



Spring 2020



INTRODUCTION

By Mike Browning, 2020 Chair

Dear Fellow Lovers of Wilderness:

I hope that you and yours have weathered COVID-19 so far with only bad cases of cabin fever. I know we are all eager to hit the trails. ESWA entered 2020 with a new name and logo (displayed above), but with the same passion for wilderness and the same mission to help preserve and protect it. With our new name and logo, we have an ambitious program for 2020 in which I hope you will all participate. We need you.



Mike Browning

Unfortunately, the USFS recently asked us to modify some of our summer plans because of the COVID-19 situation. Nevertheless, we are plowing ahead as best we can and still hope to have a full and fun summer of activities. We have lots of exciting projects planned but will need to remain flexible and reschedule if necessary. So, keep a watch on our website for the latest information.

This year’s Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Training Day for new recruits was to be held on June 6, but the USFS asked us to reschedule it for later in the summer, COVID-19 permitting, date TBD. We advertised the Training Day in both the Vail and Summit Daily papers and have lots of excited new recruits. See my article on page 3 for more information. We are also providing some additional opportunities this year for our existing Rangers to be trailhead or campsite hosts. See the article on page 5. So, on days you don’t feel like hiking, you can still spend a few hours outdoors helping educate others.

We will be returning this year to our historical status as a membership-based organization. 2020 will be our transition year. Everyone who donated in 2019 will automatically become a member for 2020 but going forward we will have annual dues to help support ESWA and build a deeper sense of belonging. This will include more social events and outings just for members. See my article on page 2.

Thanks to our Weed Master Jim Alexander, our Noxious Weed Program is also growing. If you can help with this great program, see Jim’s article on page 4. I encourage you to become a WeedSpotter. Jim is planning some online “weedinars” this summer to help you identify and report noxious weeds you may spot during your normal patrols.

We are also offering four fantastic llama-supported overnight trips this summer - see the dates and places on page 2 - and read Dave Brewster’s great description of our llama trips on page 4. These are really fun so sign up for at least one before they fill up.

Our trails, as always, will be muddy early in the season and can be easily damaged before they dry out. Before you lace up your boots to head out, take a look at Maryann Gaug’s helpful Mud Season Tips on page 6. COVID-19 is making life more challenging for our wonderful Forest Service liaisons – Cindy Ebbert and Katherine Bazan. See their updates on page 6.

We are also thrilled to have two new members of our Board of Directors – Joan Betz and Frances Hartogh. Get to know them by reading their profiles on pages 5 and 7. And look at the additional openings for help listed on page 8 and pitch in if you can. A big shout out as well to our generous financial contributors who are listed on page 6. We couldn’t do anything without them.

Finally, we have **new swag** to help show off our new name and logo and help get us better known. We will soon have ESWA-branded stickers, lip balm, T-Shirts, hats and vests you can use and wear to help spread the word about ESWA. See the list of items on page 7 and watch for an online store to be added to our website soon.

COVID 19 has made 2020 a challenging year so far. But it has also made us all appreciate even more deeply how much we love the outdoors and how we need to protect our local Wilderness areas. ESWA hopes to build our capacity to have an army of volunteers to help with this critical mission. So please join in.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Calendar ..... 2
- Member-based plan..... 2
- VWR program..... 3
- Advocacy ..... 3
- Noxious weeds..... 4
- Overnight trips ..... 4
- Frances Hartogh ..... 5
- Message to VWRs..... 5
- Mud season tips..... 6
- USFS reports..... 6
- THANKS ..... 6
- Joan Betz..... 7
- Finances ..... 7
- Swag..... 7
- Membership form..... 8



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**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR (in pencil)

COVID-19 may require more events to be rescheduled (but we hope not.). Please put the following on your calendars:

**TBD:** Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Training Day originally 6/6, is postponed - hopefully to August (fingers crossed). Visit our website:

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

**July 11 (tentative):** Noxious Weed Pull Day at Hunter's Knob north of Silverthorne. Includes a fun social event afterwards.

**July 17-19:** A three-day/two-night trip with our llamas to Upper Cataract Lake in the Eagles Nest Wilderness to do campsite maintenance and trail repair, and have some fun as well.

