remove the trees.

The members of the Trail Patrolling Committee are here to help you. Please contact **Jeanne Corbin** with any questions.

PWV Trail Crew Has Fun and Gets a Lot Accomplished in Rawah Wilderness

The Rawah Wilderness Area is a beautiful place anytime, but in early July when the snow melts off the trails, everything is lush and green, the wildflowers are incredible ... and there are hundreds of trees that have fallen over the trails during the winter. So if you enjoy climbing over, under or around downed trees, the Rawahs are a wonderful place to



Downed trees present major obstacles for backpackers and stock on wilderness trails. PWV Trail Crew members spent five days in the Rawah Wilderness clearing trails.



PWV Trail Crew members Gary Holcomb (left) and Mark Snyder (right) in front of Camp Lake.



Joan Kauth in yellow helmet and Jim Shaklee use a 2-person saw. Members are trained on proper and safe use of specialized tools before making the trek.



Jim Shaklee after the tree is cut. The trail is almost cleared...gravity and grunts will complete the task.



This is one of 362 trees removed from trails in the Rawah Wilderness area. Mark Snyder (blue helmet) watching Jamie McCue (left) and Jim Shaklee (right) using a 2-person saw.

backpack this time of year. But if you would rather just hike or ride the trails without the added challenge then the PWV trail crew has helped to make that happen for you.

In early July, PWV Trail Crew members conducted a five day backpack in the Rawah Wilderness clearing most of the trails of downed trees. That added up to twenty miles



Wil Biddle (red helmet) and Mark Snyder (blue helmet) using a 2-person saw and three wedges. Thirty miles of trail were cleared.



Trail Crew members relax at the camp located on the Rawah (N) Trail at 7-mile meadow, after a long day's work.

of backpacking and many more miles of hiking to accomplish. The crew consisted of **Wil Biddle, Michael Holland, Joan Kauth, Jamie McCue, Jim Shaklee, Mark Snyder, Tom Adams, Mike Corbin, Jeffrey Dean, Robert Blakely, Lori Wiles, Gary Halcomb, James Johnson, and Fred Sprague** with **Ed Brown** and **Lynn Walter** providing stock support to haul some of the camping necessities in the first day. Special appreciation goes to **Joan Kauth** who organized the trip since “Old” **Bob Manual** was getting around on only one leg.

Results of the five-day effort were amazing. Three hundred sixty-two trees were cut off thirty miles of trail. Some of these trees were very challenging; that means big and hard to cut. We're glad to report the crew got all the trees off without anyone getting hurt. They worked long days but slept well every night, with the exception of one, whose new air mattress died after the first night. All involved had fun and one of the team even found time to take a short swim in a creek. He claimed it was not planned but the rest of the crew thought he was just goofing off.

If this sounds like a good time to you, the crew will be going again next year and you're invited to join in. Let **Bob Manual** know you are interested and he will keep you informed of the plans.

Adopt-A-Highway - Another Way to Patrol

Eleven dedicated litter patrollers picked up nine bags of litter from PWV's four Adopt-A-Highway miles of Highway 14 in the scenic Upper Poudre Canyon. Miscellaneous items of much concern were empty liquor and beer containers, spent firework remains and many, many cigarette butts.



PWV litter patrollers picked up nine bags of trash along Highway 14 in Poudre Canyon. Four miles were adopted by PWV in 2006.

The patrol finished at the home of **Ken and Kristine Williams** for sandwiches and other tasty foods donated by participating volunteers. **Jim and Nancy Casadevall's grandson, Alexander**, won the prize for 'Best Concocted Story and Litter Find of the Day'. However, **Celia Walker** found a wallet that contained current documents and she travelled several contact leads to locate Tim-Of-The-Wallet, a former CSU student. Celia was finally able to meet Tim at a Starbucks in Fort Collins, to get the wallet back to him (for which he was very grateful) and didn't miss the opportunity to give him a PWV contact and recruitment card!

Thanks to **Ras Erdal, Casadevalls, Celia and Gerry Cashman** for driving the distance to the Williams' house and sharing vehicles with carpoolers; and to **Bob Hansen, Cindy Cashman and Dan O'Brien** for joining us.

The Colorado Department of Transportation is most appreciative of the PWV litter patrols done since 2006 by a total of 210 participating volunteers who have collected 236 bags of litter and other junk since that date.

Kristine Williams – AAH Chair

Ras Erdal – AAH Co-Chair

Look for this Pin at PWV Gatherings



You can now easily identify stock patrol members. The stock contingency makes up approximately 20% of PWV membership.

When a PWV horse rider or llama packer is encountered on the trail it is easy to conclude they are part of the PWV stock contingency. But, not so easy at a PWV social or supplementary training event.

In June, stock volunteers received a lapel/pocket pin to wear indicating they are a member of the PWV stock contingency. The pin is similar in design to the other PWV pins. Distinguishing differences are the addition of brown and black colors to the pin background and with the PWV logo center background. The feature that makes it easy to distinguish a member of the stock contingency is a horse at the top of the pin.

Trail Restoration

The PWV Trail Restoration projects are going well this year. We have made great progress on the **North Fork** trail and hope to have it all done by this fall. The Forest Service has asked us to do some work on the **Hewlett Gulch** trail and the **New Belgium Brewery** is interested in helping out. Our plan for July 25 and 26 is to work on the Hewlett Gulch trail.



Signing in and snacking at the Hewlett Gulch trail head before setting out.

The Hewlett project is mainly building a Crib Wall to support a 50 foot long trail segment. This is new work for us but the Forest Service representative will be there to make sure we are doing it right.

If you are interested in helping out on the final North Fork work please register at pwv.org/restoration.



Preparations to begin carrying in the timbers needed to build a crib wall.



Getting dirty is part of the job.



Volunteers from New Belgium Brewery arrive to lend a hand at Hewlett Gulch.

Check the website for information on Wild51

SAVE THE DATE for Annual Year End Event

October 25, 2015

is the date to celebrate another year, and also PWV's 20th Anniversary! We have something special planned so mark your calendars and watch for details in the weeks to come.