



# POUDRE TRAILS

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers ~ YEAR END 2014

## Board of Directors 2014-2015

MICHAEL CORBIN, *Chair*  
 ALAN C. MEYER, *Chair Elect*  
 JERRY HANLEY, *Most Recent Past Chair (2013-2014)*  
 Gerry Cashman  
 Judy Christensen  
 Richard Clopper  
 David Fanning  
 Judy Jacks  
 Bob Meyer  
 Wendy Newcastle  
 Meg Parmer  
 Daryl Smith  
 Mike Smith  
 Jennifer Watson  
 Kevin Cannon (*USFS Liaison*)

### Advisory Board

Fred Allen  
 Chuck Bell  
 Art Bunn  
 Dave Cantrell  
 Jan Creager  
 Sandy Erskine  
 Nancy Flippin  
 Bob Hansen  
 Frank Lilley  
 Bob Manuel  
 Jacques Rieux  
 Karl Ritters  
 Mike Shaddy  
 Jim Shaklee  
 Margaret Shaklee  
 Mark Snyder  
 Ken Thielen  
 Cheri VanAckern  
 Garin VanDeMark  
 George Wallace  
 Lori Wiles

### Newsletter Team:

Daryl Smith, editor,  
*newsletter@pwv.org*  
 Gail Blinde, design/production

## Looking Back at 2014



The 2014 year has come to an end and so has my term as PWV Board Chair. We've achieved many accomplishments and gained experiences along the way. In addition to our normal patrolling

and trail maintenance efforts, we expended many hours and resources to restoration of some of our most popular trails affected by the 2013 flooding in the Big Thompson area. Many thanks to **Mike Corbin**, **Mark Snyder**, **Fred Allen**, and their committee for organizing the many work day events that occurred during the spring/summer/fall and for the hours spent by not only PWV members, but other community organizations and public volunteers as well.

**PWV received recognition from the US Forest Service** as its Volunteer Organization of the Year for 2013, and also awarded us a Certificate of Appreciation for 2014. Job well done by everyone!!

**How the Hours and Numbers Counted UP:** we contributed 25,515 volunteer hours to the USFS, which equates to \$575,371 in value; 178 people completed 6 or more patrols; NO accidents; 702 trees were logged out.

**A highlight of the year** was to be part of a group of PWV members who participated in the 50th Wilderness Act conference in Albuquerque in October. Thanks to **Alan Meyer** for coordinating this effort. It became clear at the conference that PWV is well recognized nationally, and that many folks and other wilderness organizations would like to know more about what and how we do things.

**Those attending the Annual Year-End Event** at the Elks Club enjoyed excellent

food and camaraderie, as well as our keynote speaker, **Alan Arnette**, a local resident who shared his climbing experiences of scaling (amazingly in one year's time) the highest peak on each of the seven continents, with the last feat being K2 just this past summer. Alan's energies also are spent in his activities as an Alzheimer's advocate.

**Special recognition** was given to the following members for their outstanding service to PWV during the past year: **Mike Corbin**, **Fred Allen**, **Joan Kauth**, **Jeanne Corbin**, and **Margaret Shaklee**.

**Financially, PWV is sitting well**, thanks to very good 50th Wilderness Act poster sales initiated by **Alan Meyer**, which contributed greatly to our Operating Fund, and the tireless efforts of **Fred Allen** to bring in grant monies for the restoration events. A Fund Raising Committee has been formed which will be taking a comprehensive look at raising funds from various sources throughout the year. Thanks to **Judy Jacks** for taking on the chair position. We are looking for a co-chair to help Judy with this effort. Please contact Judy or me if you are interested.

**Interest from prospective recruits remains strong**, so there is no doubt that we will see a very robust recruiting class next Spring, and continue to see significant growth as an organization.

**Thanks and recognition** to the 2014 BOD members who are retiring: **Bob Manuel** (Past Chair), **Archy Archuleta**, **Sandy Erskine**, **Martha Shepard**, and **Cathy Trout**. Each has contributed countless hours to various activities, committees, events, and the smooth running of our organization.

