

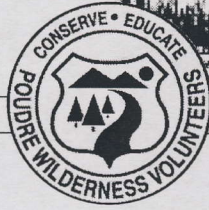
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Poudre Trails

The Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Newsletter

Special Edition



poudrewildernessvolunteers.com

Winter 2008

What We Promote

Leave No Trace (LNT) is both a set of practical rules to protect wilderness and an educational program to teach the rules and increase awareness of them. The program is described on the LNT Web site at www.lnt.org. The following text is taken from LNT and reprinted with their permission.

The mission of the Leave No Trace (LNT) program is to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. The program is managed by LNT Inc., a nonprofit organization located in Boulder, Colorado. LNT Inc. oversees memberships, marketing, fund-raising and program-development efforts. The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) maintains the educational component of Leave No Trace by offering LNT educational courses, developing educational materials and supporting the efforts of course graduates who teach LNT to the public.

The Leave No Trace message is more than a campaign for clean campsites. It's a program dedicated to building awareness, appreciation, and most of all, respect for our public recreation places. LNT is about enjoying the great outdoors while traveling and camping with care.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.

Leave No Trace continued on page 4

Thought You Might Like to Meet.... Our Chair, Fred Allen

by Carole Wollam

As a shipmaster for the American Merchant Marines, Fred Allen has reached most corners of the globe. As PWV Board Chair, he hopes to reach more potential PWV candidates. Despite current numbers, according to Allen, on any given weekend, PWV is patrolling less than 20 percent of the trails in the district. Better communication among members, including a focus on the newsletter and getting articles in the local paper, are also on his list of goals.

How he got here...

Introduced to PWV six years ago, Fred was not able to commit his energies to PWV until retiring from the American Merchant Marines. That was four years ago. And commit he did. Fred had completed only his first season when elected to the board.

Fred's PWV experiences include heading up the fund-raising committee with Neil Sherrod, and assisting John Paul Lumpff with recruiting. He also has worked on the trail crew and become a Leave No Trace (LNT) trainer (see "What We Promote," on left.)

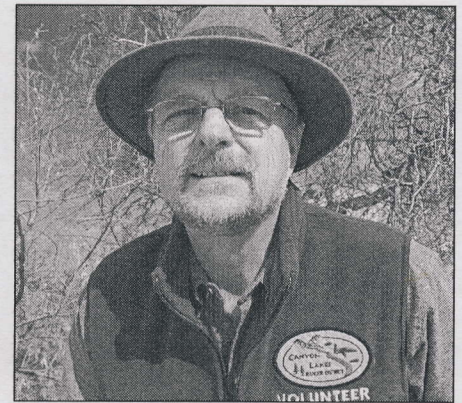
When asked about his PWV accomplishments, Fred included his fund-raising efforts. "Our mission is one that most corporations can embrace," he explained. "The organization has always done a fine job of not wasting contributed funds. Since PWV is non-political and simply educational in focus, few companies that I have contacted have turned us down."

His wealth of life experiences includes a 33-year career at sea on board a wide range of ships, including ocean-going tugs, super-tankers, freighters, and containerships. The seven containerships he commanded were in worldwide service.

His life outside of PWV...

As a "service brat" born in Ketchikan, Alaska, Fred grew up all over the United States. He is a graduate of West Virginia University and still an avid "Mountaineer Fan".

Currently in "re-hirement" mode, Fred works



as an independent insurance agent. He is licensed in four states and represents more than 55 companies, evenly split between commercial and personal clients. Taking advantage of his maritime experience, he also acts as a consultant for the Panamanian on government maritime security matters.

Meet the family...

Fred and his wife Pamela have raised two daughters, Whitney who resides in Jacksonville Beach, Florida and Heather, a junior at University of Colorado at Boulder.

Memorable experiences...

Among his memorable experiences are helping folks on the trail. According to Fred, "Providing good direction and sharing a bit of moleskin to ease the pain of a blister" is always fulfilling. Being an animal group leader is also on his memorable experiences list.

The trails more and less traveled...

