



Poudre Trails

What a Summer - PWV Rocks!

By Mark Snyder, PWV Board Chair

PWV Spring Training helped to kick off our summer season with the new recruits at the Buckhorn Camp. I was one of the tent campers, some in their campers, while others were in cabins with fellow animal group members. Soon, smiles and greetings were being shared and friendships were sprouting. Early Sunday morning at Spring Training was foggy and if you were up, you may have seen a herd of deer meandering through the tent area. It's the little things like this, that we PWV members get to experience while hiking and camping in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District.

Spring Training brought together new recruits with members to guide the way to a fun get-together, learning about PWV and how we assist the USFS. And while the training took place, we hosted leaders from various Colorado volunteer USFS groups to observe, participate in the training and to discuss best practices. Also in attendance was the new executive director of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, based in Del Norte, Colorado, whose mission "is to develop a growing network of volunteer-based organizations to provide stewardship for America's enduring resource of wilderness".

Colorado volunteer USFS groups at PWV 2023 Spring Training:

- Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance, Frisco
- Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, Silverthorne
- Friends of Wilderness, Steamboat Springs
- Grand County Wilderness Group, Granby
- Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance, Boulder
- Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers, Salida

PWV looks forward to continuing our involvement with these Colorado organizations and other wilderness groups throughout Colorado, the nation and internationally. If you would like to be a part of sharing best practices with other volunteer wilderness organizations, please let me know.

PWV is a renowned, nationally sought after group that is blazing the way as a volunteer group that supports the USFS. THANK YOU for joining, it's you, our members who help make this group outstanding! You have joined like-minded people to preserve and protect our wilderness lands, support the USFS and, as you have found out, to share stories with fellow members from all walks of life. Really, yes ... sign up with a veteran member to patrol and share stories.

I hope you are enjoying your summer of patrolling with PWV, attending events such

as "Identification and Ecology of Stream Macroinvertebrates"; events like this happen throughout the year. Check the PWV calendar.



PWV Board Chair Mark Snyder

The restoration and trail crew have been out, clearing the trails of downed trees and building two stringer bridges on the Little Beaver Creek Trail partnering with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy High School Leadership Conservation Corps. PWV also partnered with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, building a stringer bridge & a puncheon bridge across the Rawah Trail seven miles up, with PWV Stock members who hauled up supplies on their horses.

PWV plans to continue our involvement with our wilderness partners, in maintaining our trails to USFS standards. It would be great to have you join us, on day projects, camping projects - helping to build bridges, work on drainage, removing

downed trees etc. Please let me know and we'll put you on the PWV Restoration & Trail Crew list to be informed of our upcoming projects. There is a trail project for all levels and capabilities.

PWV plans to continue our involvement with our wilderness partners, in maintaining our trails to USFS standards. It would be great to have you join us, on day projects, camping projects - helping to build bridges, work on drainage, removing downed trees etc. Please let me know and we'll put you on the PWV Restoration & Trail Crew list...

We have about a month left in our 2023 summer season, before we take a brief hiatus and start up with PWV winter patrolling. And for this winter season, consider joining the Nordic Rangers, who ski and snowshoe "with a purpose," on the same upper Poudre Canyon trails. A great way to support the USFS year-round, while enjoying our wild lands.

Spring Training Recap

By Jeff Randa

After a four year hiatus, a full three-day Spring Training happened in May at Buckhorn Camp and Retreat Center! Over 160 people participated, welcoming 56 new members. The weather cooperated and everyone benefited from a dry training trail. We learned from a range of speakers covering several topics, including mountain lions and the USFS approach to dealing with wildfires. There was also time for all of

us to meet new folks and hang with old friends. We also had the privilege of hosting fourteen guests from seven Colorado nonprofits. They were able to observe how we handle training and we discussed how we address issues common to all our organizations.



