

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 April 2018 newsletter!

We are now almost 5 months into the year and a lot is going on! In this month's newsletter we will provide a quick update on planning activities, along with updates on our program work. We have a lot planned for 2018 and want to thank all of you for your wonderful support of our organization.

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

Bidding Farewell To Jim Merryman

Please join us in wishing Jim Merryman, a dedicated volunteer and board member, the best as he moves East. We will certainly be sad to see him go.

Thank you, Jim, for all of your hard work and dedication to the IPWA!



Summer Patrol New Registration Closed

Registration for new volunteers for our Summer Patrols is now closed. We are excited to announce that we will have **35 new volunteers** joining us this year!

Returning volunteers, please be sure to re-register!



Summer Patrols Training Day

As a reminder for all new and returning Summer Patrol Volunteers:

The mandatory training event will be held at the U.S. Forest Service Boulder Ranger District on June 9th, 2018.

More details to come - be on the lookout for an email as the day approaches.

We are looking forward to a day full of training and learning with both new faces and old!



Mentors For New Volunteers Needed

A word from our new Mentoring Coordinator Leslie Brodhead:

"Do you remember your first day as a Wilderness Trail Patrol Volunteer? That feeling of excitement mixed with a little nervousness?

You have a chance to help our new volunteers this year make their first day a great one by volunteering to be a mentor for a new 2018 patrol volunteer. Share your experience and wisdom with someone new and help them to have the best experience possible.

The commitment is minimal -- you meet with your mentee during our training day on Saturday, June 9 and accompany them on their first training patrol hike. After that, you serve as a resource to answer questions and issues that might come up for them.

I will be pairing up mentors and mentees at the end of May in preparation for our upcoming season. **If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please email Leslie Brodhead at lesliegb@yahoo.com.** Looking forward to a fun hiking season!"

Note: If you have already expressed interest via the registration process, you do not need to let us know again.



Wilderness First Aid Interested in Participating?

Thanks to the USFS, we are again holding a two day Wilderness First Aid training class at the USFS office in Boulder CO the weekend of May 19/20. This 2 day class is required for our IPWA winter patrol program, and strongly recommended for our IPWA sawyer program.

We currently have 16 participants signed up with a few spots left! Don't miss out!

[I'm interested in attending the IPWA two day](#)



II. IPWA Wilderness Program Updates

Upcoming Trail Projects

The Wilderness Restoration Program is currently planning a trail project/tree clearing day for National Trails Day on **Saturday, June 2nd!**

The event will meet at the East Portal trailhead, where volunteers will participate in either a trail project or a patrol & tree clearing hike. This will be followed by a post-event potluck to celebrate the start of the season!

To gauge interest and plan accordingly, please fill out this brief event survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCY7TBC>

Lastly, be sure to keep **Saturday, May 19th** on the calendar for an early season tree clearing day. More details to come.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ben Katz at bbrowningkatz@gmail.com.



2018 Research Grant Recipients

The IPWA is excited to announce our 2018 Research Grant Recipients!

Margaret Mitter-McCormick - "A Vertical Mile of Stonecrop: Adaptive Genetic Variation with Elevation?"

Margaret is interested in understanding the key traits and underlying genes controlling local species adaptation. Her research examines genetic variation in the succulent herb *Sedum lanceolatum* (yellow stonecrop) along a steep elevational gradient. She is looking for a genetic basis for this adaptability and has identified a particular chloroplast gene that could be used to monitor the adjustments that stonecrop makes to survive in contrasting environments. **These results have direct and significant impact on understanding plant responses to climate change.** Margaret will use the IPWA funds to complete genetic analysis of test samples.



Isabel Schroeter - "Managing Riparian Plant Communities in the Rocky Mountains: Can an Understanding of Functional Water-Use Strategies Explain Browsing and Hydrological Feedbacks?"

Isabel is interested in determining what factors are important in the regrowth of browsed vegetation in mid-high altitude riparian areas and their effect on habitat restoration. Isabel is asking the question of whether functional traits (plant height, specific leaf area, root length, etc) and water use efficiency by willows, birch, alder and aspen explain

feedbacks that lead to some plant communities being able to escape herbivorous browsing while others get stuck as a small stature plant communities and are therefore subject to high browsing intensity. **Together, changes in browsing and hydrologic regimes limit plant community recovery, and can ultimately impede land management and restoration goals. Isabel hopes to be able to contribute information that can assist with attaining these goals.** Isabel will use the IPWA funds to secure for greenhouse bench top space and for the analysis of carbon stable isotopes in preserved plant leaves as in indication of water use efficiency.