**July 31-Aug 2:** A second chance to do a three day/two-night llama trip, this time to Lake Constantine in the Holy Cross Wilderness



**August 14-16:** Your third chance to do a three day/two-night llama trip, this time to Missouri Lakes in the HCW

**August 28-30:** Your last chance to do a llama trip, this time to Slate Lakes in the ENW.

**September 11:** ESWA Annual Meeting

Have questions or need information? Send an email to [info@eaglesummitwilderness.org](mailto:info@eaglesummitwilderness.org)

## ESWA RETURNS TO BEING MEMBER-BASED

By Mike Browning, 2020 Chair

From its inception until several years ago, ESWA (then FENW) was a **member-based organization** with dues-paying members. With our renewed and growing energy, passion and desire to identify more closely with our constituents, we have decided to reestablish our membership base. The principal reason is not to increase revenue, but to instill a **new sense of community** as well as to attract more volunteers of all ages.

The new dues levels and names are:

\$25	Lily Pad
\$50	Piney Lake
\$100	Cataract Lake
\$250	Ptarmigan Peak
\$1000	Mount Powell
\$2500	Holy Cross
(or more)	



Everyone who donated any amount anytime in 2019 will automatically be considered a member for 2020 and assigned a membership level that most closely matches the amount of their contribution. All memberships will be on a calendar-year basis. Each November, we will send a dues reminder to every member about the need to renew their membership by the end of the year. A reminder will be sent in January to any member who has not yet renewed.

The simplest way to join or renew your membership will remain via Colorado Gives Day in early December; your donation will count as dues for the following year. You can also pay dues via the ESWA website.

If for some reason you don't want to become a member, there will remain a DONATE button on the website, but we really encourage you to become an official member so that we can grow our ranks.

Members will receive a free ESWA decal, lip balm, membership card and acknowledgment of their dues payment for tax purposes, plus priority sign-up status for our llama trips and other social events. In addition, in the future we hope to arrange discounts for members at local businesses – let us know if you have any suggestions. Starting in 2021, this hard copy newsletter will be mailed only to members - so please remain a member in 2021. We want to make membership fun as well as rewarding!

**PLEASE** also encourage your friends to become members. We need all the help and new energy we can muster to maintain and increase our activities and

**"Keep Wilderness Wild."**



## VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Wilderness Ranger (VWR) program is our signature program. VWRs meet, greet, assist, and educate Wilderness hikers, encouraging them to follow Leave No Trace principles. These efforts provide significant relief to the chronically overworked and underfunded US Forest Service staff.

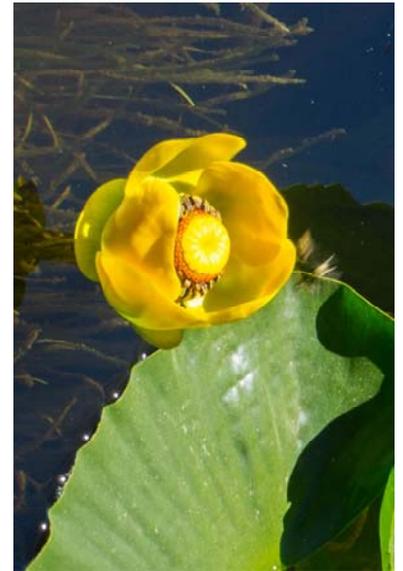
VWR Training Day, originally scheduled for June 6, is postponed due to COVID-19. However, new recruits will be provided the online training manual plus the opportunity to accompany returning VWRs on their patrols (following social distancing and other precautions). This will leave recruits highly prepared Training Day (hopefully to be held in August). We continue to accept applications - visit our website.

As a VWR, you will have a broad range of opportunities of varying levels of exertion. Some VWRs, for example, love to hike deep into the back country with their silky saw, where they combine meeting visitors with trail clearing. Others hike an average of about 3 miles on the most popular trails, encountering dozens of Wilderness visitors.

**Trailhead Hosting** offers a third way to meet Wilderness visitors. If you have a bad knee or otherwise aren't up to a four hour hike, consider this option. We will provide you with all that you will need. You'll set up a table and sign at a trailhead, take a seat, and meet people as they begin their hike, and others as they emerge at the end. You will dispense up-to-date information (e.g., fire restrictions, stream crossings), share trail maps, dispense swag (brochure, info cards, bug repellent, sun screen, lip balm, WAG bags), and generally promote Leave No Trace ethics. Special targets are **overnight backpackers**, encountered especially on Friday afternoons as they set out for the weekend. We encourage their special attention to campfire and campsite locations, and to proper disposal of waste. All Trail Hosts must have received VWR training, so if you want to become a host please sign up for this year's VWR training.

