



Gaining Ground

Healing the land. Building community.

SPRING 2017

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Volunteer Andrew White cuts straw wattle to be used for road closure and restoration at Georgia Pass in 2016

One Thousand Stories

Taylor Gifford, Laura Backus & Andrew White

We love stories around here. Every WRV all-staff meeting has a fifteen minute designated time slot for “storytelling” where staff throw out a steady stream of anecdotes about volunteers, agency partners, and friends of the organization going above and beyond the call of duty. It’s the most fun and perhaps the most valuable part of any all-staff meeting, and you bet staff members use up every last second of those allotted fifteen minutes. If you’ve ever been on an overnight project, you’ve probably heard a few wild (and potentially slightly embellished) stories from longtime volunteers around the campfire. You may have heard the one about runaway pack llamas on the youth program’s overnight at Georgia Pass. Or maybe you’ve heard tall tales of cooks who knock out pad thai, pancakes with blueberry syrup, and split pea soup with wakame at 13,000 feet on shoestring budgets...

“If it were remotely possible to unpack 1000 projects’ worth of stories, we would”

This year, 18 years after its inception in Executive Director Ed Self’s basement, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers is celebrating a few exciting milestones: our 1000th project, our 40,000th volunteer, and \$10 million dollars’ worth of volunteer hours. If it were remotely possible to unpack 1000 projects’ worth of stories about our community being awesome, we would. But we like to be low-impact around here too, and that seems like it might use up a lot of paper. So, we’ve narrowed it down to a couple of volunteer perspectives on what makes this community and this work so rewarding.

“Here, you lead this group,” Ed said to me the cloudy morning of April 17th, 1999, as we stood on the barren edge of Bass Pond. Astonished and pleased, I turned to my group of five and figured out how to plant willows at Walden Ponds Open Space. That was my Crew Leader training. At project completion, I inserted an official pink “Wetland” pin flag amongst our new plantings. Searching along the shoreline several years ago, the willows were so dense, so healthy that I could not find our little work area.



A young WRV volunteer from Youth Services Initiative, convinces Romeo the llama to follow him up to the project site at Georgia Pass

E.D. Corner

by Ed Self, Executive Director

As WRV enters our 19th year, we're approaching a plethora of exciting milestones. First of all, we'll celebrate our 20th Anniversary next year. Stay tuned for more on that in... well... a year from now.

In the meantime, this year we'll reach our 1,000th volunteer project, engage our 40,000th volunteer and surpass \$10 million in cumulative volunteer value. Celebration is one of our core values – along with building community, empowerment, healing, education, love of nature, and tangible results (which you can read more about on our website). We celebrate because our work is positive. It feels good. It makes a difference. It builds bonds of friendship and community. This is a great year for celebration of the passion and commitment of so many volunteers who have chosen to give back to our beloved Colorado lands.

We'll be celebrating our 1000th project with multiple concurrent events in September. We'll celebrate one project up north at Campbell Valley and one out west on the Dolores River. Both of these are popular projects that we have returned to a number of times over the years, so sign up early to reserve your role in the fun!

We have a fantastic slate of projects this year – something for everyone. Exotic faraway places. Close-in places. Strenuous. Relaxed. One-day. Multi-day. Streams. Wetlands. Flood recovery. Trails. Forest health. Weeds. Seeds. Wildlife habitat. Road obliteration. And, more, from the plains to the alpine.

With the political turmoil of the day, WRV is a haven for all people of all stripes who care about the land to come together, make a difference, and celebrate.



continued from cover...



Mt. Columbia volunteers summit the 14er on the final day of the trail restoration project

Only a month before, Ed had begun implementation of citizen planting projects. That first day, seeing people work together in the faith that skinny, leafless willow stems would grow into wildlife habitat and shoreline stabilization was heartening to me as a job-hunting biologist... At last, here was the opportunity to get my hands in the earth and begin the work restoring human damage to ecosystems.

In the beginning Ed was Project Leader and Technical Advisor for every project. We were such a small group that I knew about every project and nearly every volunteer. Now we have seventeen paid staff, innumerable competent volunteers in leadership positions, and people in the wings wanting to learn. I had no idea during early projects that this informal group would develop into Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and become one of the pivot points of my life."