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

After a four year hiatus, a full three-day Spring Training happened in May at Buckhorn Camp and Retreat Center! Over 160 people participated, welcoming 56 new members. The weather cooperated and everyone benefited from a dry training trail.

Jeff Randa, Spring Training Chair and Mike Corbin, New Recruit Training Committee Chair, extend a huge thanks to over 80 people who volunteered their time, including the team leads, AGLs, role players, kitchen staff, greeters, check in, cleaners, gear store and audio visual supporters. There were many moments captured in photos during Spring Training. Thanks to Peter Skiba, Renee Skiba, Yao Chen and Pete Ramirez for tirelessly working their lenses for three days. We

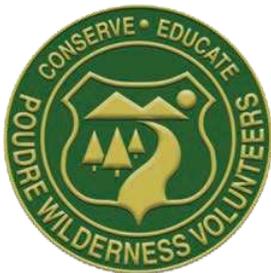
would also like to extend a very special thanks to Rob and Sean Orner for managing a complex event and significantly contributing to all the lodging, food, and parking tasks. "We blew the dust off the plans from past Spring Trainings and are looking forward to continuous improvement in years to come, as we complete the training and welcome new members and reconnect with current members," said Randa.

What's Inside

What a Summer - PWV Rocks!	1
Spring Training Recap	2
PWV Mounted Patrol in the Rawah Wilderness	3
What Are We Doing for Future Generations?	3
Member Profiles	3
PWV Book Club	4
Catching Up with Kevin	4
Supplemental Training updates	4
Trails for ALL	4
Trails for ALL Track-Chair	5
PWV Assists in an Emergency	5
Support PWV	5
PWV on the Trail	6
Remembering Ras Erdal	8

Newsletter Team

Mark L. Snyder, *Editor*
Caitlin Mohr, *Designer*



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 Mounted Patrol in the Rawah Wilderness

By Fred Allen

The month of July was an extremely busy one for members of the PWV Mounted Patrol. The Stock Committee arranged 7 pack trips involving 12 different riders and 17 different horses and mules. More than 1400 lbs of Lumber, Tools, Supplies, Food, Saws and Tents were packed in 6 to 7 miles. In addition about 200 lbs of trash and kitchen supplies have been brought out.

We also packed in the deck boards for the Rawah Bog puncheon that was framed last year by Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WLRV.org). Ten horses recently put their seal of approval on it!

During the second week of August, the PWV Mounted Patrol packed in the Larimer County Conservation Corps into the Comanche Peak Wilderness.



PWV members Tim Van Donselaar & Fred Allen unloading the deck planks at Rawah Bog

Another WRV work week took place in early September. After these final workdays, about 500 pounds of tools will need to be hauled out before the snow flies.

PWV has organized these trips. But without the help of some local packers, members of the Northern Colorado Back Country Horsemen and the Colorado Back Country Horsemen chapters it would not have gone all that smoothly. As word gets out about how great the facility is at Stub Creek and how we welcome our fellow horsemen, more folks are offering to help. All this sounds pretty good. But it is not all

that easy. On most every pack day we only work a half day---12 hours! The night before is spent organizing and weighing the loads. It takes normally 1-3 hours to load all of the horses and mules depending on how complex the loads. The trail is rough. The best time we have seen to cover the 13 miles round trip is six hours, but there has been more often 7-8 hours in the saddle. One horse threw a shoe, while 6 miles from the trailhead. Another load shifted while traversing a switch back and had to have his saddle cut off while the horse was laying on its side. The pack train continued and the next day, four of us rode in with one pack horse and loaded the 8 rock bars and other tools totaling over 150 lbs. Though it is getting better, there are many trees extending over the tread. A horse with a rider will often steer around these, but a pack horse often catches the load. This too slows our progress. Recently on Camp Lake Trail, several trees about 5 feet above the trail were no problem for hikers, but even after dismounting, the horses and a very cooperative mule could not get under them. We are all learning and enjoy the challenge. I am very happy to report there have been no injuries.

