



**A MESSAGE FROM ESWA CHAIR MIKE BROWNING**



Mike Browning

What a year it's been! COVID-19, the Election, Wildfires and the aftermath of the pine beetle Plague. But ESWA still had a solid year, all thanks to our wonderful volunteers and donors. As we look forward to 2021, we hope that you will be as generous as you can during COLORADO GIVES DAY on December 8 to enable our work to continue. See page 4 about the many ways there are to give, as well as page 8 about the many opportunities to contribute your time to ESWA behind the scenes.

On page 2 our US Forest Service liaisons report on their successful Wilderness projects in 2020.

While COVID-19 forced us to cancel our annual Training Day for 2 dozen new Volunteer Wilderness Rangers (VWRs), our existing VWRs were on the Wilderness trails in impressive numbers (see page 3). The VWR-wannabees were not forgotten, however. They were able to accompany VWRs as "apprentices" (see page 3), where they got a good taste of what we do, and it whetted their appetite for Training Day in 2021.

In addition to VWR training, we had to cancel a field training program for a significantly expanded Sawyer Training program. A dozen people will defer to 2021. Nevertheless, existing sawyers were out in a frenzy of activity (page 5).

Vastly underappreciated threats to Wilderness are invasive weeds. Jim Alexander has created a crew of WeedSpotters, who scour the forest in search of infestations, and then either pull the weeds or call in support from the Forest Service's trained crews (page 4). Jim's grant writing skills generated tens of thousands of dollars for these efforts in 2020 (page 5).

Our volunteers continued to repair and improve Wilderness Trails and Campsites (see page 3). And the 100-foot Beau Schuette Memorial Boardwalk on the Mesa Cortina Trail is now a reality (page 3).

We now have available handsome, gift-quality swag that you can order to show off our new name and logo (page 7).

At our annual meeting (held by Zoom this year), we recognized the accomplishments of some of our most dedicated volunteers with the Currie Craven Award for Wilderness Stewardship, VWR-of-the-Year Award, two Sawyer Awards, and winners of our annual Photo Contest (see page 7).

The 6 environmental campaigns for which we ADVOCATE have heated up in 2020. We sent to you a special email newsletter earlier this month that gives updates on each of these campaigns (see [www.eaglesummitwilderness.org/newsletter\\_201115.htm](http://www.eaglesummitwilderness.org/newsletter_201115.htm)).

Because of the pandemic, the board voted unanimously to continue with the same slate of officers in 2021.

Our treasured local Wilderness Areas are under more and more pressure as Colorado's population continues to increase. The work ESWA does is needed now more than ever. Please contribute your time and/or money to help us "KEEP WILDERNESS WILD." Ready to donate now? Just scan the QR code and you will be taken directly to our website's donation page.



**Fall 2020**



ESWA llama and friend

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ESWA Online  
[eaglesummitwilderness.org](http://eaglesummitwilderness.org)



## ESWA LEADERSHIP

**Mike Browning**, Chair  
**Bill Betz**, Past Chair  
**Chris Turner**, Treasurer  
**Frances Hartogh**, Secretary  
**Joan Betz**  
**Currie Craven**  
**Tim Drescher**  
**Frank Gutmann**  
**Ken Harper**

**Cindy Ebbert**, USFS Dillon RD

**Katherine Bazan**, USFS Eagle/HC RD

**Jim Alexander; Dave Brewster; Eleanor Finlay; Mike Mayrer; Dave Owens; Dan Siebert**

A special welcome to

### LEANNE VELDHUIS



the new District Ranger for the Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District. We hope to bring you more about this wonderful new

addition to the Forest Service crew in an upcoming monthly newsletter.

Don't let this be your last printnewsletter from ESWA! As we shift back to a member-based organization, we will be identifying several perquisites for our members. One of the perks will be the this bi-annual printed newsletter, which is all about ESWA.

If you value Wilderness, this printed newsletter will remain a useful source of up-to-date information about our work in the woods, our advocacy for selected environmental campaigns, and our social programs. Please renew or join, and thanks!