– Laura Backus, WRV Volunteer & Monitoring Committee Member since 1999

"At the center of volunteering, there is but one idea - to help. We help the lands we work on, as well as the individuals working the land. A team of one for trail maintenance does not exist. None of us can move a boulder alone, but with the help of a few others we can create miles of trail through the wilderness of a 13er. To see the progress a crew of people can make in mere hours of swinging a sledge would make just about anybody want to get out and help. We have the chance to build bridges, both literally and metaphorically, that allow hundreds if not thousands of people admission to areas that would otherwise be inaccessible. The feeling of tiredness and, (if you're lucky enough) the blisters you earn, are badges of honor and bragging rights. The best part about it? Getting to do it again the following weekend." – Andrew White, WRV Volunteer & Sawyer since 2015

So, thank you to our community for 1000 projects, for helping us reach out to 40,000 volunteers over the years, and for contributing the time and energy towards 10 million dollars' worth of volunteer hours. But more than that, thank you for the blisters, the llama wrangling, the smiles & laughs, and for (mostly) patiently waiting those extra couple of minutes while we get the coffee made on early-morning project days. Here's to the next 1000 projects—we can't wait to see you out there.



Laura Backus prepares to plant on a watershed restoration project in 2016

Youth Program

Youth & Seeds, WRV's Youth Program is in full swing! This spring, we've been helping local schools build their own native plant gardens, developing ecological science curriculum for teachers, running a youth Crew Leader Training, and getting busloads of school groups out on restoration projects, from riparian work with the Denver Botanic Gardens to flood recovery at Button Rock Preserve to trail construction for Earth Day. The excitement continues into summer, with a huge family project in Lafayette, a camping trip with Boulder's Youth Services Initiative, and a four-day leadership training. To get involved, contact Rachel@wlrv.org—we'd love to have you!



Up Your Skills

Volunteer leadership is a crucial part of WRV's mission. Your new skills can give you a leg up on job opportunities, fulfill lifelong learning goals, and help Colorado's natural heritage. Upcoming trainings are listed below, and please check out wlrv.org for dates, locations and details.

- Project Leader Training
- Chain Sawyer Trainings: Beginner and Intermediate
- Crew Leader Trainings in Trails, Ecological Restoration, and Induced Meander Techniques
- Seed Collection Crew Leader Training
- Cook Training
- Trail, Advanced Trails, and Rock Skills Trainings



Gaining Ground

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We welcome announcements, articles, letters, artwork, and photos for future editions of the newsletter. Please submit materials to: info@wlrv.org

Printed on recycled paper.



Native Seed Collections

We've spent our winter cleaning seed, hanging out in greenhouses germinating seedlings, and getting ready to go for the 2017 seed collection season! You can look forward to seed collections in classic Boulder-area locations, as well as a few collections at new sites. This season is as jam-packed with seed collections as ever, and you can look forward to getting out most weeks throughout the summer. If interested in the seed program, please contact Amy Ansari our Native Seed Program Manager at amy@wlrv.org. Can't wait to see you there!





2017 PROJECTS

● Easiest ◆◆ Very Difficult ▲ Overnight
■ Intermediate ◆ Difficult ▲ High Elevation

Campbell Valley Watershed Restoration

Work continues at one of WRV's adopt-a-sites to restore severely eroded gulleys in this hugely important area.

● **Sat 4/29** ■

Seaman Reservoir Flood Restoration

Volunteers will install a series of in-stream timber and rock structures and plants to reinforce eroding banks.

● **Sat 4/15-4/16** ▲ ◆

Button Rock Flood Restoration

Jumpstarting the flood restoration process on North St. Vrain river we'll be revegetating scoured river banks.

● **Sat 4/15** ■ ◆

Myrtle Spurge Season Closer

Volunteers will hand pull Myrtle Spurge, a noxious weed, in the Pinebrook Hills west of Boulder, then Celebrate!

● **Sat 4/22 EARTH DAY** ◆

Left Hand Creek Flood Restoration

Restoration on Left Hand Creek north of Boulder will include seeding, planting, soil mulching and beaver caging.

● **Sat 4/22** ■

Estes Valley Flood Restoration

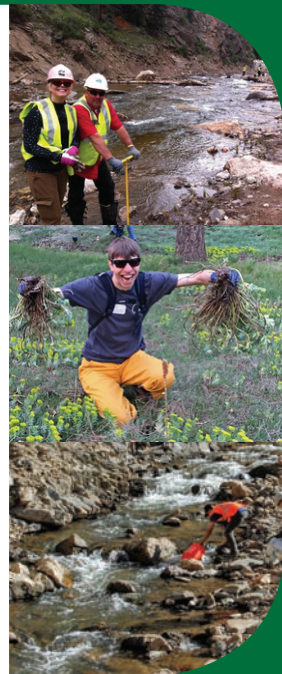
Spend the day on the iconic fall river just outside RMNP helping restore flood damage with new plantings.