Every season finds Fred patrolling at least two to three of the heavily used trails each season. When preferring the less traveled trails, he heads up to the Rawah.

Advice?

Keep in mind that we are indeed volunteers.

Meet Poudre Wilderness Volunteers

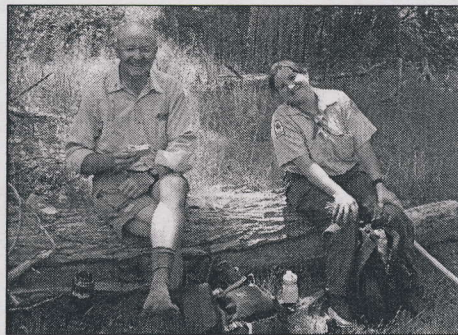
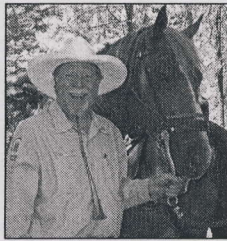
by John Paul Lumppp

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers is a Larimer County, Colorado nonprofit organization founded in early 1996 to assist the U.S. Forest Service in managing public use of wilderness and backcountry areas on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Roosevelt National Forest. It has grown tremendously in its first decade and is now considered to be the largest, most effective organization of its kind in the nation.

A Different Organization...

We have gained national attention as a different kind of environmental organization, which has:

- No hidden agendas. Our single purpose is to protect the region's pristine wilderness and backcountry areas through public education. We are not an environmental advocacy group.
- The most rigorous and comprehensive training of any volunteer group of its kind.
- The most volunteers and hours of service. No other organization providing volunteer rangers for the Forest Service as big and provides as many hours on the trail.



What We Have Accomplished

Since 1996, Poudre Wilderness Volunteers has grown to nearly 200 volunteers. They have contacted more than 87,000 wilderness and backcountry users and put in a total of nearly 15,000 staff days. With training and support factored in, PWV members put in more than **16,879 volunteer hours** in 2007 on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service. The value estimated by the USFS of this volunteer time was **\$316,819** for the year.

- The most heavily used wilderness areas are much cleaner, and the numbers of fire rings dismantled, dogs off leash, and illegal campsites found have dropped markedly.
- When there were no Forest Service funds to

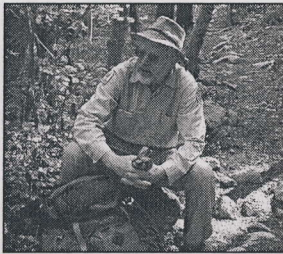
No other organization providing volunteer rangers for the Forest Service is this big and provides as many hours on the trail.

clear trails in early summer, a dozen PWV members stepped in and formed a volunteer trail crew which each year removes some **300 fallen trees** from over 150 miles of trail. In 2007, volunteer time on trail crew was nearly 700 hours.

- Lost hikers have been found, and forest fires have been averted by prompt action by our volunteers.
- Volunteers make an effort to talk about leash requirements with every dog owner they encounter in the wilderness, addressing the most difficult educational task facing PWV.
- We provide the Forest Service reliable statistics on wilderness recreational use.

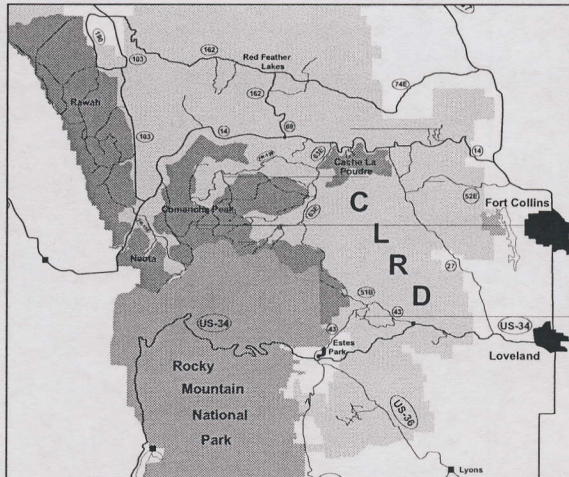
Where We Patrol and Why

Backcountry use is climbing, reflecting population growth and demographic change along the Front Range and elsewhere in the nation. A recent National Survey on Recreation and the Environment reported that backpacking has grown in popularity by 73%, hiking by 93% and bird watching by 155%. The Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests are visited by 6.2 million persons each year, the second highest number of visits to a National Forest anywhere in the nation.

