

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 August 2017 newsletter!

Is it really almost Labor Day Weekend? Where did our summer go?

We continue to have a great summer season with a number of events already completed, and a number more still in the early planning stages (check out our listing of upcoming events below). We've now held two Trail Head Host Days, our Wilderness Ranger Internship program wrapped up at the beginning of this month, we held our mid-season pot luck and are now planning for Fall/Winter activities. A big THANK YOU to all of you that volunteer who help make this happen!

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

IPWA Mid-Summer Potluck Great to see everyone!

We held our IPWA mid-summer potluck at the end of July and had a great turnout! Lots of fun conversation and catching up with old friends, IPWA volunteers, IPWA members, and making new friendships along the way. A special thanks to both Jonathan Brooks and Nat Gillespsie from the USFS for stopping by and say hello to everyone!

(photo of prior IPWA Board Members Helen & John Whitbeck and Janie Stuart)



IPWA/USFS Cost Sharing Agreement:

Signed, Sealed and Delivered!

Thanks to Jonathan Brooks (Recreation Specialist with the USFS), we have now signed a cost sharing agreement between the IPWA and the USFS! This will help the IPWA assist in funding projects in the wilderness including for example the Wilderness Interpretive Center, Wilderness trail projects, as well as potentially seasonal rangers to assist with wilderness related projects.

We will be using the agreement already in 2017! We will help fund a seasonal ranger who will be taking the lead in working with the IPWA on a comprehensive inventorying of trail project work to be performed this year and in 2018. A HUGE thanks to Jonathan Brooks of the USFS and Andy Gup from the IPWA for making this agreement happen!



IPWA working with the NWSA

As many of you know, the IPWA has been fortunate enough to have been awarded grants from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) both in 2016 and in 2017. These grants have helped to fund a number of our programs and help us make a difference in our wonderful wilderness areas. In particular, the NWA has helped to fund our annual IPWA Wilderness Ranger Internship program (more details below). We will be attending the annual NWSA wilderness conference in Arkansas in early October. **Thank you NSWA for your assistance!**



National Wilderness
Stewardship Alliance

[Check out the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance!](#)

IPWA Photo Contest: Submit your photos now!

We are holding our 3rd annual IPWA Volunteer photo contest. Winners receive a set of gift cards with their photos on the cards, along with having their photos used in our newsletters over the course of the year.



Please send us your photos starting today (deadline is September 30) by simply clicking on the link below and attaching your photos. Please include with your email your (1) name, (2) location of each photo, and (3) a brief description of the photo.

(photo by prior award winner Jessica Ansari) .

II. IPWA Wilderness Program Updates

Wilderness Ranger Internships: Our 3rd year is a wrap!

The IPWA Wilderness Ranger Internship program wrapped up at the beginning of August. Both John Kurtz and Jacke Michelotti had a fantastic experience! They were involved in a number of projects - including wilderness solitude monitoring, sawyer certification, summer patrols, and USFS office assistance. They also read a wide range of wilderness related topics ranging from authors such as Nash, to Thoreau, Muir and Leopold. In addition, they also read Jan Robertson's "Magnificent Mountain Women" to gain insight into the experiences of some of the early women settlers of Colorado. Check out the video that the interns put together describing their summer experiences:



[2017 Wilderness Ranger Internship Video](#)

The program was managed by Jim Merryman (IPWA Board member) and Jonathan Brooks (USFS Recreation Specialist). A HUGE thank you to Jim and John for managing this program for us. Also, a special thanks to the NWSA for helping to provide some of the funding for this program. Good stuff!

(Photo of intern John Kurtz, IPWA Co-found Jan Robertson and husband David, and intern Jake Michelotti).

Wilderness Summer Patrols: We are having a great summer!

Over 290 patrols completed to date...more than 2,900 volunteer hours...over 28,000 members of the public seen on the trails...4,500 dogs encountered with 525 not on a leash...over 70 fire rings removed...numerous downed trees removed from the trails...and we still have an entire month left of patrolling!



As we continue to expand our programs, we are also working to update our public facing Web site. This is an internal project that IPWA Volunteer and Board Member Sarah McNamarra is driving in working Scott Ackerman - a new IPWA volunteer in 2017. Be onthe lookout for more information and thanks to

both Sarah and Scott!

(Photo of IPWA Board Member Sarah McNamarra)

Wilderness Information Specialist: Our 2nd year well under way!

We have kicked off the second year of our Wilderness Information Specialist (WIS) Program and are doing great! This is a program whereby IPWA volunteers assist in staffing the front desk at the USFS office in Boulder, and manage the wilderness permit process (which can actually take more time than one would think!). We have been able to fully staff these positions in only our second year of the program! One of these volunteers is Janie Stuart and here are some of her thoughts on why she is a volunteer:

(Photo of Janie Stuart)



"It's my great pleasure to return to volunteer with IPWA. I'm honored to be part of this group of dedicated people who love the backcountry and work to preserve its wildness as a valuable resource for the future. Serving as a Wilderness Information Specialist is enjoyable, because I can share in the visitors' excitement as they plan their adventure. Also I can nudge in a bit of education about how take to take care of the areas in which they'll travel and camp, while helping them chose a route that's appropriate for their experience level."

Wilderness Trail Head Host Day: Interacted with over 375 people!

We will held our second Trail Head Host Day on Saturday August 26 and had a great time! IPWA volunteers helped staff our tent at East Portal/Moffat Tunnel (a HUGE thank you to Kelly Prendergast, Anne Vickery, and Richard Weitzel who helped make this day a success!). We saw around 375 individuals, more than 70 backpackers, numerous dogs, and a Boy Scout Trrop of around 20 kids going into the wilderness to spend the weekend.