This year's training program will include **scenario exercises** as a fun and interactive way of exposing our trainees to a variety of situations they might encounter, such as a dog off leash, ill-prepared hikers, or campsite or campfire too close to a lake, stream, or trail.

We hope you will become a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger in 2020. To sign up for the training, please complete the application form which can be found on the ESWA website. Go to [eaglesummitwilderness.org](http://eaglesummitwilderness.org).



Meet fearless and feisty Martina, the **American Marten** (also Pine Marten), two pounds of predatory dread for voles, chipmunks, and snowshoe hares. Martens are in the Family *Mustelidae*; other **mustelids** include weasels, ferrets, mink, fishers, and wolverines. Plus badgers and otters. Martens live up to a dozen years, breed in summer (delayed implantation), give birth in early spring, reach maturity by 3 months. Preyed upon by coyotes, foxes, and raptors. Trapped to near extinction, they made a comeback; now, habitat loss due to timber harvests, as well as trapping, are their biggest threats. Martina is also pictured on page 1.

### The Schuette Family gifts



In 2017, Beau Schuette (35) died from an undiagnosed heart problem. Beau loved Eagles Nest Wilderness, and lived at the family cabin (built nearly fifty years ago) near the Mesa Cortina Trailhead. His family and friends have donated generously towards projects in his memory. In particular, construction of a boardwalk across a marshy area on the Mesa Cortina Trail is slated to begin in 2020 (subject to COVID-19 restrictions), finishing the following summer. Materials are being funded by a grant from The Summit Foundation, and labor by the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (under Forest Service supervision) will be

funded by the Schuette fund. The Schuette family created a *second fund* in the ESWA Endowment Fund, proceeds from which will be used in perpetuity to help preserve the Wilderness that Beau so loved.

## ADVOCACY

The **CORE** act is in the US Senate awaiting committee action. Work on the other three campaigns for which ESWA advocates continues, although all 3 are in a waiting stage at present. The effort by **Lower Blue Residents United** to block an open pit mine in the rural lower Blue River Valley is working, insofar as Peak Materials has not filed for the necessary permits. Wilderness Workshop is leading the **Buck Berlaimont** campaign, working to convince the Forest Service to deny the permit for a luxury development that threatens wildlife deep inside the White River National Forest above Edwards. The effort to **Rename The Gore Range** still awaits final support from the Ute Tribe. You can read more about these campaigns, and several other issues for which we advocate, at our website: [www.eaglesummitwilderness.org](http://www.eaglesummitwilderness.org)



## Join the WeedSpotters.

Noxious weeds are invading the National Forests and Wilderness areas, and they put the native flora and fauna at risk. A good example of this is taking place on Harrigan Creek, where a Musk Thistle infestation is so thick you can't walk between the thistle stalks (hike to 39° 45' 20 N, 106° 9' 34 W to see for yourself). ESWA's WeedSpotter program is working hard to contain the spread of noxious weeds and we could use your help.

Most weeds are spread by people, their dogs and livestock. You can help contain weeds:

- \* Avoid weedy areas – stay on the trail. Weeds establish easily in overused areas.
- \* Keep pets on leash and keep both pets and stock out of weedy areas.
- \* Thoroughly inspect and clean your vehicles, boots, tack and equipment to make sure you remove even the tiniest

of seeds.

- \* Camp away from areas with weeds.
- \* Inspect, brush, and clean animals (especially hooves and legs) for weed seeds.

And best of all, join the **WeedSpotters**, learn how to identify and report weed infestations, and take part in our July 11 weed pull.

### Become a WeedSpotter

Contact Jim Alexander  
jimofcolorado@gmail.com

The WeedSpotter team locates and records weed infestations across all three Wilderness areas. Once we know where the weeds are, we can either pull them or have them treated professionally (some weeds shouldn't be pulled, they just grow faster).