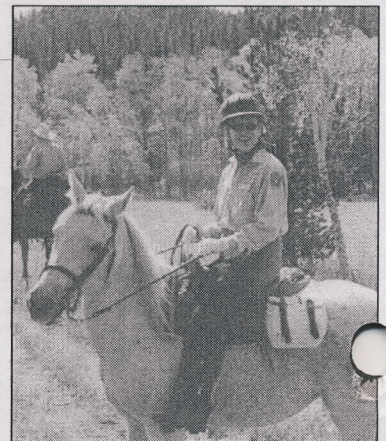
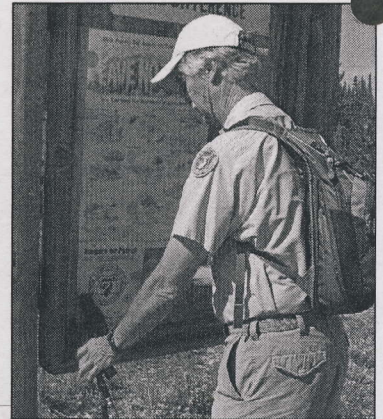


Federal appropriations for the U.S. Forest Service are no longer sufficient to cover the costs of forest management. The Forest Service no longer has enough staff to adequately patrol and monitor the wilderness and backcountry trails in our area.

Many wilderness users have no idea what a wilderness is or how it must be left "untram-



meled." A majority of them know very little about low impact camping. If there is no one to guide visitors in wilderness use, some of our wilderness areas will become so heavily impacted that restrictions on public use will have to be imposed.



Meet Our Oldest Member....Ras Erdal

Sharon Ruch

When it was first proposed I should interview Ras, I worried he would be sensitive about his age. Ha! He's proud of it, and well he should be. If all us youngsters (relatively speaking) are as physically fit and mentally active as Ras is at his age, we should consider ourselves very fortunate.

Ras attributes his healthy longevity to his Norwegian ancestry. Born in Waukegan, Illinois, his family moved to Brooklyn, New York in 1935, when he was four years old. New York is where he settled until he came to Colorado to stay, 13 years ago. Despite making his roots in Colorado, he is an avid traveler. (He was leaving for a trip to Italy soon after this interview.)

Ras describes himself as a "gung-ho Boy Scout," who wanted to become a Forest Ranger. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity for him to study for that profession. He became a teacher in New York City --and a Boy Scout leader.

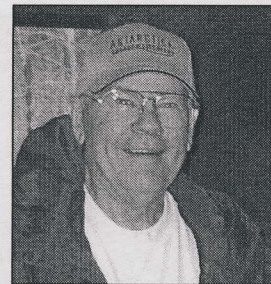
The teaching profession allowed Ras to spend his summers traveling, and The West was his preferred destination. With his wife Marian, also a teacher, he has camped in all 50 states and visited almost all the National Parks. His first official camping trip was a learning experience. He'd camped before, but only in a casual way, pulling the car off the road at a likely spot, walking into the woods, building a fire and settling in. On this trip, with a couple of friends and soon-to-be wife

Marian, he borrowed a lean-to from the Boy Scouts. At Yellowstone, they discovered it was illegal to camp just anywhere, and the lean-to provided absolutely no privacy in the crowded campgrounds. That was way back when. Nowadays, of course, Ras believes in and expounds the "leave no trace" and "the authority of the resource" principles.

Ras was in ROTC while in college, and went to Fort Benning for Infantry training after graduation. The 200 new officers were told they had five choices of where they would be sent for their tours of duty. No one was guaranteed his first choice, but Ras got his - Alaska - where he became a ski trooper. (Perhaps it had something to do with his Norwegian blood?) He and Marian both still love the sport and have season passes. They also like to snowshoe in Rocky Mountain National Park. All four of their grandchildren ski.