## USFS REPORTS



From the Eagle/Holy Cross RD, KATHERINE BAZAN writes: Despite many challenges with COVID-19 and high visitor numbers, our trails and Wilderness crews have been hard at work this summer. We completed clearing the trail through the ¼ mile-wide avalanche path on Missouri Lakes Trail, rebuilt the Cross Creek bridge at mile marker 7, dismantled 120 illegal fire rings,

completed a campsite inventory in the Eagles Nest Wilderness, cleared 1086 trees and patrolled 287 miles of trails. We are looking forward to what 2021 brings and are excited to continue our work with ESWA.

On the Dillon RD, TYLER KIRKPATRICK is filling in for CINDY EBBERT, who is on temporary assignment in Eagle County. Tyler writes:

The 2020 field season was a great success despite having to pause on some projects and recalibrate how we approached others to keep our partners and employees safe. The high winds this fall are setting the stage for a significant amount of trail clearing work in the Wilderness for 2021, but we will be up for the challenge with the help of Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. Summaries of our 2020 projects and 2021 plans follow.



### 2-person Trails Maintenance Crew

Constructed 30' Meadow Creek bridge on the Lily Pad Trail; constructed most of new 90' puncheon (boardwalk) on the Mesa Cortina Trail; cleared 776 trees from ENW trails; coordinated 2 Wildlands Restoration Volunteer trail-clearing weekend projects; cleared 217 trees in ENW and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness.

### 3-person Wilderness Crew

Hiked 600 miles of trail; contacted 2,500 people; installed 11 Wilderness signs; cleared 775 trees; naturalized 248 fire rings; removed 30 lbs of trash from backcountry; maintained TrafX trail counters; maintained backpacker registration system; completed 60' Lily Pad footbridge; completed Lower Cataract Lake trail chicane; replaced timber runners on 90' Mesa Cortina bridge

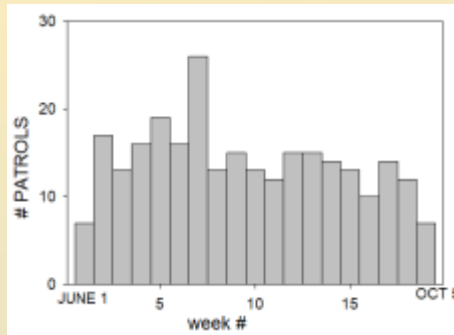
(In case you wonder, a **chicane** is "a serpentine curve in a trail or road, added by design rather than dictated by geography" - Ed)

### 2021 Wilderness plans:

4-person Wilderness crew (2 FS- and 2 NFF-funded mobilize green interns); 2-person Trail maintenance crew; 2-4 crew weeks (each crew 10 persons) RMYC Wilderness trail crosscut clearing; Arctic Placer new trail construction (1 mile) and 60' puncheon construction; complete work on Mesa Cortina puncheon; plan for Boulder Creek bridge replacement; Maryland creek trail construction (2.5 miles) with 11 weeks of RMYC and Contour Logic (contractor); 2 Wildlands Restoration Volunteer Wilderness trail clearing weekend projects.

## VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGER (VWR) PROGRAM

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, VWRs were on the trails, masked and socially distanced, dispensing their wisdom (but not swag). A total of 42 rangers made 329 patrols spread uniformly throughout the summer (see graph). Four rangers were eager beavers, accounting for more than half the total number of patrols (Tom Lawson, Ellie Finlay, Frances Hartogh, and Mike Browning). Altogether, VWRs covered more than 2,000 miles. Most trails



The MESA CORTINA BOARDWALK in memory of Beau Schuette is a reality! The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, led by Zach Heineman (USFS), built it. It was funded by the Schuette family and friends and The Summit Foundation.



patrolled (74%) were in Eagles Nest Wilderness; 21% were in Holy Cross; 5% in Ptarmigan Peak. Of the 41 different trails patrolled, the most popular this year was - surprise! - **not** Lilypad (only 7 patrols), but Gore Creek (52 patrols). 3,200 vehicles were at trailhead parking lots. In total, 8,800 visitors were encountered (400 backpackers) in 2,400 groups. Of the 820 dogs encountered, 195

(24%) were off leash.