Last summer, with a generous grant from the National Forest Foundation, we were able to treat 145 acres of weed infestations. Because of last year's WeedSpotter efforts, ESWA won a second, larger grant from the NFF Ski Conservation Fund, which will allow us to double the acreage to be treated in 2020. Year by year we will chip away at the spread of this pernicious enemy.



## Backcountry Trips with Llamas

By Dave Brewster

The ESWA llama trips are great opportunities to explore some of the beautiful more remote areas of the Wilderness with experienced backpackers and to help restore some these harder-to-reach areas. Two US Forest Service rangers guide each trip and they may make changes due to conditions (snow pack, water level at stream crossings,...). Typically we backpack in Friday afternoon (usually 5-7 miles) and set up camp away from the more heavily used areas near the lakes. The llamas often have extra capacity and may carry some of our gear (sleeping bag or tent) as well as tools and protective equipment that we need. The llamas walk steadily, but not fast. People generally hike at their own pace with one of the rangers arriving early to mark the camping area not far from a water source. Personal water purifiers (filters) are needed.

Each volunteer is responsible for personal food, cooking/eating gear, and camping equipment. The forest service has bear-proof containers which we hang away from our tents at night. We practice Leave No Trace camping so we don't build campfires, but we generally eat together. This year we will be following the Forest Service and country rules and guidelines on **social distancing** and decontamination, so we may be working and eating a little farther apart. ESWA provides happy hour supplies for everyone, as well as individual WAG bags to use for waste disposal. The llamas carry the WAG bags back.

The next morning, after breakfast and packing lunch, information about possible hazards and proper use of the tools is presented. Then we usually hike up the trail and break into smaller groups to do various restoration activities. These might include scattering illegal fire rings and restoring the area, rehabbing illegal campsites (typically on lakeshores), trail maintenance (erosion control, trimming vegetation, ...), pulling noxious weeds, and repairing/adding signage. Everyone works at their own pace and is urged to take frequent breaks and drink lots of water. We return to camp in the late afternoon to enjoy the Wilderness and each other's company. The third day is mainly spent backpacking out. Sometimes there is an opportunity to do some additional work for those interested. We hope you can join us on one or more of these trips. It is always a memorable experience. If you're under 18, you'll need to have a parent or guardian with you.



**July 17-19:** Upper Cataract Lake  
**July 31-August 2:** Lake Constantine  
**August 21-23:** Missouri Lakes  
**August 28-30:** Slate Lakes

### Join us in 2020.

Contact Dave Brewster (david.l.brewster@gmail.com)  
or Tim Drescher (719 649 2894)



## SPECIAL MESSAGES FOR OUR CURRENT VWRs

Mike Browning

**1.** At the request of the Forest Service, we will be initiating **two pilot projects** in 2020, asking for VWRs to sign up for targeted *trailhead hosting* and for targeted backcountry *campsite hosting*.

**Targeted Trailhead Hosting:** VWRs will host tables at designated trailheads on some of the busiest days to meet and greet visitors, especially backpackers. Hosts will provide visitors with various materials, such as local trail information, Leave No Trace Principles, leash requirements, campsite regulations, alternative (less-crowded) trails, as well as answers to their questions. Each shift lasts 4 hours (9am-1pm or 1-5pm). Each shift counts as a regular VWR patrol.

Dates/Trailheads:

Friday **July 3:** Gore Creek and Cataract Lake. Saturday **Aug 8:** Gore Creek and N. Rock Creek.



**Targeted Campsite Hosting:** VWRs will camp overnight at some of the most popular campsites to educate campers about campsite regulations and “show the flag” to encourage responsible behavior. Each day out counts as a regular VWR patrol. You can do Campsite Hosting on dates and at lakes of your own choosing.

**2.** Break a leg. We need you on VWR Training Day (date TBD) to help with an afternoon of **play acting** - a series of hiking and camping scenarios that trainees rotate through to practice their Authority of the Resource negotiating skills. (see article on p. 3). Please volunteer to help. In addition, we need **mentors** for the fresh recruits before their Training Day. Contact Mike Browning if you can help (mfbrowning@pbblaw.com or 303 408 0995).