● **Sat 5/6** ■ ◆

Mediterranean Sage Prairie Restoration

The campaign to eradicate Med Sage from Boulder County is nearing an end but until it's gone, we continue!

● **Sat 5/6, 5/24, 6/6,** ■ ◆



April & May

June & July

Fillius Park Forest Thinning and Fuels Reduction

Work alongside WRV sawyers to improve forest health by thinning in this Denver Mountain Parks gem.

● **Sat. 5/20** ■

Dedisse Park Trail Re-Route - Nat'l Trails Day

Celebrate National Trails as it should be, building more sustainable trails in beautiful Dedisse park.

● **Sat 6/3** ■

Young Gulch Trail Construction

Help continue the work to reopen new trail in this much loved and recently battered but beautiful area.

● **Sat 6/3, 6/24-25, 7/29-30, 8/26,** ▲ ◆

Beaver Brook Trail Project

Join us for year two of WRV's work to help rebuild flood damaged bridges on this beautiful trail.

● **Sat 7/1** ■

Mid - Season Tool Fest Boulder

One tool fest just isn't fest enough so this year we're having TWO! If you've never been, it's not to be missed!

● **Sat 7/20** ●

North Swan Drainage Forest Rehabilitation

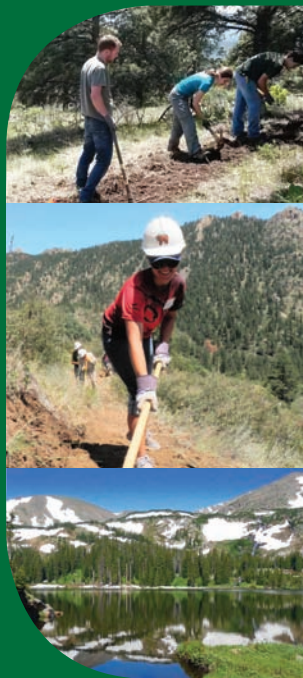
Work and camp with us as we restore degraded sections of this beautiful area near Breckenidge, CO.

● **Sat-Sun 8/5-6** ▲ ■

Indian Peaks Wilderness Trail Project

Spend a few days in the much beloved Indian Peaks Wilderness restoring trail around Long Lake.

● **Fri-Sun 8/11-13** ▲ ◆



Summit & Echo Lakes Mt Evans Restoration

Restore shoreline at Echo lake, then head up to the alpine Summit Lake for planting the plants grown from

● **Sat. 8/19-20** ▲ ▲ ◆

Upper Gunnison Basin Habitat Restoration

Return to Gunnison for year four of this favorite volunteer "vacation" spot and help us build more rock structures

● **Wed-Sun 9/6-10** ▲ ◆

Mt. Elbert Alpine Trail Restoration

Head up to 14er country and restore some high alpine trail amid the spectacle of fall aspens turning gold!

● **Fri-Sun 9/8-10** ▲ ▲ ◆

Peschel Wetland Restoration

Another project out in Longmont at Peschel to continue the restoration of a wetland damaged in 2013's flood.

● **Sat 9/23** ■



WRV is Celebrating our 1000th Project September 30th!!!

1000!

Canyon Lakes Road Obliteration

Another of WRV's adopted sites, join us at Canyon Lakes this year as we continue to restore old roads.

● **Sat 9/16, Sat-Sun 9/30-10/1** ▲ ■

Dolores River Habitat Restoration

Year three down on the Dolores River, this year we'll camp and work in a new location and get to boat to work!

● **Fri-Sat 9/29-30** ▲ ■



Aug & Sept

Oct & Nov

National Forest Flood Restoration

Many are the flood restoration opportunities this year as the recovery continues, join us for more this fall.

● **Sat. 10/7 & Sat. 10/14** ■ ◆

Vedauwoo Road Obliteration

A rare opportunity to work up in Wyoming at the spectacular Vedauwoo Rec. Area closing old roads.