**Finally**, I personally invite everyone to welcome **Mike Corbin** as the new BOD chair, and thank everyone for their support during my one-year tenure. It was an honor serving you. See you on the trails!

*Jerry Hanley, PWV Past 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's New Chair Looking Ahead to 2015



We never know what the next year is going to bring but we always plan for it anyway. Often those plans are overtaken by events such as a fire or a flood but as an old boss of mine liked to say, "A failure to plan is a plan for failure". So, we do have a plan for next year and part of that plan is to see what happens and what needs to be done. What we do know is that the trails will need to be patrolled, trees will need to be removed from those trails and that we still have a lot of trail restoration work to complete from the flood damage. So, the main plan is to support the Forest Service in these efforts and make sure we do our tasks well and have some fun doing them.

We will continue with our usual activities such as Spring Training, Mentoring our new members, Supplemental Training activities and Kids in Nature to name just a few. These committees are always looking for help, but did you know PWV has more than thirty committees that function under seven categories facilitated by a member of the Board? New participants are always welcomed. For a complete listing check out the organizational listing on the web site. You may find just your niche to become more involved in PWV that you were looking for!

The recently established PWV Strategic Planning Committee continues to look at developing a new strategic plan for the organization. This committee is looking at what the organization currently is involved in, what our priorities should be and if there are any new areas we might want to become involved in. While we do not expect any major change in direction for PWV, it is possible future opportunities may be identified.

The next year will be full of activities. Some we know about and I'm sure some will be a surprise. But we hope to keep all our PWV activities running smoothly and get everyone out on the trails having a good time and hopefully getting some "stuff" done.

*Mike Corbin, 2014-2015 Chair*

You can log on to Poudre  
Wilderness Volunteers  
web site using  
**pwv.org**

## Introducing your 2015 Board Members

Current members transitioning to new roles are: **Mike Corbin** (Chair); **Jerry Hanley**, (Past Chair), and **Alan Meyer** (Chair-Elect). Those continuing in their roles are: **Meg Parmer** (Secretary), **Judy Christensen**, **Richard Clopper**, **David Fanning**, **Kevin Cannon** (USFS Liaison), **Margaret Shaklee** (Interim Treasurer), **Daryl Smith**, and **Jennifer Watson**.

## Newly Elected Members

PWV is fortunate to have a membership who want to contribute their time to the Mission of PWV and share their many talents. We welcome the newest members of the Board.



**GERRY CASHMAN** joined PWV in 2011 and most will know him from his involvement in supplemental training, mentoring and as an Animal Group Leader as well from REI where

Gerry has been an instructor in outdoor adventure skills. He enjoyed a long career as a science teacher and has shared his knowledge as a trainer, instructor, member of the Nordic Ranger winter trail crew, and as a former hike leader with the Fort Collins Newcomers Club.



**JUDY JACKS** is enthusiastic about being on the Board and utilizing her previous background in non-profit organizations and board positions. She has served for the past two

years on the Endowment Committee and is assuming the Fundraising Chair position. She loves talking to the public she meets on the trails and continues learning at Osher classes dealing with nature, climate and Colorado geology.



**BOB MEYER**, retired from a forty-one year career as a CPA and is enjoying retired life and the opportunity to return to the active outdoors activity that he enjoyed as a youth with the Boy

Scouts, and with his son during his Boy Scout years. During the 2013 recruiting orientation

session, Bob knew he had found the right volunteer opportunity for him and during his second year has assisted in trail restoration and maintenance, non-mentoring hikes with new members, and a Kids in Nature hike. Bob looks forward to contributing to PWV in a meaningful way - and he certainly will as he accepted his appointment as PWV Treasurer at the December board meeting.



**WENDY NICASTLE**, a two-year member, enjoys completing trail patrols on her horse, as well as hiking the trails with her husband, and she looks forward to adding backpacking to

that activity next summer. Wendy has ten years of service with Larimer County 4-H as a parent of a participant, and currently has completed four years' service with Larimer County Search and Rescue and is employed full-time as a nutritionist. Wendy says she is committed to the Canyon Lakes Ranger District and feels privileged to serve on the PWV Board.