While VWR Training Day in June was canceled due to the pandemic, our trainees were offered opportunities to accompany VWRs on patrol. Like Laura Lowe (right), they reported unanimously that the experience was valuable and fun, and they are primed and eager for the 2021 Training Day.

Two other programs put on hold were given trial runs. Dave Owens spent a morning as a Trailhead Host (North Tenmile) and Bill Betz spent a weekend as a Backcountry Campsite Host (Boulder Lake). Both programs are set for big launches in 2021.



## TRAIL WORK

While COVID-19 forced cancellation of our llama work trips this year, we still managed several day-long trail projects. Our Adopt-A-Trail leader, Ken Harper, led three one-day projects on ESWA-adopted Deluge Lake Trail on the west side of the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Our hard-working crews cleared out water bars, pruned back vegetation, and cleared downed trees.

In August, nine sturdy volunteers hiked into Lake Constantine in the Holy Cross Wilderness and spent the day dismantling nearly 40 illegal fire rings around the Lake. Given the ever-increasing use of our Wilderness Areas, ESWA's trail and backcountry camping site projects are more important than ever. We plan to undertake even more next year.



## ADVOCACY

ESWA has 6 active advocacy campaigns, and they are heating up. Details were provided in the SPECIAL ADVOCACY eNEWSLETTER that you recently received. You can also read more at our website: [www.eaglesummitwilderness.org](http://www.eaglesummitwilderness.org) - just scan this QR code



## WEEDSPOTTER SUMMER - Jim Alexander

Despite a flurry of scrambling and replanning, the ESWA WeedSpotter program made great progress this summer! With a second grant from the NFF we were able to hire a contractor to re-treat 145 acres of noxious weeds that were treated last year and treat another 100 acres of new infestations.

Our small but dedicated team of WeedSpotters spent a lot of time tracking down weeds on the trails of all three Wilderness Areas. We reported about 50 noxious weed sightings to the USFS. We also took stock of last year's weed treatments, and were pleased to see that they were much smaller than in 2019. Progress!

We had to cancel our annual weed pull, but replaced it with three new activities:

**Weedinar** – a one-hour overview of Noxious Weeds and the WeedSpotter program. The live Weedinar had over 50 participants, and has been viewed on YouTube nearly 800 times! To view it scan the QR code.



**Betty Ford Alpine Gardens Tour** – A dozen ESWA volunteers toured the beautiful Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail. The Gardens house a collection of alpine flowers and plants from around the world. With a strong emphasis on conservation and education, the Gardens host a number of educational programs and tours throughout the year. Two of the Gardens horticulturists guided our tour and answered questions about the plants and the environment in which they grow.



**Copper Mountain seed gathering** – Jeff Grasser, Project and Efficiency Manager for Copper Mountain Resort, led ESWA volunteers on a seed gathering. Each summer volunteers gather wildflower seeds from established meadows and use those seeds to restore areas of Copper disturbed by construction improvements or overuse. This activity was a great way to learn more about the flowers that grow in our environment and the emphasis the Resort places on sustainability.

If you'd like to be part of future WeedSpotter events, e-mail us - [weeds@EagleSummitWilderness.org](mailto:weeds@EagleSummitWilderness.org).

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS/COLORADO GIVES DAY

ESWA has always been a membership-based organization. This year the Leadership Committee decided to formalize our membership levels and dues/donation process. The new membership levels are:

\$25 - Lily Pad

\$50 - Piney Lake

\$100 - Cataract Lake

\$250 - Ptarmigan Peak

\$500 - Eagles Nest

\$1000 - Mount Powell

\$2500+ - Holy Cross



Starting in 2021, only members will continue to receive our bi-annual hard-copy Newsletter (in May and November). Starting in December, members will also be sent a membership card and one of our new ESWA stickers when their 2021 dues/donations are received. Members at the \$250 level and above will also receive a box of beautiful notecards featuring winning photos from our 2019 and 2020 Photo Contests.

You can renew your membership online through either Colorado Gives (scan QR code) or the ESWA website ([www.eaglesummitwilderness.org/join donate](http://www.eaglesummitwilderness.org/join donate)). Alternatively, send a check to us (ESWA, PO Box 4504, Frisco CO 80443).