What Are We Doing for Future Generations?

By Jeanne Corbin

Kids in Nature (KIN) has had a rocky start getting back after COVID. Last year many of our hikes were canceled by agencies, mostly due to staffing issues. So, for 2023 we are continuing our hikes with various agencies, schools and other organized groups, but also placing more emphasis on educational outreach activities.

So far this year, we have participated in Werner Elementary Earth Day in Fort Collins (teaching "Leave No Trace and The 10 Essentials" to 7 classes), Children's Water Festival in Greeley (teaching about "Fire and Water – Effects of Fire on Soil"), Pollinators Festival at Gardens at Spring Creek in Fort Collins (with displays and an

interactive wind pollination activity for "Pollinators in the Mountains"), and two mornings at La Familia / The Family Center Child Care Center in Fort Collins (teaching about "Trees" in June and "Water and Rivers" in July to three classes each day) – all in addition to three KIN hikes on a Canyon Lakes Ranger District trail. We have the potential for four more educational outreach events and four more KIN hikes yet this year.



KIN at La Familia / The Family Center Child Care Center

Our PWV/KIN Team has a lot of new, dedicated members and everyone works wonderfully together for the benefit of the children and for the future of our WildLands. Please contact kidsinnature@pwv.org for more information.

Member Profiles

By Pete Skiba

The Photo Video Team is pleased to announce the start of a new initiative to help members learn a bit more about their fellow volunteers. The Team will interview members and create short videos that will be prominently placed on the website for all to see. These will be called member profiles. After being featured for about a month a new interview will be presented and the prior profile will be placed in a spot on the website that will be easily accessed for others to view.

We know it is difficult for everyone to know all the members who make up PWV. Our hope is that by sharing a new member

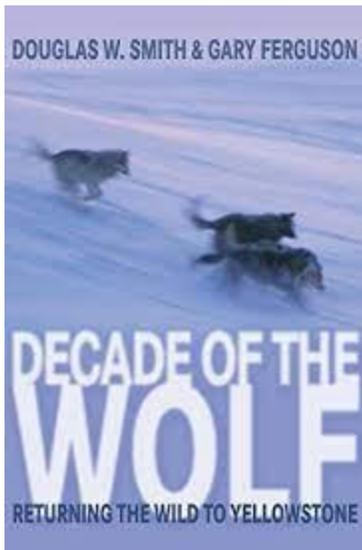
profile each month we will all learn something that we may not have not known before. We have a great membership. Let's enjoy that diversity.

If you think you might be interested in telling your story in two minutes contact Peter Skiba by phone or text using 414-465-9448 or by email at skibapeter@gmail.com.

PWV Book Club

By Chris Webb

The PWV Book Club is holding meetings every six weeks, rotating days of the week and locations. Our next book for early September is ***Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone*** by Douglas Smith and Gary Ferguson.



We have developed a great list of books we have read, books related to books we are reading, and books we might read in the future. These books focus on topics relating to our volunteer work with PWV. If you are interested in more information about the book club, please contact Carol Kennedy.

Catching Up with Kevin

By Kevin Cannon

Hello to all! So, what have I been doing this year? Well, I have been helping Matt Cowan out on trail planning, Wild & Scenic River management, and numerous behind the scenes projects. I have put on three

trainings for Wilderness Campsite Monitoring this year also, and that project is moving along quite well. Cache la Poudre was completed (last year) and we are very close on the Neota to being completed this year. Comanche Peak and Rawah will take longer but are being inventoried already.

Also, I have been redoing many of the maps that will be in new kiosks for trails in the future. With the many trail changes, due to flood and fires (and some regulation changes to Travel Zones), the bulk of the district kiosks will need to be updated. We have roughly 40 trailheads with kiosks, and more than two-thirds need to be updated with information. The hope over time is to get to all the trailheads with new kiosks, for those that needed it, but almost all for updating/installing the imprinted plastic signs and to move away from the temporary laminated ones.