2018 Wilderness Ranger Interns

Please join us in welcoming our new 2018 Wilderness Ranger Interns, Lucas Herbert & Nate Marx! Along with learning about Wilderness principles and management, our interns will also assist with patrols, visitor education, and trail maintenance.



Lucas is an Environmental Studies major at CU Boulder, where he is also a member of the freeski team. He is an alumni of NOLS Patagonia with a Wilderness First Aid certification. Lucas enjoys skiing, climbing, hiking and many other outdoor activities.



Nate is a rising junior at Colorado College where he is studying Environmental Policy and Social Philosophy. He grew up hiking around the Pacific Northwest and he loves music. According to Nate, "I live to question the world around me."

III. USFS News

Brainard Lake Road CLOSED Thursday March 1 through Thursday June 28

The Brainard Lake Road is now closed for reconstruction until the end of June. The road will be closed to all travelers (bikes, pedestrians, vehicles) 24-hours a day, seven days a week in order to safely excavate the area, haul material, and rebuild the road. The road is to be fully reopened at the end of the workday on Thursday, June 28.



Alternative places to cross-country ski or snowshoe include Jenny Creek Trail and Guinn Mountain (dogs prohibited, park outside the Eldora Mountain Resort official parking lot), as well as the Rainbow Lakes Road and Sourdough Trail (dogs allowed, park at the Sourdough Trailead).

[Brainard Lake Road Construction Status](#)

IV. NATIONAL WILDERNESS NEWS

IPWA Meeting with Jared Polis's D.C. Office

The IPWA is having meetings with representatives from Jared Polis's office in Washington D.C. next, as well as other U.S. Forest Service personnel. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss our concerns regarding recreational shooting in the Wilderness. More details to come!



V. IPWA Upcoming Events

Saturday/Sunday May 19th and 20th **Advanced First Aid Training**

Boulder USFS Office (36th/Yarmouth)

Pencil in this date for a two day advanced First Aid training. This two day course (or other advanced first aid certification) is recommended for volunteers who take part in our sawyer training, and is required for our winter patrol volunteers. More details to come.

Saturday, June 2nd **National Trails Day Project**

East Portal Trailhead

Join us as we celebrate National Trails Day by participating in a trail project at the East Portal trailhead! This project will be followed up by a post-event potluck to celebrate the start of the season! More details to come.

Wednesday June 6th **Wilderness Lecture Series with George Wuerthner**

Boulder Public Library Main Branch from 6 PM - 7 PM

Join us for a great wilderness presentation from George Wuerthner - a professional photographer, writer and ecologist. With his ecological training and experience in wildlands throughout the country, George brings passion and knowledge to wilderness advocacy. The public is welcome!

Saturday June 9th **IPWA Summer Patrol Volunteer Training Day**

Boulder USFS Office (36th/Yarmouth)

Pencil this date in your calendars for our annual training day. 2018 new volunteers are required to attend this event, and prior volunteers are strongly encouraged to stop by. More details to come!

Saturday/Sunday June 30/July 1 **USFS Cross Cut Sawyer Certification Class**

Boulder USFS Office (36th/Yarmouth)

We will be holding our second annual Sawyer Certification Class for IPWA volunteers. This class is required for those individuals who would like to help our organization clear the IP/JP Wilderness trails of downed trees. A big thanks to the USFS for agreeing to hold this training for the 2nd year in a row!

Thursday July 26 **IPWA Mid-Season Potluck**

Pencil in our annual mid-season potluck party of IPWA Volunteers and Members. This is always a fun event!

VI. 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.

Why I am a member: Leslie B.

"As I crossed the foot bridge, I encountered huge drifts of snow. Looking out for signs of the trail – blue diamonds, cut trees, rocks lining the trail -- I encountered a group of women.

"Oh, look here's someone who looks like she knows the trail!" So began my first solo trail patrol as a patrol volunteer with IPWA and the Forest Service. When I signed up for a hike to Mitchell and Blue Lake, it didn't seem like a big deal. I'd done that hike many times. But throw in a late season snowstorm with the trail buried under three feet of snow, and suddenly what looked familiar wasn't. Through persistence and a team effort, we finally made it to Mitchell Lake. The woman asked me about my role as a Wilderness Trail Patrol Volunteer and thanked me profusely, saying, "This is the most heroic thing you'll probably do all summer!"

That, in a nutshell, is why I became a volunteer with IPWA, and why I've taken on my current position as Mentoring Coordinator. That feeling of helping others to enjoy all that the Indian Peaks Wilderness has to offer. Living in Nederland, I consider the Indian Peaks Wilderness to be my backyard. I now work as a freelance writer from home, so have much more time to give to IPWA, and want to encourage you to give more too!"



[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