**MIKE SMITH** jumped into PWV activities with both feet running! Having just completed his first year and fulfilling the training requirements, he has already participated in

trail restoration at Lion's Gulch and North Fork, and participated in five backpacking trail patrols. While attending as a member-guest at his first PWV Board meeting he volunteered to co-chair both the PWV Mentoring and the PWV Supplemental Training Programs. He also contributes to the PWV Web & Social Media Team. Mike has enjoyed the outdoors for his entire life and he says that when he learned about PWV he knew it suited him perfectly and provides the outlet for him to contribute to protecting, preserving and maintaining the environment for future generations.

These new Board members, as well as our entire membership prove that when a job needs to get done "ask a busy person to do it".

## 50th Anniversary of The Wilderness Act

2014 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. This forward-looking act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964, and the original act included designation of fifty-four wilderness areas comprising over nine million acres. Today there are over seven hundred fifty wilderness areas covering over one hundred and nine million acres, with over half the acreage being in Alaska.

PWV is very fortunate to have four wilderness areas in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. The Rawah was one of the original areas designated in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Cache la Poudre, Commanche Peak and Neota were added in 1980. This past summer PWV did a tremendous job in patrolling our trails that are in wilderness, with 510+ normal patrol days, and an additional 240+ days doing trail maintenance and restoration. Job well done!!

Numerous celebrations took place across the country for this 50th anniversary, and PWV participated in many of these events. We hosted a Wilderness Film Festival and Wilderness Art Exhibit in Fort Collins, co-hosted several John Fielder photography events, participated in Wilderness Walks in Evergreen and Rocky Mountain National Park, and attended the National Wilderness Conference in Albuquerque. These were all fun, educational and inspiring events, leading to many new PWV friends and partners.

The final 50th PWV event this year was the recent installation of a new kiosk at West Branch trail-head. The USFS has been upgrading the kiosks at many of the trails and we used a grant from the NWSA (National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance) to build a new kiosk at West Branch that features the 50th anniversary logo. Pictured below is the front of the new kiosk the day it was installed. PWV and the USFS will hold a "public unveiling" of this kiosk during next year's summer patrolling season.



If you'd like more information on the 50th anniversary, please contact Alan Meyer, [alan.meyer@pwv.org](mailto:alan.meyer@pwv.org).

## Into the Rawah, 2014

*Photos by David Fanning*



## WE Went Into the Wilderness



To coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, PWV implemented a Get Into Wilderness! Initiative to encourage members to spend a night or two backpacking in a Wilderness area. First time backpackers, or those who still didn't feel confident to go on their own, were paired with experienced PWV backpacking mentors. Each mentor was encouraged to select and promote a trip that featured a particular location, experience, or expertise. We had a large Backpacking 101 group of complete backpacking novices. We visited the B17 wreckage in the Comanche Peak Wilderness, and we had multiple trips scheduled into the Rawah Wilderness. Our trips for couples was heavily subscribed. One of our most popular offerings was a women-only backpacking trip into the Comanche Peak Wilderness.

By all accounts, our initiative was an unqualified success for those who chose to participate on the trips. We introduced about 20 new people to our wilderness areas, some multiple times, since they had so much fun going on these trips. In addition, PWV stock members trained new members on techniques for taking horses into the wilderness, which should pay dividends next summer.

The added bonuses of this initiative were that it provided members with confidence to take these trips on their own, as well as boosting the number of patrols in our wilderness areas substantially.

## Outstanding Volunteerism Recognized at Year-End Event

Five members were selected to receive special acknowledgement by Jerry Hanley at the Year End Members gathering. If everything they do was to be listed it would more than fill an entire page, but Jerry succeeded in making a summary statement on each that described their efforts in an all-encompassing way.

**MIKE CORBIN'S** leadership and sense of humor is always appreciated. He ranks second in the entire organization for patrols and points. He gave significant time to organizing the restoration events this past year, chairs or is involved in many standing committees, and is our new 2015 Board Chair.