If you would like to find out more, I encourage members to join the monthly PWV Board meetings via Zoom. I am usually there still trying to help PWV.

It was good to see so many at the summer PWV get together. I look forward to seeing more of you at the end of the year event. Until then, be safe, have fun and... well ... you know the rest.

Supplemental Training updates

By Linda Reiter & Ann Haverkamp

There is still an opportunity to get involved with a Supplemental Training class this season.

Wilderness First Aid took place on September 9/10. First Aid instructor Joe Cox tailors these classes to our patrolling needs. These classes are free to PWV members this year, so take advantage of them!

We are excited about the new class Joe Cox is offering: **Indigenous Perspectives on Wilderness** on October 11.

To **register** for this class, log in to pwv.org as a member, go to Events, and scroll through the calendar. Click on the class you are interested in and register

yourself. If you ever need to cancel, please do so ASAP so your slot can be offered to those on the waiting list. This is especially important for Wilderness First Aid.

If you have an **area of interest or expertise** and would be willing to share it, contact Supplemental Training. We will help you put a class together and get the word out to our members. We have so much knowledge within our organization that others would be interested in.

We are still looking for a **venue** for what used to be called "Affiliation Meetings." These monthly events took place in a restaurant/bar that has an A/V set-up, can accommodate up to 50 people, is flexible with our schedule, and charges a nominal amount or is free. If you have suggestions on places that meet these criteria, contact co-Chairs Ann Haverkamp & Linda Reiter and we will follow up.

Trails for ALL

By Carol Kennedy

Trails for ALL committee was founded to look at ways to increase diversity on our trails. Our current emphasis is connecting with adaptive recreation agencies to develop partnerships. This will enable more people of diverse abilities to access trails.

We need your help! We presented a hiking workshop with the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities (ARO) of the City of Fort Collins on September 6. This workshop was held at the Fort Collins Senior Center. It included Leave No Trace principles as well as essential hiking equipment. We plan to continue working with ARO in the future by providing hiking and other opportunities to get people of diverse abilities out of doors.

Trails for ALL is working to develop connections within the adaptive recreation community in the Fort Collins area. To that end, we are volunteering for other organizations. If you have connections to adaptive recreation in our area, please contact our committee.

We are also looking for ways to include differently abled people in PWV. We have

brainstormed some ideas, keeping in mind that all people have different strengths:

- Trailhead host or host assistant (we have lots of Smokey Bear swag we can pass out)
- Help with food on trail crews
- Trail crew help
- Patrolling members
- A Track-Chair program in the Red Feather Lakes area (Staunton State Park has one southwest of Denver).

Do you have any ideas for our committee? How can we increase trail use diversity and diversity within PWV?

Trails for ALL Track-Chair

By Jerry Hanley

In the article above, Carol mentions that one of the brainstorming ideas for adaptive recreation opportunities might be a track chair program in the Red Feather area. As she mentioned, Staunton State Park has such a program and coincidentally my son Rob, who is disabled, reserved and rode one of these vehicles recently. Staunton State Park has the first Track-Chair program in the Colorado state park system, making 3 trails in Staunton State Park accessible to all. Trails are between 2–3 miles long. Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of the Friends of Staunton State Park and the Mark Madsen Accessibility Fund, two Action Track-Chairs and a trailer have been purchased for guest use in the park.

At this time, use of the Track-Chair is free of charge. A park pass (\$10) is required on all vehicles entering the park. Reservations are required.

A guide/volunteer walks with the vehicle and passenger and can remotely control the vehicle if required. A friend/family member/provider also needs to accompany the rider. The rider typically controls the track chair with a joystick, but other options are available. The trails have had a lot of work done to them over the last several years. Many rock and logs have

been removed and the trails have been widened & flattened.

