



**Wilderness  
Stewardship  
Since 1985**



## January 2023 Newsletter

# *IPWA News*

### A Note From Our New Board Chair

Greetings IPWA Friends,

I'd like to introduce myself to you all as the new IPWA Board Chair. I've been volunteering with the IPWA since 2010, and joined the Board of Directors in December 2019 as the Treasurer. I have worked closely with Kelly Prendergast, our outgoing Chair, during this time, and continue to do so during the transition to make sure IPWA functions smoothly.

My background includes a degree in Environmental Biology from UC Santa Barbara and experience running a camping and backpacking program for girls, as well as teaching gymnastics, ballet, and computer skills. More recently, I have worked as a database manager for several biotech and environmental companies.

As we head into 2023, I'd like to highlight several accomplishments in 2022 as well as our focus in the coming year:

- We are back up to near pre-pandemic levels with 119 volunteers (14 new)
- Our volunteers patrolled nearly 3,000 hours, and walked over 3,500 miles this past summer, encountering over 33,750 people and 5,664 dogs (approx. 8% off leash)
- We re-initiated the Trailhead Host program (thank you Kelly!), with 4 host days at East Portal trailhead. During a 5 hour window on 4th of July weekend, we counted 585 people entering the wilderness at this trailhead - great to have uniformed visibility here!
- Our USFS certified sawyers have removed many problematic trees downed from the winter high winds, helping the Boulder Ranger District keep our high alpine trails open for visitors.
- We funded three Paddon/Gellhorn Research Grants this summer.
- Our 2022/2023 Winter patrols have already set a new record with a total of 26 patrollers (9 new, 17 returning) and a whopping 41 patrols as of early January 2023.

In the coming year, in addition to maintaining our existing programs (coordinated by exceptional and dedicated volunteer Board members), we plan to do some strategic thinking about long-term financial plans as well as organize and codify "how we do things" so that this vital knowledge and experience currently in people's heads is collected and conserved.

Last but **definitely** not least, the Board and I want to thank all of our donors for your generosity - not only in our 2022 fundraising drive, but in your participation in the Eldora Play Forever Campaign. Preliminary results for the Eldora campaign indicate that we will receive over \$10,000 from donors and Eldora's matching contribution. WOW!

I'm looking forward to a productive and fulfilling year for IPWA and hope to meet many of you in person this year. Please contact us at [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org) if you have questions or comments.

All the best in 2023 to you, and Happy Trails!

Sincerely,  
Fiona Garvin and the IPWA Board.



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## Thank You, Kelly!

Please join us in thanking our outgoing Board Chair, Kelly Prendergast, for her exceptional leadership and dedication to the IPWA. For four years, Kelly led our organization through a pandemic, re-instated our Trailhead Host program, recruited many new Board members, hosted several successful fundraisers, and so much more.

Kelly will continue to be active in the IPWA as a patroller and as a resource for our new Board Chair, Fiona Garvin.

We wish you the best, Kelly! See you on the trails!



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## New Board Member Introduction

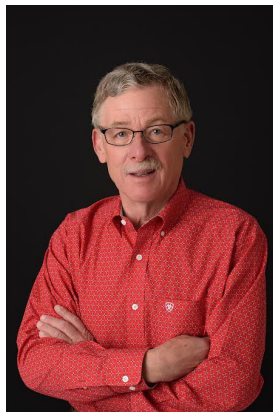
The IPWA is pleased to announce a new member to our board, Danny Dawidowski! Danny will be the new Fund Development Coordinator and will be assisting our fundraising efforts. Learn more about Danny below:

"I grew up in Downriver Detroit, then went off to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University and graduated in 1974. Following graduation, I embarked on a 47 year career in the financial services industry, primarily in the banking channel and more specifically, in the trust & wealth management silo. I have managed complex financial relationships for high net-worth clients, public and private endowments and have been extensively involved with several community foundations. Upon my retirement in 2018, I moved to Estes Park to be close to my daughter and her family who live in Gilpin County.

Throughout my career, I have been extensively involved in the local community. Below is a partial list of my involvements in Colorado:

Rocky Mountain National Park Search and Rescue Team Member  
Rocky Mountain National Park Volunteer in Park Program Member  
Rocky Mountain Conservancy Member

I am excited to be taking on this position for the IPWA. See you on the trail!"



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## IPWA Recruitment Announcement

Calling all IPWA volunteers! We currently have a key administrative position that must be filled this year. We hope you will consider stepping up for one of the positions below.

Wondering "*Can I do it?*" Yes! We know you can! A year or more of mentoring is available for open positions along with written policies and guidance. Both past and current IPWA

volunteers are eligible to apply.

### Treasurer (Board Officer Position)

This position is a year to year term.

Primary duties include:

- Works with Chair/Vice Chair to prepare annual budget for review and approval.
- Provides monthly financial record update to Board (income, expenses, assets, results vs budget, etc.).
- Manages financial activities.

***To learn more about this position or to apply, please email us [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org).***

# Program Updates

## Winter Patrol Update

We have had a whopping 41 patrols so far this season! This is a record breaking few months for the IPWA, so huge thank you to everyone who has made it out so far. We have had lots of snow and there have been lots of visitor interactions. We currently have 26 active patrollers and we are encouraging everyone to get out and cover the trails.

We look forward to a great winter season with our new patrollers. Thank you all for your continued effort, your presence makes a difference!

**Check Trail Conditions Here**







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## Crosscut Sawyer Training: May 19 - 21

We are looking for patrollers to join our Crosscut Sawyer team! We are very grateful to have secured our own training provided through the Forest Service. These classes are highly desired and hard to come by.

### What is a crosscut sawyer?

Sawyers are individuals who have completed training and certification from a credentialed instructor to safely plan and execute the cutting and removal of large trees. This is especially important in our wilderness areas where no chainsaws are allowed. Fallen trees on the trail lead to rapid trail degradation and increased social trail build up. Removing these trees helps to preserve the wilderness and support Leave No Trace principles.

### What are the requirements?

- Active IPWA volunteer with one full summer season patrol completion.
- Current OSHA CPR/First aid certification

### What is the time commitment for training?

- "The Crosscut Sawyer" online training course + completed exam (8 hours). This is free through MSU.
- One Zoom call (evening) and two days of practical and exam on a weekend with the certified instructor.

### What are the expectations?

Once you have completed the course and received your certification, you will be expected to actively help our sawyer team remove trees throughout the season.

The 2023 Crosscut Sawyer training is May 19-21. There are 6 spots remaining for the class. If you are interested in joining this exciting training experience, please send an email expressing your interest to [hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org](mailto:hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org).

We look forward to working with you!



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**Wondering How You Can Support the IPWA?**  
Click the links below to learn more!

**Donate!**

**Volunteer!**

**Become a supporter today for just  
\$10!**

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**Be sure to like and follow us on social media!**



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

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