

*We do not inherit the Wilderness from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.*



## **Volunteers, Members, and Friends of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas**

Welcome to our July 2017 newsletter!

Is it already almost the end of July! We are having a great summer to date with a number of events already completed, and a number more still in the early planning stages. We have a number of new volunteers who have already completed their initial summer patrol hikes, and this year are putting close to 150 volunteers on the trails to help act as a presence of the USFS in both the IP and JP Wilderness Areas. A big THANK YOU to all of you that volunteer! So, lots of fun stuff going on which is great!

As always, reach out to us with any questions, comments, or ideas regarding how we can best help achieve our mission of helping to "preserve and protect the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas."

**Keep it wild!**

---

### **I. IPWA News**

---

#### **IPWA Wilderness Interpretive Center in early planning stages**

We are incredibly excited about our recent agreement with the USFS to work toward restoring and designating as a historical site the Hessie cabin (located at the junction of the Hessie Road and the 4th of July Road)! The IPWA in working with the USFS will work to have the cabin become a Wilderness Interpretive Center whereby we can greet members of the public entering the wilderness, act as a presence of the USFS at one of the busiest locations in the wilderness, and promote wilderness ethics. We have had very preliminary discussions with the USFS and are reaching out to the residents of both Eldora and the North Fork to get their input on our ideas. More details to come!

*(photo of Hessie Cabin)*



## IPWA working on a Cost Sharing Agreement with the USFS

Thanks to Jonathan Brooks (Recreation Specialist with the USFS), we are working to put in place a cost sharing agreement between the IPWA and the USFS. This will help the IPWA assist in funding projects in the wilderness including for example the Wilderness interpretive Center, Wilderness trail projects, as well as potentially seasonal rangers to assist with wilderness related projects. Thanks Jonathan!

*(photo of Jonathan Brooks)*



---

## IPWA Volunteers Cross Cut Saw Certified

On June 24 and 25, members of the USFS were gracious enough to help train a dozen IPWA volunteers and members of Rocky Mountain Youth Corps on cross cutting basics. We now have a crew of trained and fully certified USFS sawyers who can safely remove downed trees from trails in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas. This will be a huge benefit to the USFS as we will be able to clear trails throughout the year - making them safer for the general public. Thank you USFS!

*(photo of certified sawyers and USFS instructors)*



---

## IPWA working with the NWSA

As many of you know, the IPWA has been fortunate enough to have been awarded grants from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) both in 2016 and in 2017. These grants have helped to fund a number of our programs and help us make a difference in our wonderful wilderness areas. We will be continuing to work closely with the NWSA over the next several months, and are looking to attend the NWSA annual wilderness conference in Arkansas in late September. Thank you NWSA for your assistance!



**National Wilderness  
Stewardship Alliance**

[Check out the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance!](#)

---

## II. IPWA Wilderness Program Updates

---

## Wilderness Ranger Internships: Our 3rd year is going strong!

The IPWA is providing two Wilderness Ranger Internships during the summer of 2017 (partially funded by grants from the NWSA!). John Kurtz and Jake Michelotti have been having a great summer so far and have been involved in a number of projects - including wilderness solitude monitoring, sawyer certification, summer patrols, and USFS office assistance. The program is being managed by Jim Merryman (IPWA Board member) and we are having a great season. In addition, they are performing weekly readings on wilderness related topics and reading about authors from Thoreau to Muir to Leopold. A huge THANK YOU to Jim for managing this program for us.



*(Photo of intern Jake Michelotti in the James Peaks Wilderness finding a bed frame he can use next year in his dorm room!)*

---

## Wilderness Summer Patrols: We are having a great summer!

Over 240 patrols completed to date...more than 1900 volunteer hours...close to 17,000 members of the public seen on the trails...2700 dogs encountered with 379 not on a leash...over 50 fire rings removed...numerous downed trees removed from the trails...and we aren't even at the end of July!



As you can see we are having a great summer volunteer season! We also have a number of new volunteers on the trails this year - one of who is Ben Rodman. Ben completed his first volunteer hike this month and here are some of his thoughts:

*(Photo of Ben Rodman)*

---

*"Just got to take my first hike as an IPWA volunteer! I became aware of IPWA on social media and thought "what a great way to put my hiking time to even better use!" I'm also an active volunteer with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (a conservation organization dedicated to protecting America's backcountry and wildlife), and my wife Jasmine and I have lived in Lyons for 17 years. We're both passionate about preserving Colorado's shared natural beauty and habitat and dedicate our time in service to others: Jasmine as a movement instructor for adults and children and I work in lifelong care for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Very excited to be part of our mission in service to our Wilderness areas and to those who use them!"*

---

## Wilderness Information Specialist:

## Our 2nd year well under way!

We have kicked off the second year of our Wilderness Information Specialist (WIS) Program and are doing great! This is a program whereby IPWA volunteers assist in staffing the front desk at the USFS office in Boulder, and manage the wilderness permit process (which can actually take more time than one would think!). We have been able to fully staff these positions in only our second year of the program! One of these volunteers is Scott Oetting (also an IPWA Board member and our Treasurer). Here are some of Scott's thoughts:

