



Poudre Trails



Welcome PWV Members

By Sean Orner, PWV Board Chair

Spring is always an exciting time of planning and activity for PWV, as we welcome a new recruit class of volunteers who will be taking their rite of passage patrolling with their animal groups on the training trail in May. Dozens of volunteers collaborate each year to ensure that our new members are welcomed and well-prepared for their first season of patrolling.



PWV Board of Director's Chair Sean Orner

This year happens to be the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, which has played a crucial role in protecting some of America's most pristine and untouched landscapes, including land we as volunteers patrol and maintain within the Canyon Lakes Ranger District. The primary

purpose of the Act was to designate and protect federally-owned wilderness areas in the United States, defined as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain".

Wilderness areas offer invaluable opportunities for outdoor recreation and solitude, allowing visitors to reconnect with nature and experience its beauty firsthand. Whether it's hiking through old-growth forests, rafting down wild rivers, or stargazing under pristine night skies, these experiences foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world and inspire stewardship for future generations.

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Since joining PWV in 2019, I am continually inspired by the passion and dedication of our members in support of our mission of managing and protecting our wilderness and backcountry areas. Together, we work to uphold the vision of the Wilderness Act, in hopes that these wild places endure as sanctuaries of

nature's beauty and biodiversity for years to come.

Spring Training Recap

By Jeff Randa

Spring Training Chairs Jeff Randa and Dee Woodcock are well underway in developing plans for the three-day training event, May 17-19, at the Buckhorn Camp and Retreat Center, Rist Canyon Road.



PWV Spring Training

They also have a backup training plan in case of inclement weather or poor road conditions. Team leaders are actively working on a variety of tasks in planning and conducting the training.

This will be a great weekend to connect with old friends and to meet new PWVs, as well as welcoming our newest members!

On Saturday evening, Chuck Bell guest speaker, PWV co-founder, global traveler and photographer will discuss Wilderness management across the world, as well as

highlighting the early days of PWV. All PWV members are invited to join us for dinner and this legendary speaker, as well as Sunday morning to help greet and congratulate our new members during the graduation ceremony.

"This will be a great weekend to connect with old friends and to meet new PWVs, as well as welcoming our newest members!" said Randa.



PWV Spring Training Animal Group leaders Steve Musial & Bruce Williams with new recruits

Restoration Trail Work

By Mark Snyder, PWV Restoration Chair

PWV members have been out on the trails this year, removing fallen trees across the trails, working on drainage issues, rerouting sections of the trail to improve hikers' experience, creating new trail sections and pulling invasive weeds. And there are more trail projects planned and we invite you to join us.

Our next scheduled project is building a rock turnpike on the North Fork Trail, June 1-2. This will be a great project focusing on trail crew training and trail crew leadership training, as we build a rock turnpike on the section of the trail that is often wet and boggy.

Among the scheduled trail projects this summer, PWV again will be working alongside the Rocky Mountain Conservancy's High School Leadership Corps multiple weeks this summer, June-September. This intergenerational group of diverse backgrounds joins forces each year to improve public lands. If you would like to work and mentor these young trail workers, please contact me for details.

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June 29, July 13 and August 3 (Saturdays), PWV members will work with the Larimer County Horseman's Association on the Lion Gulch Trail doing tread & trail work.

June 15-16 and June 22-23, PWV members will be working on Roaring Creek Trail and inviting the public to join us. July 31-August 7, we are planning to backpack into the Rawah Wilderness, working on improving the trails. Then another trail project on the North Fork Trail, inviting the public to join us August 17-18. We will continue our work on improving trails, while addressing maintenance issues as we come across them.

This year is the Wilderness Act 60th Anniversary. We will be celebrating by getting out on the trails on August 31-September 2 Labor Day Weekend. We will be camping at Stub Creek USFS Administrative Site off of Laramie River Road. The plan is to do "saturation patrols" and trail projects in the Rawah Wilderness. A great way to camp with PWV members at Stub Creek, greet the sunrise, do some



Rocky Mountain Conservancy crew building a bridge

patrols/trail work, then enjoy the sunset with your colleagues. You are also welcome to do a day trip, if you prefer not to camp.

Then for the National Public Lands Day, September 21-22, we will be working on the Lady Moon Trail, improving the accessible trail.

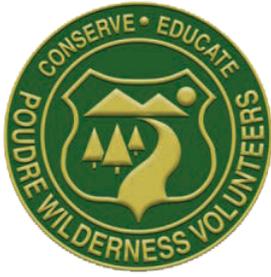
Throughout the summer we will have trainings on building bridges, rock walls, drainage improvements, sawyer certification, weed identifications/weed pulls and more. You can find many of these scheduled trail projects on the PWV calendar and if you are interested in learning about additional trail projects, training and updates, let me know and I'll add you to the "PWV trails email list". Hiking Boots Up! We'll see you on the trail.

