

Saving Wilderness. Changing Lives.



Friends of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas

Welcome to our October newsletter. We have wrapped up an incredible summer season and are now moving forward on planning for our winter patrols and Nov/Dec fund raising activities.

We'll continue to keep you posted on our progress. A big "thank you" to all our volunteers who help support our cause, a "thank you" to those organizations who have provided us with grant funds for this season (including the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, Colorado Mountain Club, and Pulling For Colorado to name a few), and a special "thank you" to all of you who have financially contributed to our organization.

Your contributions are invaluable as we work to keep the wilderness wild.

Keep it wild!

[Donate via Paypal](#)

Wilderness Summer Patrol Volunteers: Great Results for our 2016 season!

We wrapped up our summer patrols at the end of September and had another great year. With close to 150 volunteers out on the trails this summer we:

- Completed over **400 unique patrols**,
- Logged close to **3,600 volunteer hours**,
- Hiked more than **3,000 miles**,
- Made contact with more than **34,000 members of the public**,
- Talked with close to **700 dog owners with their dogs off leash**, and
- Removed close to **100 fire rings**, helping to mitigate fire danger in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas.

THANK YOU to all of our volunteers!

Wilderness Volunteers: A Wonderful Story of one of our Volunteers!

We recently received an email from a member of the public sharing a GREAT story of how one of our volunteers - Joe Husek - helped him out. Check this out:

"Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance Board:

I cannot express enough gratitude for the kindness shared by volunteer Joe Husek on the Mt. Audubon trail.

While returning from the summit on a nice Labor Day hike (albeit very windy), my 10+ year old black lab mix Rudi and I were greeted with a pleasant hello from Joe who was walking up the trail. Little did I know that about a mile further down the trail Rudi would be too exhausted to continue. As I stopped to rest with Rudi for about the fifth time at the side of the trail and Joe saw on his way back down. He stopped, voiced a genuine concern and asked to help. I didn't think there anything that could be done with a 75+ pound dog that refused to move. After a few comforting words, Joe said he would see what he could do for assistance and continued to the trailhead. Sure enough, soon after I decided to pickup and carry Rudi, Joe returned with a large blanket, a smile, and reassuring words. Together we put Rudi on the blanket, hoisted her onto our shoulders ,and walked the remaining 1/2 mile to the car....

Thank you IPWA for your stewardship of this extraordinary wilderness that is so close to a highly populated area. Again, I'll never be able thank Joe enough, but I will gladly be making a \$100 donation to IPWA."

Dave D.

Pictured below is Rudi on the left happy to be back in the car, and Joe on the right doing some bridge work at Brainard Lake. THANKS JOE!



Wilderness Interns: That's a wrap!

We wrapped up our 2nd year of providing a Wilderness Ranger Internship Program and what a year it was! Alex Clinton and Zoe Briggs had a fabulous summer experience. To learn more about their experiences, listen to their short video that they provided at the end of their program posted here on our web site:



[IPWA Wilderneass Ranger Internship Video](#)

Wilderness Trail Projects: A great first year with TEENS Inc.

We were thrilled to have partnered with TEENS Inc this past year on working on wilderness trail restoration projects in the Brainard Lake Area. Check out this great video that they prepared as part of that experiences (and we have this on our web site as well):

[TEENS Inc Wilderness Restoration Video](#)



Wilderness Trail Head Hosts: Two fantastic events!

We also introduced in 2016 our Wilderness Trail Head Host Program. We held two events (both at the East Portal/Moffat Tunnel entrance to the James Peak Wilderness) and made contact with more than 500 members of the public. Through providing trail maps, and interacting with hikers, we were able to educate hikers on the importance of the wilderness areas. Pictured are Chris Sydoriak and Zdenka Smith who helped staff the event for part of the day.



In Zdenka's own words:

"Why do I volunteer with the IPWA? It gets me out into the mountains that I love!

The number of visitors to our forests and parks are growing, ever faster. But the wild lands are not...The U.S. Forest Service, caretaker of our lands, is not growing commensurately, thus the need for volunteer rangers, to be the "eyes and ears" of the Forest service, to help, advise fellow hikers.

The Trailhead Host program allows all visitors, hikers, to see us as they set off. We try to greet everyone: offer help or advice, a drink of water, First Aid, even trash disposal. It is also a chance to spend time with fellow volunteers. I appreciate being able to help preserve our wild lands for future generations!"

Wilderness Information Specialist: A great first year!

We wrapped up our first year of the Wilderness Information Specialist Program and it was a great success. By having volunteers assist in staffing the front desk of the USFS office and completing wilderness permits for members of the public, we not only helped the USFS through providing additional resources, but were also able to educate members of the public on the critical importance of preserving and protecting our wilderness areas.



As noted by Daryl Ogden, one of our volunteers:

"Working as a Wilderness Information Specialist was a totally different volunteer experience. It was truly educational to work with Elaine Wells and her group at the USFS office who seem to know everything about every trail in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas! Using that information and what I know from my own experiences to help hikers select the best opportunities was fun. It's another aspect of the IPWA stewardship mission that asks the volunteers to assist in minimizing the impact to this resource of those individuals wanting a wilderness experience."

Wilderness Advocacy: A Day with CU BRAP students

We had our 2nd annual IPWA/CU BRAP hike on Sunday September 11. As part of our Wilderness Advocacy Program, the IPWA has been working with the University of Colorado Baker Residence Academic Program (CU BRAP) to introduce new students to the wonders of our wilderness areas. We led a dozen students and faculty up to Crater Lakes in the James Peak Wilderness area and opened their eyes to beauty and special needs of the wilderness lands.



As commented by one student after the hike:

"The hike was an incredible experience, I am so lucky to have had the chance to see and explore the Crater Lakes trail. I'm very thankful to all the people who volunteer their time to keep the trails so beautiful." (CU BRAP student)

Welcome Scott Oetting to the IPWA Board

We're thrilled to have Scott Oetting join the IPWA Board of Directors! Scott has been a volunteer for a number of years and most recently has expressed interest in helping the IPWA with our financial management. In Scott's own words:



"I have enjoyed hiking in the Indian Peaks Wilderness since my dad took my brother and I on our very first backpacking trip to Lake Isabelle when I was six years old. Since this first foray, I have always appreciated the natural beauty of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and have felt honored to help maintain this cherished area over the last seven years as an IPWA volunteer. I look forward to helping the board continue to deliver on its mission over the next few years while increasing its financial foundation."

Upcoming IPWA Events

Monday October 10 IPWA Photo Contest Review

Thanks to all IPWA volunteers who submitted photos for our 2nd annual photo contest! The IPWA Board will be reviewing all submissions and deciding on the winners during our October monthly board meeting. More news to follow!

Sunday October 16

IPWA Volunteer Picnic

We're having our annual thank you picnic for our volunteers this coming Sunday from noon - 2 PM. Be on the lookout for more information on the event!

Sunday October 23

IPWA and Boy Scouts of America Trail Restoration Project

We will be working with a group of Boy Scouts on a trail restoration project at the 4th of July trail head all day on Sunday 10/23. This will be for our first foray in working with a group of scouts and we're excited about the event!

Saturday November 5

IPWA Wilderness Winter Patrol Training

We're holding our annual winter patrol training on Saturday November 5. If interested in being an IPWA Winter Patrol Volunteer, please send us an email for more information to Andy Gup at agup2001@msn.com or via the following link:

[IPWA Winter Patrols](#)

Thank you!

We've had a great summer and are looking forward to our Fall and Winter events. As always, reach out to us with any questions, comments, or thoughts on how we can make our organization an even better one!

Donate via Paypal

