



Saving Wilderness. Changing Lives.

Notes from the Board

IPWA Members & Friends of the Indian Peaks/James Peak Wilderness Areas

Welcome to our April newsletter. Summer will be here soon!

We're gearing up for another fantastic summer patrol season and a number of new programs are in the works. While we'll be continuing with our **Wilderness Patrols** (and are just this week wrapping up our Winter Patrols), **Wilderness Grants**, and **Wilderness Internship Programs**, we're in the early stages of planning for:

* **Wilderness Information Specialists** to help staff the USFS desk in Boulder during the summer months to help with wilderness permits, along with educating visitors on the IP/JP Wilderness areas,

* Working with **Teens Inc.** out of Nederland to help with **Wilderness Trail Projects** to help perform trail restoration and build boardwalks on the Mitchell Lake trail in Brainard, and

* **Wilderness Trail Head Hosts** to help 'greet' visitors to the wilderness at some of the trail heads outside of the Brainard Lake Recreation Area (e.g. Hessie, East Portal, etc).

Also, our registration web site for **NEW** patrol volunteers is now accepting applications so if you (or someone you know) is interested in joining our organization, apply now! *(Please note that we will shortly open up the web site for RETURNING volunteers to re-register).*

As always, we'll keep you posted on our progress. So, thank you for your help and...

Keep it wild!

NEW Patrol Volunteers: Sign-up Now!

NEW Volunteer Applications are now being accepted.

We are anticipating having ~ 30 spots available for new IPWA Patrol volunteers this summer and the spots typically fill up quickly. If you are interested, please follow the link below which will walk you through the application process and provide details on summer patrol volunteer requirements. We will likely close out the application process at the end of April so don't delay in signing up if you are interested in joining our organization!

[NEW IPWA Volunteer Sign-up](#)

PS. A separate registration email will be sent out shortly for RETURNING volunteers.

Wilderness Information Specialist & Trail Head Host Programs: NEW in 2016!

Wilderness Information Specialist Program

We are close to finalizing a Wilderness Information Specialist Program for 2016! In partnering with the USFS, this program will provide the USFS with volunteers who would like to staff the front office of the USFS for a set number of days and a set number of hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The program is geared toward both past and present IPWA volunteers who would like to learn more about hiking and camping opportunities, as well as those who are no longer capable of hiking, but still enjoy supporting the wilderness of the Front Range. More details to come!

Wilderness Trail Head Host Program

We are also looking to finalize our 'Trail Head Host' Program in the next month. This program will provide an opportunity for both past and present IPWA volunteers to greet visitors to our wilderness areas at various trail heads during the summer (we are tentatively looking to start this program at East Portal). Volunteers would be asked to staff a 'greeting' station at the trail head and meet hikers as they start on their hike. The IPWA would provide chairs/tables/canopy, etc. for the volunteers with the goal of helping educate members of the public on trail conditions, rules, hikes, etc. BEFORE they are on the trail. More details to come on this as well!

Wilderness Ranger Internships: Accepting Applications

Wilderness Ranger Internship Program: Accepting Applications Now!

The IPWA will be funding again in 2016 two Wilderness Ranger Interns. We have been working with the Baker Residence Academic Program at CU to find students who might be interested in the program and are also looking to potentially expand the program to other students as well. We're going through the application and interview process in April and will hopefully have our candidates selected by early May!

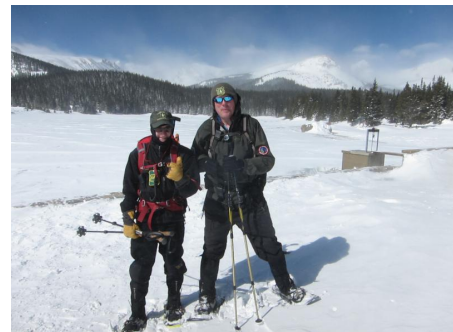


(Pictured 2015 Wilderness Ranger Interns Jason Farrell and Elliot Levey)

Wilderness Winter Patrols - Finishing Up Strong!

Winter patrols finishing strong!

This week we will be wrapping up our winter patrol season. We had 6 winter patrol volunteers who helped out in our initial year of this program hiking in both the Brainard Lake Area and East Portal. On busy weekends we were seeing more than 100 people on the trail! In addition to interacting with the public, the volunteers reported on trail conditions, assisted 'lost' hikers (yes, this happened a couple of time!), and removed downed tree limbs from the trails. Overall a huge success in our inaugural year of the program. A big THANK YOU to Andy Gup for spearheading this program with the IPWA.



(Pictured Winter Patrol Volunteers Andy Gup and Stuart Dodd at Brainard Lake)

IPWA Research Grants: Accepting Applications

IPWA Planning on Three \$1,000.00 Research Grants in 2016!

We have opened the application process for IPWA Research Grants and are looking forward to seeing the applications. A big THANK YOU to Daryl Ogden for coordinating the grant program this year!