**3. PLEASE** do as many VWR hikes as you can this summer to make our presence felt. To help you out, we have revised our VWR policy to allow you to **hike with a friend**, whether or not they are a trained VWR. No need to hike alone or find another VWR to hike with. And who knows, maybe your companion will decide to take the VWR training themselves. Remember that dogs are not allowed on VWR hikes.

**4.** Check the ESWA website for **trail work days** that will be scheduled throughout the summer, as COVID-19 restrictions allow, to help maintain and repair our trails.

## FRANCES HARTOGH - New ESWA Board Member

As a new member of ESWA’s Board, Frances brings a wealth of personal experience as a backpacker, hiker, climber, and Wilderness Volunteer Ranger. She spent her early years hiking and backpacking in Yosemite and northern California. She was first introduced to the Rocky Mountains when she left California for high school in Utah, where backpacking and skiing were part of the curriculum. As a student at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, she served on the college’s search and rescue team, exploring the Pecos Wilderness and climbing New Mexico’s high points in her spare time. Law school took her to Denver, where she fell in love with the Eagles Nest and Holy Cross Wilderness Areas. In Colorado, she met her husband Mike Browning, and with Mike began to climb internationally, including such diverse summits as Aconcagua, Havannadalshnukur, Kilimanjaro, and Mont Blanc. Now in their 60s, Mike and Frances are setting their sights a tad lower, and climbing the high points in each state – with California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Wyoming achieved, they only have 41 left.



As an environmental and natural resources lawyer, Frances also brings relevant professional experience to the ESWA Board. Frances worked both as in-house counsel and as an attorney with the Natural Resources and Environmental Section of the Office of the Colorado Attorney General. In 2019 she retired after a decade as Associate Director and Director of Outreach for a non-profit that provides natural resource and environmental law-related education. Frances says she is thankful that her varied career has allowed her to view from myriad angles the complex issues surrounding our public lands and the environment.

Frances recently completed a five-year term, including a year as Chair, on the Open Space Board of Trustees for the City of Boulder. Trustees make recommendations to City Council and Open Space staff on management of 46,000 acres of Open Space and 155 miles of trails. At their monthly public meetings, the Trustees meet with Open Space staff and members of the public on issues that range from addressing impacts of recreational issues – such as dogs and mountain bikes - to managing agricultural uses. She recommends getting involved with public land issues through service on citizen boards, such as ESWA, as it provides a great opportunity to give back to the public lands that give so much to all of us.

Frances and Mike split their time between Eagle County and Boulder.

## THANKS TO OUR MEMBER-DONORS.

*Our deep appreciation to those individuals who have donated in the past year*

Carol Allen, Anonymous, Rosemarie Archangel & Ellen Sappington, Bob & Mary Beth Bagg, Kurtis Barry, Charlene Beckner, Bill & Joan Betz, Deborah Bolon-Feeney, Tom Brennom, Jay Browne, Michael Browning, Susan Carlson, Howard & Sue Carver, Currie Craven, Rick & Shawna Emarine, Tanya English, John Fielder, Eleanor Finlay, Karole & Jim Fuller, Maryann Gaug, Bill & Susy Gillilan, Dr. James & Patricia Gilman, Leigh Girvin, Suzanne Greene, Frank & Mary Gutmann, Randi & Paul Hagerman, Merry Lynne Hamilton, Ken & Pam Harper, Frances Hartogh, Elliott Henry, Kenneth Heuer, Becky Hopkins, Linda Hrycaj, Myra & Frank Isenhardt, Lee & Jessica Johnson, Margaret F. Johnson, Ann Kampf, Jerry Kelly, David & Paula Kraemer, Katy Kvale, Sally Lice, Cindy & Tom Lillard, Dan Liptzin & Jennifer Betz, Sally Liu, Ken Loveday, Stephen & Tamara Mccammon, Michael & Karen Miller, Augusta Molnar, Kurt Morscher, Allyn & Joyce Mosher, Peter & Susana Novembre, Tom & Carol Oster, David Owens, Adam & Anne Poe, Dave & Marilyn Raymond, Mindy Raymond, George & Kathryn Resseguie, Lee Rimel, Steve & Laura Rossetter, Thekla Schultz, Jan Shipman, Ray Skowrya & Marianne Short, Marty & Maxine Solomon, Amy Sorapuru, Pat Spitzmiller, Karn Stiegelmeier, Irv & Barbara Strauss, David & Sandy Street, Erin & Edmund Tatar, Linda Tatem, Pat Taylor, Don & Constance Tebbs, Megan & James Testin, James H. Thomas, Allexis Wagner, Esther Weiss, Grace Wellewerts, Rhoda Whitney, Melissa Wills, Susan Yates