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Newsletter Team

Mark L. Snyder, *Editor*
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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 Kids in Nature Gearing Up for 2024 Season

By Stephanie Simmons

PWV Kids in Nature Committee is gearing up for the 2024 season! Currently we are in the midst of planning with 14 different community agencies/schools for Kids in Nature hikes and/or outreach activities in town. We have expanded our city-based Educational Outreach and have also expanded our curricula choices for them, providing more opportunities for groups who are not able to get transportation for a hike.



PWV KIN 2023

For the 2024 schedule, we have 14 Kids in Nature hikes on our National Forest trails and 14 Educational Outreach events in town, for families and children ages preschool to high school – this will make for a busy summer for our volunteers!



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These photos were taken during our Berthoud-Loveland Homeschoolers and Matthews House hikes in 2023.

Please contact kidsinnature@pwv.org for more information.

PWV Book Club

By Natalie Shrewsberry

Hey all you book nerds and adventure readers, PWV has an active book club. We've been reading and gathering since late 2021. The overall book themes are nature, natural resources and environmental science. We've delved into topics relating to: regional rivers and geology; beavers; the complexities of finding lost hikers in the wilderness; and have discovered what happens when nature breaks the law. Reading the books has expanded our awareness of the natural world; discussing the topics with a group deepens both enjoyment and understanding.

We meet about every 6 weeks in book club members' homes and our members'

homes range from Wellington to Berthoud and points in between.

Book choices are decided by members a few months in advance from a long list that we continue to update, <https://tinyurl.com/3ascu88z>

Here is the schedule moving forward:

- **May 21st- 6:30-8:30 PM** The selected book: *Fire on the Mountain: The True Story of the South Canyon Fire* by John M Maclean
- **July 1st 6:30-8:30 PM** *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make our Worlds, Change our Minds and Shape our Future.* By Merlin Sheldrake

If you are interested contact: Carol Kennedy, clicinstix1stuff@gmail.com.



PWV Book Club books

Who ya gonna call??

By Celia Walker

You're heading down the trail when a trail runner tells you "I found a smoldering campfire that has burned into a log. I poured three bottles of water on it but I don't think the fire is out." Now, who ya gonna call? That's what happened to two of our PWV rangers in April, on Hewlett Gulch. And "who did they call?"



Burnt tree on the ground

Our rangers asked the next set of returning hikers to report the fire using Mishawaka's phone. On the way to the only-vaguely-described site our rangers asked returning hikers if they had smelled or seen smoke and informed hikers passing them to be alert for smoke or fire.

As they searched for the smoldering log, two willing hikers were recruited to help. It was sharp PWV eyes that eventually found the site. Maybe an hour later, after hacking away burnt wood, feeling for heat, and dousing with creek water, all four headed back to the trailhead.

Once phone reception was regained our rangers called the Larimer County Fire non-emergency number to provide an update and request the site be checked ASAP to be sure the fire was truly out. By 8pm word was received that indeed it was.

***So, who did our PWV rangers call?
They called whoever was available!
Don't forget that other trail users can be
a huge resource for you.***

So, who did our PWV rangers call? They called whoever was available! Don't forget that other trail users can be a huge resource for you. Details from the trail

runner, the help of the next hiker to report the fire, the returning hikers in case they had more information, the two hikers on site who willingly donated their effort, and the fire authorities (who contacted the USFS to check the site). You aren't alone on the trails.

First Year Thoughts...

By Dee Woodcock, PWV Spring Training Co-Chair

What a difference a year can make! Last year at this time as Spring Training was approaching, I had many questions and a touch of anxiety as to if I would fit in with others in PWV. Through Animal Group meetings and then Spring Training, I became a bit more confident that I could find at least one niche. There are certainly many ways to serve. In this past year, I have learned a great deal about current approaches to LNT, ATR, first aid, and trail maintenance and construction. I have also learned a great deal about myself. All of this is a reminder that whether it be a trail, or a person, improvement is always a work in process. I am so thankful I am investing time and energy in PWV. You can find me at Spring Training this year, as the co-chair.

Support PWV

PWV thrives and prospers with support from people like you! For over 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 & preserving the legacy of these cherished areas for future generations.

Donations to the Poudre Wilderness Volunteer & the Endowment Funds qualify as a tax deductible charitable donation. PWV is a 501 (c) (3) organization:

www.pwv.org/donate (please check if your employer has a matching program!).



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

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Special thanks to:

- **National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance**

PWV on the Trail



PWV on the Trail - Continued