(Photo of IPWA Volunteer Richard Weitzel and members of the public).



IPWA Wilderness Trail Projects: Saturday September 9th and 16th

We are tentatively planning two trail projects at East Portal in the James Peak Wilderness Area. Depending on the number of participants, we are looking to work with the USFS and repair bridge damage on the Forest Lakes trail, along with performing some trail mitigation work. The IPWA will supply all the tools, gloves, and other equipment needed for the event. All you need to



do is volunteer! The event is open to IPWA Volunteers and Members (and all attendees will also receive an IPWA trail project T-Shirt). A huge THANK YOU to Andy Gup for making this project happen!

(Photo of 2015 interns Elliot Levey and Jason Farrell)

[I'm interested in helping with IPWA Trail Projects. Please send me more details!](#)

IPWA Winter Patrols: Last call for 2017/2018 volunteers!

We are in the middle of planning for our 2017/2018 Winter Patrol season and this is the last chance for IPWA Volunteers to sign up! If interested in getting more details on this fun activity during the winter months, please send a quick email via the link below:

(Photo of IPWA Volunteer, Board Vice Chair, and Winter Patrol Coordinator Andy Gup)



[I'm interested in Winter Patrols. Please send me more information!](#)

III. USFS News

Did You Know....

The Indian Peaks Wilderness has been experiencing a significant increase in bear encounters - particularly at the Diamond Lake, Jasper, and Woodland Lake back country zones. BE CAREFUL!



The bears are associating the camp areas with food and are not fearful of humans. If you are camping in these areas there is a high likelihood you will encounter a bear. If you are uncomfortable, then don't camp in these areas!

If you decide to camp, you are encouraged to bring a bear proof canister for food storage or properly hang your food (although bears have been rewarded with food from properly hung food). For more information, please visit the USFS website:

[USFS Indian Peaks Wilderness Information](#)

IV. IPWA Upcoming Events

Saturday September 9

James Peak Wilderness Trail Restoration Project - Part I

East Portal, James Peak Wilderness

Our very own Andy Gup (IPWA Board Vice Chair) will be leading a team of volunteers and members in performing trail restoration and bridge remediation work in the James Peak Wilderness Area. This will be the 1st of two days of work in the James Peak Wilderness Area. Event will be from 8 AM - 4 PM (rain or shine) and is open to IPWA Volunteers and Members.

Saturday September 16

James Peak Wilderness Trail Restoration Project - Part II

East Portal, James Peak Wilderness

Our very own Andy Gup (IPWA Board Vice Chair) will be leading a team of volunteers and members in performing trail restoration and bridge remediation work in the James Peak Wilderness Area. This will be the 2nd part of two days of work in the James Peak Wilderness Area. Event will be from 8 AM - 4PM (rain or shine) and is open to IPWA Volunteers and Members.

Saturday September 16

Trail Head Host Day

East Portal, James Peak Wilderness

We will be hosting our 3rd and final 2017 trail head host day at the East Portal/Moffat Tunnel entrance to the James Peak Wilderness. Be on the lookout for a Doodle poll sign-up for this event.

Saturday September 30

Last Day of Volunteer Summer Patrols

The 2017 summer hiking season will officially wrap up for IPWA volunteers on Saturday September 30.

Saturday September 30

IPWA Volunteer/Member Photo Contest Submission Due Date

This will be our 3rd year for our annual IPWA volunteer photo submission contest. Please have all of your photos submitted by this deadline.

Saturday October 14

Brainard Lake Recreation Area Winter Trail Tree Clearing

Brainard Lake Recreation Area - Winter Gate

We will be holding our second annual winter trail clearing project at the Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BRLA). Our goal will be to remove as many downed trees as we can from the snowshoe and ski trails surrounding the BRLA. Be on the lookout for more details!

October (Date TBD)

End of Season Volunteer THANK YOU Picnic

Location TBD

We're working on finalizing the plans for our end of season thank you picnic. More details to come!

Wednesday November 1

Annual IPWA End of Year Fund Raising Programs

We'll be kicking off our annual end of year fund raising programs on Wednesday November 1. Please be on the lookout for more details!

Saturday November 4

Winter Patrol Training

USFS Boulder Ranger District Office (Yarmouth and 36th st in Boulder CO)

We are finalizing the date, time, and location for our winter patrol training. More details to come!

Tuesday December 5

Colorado Gives Day

Our very own Scott Oetting (IPWA Board Member and Treasurer) has been spending a great deal of time this year getting our organization registered to be able to accept donations on Colorado Gives Day. Huge kudos to Scott for making this happen!

V. 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.

Susan B. and Jim B.

"We've been hiking in the Indian Peaks Wilderness since we moved to Boulder in 1980 (37 years ago!). The mountains haven't changed—they are still jaw-droppingly gorgeous—but as both population in the Boulder-Denver Metro area and environmental challenges increase, we have been so appreciative of the ways in which IPWA is helping to keep this gem of a wilderness well-managed. We particularly appreciate the extensive volunteer trail patrol and maintenance programs, the dissemination of news about changes that might affect the area along with information about how we can offer input, the ways in which IPWA helps Forest Service resources go further, and (our favorite resource) the trip reports page that helps us know up-to-date trail conditions. Thank you IPWA for helping to keep this corner of Boulder County wild!"



[**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