● **Sat-Sun 10/21-22** ▲ ■

Boulder Creek Retoration - White Rocks

Frogs, mice and eagles oh my! Return to the White Rocks area with us this year for more habitat restoration.

● **Sat 10/21** ■

St. Vrain Creek Tamarisk Removal

Work continues at one of WRV's adopt-a-sites to restore severely eroded gulleys in this hugely important area.

● **Sat 10/28** ■ ◆

Tool Fest Fort Collins

If you've never been to a tool fest this is the year to check out this festival of tool TLC and appreciation!

● **Sat 10/28 Tool Fest Boulder** ● **Sat 11/4** ●

Don't Forget to Check on-line for Seed Project, Sawyer Projects & Youth Projects TBA!



... But wait there's MORE!...

For even more projects and the most up to date list visit wlr.org

Thank you to our Sponsors and Partners of 2016!

Your generosity allows us to build community and heal the land!

We are deeply grateful to all our donors - you are vital to our success! Donors and sponsors at all levels are acknowledged in the Annual Report. We pour over these details to get everything right, but if you notice an error, please let us know by calling 303-543-1411.



Cash and In-Kind Funders, Donors and Sponsors

\$25,000 and Above

Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest & Pawnee National Grassland
Aspen Meadow Veterinary Specialists P.C.
Boulder County Parks & Open Space
Denver Mountain Parks
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Recreational Trails Program
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Colorado State Forest Service
Colorado Water Conservation Board
National Forest Foundation
Terra Foundation
The Nature Conservancy, Boulder Office

\$10,000 and Above

Aloterra
Boulder County
Alan Carpenter
City of Boulder
City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks
City of Longmont
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Community Foundation
Serving Boulder County
John S. Scourci Foundation
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R.A. Linden Services
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
North Fork Weed Cooperative
REI
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Tides Foundation
Xcel Energy

\$5,000 and Above

Audubon Rockies
Bobcat of the Rockies
Cargill
Climax Molybdenum,
a Freeport-McMoRan Company

Coalition for the Poudre Watershed
Melinda Courtman
Fund to Restore Colorado Trails,
Parks & Waterways
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Southwest Conservation Corps
The Nature Conservancy,
Phantom Canyon Office
Vivax
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

\$1,000 and Above

Mark Boslough
Boulder County Audubon Society
William Brock
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Budhoe's Backhoe
Bull Publishing
City of Boulder Youth Opportunities Program
City of Golden
CLIF BAR and Company
ContourLogic LLC
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Alan Cogen
Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
Colorado Mountain Club, Boulder Group
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
Community Shares of Colorado
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Rocky Mountain National Park
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Frank Shafer
Sunstate Equipment, Co.
The April Fund
Susan & David Thomas
Pawnee National Grassland
White River National Forest

\$500 and Above

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Bookcliff Vineyards
Books of Discovery
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Colorado Four Wheelers
Community First Foundation
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Bob Wientzen
Youth Services Initiative

Donors up to \$500 are listed in the annual report

Other Partners

Alfalfa's
All Souls Church Boulder
Alpha Phi Omega
Alpine Anglers TU Chapter 453
American Jewish Society for Service
Anheuser-Busch Inbev – FC Brewery
Aurora Public Schools
Ben Delatour Scout Ranch
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
Boulder County Audubon Society
Boulder County Nature Association
Boulder Green Drinks
Boulder High School
Boulder Mountainbike Alliance

Brentwood Middle School
Bureau of Land Management –
Gunnison Gorge Field Office
Bureau of Land Management –
Uncompahgre Field Office
CDOT
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Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC
Colorado Addicted Trailbuilder Society
Colorado Bar Association
Colorado Firecamp
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado Native Plant Society
Colorado State Forest Service
Colorado State University
CSU Fly Fishing Club
Cummins Rocky Mountain
Dandelion
Denver University
Eco Products
Evergreen High School
First Plymouth United Church of Christ
Flywater
Friends of Dillon Ranger District
Friends of Lory State Park
Geosyntec
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Great Outdoors Colorado
Headwaters Realty
Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance
Jefferson County Weed & Pest
Knights of Heroes
Larimer County Conservation Corps
Mishawaka Amphitheater
Mugs Coffee Lounge
Native Roots Dispensary
North Denver Sport & Social Club
Overland Mountain Bike Club
Patagonia, Boulder
Pfizer
Rocky Mountain Tree Festival
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Terra Foundation
The Heartstring Hunters
The Nature Conservancy (Nat'l Office)
The Rainmaker Group Ventures, LLC
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United Methodist Church of Evergreen
University of Colorado, Boulder
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison
Nat'l Forest – Gunnison Ranger District
USFS – Rocky Mtn Regional Office
Vail Resorts
Western State Colorado University
Xylem Design
Yancey's Food Service