## USFS REPORTS



**Katherine Bazan** writes: Greetings from the **Eagle Holy Cross Ranger District!** We are currently gearing up for the 2020 field season and are excited to get back into the Wilderness. Our Wilderness crew this year is made up entirely of returning rangers Mark Steinbrecher, Jamison Hunt, Natalie Mogeran and our two Llamas, Dominquez and Powell. Everyone is looking forward to hearing the song of the cross cut saw and getting their boots dirty again! With the spread of COVID-19, our work is expected to change as we adjust to maintain the safety of our rangers and the public. Nonetheless, in this fast paced and evolving time, we are still optimistic about getting as much work done in the Wilderness as we can. In addition to the normal trail clearing and patrolling, we have a couple large projects planned, including rebuilding the 7-mile bridge on Cross Creek trail and finishing clearing avalanche debris from the 2019 season on Cross Creek and Missouri Creek trails. We look forward to seeing you all out on the trail this summer!

**Cindy Ebbert** writes: Hello from the **Dillon Ranger District!** We are excited for another summer field season working in the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas. Our returning Wilderness Rangers, Abby Seymour and Kelley Dearing, will be mentoring our two new interns who are currently being hired. This crew will be out on the trails this summer making public contacts, clearing trees, restoring campsites, and performing trail maintenance. A Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew has been hired to help with crosscut saw trail clearing, Maryland Creek trail construction, Meadow Creek bridge repairs, and Mesa Cortina puncheon construction. We will continue to work with our partners on Wilderness projects but we realize that changes may need to occur in order to adhere to state or local orders related to COVID-19. We are currently working on these modifications so stay tuned!

### Wilderness Mud Season Tips by Maryann Gaug

Mud season is an annual rite of passage in our Summit and Eagle county Wildernesses. Starting in mid-April in low valleys, trails sport muddy spots before slowly drying out. Snow lingers in the subalpine forest and in drifts near treeline until early July. Tender shoots and beautiful wildflowers pop up everywhere. Mother deer, elk, moose, mountain lions, bears, and little critters nurse their newborns.



While we're all itching to hit the trails either in our boots or on horseback, we need to remember to take care of our trails. When you encounter a sodden spot, please walk through the mud. Get muddy. If it's really gooey, return after the trail has mostly dried. Walking on vegetation to avoid mud quickly kills grass and plants. Suddenly the small puddle grows into a bigger mess. Meadows are especially vulnerable to erosion caused by trampling feet. If a durable surface, like snow, logs, or rocks, lines the muddy area, walk there instead. To prevent mud on pant legs or inside boots, wear gaiters. Cleaning off boots, hoofs, paws, and clothes is so much easier than fixing damaged trails.

Hiking boots and horse hoofs make holes in muddy spots. These indents hold water keeping the path wet longer. The mud may get pushed to the side of the trail, and when it dries, noxious weeds grow in the disturbed soil.

Elk, moose, and deer drop their calves/fawns in late May and early June. Please leave animals and their young alone. The most important thing is to leash your dog. Dogs are natural predators and can kill a young animal or bird before the owner can control it. When chasing deer and elk, dogs can bite hind legs and cut tendons. They can kill birds outright or scare away the mother so she doesn't return to care for her young. Don't mess with mom moose and her young – moose can be downright dangerous. Moose are known for chasing dogs right back to their owners. Moose have little fear of humans and will attack.

While hiking or riding horses during mud season, carefully plan where and how to travel. Keep dogs leashed to protect young wildlife. Treading lightly will preserve the fantastic trails in Summit and Eagle counties for many years.