Memberships are on a calendar-year basis. Members will receive advance notice of and the first opportunity to sign up for our annual llama trips and other ESWA events. We also hope to soon offer member discounts at local outdoor retail stores and other supporting merchants.

Your generous monetary contributions to ESWA helps us continue our mission and support the "boots-on-the-ground" work of our Volunteer Wilderness Rangers, Sawyers, and WeedSpotters, as well as our Advocacy and Trail Projects. We can't do it without you. Thank you so much!

## 2020 GRANTS - Jim Alexander

ESWA greatly appreciates the financial support of over \$50,000 from four generous groups:

**The Summit Foundation** – The “Soul of the Summit” has provided leadership and resources to assist local working families, resolve critical community issues and preserve the quality of life throughout Summit County for over 35 years. They provided more than \$10,000 for the Beau Schuette Memorial Boardwalk on the Mesa Cortina Trail. The money funded heavy equipment used, materials and supplies. The project saved precious wetlands on a popular Eagles Nest Wilderness trail.



**National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NSWA)** – NSWA supports a growing network of volunteer-based organizations to provide stewardship for America's wilderness. They support effective partnerships between wilderness stewardship organizations and all government agencies managing our national Wilderness Areas.



**National Forest Foundation Ski Conservation Fund (SCF)** – SCF funds on-the-ground projects that improve forest health and outdoor experiences on National Forests. Vail Ski Resort contributed the funds to ESWA's WeedSpotter program, funding treatment of noxious need infestations. This is the second year in a row NFF/SCF funded the project, totaling nearly \$50,000.



**United States Forest Service (USFS)** – The USFS Challenge Cost Share program provided a grant of \$5,000 for tools and volunteer program expenses. This recognizes the strong partnership ESWA has with the USFS.



We're thankful for such generous support! But with that support we also are obligated to match the funds with volunteer time. Each hour you volunteer on ESWA matches up to **\$50.00!** So, when you volunteer, you're raising money!



### SAWYER PROGRAM EXPANDS

In late May ESWA hosted (virtually) a crosscut saw training course for 17 eager new sawyers, including eight ESWA members. Some of our fellow Rangers from FDRD and USFS summer crew joined the course. Because chain saws cannot be used in designated Wilderness Areas, the biggest trees, which can't be cut by a one-person hand saw, require use of a two-person crosscut saw. Clearing trees that have fallen across a trail is called “bucking.” Cutting a standing tree is called “felling.” Former

USFS Wilderness Ranger Anne Dal Vera was our online instructor.

Two-person crosscut saws were commonly used prior to the introduction of chain saws in the 1950's, but the art is being lost except for those using them in Wilderness Areas. Good crosscut saws, made before chain saws were introduced, are also getting hard to find. ESWA luckily owns two and is looking for a couple more.

Long-time ESWA sawyer, Ken Harper (right), took some of our apprentice sawyers on several field trips over the summer to show them a crosscut saw in action. One of the trees that Ken “bucked” was 27” in diameter (right) – a record size for an ESWA sawyer. For his work as an ESWA sawyer over many decades, and his mentoring of new sawyers, Ken received a Lifetime Achievement Award at our Annual Meeting on October. Congratulations Ken!



Over the course of the summer, ESWA sawyers cleared over 400 fallen trees, including over 120 trees from the Meadow Creek/Lily Pad Lake trail on October 23. Over the course of the summer, VWR Ellie Finlay alone cleared 83 and helped with 157 more, for which she received our Sawyer of the Year Award.

## MEMBERS & DONORS - THANKS!

We have received more than \$25,000 in dues & donations from more than 100 supporters since June 2019, at different levels.