The IPWA offers research grants in memory of University of Colorado geography student David Paddon, who did research in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area and died in a climbing accident there in May 1990, and of Joyce Gellhorn, a passionate alpine and sub-alpine ecologist, enthusiastic educator, and long-time Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance Board member.

The year, there will be three (3) IPWA Paddon/Gelhorn Wilderness grants for \$1,000 each. Applications are due by April 15 and awards will be announced by May 1, 2016.

Applicants must be undergraduate or graduate students of a Colorado university and conducting research with a focus on issues affecting alpine and sub-alpine environments. The research topic

should help provide a better understanding of the ecological environment and/or wise management of the Colorado high country. The grants will be awarded based on the quality and merit of the research proposal and on the recommendation of the faculty advisor.

If interested, applicants should send the following materials to the attention of Daryl Ogden, Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance at hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org:

1) A letter of application:

Indicate your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, university, college department, current degree program, and the name, phone number, and e-mail of your faculty advisor plus one other academic reference.

2) A research proposal:

State clearly and concisely, in no more than two pages, the research objectives, study area, overall experimental design, and the potential significance of findings.

3) A proposed budget:

Detail how you would spend the grant award.?

4) Two letters of support from faculty members including your major professor.

Eldora Mountain Resort Expansion Update: Opposed by IPWA Board

Eldora Mountain Resort Expansion Plans still being debated

The Middle Boulder Creek Coalition (MBCC) has started meeting with Eldora Mountain Resort (EMR) and the US Forest Service as all sides try and better explain their positions and explore if there is any potential resolution of the issues. Representatives from MBCC and Rocky Mountain Wild held a meeting with EMR on February 9. On March 8, representatives from MBCC, Sierra Club, Boulder County staff, and Town of Nederland met with representatives from the USFS. It is anticipated that there will be additional upcoming meetings. This summer, the ski area will be undertaking some of the improvements within their current permit boundary - this includes the upgraded Corona lift and new ski runs in the Corona area.

The IPWA Board continues to oppose the expansion of the Eldora Ski Area outside of the current boundaries. We will keep our members posted on any further updates

Upcoming Events

Wednesday April 13: IPWA Spring Patrol Training

We will be holding our Spring Patrol training on Wednesday April 13. This training is for those early season hikers who were part of our winter patrol program and would like to get out on the trails and patrol prior to our official summer hiking season.

Saturday June 4: IPWA Summer Patrol Training

Our annual summer training will take place on Saturday June 4 at the USFS Offices in Boulder. Training will start at 8:00 AM (with coffee/continental breakfast and registration open at 7:15)

Saturday July 31: IPWA Volunteer Weed Removal Program at East Portal

This year we are tentatively planning a 'weed' removal work project at East Portal. This program should be a lot of fun and more details will be provided as we get closer to the date.

Saturday August 4: IPWA Trail Restoration Project on Mitchell Lake Trail

We have picked Saturday August 4 as the tentative day to continue our IPWA trail project work. This year we will be focusing on the Mitchell Lake trail to Blue Lake. We started working on this trail two years ago and this year we will be picking up where we left off. More details to come!

2016 IPWA Photo Contest - Get Your Cameras Ready!

We will be holding our Photo Contest in the Fall. Start taking pictures!

We will be holding our IPWA photo contest again this Fall. We had a number of volunteers participate

in our event in 2015 and would like even more to partake in 2016. Start taking pictures now and getting geared up to send in your submissions later on this year!



IPWA Board Looking for Volunteers

IPWA Board Volunteer Positions Available

We'll end our April newsletter with a request for volunteers who might be interested in helping out the IPWA Board in the following areas. You don't need to be a member of the IPWA to help with these opportunities. If interested in any of these opportunities, please send an email to us at:

hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org

Fund Raising

We have finalized our 2016 fund raising plan and are looking for individual(s) who would be willing to help raising money for our organization. Our initial fund raising focus will be looking to businesses and individuals within the Boulder community who are interested in helping donate funds to support our mission of preserving and protecting the Indian Peaks and James Peaks Wilderness Areas.

Web-site Design

We will be re-designing our public facing web site in 2016 (we completely overhauled our members only web site in 2015). We are looking for anyone interested in helping with this project that has a flair for web site design, web content, and community outreach strategies with integrating web sites with social media applications.

Invasive Weed Champion

Do you have a hankerin' to learn more about invasive weeds and what we can be doing to get them out of the wilderness? Well, this spot might be for you! We are looking for someone who can work with individuals from the USFS and spearhead a program focused on educating both IPWA members and the public on the challenges with invasive weeds in the IP/JP Wilderness Areas.

Thank you!

We're going to have a great year!

We're excited about 2016 and are looking forward to a fantastic year - summer will be here before we know it! As always, reach out to us with any questions, comments, or thoughts on how we can make our organization an even better one!

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Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance | hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org |

www.indianpeakswilderness.org