## JOAN LOVEDAY BETZ - New ESWA Board Member

I have always loved exploring the outdoors, especially the plants and animals, from early family camping trips to long-time Girl Scout activities. After Bill and I moved to Denver from London, England, we reveled in the opportunities in nearby National Forests. We took up backpacking, making our gear from Frostline kits, and especially focusing on the Eagles Nest Primitive Area (as it was then known). When our older daughter was 5 months old, we purchased a rustic log cabin 2 miles up a dirt road north of Silverthorne in Summit Guest Ranch subdivision. Despite no running water or indoor plumbing, no electricity or phone and no plowed road across the ranch, we loved it. Over the years, and with second daughter, we had a well dug and added a generator for electricity; then with development of the Pebble Creek Ranch subdivision, we paid to extend the phone and electricity lines, to bring modern conveniences. As a biologist, I loved learning and sharing my knowledge of the natural world, different birds and animals, trees, wildflowers, and wild mushrooms in the National Forest adjacent to our cabin, and in nearby Eagles Nest Wilderness Area. We especially loved watching the hummingbirds at feeders at our cabin and watching the beavers in the numerous ponds in the forest. We focused on day hikes rather than backpacking. With residents of Pebble Creek Ranch, our members learned about the noxious Oxeye daisy and participated in annual efforts to eradicate this pest from our valley.



My background in microbiology and biochemistry, with an M.S. from Yale, and a PhD from University College London, led to my research career at U. Colorado Medical School. I probed basic mechanisms of gene regulation, studying proteins that bind to DNA and control which genes direct transcription of the mRNA to specify which proteins are synthesized. I studied simple model organisms including the bacteria *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and the baker's yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. It was an exciting time for research, at the beginning of gene cloning and DNA sequencing. My love of teaching then led me to take a Biology faculty position at Regis University, bringing molecular biology courses, and major grants from National Institutes of Health to that small department. I saw increased growth of our programs, faculty and students, and served as premedical/pre dental advisor to Biology majors. During my years at Regis I served as Chair of the Department for 10 years, and spearheaded formation of an intensive 9-month M.S. in Biomedical Sciences program to help prepare graduates for competitive applications to medical, dental and physician assistant programs.

Because I have so enjoyed the outdoors and the Wilderness in Summit County, I am committed to maintaining its unspoiled nature, and I want to give back to relevant organizations, and have followed Bill in volunteering for FENW (now ESWA). I see my teaching skills, and especially the organization I brought as chair and in teaching lab classes, as contributing to ESWA in areas of planning, logistics, and hospitality. I have already helped revise the Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Training manual and organize the ranger shirt inventory, also hosting tables at events, and hosting at trailheads.

### COMING SOON. NEW ESWA APPAREL

ESWA will be offering some new duds so that you can show your support and help us get our new name and new logo out to the world:

\* **ESWA T-Shirts** in Blue or Grey, Men's or Women's Cuts with the ESWA logo on the front and our slogan "KEEP WILDERNESS WILD." on the back. Cost: \$25.

\* **ESWA Ball Caps** in black with either a **mesh** back or **cloth** back and the ESWA logo on the front. Cost: \$25.

\* **ESWA vests** with the ESWA name on the right chest. Special order only. Cost: \$55

Show off your support by wearing them all. Soon to be available at ESWA events and through the ESWA website.



### FINANCES

ESWA entered 2020 on sound financial footing. Donations during Colorado Gives Day in December, 2019, nearly doubled over the previous year. The Endowment Fund passed \$50,000, which meant that we could draw on the income for Wilderness projects. A detailed 2020 budget was created, which included about \$10,000 for Forest Service projects, including weed mitigation and trail improvements in Eagles Nest.

AND THEN... came the pandemic, and our schedule of activities floats in limbo. The Endowment Fund suffered a 17% decrease through March. We will post budgetary updates in our eNewsletters in the weeks and months ahead.

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

**ESWA has openings** for several important positions. If you can lend your skills to an important cause, please contact Chair Mike Browning at 303 408 0995.

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

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

**3. Event organizer** for planning and hosting social events.

### ESWA ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date: Friday,

**11 September**

Plans are underway for a fun and informative bash to celebrate our 2020 season. Updates will appear on the ESWA website and in our monthly eNewsletter.



## EAGLE SUMMIT WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

### MEMBERSHIP/DONOR FORM

\$25	Lily Pad
\$50	Piney Lake
\$100	Cataract Lake
\$250	Ptarmigan Peak
\$1000	Mount Powell
\$2500 or more	Holy Cross

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and personal check to:

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