### Holy Cross (\$2500+)

Barbara and John Schuette

### MOUNT POWELL (\$1000+)

Helen Barker; Sharon & Thomas Copper; Bill & Susy Gillilan; David & Paula Kraemer; Ray Skowyrza & Marianne Short

### EAGLES NEST (\$500+)

Randi & Paul Hagerman; David Owens

### PTARMIGAN PEAK (\$250+)

Joan & Bill Betz; Rick & Shawna Emarine; John Fielder; Jerry Kelly; Lee Rimel

### CATARACT LAKE (\$100+)

Bob & Mary Beth Bagg; Kurtis Barry; Michael Browning; Susan Carlson; Howard & Sue Carver; Currie Craven; Jim Dickie; Tanya English; Eleanor Finlay; Karole & Jim Fuller; Frank & Mary Gutmann; Merry Lynne Hamilton; Frances Hartogh; Elliott Henry; Kenneth Heuer; Myra & Frank Isenhardt; Margaret F. Johnson; Tom & Sally Kaesemeyer; Susan Knopf; Cindy Levin & Rick Williams; Cindy & Tom Lillard; Laura Lowe; Augusta Molnar; Tom & Carol Oster; Adam & Anne Poe; Mindy Raymond; Dave & Marilyn Raymond; Phil & Gail Reeves; George & Kathryn Resseguie; Gail Shears; Jan Shipman; Pat Spitzmiller; Maryann Stein; Karn Stiegelmeier; Irv & Barbara Strauss; Erin & Edmund Tatar; Pat Taylor; James H. Thomas; Allexis Wagner; Esther Weiss; Grace Wellewerts; Cindy Levin & Rick Williams; Susan Yates

### PINEY LAKE (\$50+)

Charlene Beckner; Gilbert & Edith Benusa; Deborah Bolon-Feeney; David Brewster; Jay Browne; Ken Harper; Linda Hrycaj; Lee & Jessica Johnson; Ann Kampf; Dan Liptzin; Ken Loveday; Sally Martin; Barry Martin; Mike Mayrer; Stephen & Tamara Mccammon; Michael & Karen Miller; Allyn & Joyce Mosher; Margaret Nelson; Rick Pratt; Thekla Schultz; Marti Semmer; Marty & Maxine Solomon; Amy Sorapuru; Duane Stewart; David & Sandy Street; Linda Tatem; Don & Constance Tebbs; Megan & James Testin; Rhoda Whitney; Melissa Wills

### LILY PAD (\$25+)

Rosemarie Archangel & Ellen Sappington; Tom Brennom; Shawn Countess; Matthew Coye; Janet Marie & Paul Frederickson; Maryann Gaug; Dr. James & Patricia Gilman; Suzanne Greene; Becky Hopkins; Kristin & John Howland; Katy Kvale; Sally Lice; Sally Liu; Kurt Morscher; Peter & Susana Novembre; Eric Olson; Steve & Laura Rossetter; Debbie & Andy Smallwood; Tricia Smith

## BEHIND THE SCENES - Joan Betz

Preparations for 2020 VWR Training included revising the training manual, revising the regulations cards for the Wilderness Areas and Dogs on Leash, and managing the ranger shirt inventory, with the goals to assist Mike Mayrer and Ken Harper, the volunteer ranger coordinators, and Chair Mike Browning who compiled the new ranger recruit list.

**Revised training manual.** In 2019, the 84-page VWR training manual was converted from many separate files to one document to simplify future editing. In 2020, Cindy Ebbert (USFS) requested that we further simplify our manual, to be more like the FDRD manual. Dave Owens and Joan met with Doozie Martin (FDRD), Cindy, and Kat Bazan (USFS) for detailed planning. Doozie provided the FDRD condensed manual, which we (Dave, Frances Hartogh, and Joan) revised for our Wilderness focus, with Cindy's approval. Even though VWR training day was cancelled in 2020, we mailed copies of the Manual to each of the 24 new recruits.

**2. Revised regulation cards.** Frances, Dave, Mike, Bill, and Joan worked with Cindy and Kat to revise and update the cards that VWRs hand out to visitors. Regulations for the Wilderness Areas combined Ptarmigan Peak and Eagles Nest, with a separate card for Holy Cross. In addition, they revised the cards describing **Dogs on Leash Regulations**. Dave arranged to have the cards copied, with different colors for Holy Cross versus Eagles Nest/Ptarmigan Peak areas. Because our seasoned VWRs were not permitted to give cards or other materials to hikers, we have a large inventory of cards for next summer.