When Ras and Marian were ready to relocate after retiring, they considered several different areas, but the Front Range appealed to them the most. One daughter was already living in Colorado, and the other is now, also. Hauling a camper, they traveled along looking for a likely spot, and found it in Fort Collins.

They remained in the camper while having their house built. (This turned out to be another instance when Norwegian blood came in handy.) The house was supposed to be ready in April. It wasn't finished until December. One morning, as



Marian tried to take some clothes off a shelf in a closet, the clothes were frozen to the wall of the camper.

Despite that inauspicious beginning, the Erdals enjoy the advantages of living in a college town, attending CSU sporting events and performances at the Lincoln Center. They belong to many clubs and organizations, including the Sons of Norway. Ras carried the Olympic torch when it came through town in 2002.

PWV was in its second year when Ras got involved. He has served on the board, taught a map reading class and was a team leader during training weekends at Jack's Gulch. He gets in at least six hikes every season, usually more, with Marian as his hiking partner. Camping rules have changed a lot over the years, very much for the better, he said. He received an important education about the wilderness when he joined PWV, and enjoys the opportunity to pass his knowledge on to others. Once a teacher, always a teacher? PWV is fortunate to have him as an advocate. Talking to him was a pleasure. He must have been, and still is, a very good instructor.

Keep on truckin', Ras.

What We Do

by John Paul Lumppp



Poudre Wilderness Volunteers have no law enforcement authority but use persuasion and diplomacy to secure compliance with wilderness regulations and "leave no trace" practices.

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers wear uniform shirts with identifying patches and name badges that make them a highly visible non-official U.S. Forest Service presence on the trail. They carry two-way radios, and they are trained to handle various emergency situations that might be encountered in the wilderness.



No one is paid for any services rendered to this volunteer organization.

Below are some of our additional programs...

Trail Crew

The PWV Trail Crew works with Forest Service personnel to maintain and repair trails on the district.

Kids in Nature Program

The Kids in Nature program seeks to get kids to enjoy being outdoors while teaching them how to protect nature.

Adopt a Highway

PWV has adopted a section of Colorado



Highway 14. Four times a year the crew, lead by Kristine Williams, walks the four mile stretch of highway picking up trash thrown from passing vehicles.

Weed Crew

The PWV Weed Crew assists the US Forest Service in controlling the spread of noxious weeds in our backcountry area

PWV Schedule of Events

FEBRUARY 2008

- 21 PWV Board of Directors meeting*
- 25 New recruit applications mailed

MARCH

- 7 New recruit applications returned
- 14 Returning volunteer applications mailed
- 20 PWV Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 22 First day of interviews - All Day
- 28 Second day of interviews - All Day

APRIL

- 4 Acceptance letters mailed
- 12 Adopt-a-Highway litter pickup (Saturday)
- 16 All scheduling forms & volunteer agreements returned
- 17 PWV Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 25 Opening day for returning members to patrol

MAY

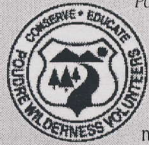
- 2 Schedules done
- 7 Kick-off Night 5 - 9 pm
- 16-18 Spring Training

* PWV Board Meetings are open to all members and are held at the USFS Office Building at 2150 Centre Ave., Building E, Fort Collins.

For calendar updates, visit our website at poudrewildernessvolunteers.com

If you like what you see in this newsletter and want to join the **Poudre Wilderness Volunteers** or support our cause, please mail us at:

**P.O. Box 271921,
Fort Collins, CO 80527**
or contact us at (970) 295-6730



Poudre Trails is a quarterly publication of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit corporation organized to assist the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and other backcountry areas.

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Leave No Trace *continued*

- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary in popular areas.

In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Keep campsites small.
- Focus activities in areas where vegetation is absent.

In pristine areas:

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails.
- Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwasher.

Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking, and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Source: Leave No Trace, Int.org