My daughter Grace, who accompanied her brother, commented that the program was very well managed and check-in was efficient. Safety was of utmost priority, but she said she just needed to “let go and allow her brother to fully enjoy the experience”. Rob’s reactions:

“Like driving a big power chair”.

Felt like “nothing could stop him”.

“I could go hiking where before it was not possible”.

“I want to do this every weekend”.

Wouldn’t it be great if this kind of program was available in Northern Colorado?

Further information on this program can be obtained at:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Staunton/Pages/Track-Chair-Program.aspx>

PWV Assists in an Emergency

Eliot lives in Wisconsin and has been contacting PWV for recommendations for hiking and backpacking ideas for several years and has always been very pleased with the assistance we have provided him. He says he often meets PWV members on the trails and has enjoyed talking with them over the years. This year one of the recommendations was Big South. Eliot and his wife hiked the trail and met a PWV member patrolling the trail and had a nice visit. On his hike back to the trailhead he tripped, he believes it was on a rock. The next thing Eliot remembers is a few days later, he is in the hospital with a lot of tubes sticking in him.

When Eliot tripped, he fell off the trail and landed about 30 feet down by the river. Monica Young, PWV patroller, came upon his wife shortly after the fall. While a couple of hikers stayed with Marilyn, Monica hurried to the trailhead to let the various responders know the situation and how far up the trail Eliot was located. Approximately 1.5 hours later, Monica and other hikers helped carry rescue equipment to the scene and stayed with Marilyn. Eliot

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!).

was recovered and flown by helicopter to the hospital. Other hikers were also very helpful during this event. One had a satellite communication device and was able to call in the SOS before Monica arrived at the scene. The Poudre Fire Department, Larimer County Search and Rescue, State Wildlife and the Sheriff Department all responded. It took over 4 hours from the time of the accident until Eliot could be flown to the hospital, even though his accident was only a quarter mile from the highway. Rescues are a slow process. This case shows how important a satellite communication device can be when an accident happens.

This case shows how important a satellite communication device can be when an accident happens.

A PWV member visited Eliot in the hospital 2 weeks after his accident. He had a number of surgeries and was improving. He did say that the trail was beautiful and he enjoyed all of the hike he remembers. He and his wife were very appreciative of the support Monica was able to provide during this incident. Eliot is now in rehab in Denver but hopes to be back in our area in the future to hike more of our trails. He has been promised a guided hike on a trail with no cliffs when he returns.



THANK YOU
to our sponsors!

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

- **ABC7 The Denver Channel** *Denver, CO*
- **Brown's Shoe Fit** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Chapel in the Pines** *Red Feather Lakes, CO*
- **The Clinton Family Fund** *Chicago, IL*
- **Colorado Gives** *Arvada, CO*
- **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Exxon/Mobil** *Irving, TX*
- **Fort Collins Heating and Cooling** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Foothills Unitarian Church** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **JAX Mercantile Co** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **King Soopers** *Cincinnati, OH*
- **Limmer Boots** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Microsoft** *Redmond, WA*
- **New Belgium Brewing Company** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Oboz Footwear** *Bozeman, MT*
- **Odell Brewing Company** *Fort Collins, CO*
- **Takeda Pharmaceuticals** *Tokyo, Japan*
- **Walmart Foundation** *Bentonville, AR*

Special thanks to:

- **National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance**

PWV on the Trail



PWV on the Trail - Continued



~ Remembering Ras Erdal ~

Rasmus Anfin Erdal, 91, died peacefully in his sleep on June 28, 2023, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Ras joined PWV in 1997, where he did a lot of Adopt-a-Highway patrols. Ras also led the map and compass station at spring training for several years, when the training was held at the Cub Scout Camp, Red Feather Lakes. Ras was a near-founding member of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, who stayed active for a long time – at least 20 years patrolling.

Additional information: <https://www.goesfuneralcare.com/obituaries/Rasmus-Erdal/#!/Obituary>