*Need a Few Good Reasons  
to Leash Your Dog?*



**3. The volunteer shirt inventory.** ESWA VWRs are distinguished by wearing official USFS uniform shirts, with the USFS patch on one sleeve, and Volunteer patch on other sleeve. There are short-sleeved and long-sleeved shirts, women's and men's sizes. In 2019, the available shirt stocks from Mike and Ken were combined with shirts from retiring rangers. New VWR recruit details determined how many shirts could be recycled, and how many new shirts were needed; an order was placed by USFS personnel, but paid with ESWA funds. With cancellation of 2020 training, no new shirts were ordered, but the inventory is ready for 2021.



## CURRIE CRAVEN 2020 AWARD

CYNDI KOOP was awarded the 2020 Currie Craven Award for Wilderness Stewardship. One of the original volunteer rangers in 2005, Cyndi managed the program for a decade, doing much of the work herself, including mentor hikes and revising the training manual. She was active with deadfall clearing and became a certified sawyer. In 2009, the year of the big windstorm, she spent every summer weekend trail clearing. In 2019 and 2020 after spending the summers working in Denali she raced home so she could complete her four patrols before the season closed. Her endless enthusiasm and dedication to both Wilderness and our VWR Program make her a worthy recipient of the 2020 Currie Craven award.



## 2020 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

**STAN WAGON** won First Prize in the Photo Contest for this picture, taken in Eagles Nest Wilderness. See this and the runners up (by Maryann Gaug and Matthew Coye) on our facebook page ([facebook.com/eaglesummitwilderness.org](https://facebook.com/eaglesummitwilderness.org))

ESWA has available handsome notecards featuring the winning photos from this year and last year on the front, in a box of 12. Order from [mfrowning@pbblaw.com](mailto:mfrowning@pbblaw.com). The cost is \$25 per box.

## NEW ESWA SWAG NOW AVAILABLE

To promote our new name and logo and show our pride, ESWA has purchased some great new swag that is available for sale. T-Shirts are available in Grey and Blue and a wide variety of sizes. Two styles of ball caps are available, both in black – one with a mesh back and one with a cloth back. Each is only \$25. ESWA branded 30 SPF lip balm is also available for \$5 each. For more information or to order, email [mfrowning@pbblaw.com](mailto:mfrowning@pbblaw.com).

**SAWYER OF 2020:**  
**ELLIE FINLAY**, who cleared more than 100 trees from trails.



## FINANCES - Chris Turner, Treasurer

ESWA made it through the pandemic of 2020 with the help from all our donors. With donations pouring in from amazing individuals and businesses we were able to keep our account above the \$20,000 mark. Our endowment fund was able to bounce back from its 17% loss to over \$51,000 which will now allow us to draw the income from those funds for 2021 projects. We also received a generous amount of donations on behalf of Beau Schuette for the Mesa Cortina boardwalk project which is now near its completion. Jim Alexander was able to solidify several grants which allowed us to help the Forest Service battle invasive weeds in several areas.

Colorado Gives Day (December 8) is our main membership and fundraising effort. Please give generously on December 8:

[www.cogives.org/EagleSummitWilderness](http://www.cogives.org/EagleSummitWilderness)

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** as a sawyer and mentor:  
**KEN HARPER**



*For nearly two decades, A-Basin staff have donated generously to their Employee Environmental Fund, of which ESWA has been a steady beneficiary. Our enduring THANKS.*



**ESWA has openings** for several important positions. If you can lend your skills to an important cause, please contact Chair Mike Browning at [mfrowning@pbblaw.com](mailto:mfrowning@pbblaw.com).

**1. Social Media Maven** maintains our communications with Facebook and other online media.

**2. Editors** of publications help with newsletters, newspaper articles and ads, and miscellaneous publications such as handouts, flyers, and cards.

**3. Hospitality** hosts contact and thank members for special occasions, favors, and donations. In addition, they organize and staff tables at social events.

  
**COLORADOGIVES.ORG**

[www.cogives.org/EagleSummitWilderness](http://www.cogives.org/EagleSummitWilderness)

JOIN ESWA through Colorado Gives. Donate any time through **December 8**. It is quick and easy. By default, your donation will go to our general operating budget OR you can target your gift to the ESWA Endowment Fund.



[www.eaglesummitwilderness.org](http://www.eaglesummitwilderness.org)

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