**MARGARET SHAKLEE** (Wonder Woman) is the energy behind many of the organizational infrastructure activities that happen behind the scenes, as well as the current Treasurer for the organization. Even more important to our success and FUN while doing good work is her ongoing attitude and approach to PWV's needs and PEOPLE that is so warm, welcoming, patient and open, as well as her can-do attitude.

**JOAN KAUTH** Although Joan's total hours of contribution are impressive (she came in first with 74 patrols and 2,190 volunteer hours), what is truly remarkable is her level of passion for PWV, the breadth of areas in which she has contributed, and the positive and lasting impact she has made to PWV. Joan was also very instrumental in the redesign/programming of our new member trail scheduling website.

**JEANNE CORBIN** is obviously very committed to PWV and we appreciate her significant organizational skills and the energy she brings to our organization. Jeanne chairs both the Winter Patrolling and KIN programs, introducing new elements and expanding the youth to whom it reaches.

**FRED ALLEN**, a jack of all trades, and a master of many, is a true ambassador for PWV, and incredibly well networked in the Wilderness Stewardship community. He, along with wife Pam have been become famous for the extraordinary food served at work events and spring training. Fred has been responsible for much of our fundraising over many years and wherever volunteers are needed, you will find Fred.

## Funding for the Future Continues

Thanks to all of you, we are nearing our goal of raising \$10,000 for this year! We are getting ever closer to the \$50,000 mark where we can begin using some of the interest earned on our investment. The greater the Endowment Fund grows, the more resources we will have for the lean times. We are pleased to say as of today we have received \$2,025 toward our \$3,000 goal for the letter campaign. Again, many thanks to all of you for making this the most successful year for the endowment since **Chuck Bell's** initial donation.

We are just beginning to plan for next summer's Backyard Party (BYP) Goods and Services Auction and to set our goals for 2015. If you didn't make it to the BYP this year, plan on saving the date, June 21, 2015 for a lot of fun and a worthy event. It's not too early to think about the services/goods you'd like to offer. The BYP Committee and Endowment Committee are looking for PWV members who would like to help and have fun at the same time! Please join us by calling **Judy Christensen** or **Judy Jacks**.

Your 2015 Endowment Committee, **Judy Christensen, Judy Jacks, Chuck Bell, Jacques Rieux, Margaret Shaklee, Jerry Hanley** and [your name goes here.](#)

## A Glance at Year-End Event

The Year-End Event was held at the Elks Lodge in downtown Fort Collins. This is the annual meeting of PWV. Achievements were highlighted. Awards were presented, including certificates for completing at least six patrols. Over 150 PWV, family and friends enjoyed the buffet, slide show and meeting.



## Supplemental Training

This PWV season marked another successful year without any accidents or injuries. Sure you might have received some bumps, scrapes, bruises and aches from toiling long and hard at that trail restoration work this summer. Or perhaps you earned a battle scar in the never-ending challenge of clearing those overhanging branches or fallen trees from the trails so that others may travel through safely. Superficial wounds are within norms, but thanks to the safety instructions from the many volunteer leaders who coached us on proper use of equipment no serious injuries occurred. Safety is paramount for both PWV and USFS, and is the core of our supplemental training.

Our Supplemental Training committee is working hard to introduce some fresh new courses while offering some of the more popular training courses to our PWV members next season. Each training class will fall into one of the following categories: backpacking, health, hiking, mounted patrol, nature, orienteering, safety and winter patrol. Our focus is to present a wider range of topics while offering something for everyone.

We are also committed to improving the quality of these training classes for everyone. This means delivering better presentation materials at social gatherings, conferences and at-large events; transitioning classroom knowledge to hands-on field training to acquire new skills, and preparing you to be top-notch wilderness rangers when duty calls upon you to take action.

Our goal is to provide you with all the right tools you need to become comfortable in the vast wilderness whether you are a day hiker, a backpacker or a stock rider. Knowing how to apply wilderness First Aid & CPR, or navigate using map, compass or GPS, or protecting yourself from flood, fire, lightning or even wildlife can make all the difference should you find yourself in survival mode.

