



Notes from the Chair

IPWA Volunteers

Welcome to our April 2015 newsletter!

We've had a very eventful and productive March. On 3/9, Jeff Minton gave a wonderful presentation on the status of the bark beetles up in the alpine and the event was well attended by a number of volunteers and members of the public (and a big thanks to the Boulder Ranger District Forest Services for hosting this event). As always, Jeff did a wonderful job and all who attended learned a lot. We're working on getting the presentation and materials posted to our web site, and we'll let you know when they are available.

In addition, we're happy to announce that we are creating a "Wilderness Ranger Internship Program." This is an exciting project that is going to go 'live' this summer with two interns from University of Colorado. More details on this below.

We've also been monitoring the recent news from the Forest Service on the draft plans for expansion of the Eldora ski area. This is an issue that is important to many and as a Board we will be discussing our response during our monthly April meeting. For those who desire more information on the project, the following link will provide information as presented by the Forest Service:
<http://www.eldoraeis.com/>

For those who would like to receive another perspective, the following link will take you to the Middle Creek Boulder coalition: <http://www.middlebouldercreekcoalition.org/>

Lastly, we're gearing up for our training on Saturday June 13. We're incorporating feedback from our training session held last year and we'll work to make sure that we make this year's event even better and a more productive training for our group.

Wilderness Ranger Internship Program

IPWA/Forest Service/University of Colorado pilot program

Starting this summer, the IPWA in partnership with the Forest Service and the Baker Residential Academic Program (BRAP) from the University of Colorado will all be working together to create a Wilderness Ranger Internship Program. This pilot program will be focused on providing two college age students the ability to get first hand experience in wilderness management activities. The students will work directly with the Forest Service on performing visitor education on wilderness ethics/regulations while on patrols, performing trail maintenance and restoration projects, assisting with natural and social resource monitoring and preparing an end of season presentation. The IPWA is taking the lead in putting the program in place and funding the students with a stipend during the ten week program, while the FS will be managing the interns on a daily basis and providing oversight and guidance, with BRAP sourcing candidates for the position. We'll be starting the interview process in the later part of April with a decision by the end of the month. The interns will be at our June 13 training session so please make sure you take the opportunity to meet them.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Tuesday April 7:
IPWA New Volunteer Application Opens**

We will be accepting new volunteer applications for the 2015 summer season starting on Tuesday April 7. Be on the lookout for updates from us and feel free to reach out to friends who might be interested in joining us in our volunteer work. We're always looking for new volunteers either to help patrol the wilderness trails during the summer, assist with trail project work, and perform any number of other activities within our organization. We only have a limited number of openings so if interested, please plan on applying early!

This year, we are introducing a new online system to make it easier for individuals interested in volunteering to apply to join the IPWA. If you are new, and interested in volunteering to hike for this summer season, please be on the look out for our email this coming Tuesday.

Tuesday April 28 and Thursday April 30

Wilderness First Aid Training (hosted by Wildlands Restoration Volunteers)

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) is hosting a two day first wilderness first aid course for those interested in enhancing your first aid skills. This course is designed to provide people with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to care for those who are injured or suddenly ill in remote locations. Participants will receive hands on practice time and participate in first aid scenarios that will sharpen your first aid skills and give you a chance to practice in "real life" situations. For more information on this training, and other events sponsored by WRV, please see the link below:

<https://www.wrv.net/index.php?section=events&action=list&type=trainings#event1657>

Friday May 8 to Sunday May 10:

Cross-Cut Saw Training (hosted by Clear Creek Ranger District)

The Clear Creek Ranger District is hosting a training this coming May 8-10th through their partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. There will be instructors from CCRD, BRD, and other neighboring Forests that will be putting on the training and overseeing opportunities for bucking field certification. There may be a felling demonstration and opportunity for already certified advanced sawyers to try for a felling certification. Field certification includes being tested by one or more instructors on the full analysis and completion of cuts on two trees. Certification is not guaranteed, but opportunities for additional practice and re-testing can be arranged throughout the summer

Once registered, additional information about the course will be emailed to participants. The location for the training will be at the Rocky Mountain Specialty Pack String Headquarters at the AG Ranch in Shawnee, Colorado.

The link to the training registration can be found here:

<http://www.voc.org/project/crosscut-saw-skills-training-and-certification-workshop-6>

Saturday June 13:

IPWA Volunteer Patrol Training

We will be holding our annual volunteer patrol training at the Forest Service offices on Saturday June 13 from ~ 7:30 AM - 3 PM. We are currently in the process of updating the agenda and topics to ensure we are meeting the needs of our volunteers. More information will be coming soon!

July/August (Dates TBD)

IPWA Brainard Lake Trail Projects

This year, the IPWA will be working jointly with the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) and two joint trail projects in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area. For those not familiar with WRV, it is a non-profit organization that provides an opportunity for people to come together, learn about their natural environment, and take direct action to restore and care for the land. We'll be providing more details on the specific dates and trail projects in the next few months.



Saturday September (Date TBD): IPWA Brainard Lake Trail Project with University of Colorado students

Another exciting event we have planned is our last trail project of the season at Brainard Lake - this time with students from the University of Colorado. We will be partnering with the Baker Residential Academic Program (BRAP), the US Forest Services, our own volunteers, and members of the public, to continue our work from last year on the Mitchell Lake trail

Forest Service Updates - Boulder Ranger District

2015 Summer Patrol Planning

An update from Michael Anderson, Natural Resource Specialist with the Boulder Ranger District (BRD)

Hello IPWA volunteers, Winter has all but disappeared unless April and May bury us in snow – certainly possible. However, there's been little hibernating at the Boulder RD as we are actively planning for another busy summer in the Indian Peaks and James Peak Wilderness Areas. The IPWA Board and Training Committee have shown great dedication to collaborating with the BRD on ways to improve the efficiency of our partnership and expand the opportunities for volunteer involvement while continuing to provide the excellent education to Wilderness visitors you've been known for. IPWA's patrol presence and ability to explain the why behind our Wilderness regulations is an incredible asset to the stewardship of these lands. Thanks for your continued support and we'll see you at the training!"



Board Updates

So, all in all a very busy month. As always, please send us any and all feedback. We are interested in hearing from you! And remember...

"Keep it Wild"

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Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance | hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org |

www.indianpeakswilderness.org