*(Photo of Scott Oetting)*



*"I find volunteering as a Wilderness Information Specialist is a rewarding endeavor as it is a way to help the public plan and enjoy their backpacking trips within the Indian Peaks and James Peak wilderness areas while helping the Forest Service manage the number of visitors who want to experience the beauty of these areas. It is certainly fulfilling to utilize our knowledge of these areas to help new visitors proactively plan an enjoyable experience."*

## Wilderness Trail Head Host Day: Interacted with more than 400 people!

We will held our initial Trail Head Host Day on Saturday July 8 and had a great time. A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped staff our tent at East Portal/Moffat Tunnel. We saw more than 400 individuals (including one woman who got in the last of her ski adventures for the season!), numerous dogs, and an incredible number of people with no cell phone service and no idea where they were or where they were going!

*(Photo at right of IPWA Volunteer Danny Smith and a back country skier)*



## Wilderness Interpreter Guide Program: A New Pilot Program starting this year!

We are continuing to work on creating our Wilderness Interpretive Guide Program. The goal of this pilot program is to increase the knowledge of a select group of IPWA volunteers to be able to:

- \* lead guided and structured hikes for members of the public in the BRLA (outside of wilderness areas),
- \* present on wilderness issues to local schools and other organizations,
- \* provide the select group of volunteers with additional resources to be able to speak to and advocate for wilderness preservation and protection.

Board members Daryl Ogden and Yonah Cohen have been driving this program forward for us (along with



working with other volunteers as well). This past weekend we completed our second pilot hike and now are close to scheduling hikes for members of the public staying at Pawnee Camp Grounds. A huge thank you to Daryl and Yonah for driving this program, along with Michael Dalin, Eliza Rayner, and Leslie Brodhead for their help!

*(photo of Daryl, Michael and Eliza at Brainard Lake)*

---

## III. USFS News

---

### Did You Know....

The Indian Peaks Wilderness is one of the busiest wilderness areas in the country. ALWAYS notify interested backpackers that permits are limited, sold by backcountry zone, and sell out in advance (we had someone in the office recently who was not told to apply in advance – the zone they wanted was sold out). Everyone should be encouraged to visit the official website:



[USF Indian Peaks Wilderness Information](#)

---

## IV. IPWA Upcoming Events

---

### **Thursday July 27 (Even if it is raining tomorrow!) Mid Season IPWA Volunteer and Member Potluck**

Please mark on your calendar the date for our mid-season potluck which is open to all of our volunteers and members. This is always a fun event and a way to connect with other IPWA volunteers and members to share your summer experiences. Right now we are planning on ~ 40-50 folks attending. It isn't too late to sign up - the more the merrier!

### **Saturday July 29 Invasive Weed Day**

#### ***East Portal, James Peak Wilderness Area***

Please join Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the U.S. Forest Service to remove oxeye daisy, an invasive weed, at East Portal on Saturday, July 29, 2017! The project is from 8 AM – 1:30 PM. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and crew leaders, gloves, tools, and training will be provided at the site. The IPWA sponsored this project in 2016, and this year we are again looking for volunteers to help keep invasive oxeye daisy out of the James Peak Wilderness!

If you're interested, please register with the following link:

[Volunteer for Invasive Weed Day](#)

### **Saturday August 26 Trail Head Host Day**

#### ***East Portal, James Peak Wilderness***

We will be hosting our 2nd trail head host day at the East Portal/Moffat Tunnel entrance to the James Peak Wilderness. Be on the lookout for a Doodle poll sign-up for this

---

## V. IPWA Membership Corner: "Why I am a member of the IPWA"

---

In 2016, the IPWA introduced a "Friends" of the Indian Peaks membership category. For just a \$10 tax deductible donation, individuals (separate from our patrol volunteers) can become a member of our organization and help us achieve our mission! "Friends" receive an IPWA sticker, a copy of our annual report, and most importantly the knowledge that their contributions are helping to promote wilderness preservation!

With each newsletter, we will focus on one individual who decided that they wanted to be a member of the IPWA and why - so that all of our readers can hear of the importance of wilderness preservation and protection.

### Ken C (and daughter):

*"I became a member of IPWA because as an Eldora resident, the Indian Peaks is my "back yard." I want to protect its beauty and educate the public about its importance. As Thoreau said, "In wilderness is the preservation of the world." Speaking personally, the Indian Peaks is important to me because of precious memories hiking with my daughter and admiring the magnificent flora, fauna and waterfalls since she was a toddler. It certainly influenced her career choice in conservation and wildlife biology."*



[Become a Member Today for Just \\$10.00!](#)

---

## Thank you!

As always, reach out to us with any questions, comments, or thoughts on how we can make our organization an even better one! As a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer organization (we have NO paid staff positions!), we rely on volunteers, members of the public, local businesses, and grants for 100% of our funding needs. Any financial assistance is greatly appreciated!

---

Donate Today via PayPal or with personal credit card