Once we have outlined the courses and schedules to be offered, we will post them on our PWV website and send you the updates in our email newsletter as it becomes available.

Our Supplemental Training committee encourages you to participate in many of these classes throughout the upcoming year, and we hope to see you soon out on the trail again.

*Mike Smith*

*PWV Supplemental Training Chair*

# Thru-Hiking Five Hundred Mile Colorado Trail

by Karl Ritters



Weminuche Wilderness

My plan to solo hike the five hundred mile Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango in the summer of 2013 got sidetracked by a run-in with a rattlesnake at the start of that summer which put me out of commission for four months. Having fully recovered, I was busy planning the solo hike for the summer of 2014 when Paul Randolph offered to join me, which I welcomed. Half way through the hike we learned that David Fanning had started the hike and was fast on our heels.



The three amigos: Paul, Karl, and David in Silverton

As an afterthought, I have become suspicious of their motivation. My wife had let it slip that my son-in-law had called her with concern about me doing the hike solo at age seventy-three. I suspect that he was concerned about my aging physical state and perhaps my mental state (“Karl thinks it is safe to walk barefoot in rattlesnake country?”). Is it possible that Paul came along to keep an eye on me and that David was following to pick up the pieces?

My friends, Paul and David are experienced thru-hikers and expert outdoorsmen. David had previously hiked the Continental Divide Trail through Colorado from Wyoming to New Mexico. Paul just two years ago, solo hiked the Colorado Trail. As a team, they teach PWV courses in Ultralight Backpacking. I attended their classes and was named their star student. After investing a ton of money in ultralight gear, I was eager to test my new gear and skills. I reduced my

pack weight without food and water from forty-five to eleven pounds. Typically I add a couple of pounds of food for each day on the trail and carry a half-quart of water weighing one pound.



Colorado Trail near Kenosha Pass

The Colorado Trail turned out to be an adventure of a lifetime. The scenery on the trail was spectacular – winding through fields of wildflowers, over passes of eight mountain ranges into six Wilderness Areas. Paul, a good friend and expert outdoorsman was an ideal hiking partner. David almost caught up with us but we had to take the historic Durango to Silverton train to meet up with David before he finished the last five days of his hike.

My hike statistics:

- 55 total days of trip
- 11 average miles hiked per day
- 10,300 average altitude
- 17 miles total elevation gain
- 10 mountain towns visited for R&R, resupply and cleanup
- 2 highest mountain peaks in Colorado climbed
- 3 trout caught
- 10 lbs. of body weight lost

Although I would prefer to hike with a great companion such as Paul, I would not hesitate to do the Colorado Trail solo with safety gear such as my inReach two-way satellite communicator. Even in the remotest areas on the Colorado Trail, we ran into some hikers every day.



Twin Lakes

## Affiliation Gatherings

We're pleased to announce that two of the previously canceled speakers (Mary Ann Bonnell and Eric Molnar) for last year have been rescheduled for this spring. Hopefully weather and conflicts in schedules will not interrupt the plans this time. We're expecting all these topics to be of great interest to our membership.

At the December meeting attendees enjoyed the presentation by **Karl Ritters**, covering the summer adventure that he, **Paul Randolph**, and **David Fanning** experienced together. (See Karl's article!)

**January 12 – Bonnie Brown**, Executive Director of Colorado Wool Grower's Association will educate us about LPD's (Livestock Protection Dogs). Karl Ritters and Paul Randolph met Bonnie while they were on their summer hiking adventure along the Colorado Trail.

**February 9 – Susan Cruz, Public Education Director for Larimer County Search and Rescue (LCSAR)** will present a basic introduction of LCSAR and what they do. The PWV Supplemental Training Committee is also working with Linda to design a Wilderness First Aid and CPR training program tailor-made for PWV. More information will be sent out on this later in the spring as plans develop.

**March 9 - Winter Wildlife Physiology** will be the topic presented by **Mary Ann Bonnell**, Park Ranger with JeffCo Open Spaces. We'll be exploring the many amazing ways animals, great and small, prepare for and survive cold winter temperatures and winter food scarcity.