Staff Profile: Luke McNally



Born and raised in Upstate New York, Luke first started his journey in the natural world at the library. The son of two English teachers, Luke's pint sized view of the world was shaped dramatically by authors like Gary Paulsen and Tom Brown Jr. Luke believes that best decision he ever made was to attend Colorado State University where he studied natural resource management and watershed science. While attending school, Luke worked in both field and lab settings for the US Forest Service and took time off from college to work for the Yakama Nation Fisheries Agency in Washington state. It was here in salmon country that Luke found his

calling for large, complicated river restoration projects. Returning to Colorado in August of 2013, Luke was just in time for the fateful floods that occurred that year. First introduced to WRV as a 19 year old undergrad, Luke was proud to reconnect with the WRV community as a staff member. A natural business person, Luke's talent for building partnerships and raising funds have helped shaped the future of WRV as a major player in the world of Front Range stream restoration. Casual and informal in his spare time, Luke likes nothing more than dressing down for a weekend camp out where he can escape the office and revert to the "woods rat" irreverence of his youth.

Dollars for Doers | Linda Lee



Last year WRV volunteer John Daley restored streams, built trails and eradicated invasive Russian olives. And with every hour he worked his employer, a large tech company, matched those hours with a financial contribution to WRV.

Does your company offer this benefit? If so, talk to your HR representative about this opportunity and take advantage of it! Ask if they have a "Volunteer Match" or "Dollars for Doers" program. This type of program usually works in one of two ways:

1. Set \$ / hour structure – Companies will provide a set monetary donation for every hour an employee volunteers.
2. Thresholds – Companies will provide a monetary donation once an employee volunteers for at least a certain number of hours.

In the last five years, more than \$20,000 has been raised for WRV as a result. This is the equivalent of the purchase, maintenance, and storage of all our tool needs in 2017.

When asked why he participated in this type of program, John said his overarching reason is the multiplier effect, "From my point of view, I can give with my hands and time, and what I can't give with my wallet, my company can. It's a motivator to contribute to the community."



Volunteer Profile: Dick Lindenmoyer | Ed Self

Dick Lindenmoyer has been an important member of the WRV community since 2009, most visibly known through his role in our seed program. His generosity and kindness are well known. As a master problem solver, when he sees a need, he doesn't hesitate to jump in and help. For example, on hot seed collection days, he'll bring cold wet towels for people to place around their necks. When volunteers are gathering to clean seeds, he'll bring great food. If he notices a tool that WRV could really use, ten of them will show up on our door step. If a staff member's computer is slow, he'll find a great deal on a computer, and purchase one for them. Dick's generosity and leadership extends beyond WRV. After the 2013 flood, he single-handedly and meticulously managed the complex repairs for his home owners association as a volunteer. Dick is an encyclopedia on weather and so many other interesting topics, and always happy to chat. Thanks so much Dick for caring so much about people and using your creative leadership to be of service!



2017 Season Highlights



3012 Sterling Circle, Suite 201
Boulder, CO 80301

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Membership

Yes, I want to help restore and preserve precious natural areas along the Colorado Front Range and beyond!

Member benefits include: priority registration on projects; WRV logo items at a reduced minimum donation; and more. **Thank you for your support!**

Contact information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (work) _____

Phone (cell) _____

E-mail _____

Employer _____

Payment:

- Online: Go to www.wlrv.org
- Credit Card: Card # _____
Expiration Date _____ CCV _____
- Send Check Payable to: Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, 3012 Sterling Circle, Suite 201, Boulder, CO 80301

Amount

- \$35
- \$150
- \$250
- \$500
- \$2,000
- Other \$ _____

How Your Support Helps

- purchases one tool
- feeds 20 volunteers three meals
- purchases native seeds to restore an acre
- trains 10 Crew Leaders in Ecological Restoration
- funds one small, local restoration project
- My company will match my gift up to the amount of \$ _____ (enclosed matching form.)
- I would like my contribution to be anonymous.
- This is membership is a GIFT (please enclose a note with contact information for the gift recipient AND for yourself)



Thank You!