



**Wilderness
Stewardship
Since 1985**



October 2025 Newsletter

IPWA News

**You only have three days left...
Submit NOW!**

We are now accepting submissions for the 2025 Photo Contest! Submissions are due on October 31st.

[Enter the Contest Here](#)

The IPWA holds an Annual Photo Contest to showcase the beauty of the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas. This contest is open to IPWA supporters and volunteers. Each individual may submit a maximum of 2 scenic photos (no people or dogs may be in the photos). To learn more and see past winners, visit our [Photo Contest page](#).





Golden Hour by Alexander Meyer (among the 2024 Photo Contest Winners)

Introducing Our Monthly Naturalist Series

High-Country Flora, Fauna and Geography

By Rob Pudim

IPWA volunteers are often asked by visitors not just about the trails, but about what they are seeing in the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas. This column will cover some of the plants, animals and geographic features that hikers, anglers and backpackers may come across in these areas. [Click here](#) to read a little about the Gray Jay and Clark's Nutcracker.

[Read Here](#)

About Rob Pudim:

A long time Boulder resident, Rob describes himself as “a coal-miner's son from Pennsylvania, a scientist (Chemistry, Rutgers University and Microbiology, Tulane University) an editorial cartoonist, an amateur lepidopterist, a Native Plant Master, and a long-time birder”. His affiliation with IPWA goes back to its founding in the 1980s.



Rocky Mountain Wilderness Gathering Recap

IPWA representatives **Fiona Garvin**, **Sara Raley**, and **Ainsley Medina** attended the **2nd annual Rocky Mountain Wilderness Gathering** Oct 10-12, held at Keystone Science Center. 55 people representing 15 different western wilderness alliance and public lands groups participated, with the goal of learning how best to fulfill our missions to protect wild places.

One of the highlights this year was a panel on Advocacy; what it is, most effective ways to advocate, and how important it is in current political climate to speak up for public lands. We were honored to host **District 8 State Senator Dylan Roberts**, who spoke about how best to connect with one's representatives (regardless of political leanings) and how to effect change in the political arena.

Participating organizations also shared best practices on volunteer recruitment and retention, training, outreach, and fundraising.

Contact IPWA (hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org) if you would like more information!



Program Updates

A Season to Celebrate!

What a year! We're endlessly grateful for the dedication, enthusiasm, and heart our volunteers brought to the trails this season. Thanks to you, it was one of our most impactful years yet.

Here's just a glimpse of what we accomplished together:

- Welcomed our **largest-ever class of new volunteers!**
- Completed **36% more service activities** — including **66% more trailhead host shifts** — and cleared **49% more fire rings** than last summer.
- Launched new data collection initiatives to help the Forest Service better track use trends and maintenance needs.
- Expanded our outreach, from hikes with Women's Wilderness and REI tabling events to our Forest Service partnership at the Farmer's Market and our ever-popular book club.
- Tackled four successful (and fun!) trail work days, kept up our sawyer efforts, and joined the fight against Canada Thistle.

And that's just the highlight reel — thank you for helping make this season one to remember!

Trailhead Host Season Wrap-Up

Can you believe our hosting season is already complete? What a wonderful season it was — filled with great conversations, wildlife sightings, and plenty of mountain magic.

Our final honorees of the Trailhead Host season are:

- Marian Bussey
- Aaron and Annie Swain
- Rob Pudim
- Kim Leonard

Trailhead Highlights

- Andy and Cade filmed for a documentary
- Visitors asked about moose, moose hunting, fishing, distances, and the status of Isabelle Lake
- Met a 95-year-old hiker!
- Weather reports included snow and ice on Pawnee Pass
- A lost CamelBak was successfully returned to its owner
- Fielded questions about a reported lost dog

Wild Sightings

- Seen: Two Gray Jays, one Raven, a Red Squirrel, and a handful of Colorado chipmunks
- Reported: A bull moose, a cow and calf near Mitchell Lake, another bull moose near the glacier, and a ptarmigan

It's been a fantastic season — we hope you've enjoyed hosting as much as I've enjoyed coordinating and sharing your stories. Stay tuned for a post-season Trailhead Host survey — your feedback will help make next year even better. Happy trails, and stay wild, friends!



Fundraising Mailing Prep Party - JOIN US!

When: Sunday, November 23 · 1:00–3:30 PM

Where: Louisville Library · 2nd Floor Meeting Room

We're gathering a small crew to join our Fundraising mailing prep party. It's a fun, low-key way to support IPWA and catch up with fellow volunteers.

If you'd like to lend a hand, please email hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org or fhgarvin38@gmail.com.

Reading Group

Please join us to discuss books about wilderness, nature, and conservation. All are welcome. Come and share your reflections and experiences.

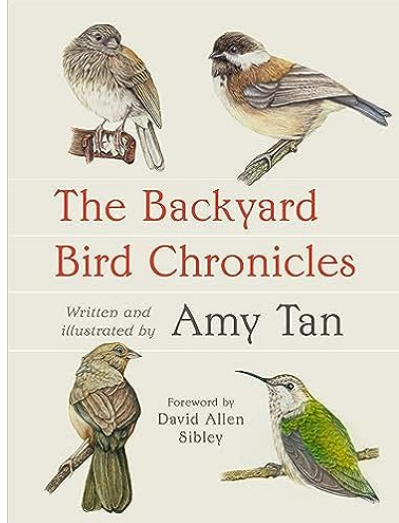
We'll meet on the following dates at 3:30 pm at The Rayback Collective in Boulder. Food and beverages available.

Nov 13: [The Backyard Bird Chronicles](#), Amy Tan **RSVP**

Jan 22: [Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter Alone in the Wilderness](#), Pete Fromm **RSVP**

Tracking the natural beauty that surrounds us, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* maps the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions, and beautiful sketches.

With boundless charm and wit,



author Amy Tan charts her foray into birding and the natural wonders of the world.

She explores themes of survival, intelligence, and the ephemeral nature of life, inviting readers to observe and find meaning in their own surroundings.

Hey YOU! Are You Interested in Winter Patrol?

We need you! With the high volume of winter/spring visitation, we are always looking for more eyes on the trail and we want you to join us! If you are looking for more ways to get involved, this is a fun and educational way to help make a difference. You are not required to ski for this adventure, snowshoes work just fine.

How do I learn more? Please email us at winter.ipwa@gmail.com and let us know you are interested then look for our upcoming emails with additional details.

Returning winter volunteers will receive separate emails about their requirements, and we hope to see all your friendly faces again this 2025/2026 season!



Calling All Volunteers!

Ever wonder how IPWA is managed?
Have questions or comments for the IPWA Board?

We'd like to invite all current volunteers (as-of Summer 2024) to attend our monthly virtual IPWA Board of Directors meetings, typically held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from **6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Your presence and participation is encouraged to help increase volunteer engagement and understanding of our organization!

Head over to the IPWA Volunteer Portal for additional information on how to participate.

Volunteer Portal

Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?

Click the links below to learn more!

Donate!

Volunteer!

Become a member today for just \$10!

Be sure to like and follow us on social media!



Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance | PO Box 17382 | Boulder, CO 80308 US

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