**April 13 - Eric Bergman**, a member of the Mammals Research Group within Colorado Parks and Wildlife since 2003 will share his work experiences which have mainly focused on mule deer, but also include bighorn sheep, elk and most recently moose. Eric will be talking about the history of moose in Colorado and the current research project he's conducting.

**May 11 - Eric Molnar**, Wildlife Biologist, Professional Author and Photographer, will take us on photographic journey of **Wyoming's Red Desert**.

**Affiliation Meetings are held at C.B. & Potts** east of Lemay on Horsetooth. As always, RSVP to **Bob Hansen** if you are planning to attend. Affiliation gatherings start at **6:30 p.m.** Arrive earlier and enjoy dinner!

## Become a Volunteer

If you already hike or ride the trails and want to do so with an added purpose, consider becoming a Poudre Wilderness Volunteer (PWV). PWV recruits potential members throughout the year, closes its application process and conducts interviews in March, and has its annual, mandatory field training for new members in May. While most of our members actively patrol trails, we can always use volunteers who share our values but serve in other ways (e.g., fundraising, committee work, website development and maintenance, office support).

PWV members range from 18 to 80 and cover a broad spectrum of professions, knowledge, and skills. What we have in common is our love for the wilderness and a dedication to learning and teaching Leave-No-Trace principles. We make a commitment to “hike and ride with a purpose” at least six days during the summer months. We wear a uniform shirt and name badge and serve by assisting and educating the public and protecting and conserving the resource. Other tasks that we perform while hiking: keep records and report observations and violations to the USFS; report sign and other trail-safety issues; deal with illegal/improper campsites, fire rings, and trash; report downed trees blocking trails (if can't remove by ourselves) and noxious weed infestations; perform minor trail maintenance; and make new friends, get some exercise, and visit beautiful places. We cover our own travel costs and supply our own equipment and horses. We do not have any law enforcement responsibility, carry firearms, or patrol with pets. Some of us only go out for a day at a time while others make extended backpacking or stock packing patrols in the high country. We need your help!

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is recruiting new Forest Service volunteers for the 2015 season.

Hike and ride with a purpose!

Attend an Open House  
Thursday, January 22  
or Tuesday, February 17  
at 6:00 p.m.

at the Forest Service offices  
at 2150 Centre Ave., Bldg. E,  
Fort Collins, Colorado.  
Complete applications  
at [www.pwv.org](http://www.pwv.org).

## WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SPONSORS

PWV recognizes the generosity of sponsors and contributors.  
Our success is enhanced by their participation.

### MAJOR GRANTS

- Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
- National Forest Foundation

### MAJOR DONORS

- Clinton Family Fund, Golden, CO
- REI, Seattle, WA; Fort Collins, CO
- Walmart Foundation, Bentonville, AR
- Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Loveland, CO
- Micro Motion, Boulder, CO
- Odell Brewing Company, Fort Collins, CO

### CONTRIBUTORS

- Bas Bleu • Coopersmiths • The Cupboard • Fort Collins Brewery
- Jax Mercantile • Morning Fresh Farms (Platteville, CO)
- The Olive Garden • Ranch-Way, Inc.
- Steve Taylor & Scott McCarthy (Hot Corner Concepts: Austins, Enzios, The Moot House)

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

- Longs Peak Council, Boy Scouts of America, Greeley, CO
- Cheley Camps of Colorado, Estes Park, CO
- John Fielder for donating photos for the 50th Wilderness Anniversary posters!

and

The Members and Friends of PWV



*Learn when and where Charlie is welcome to be off-leash in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District and when and where a leash is required. Current Forest Service regulations and wilderness area protections are part of PWV recruit and member training.*

## REMINDERS

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

There are many important and informative activities occurring in PWV, so be sure to check the website for schedule of events and related details as well as current news. Some training events of interest that are known at the time of this publication are:

- **January 6** – Winter Safety & Survival
- **January 10 and 21** – Kick Off Training Sessions to Winter Patrols
- **January 22 and February 17** – PWV Open House
- **March 22** – Bear Safety Awareness

*Check website for schedule of events and current news*