

# Rocky Mountain

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Rocky Mountain National Park



*As part of the volunteer office's mentoring program, now in its second year, the Road Hogs (who volunteer every Monday, year-round) worked with campers from Cheeley Camp. What a great way to inspire the next generation of Road Hogs!*

## From the Volunteer Office

Greetings Everyone,

It's still the year of the rabbit, celebrate accordingly!

So far this summer is a great one, thanks to everyone for all your hard work.

Both appreciation events were well-attended; please stop by the Volunteer Office to receive your gift if you were unable to attend either of the events. Also, if you would like a copy of the presentation(s) or the group photo taken at the east side event let the volunteer office know, we can burn a copy for you or put it on your personal jump drive. They may not be published on the website or on other social media sites because we do not own the music rights, but they can be viewed for personal use.

Congratulations to Liz Campbell who once again organized the event on the west side. This year it was at a new location, the Winding River Resort. I'll bet the east side attendees are jealous because folks were allowed to bring beer and wine to Winding River.

Speaking of the volunteer events, I must apologize to some folks who reached milestones this year but we failed to recognize them at the east side event.

Congratulations to the following volunteers:

Bud Lester - 3,000 hours

Betsy Leverton - 4,000 hours

Roger Leverton - 6,000 hours

All those who reached milestones this year are listed later in this newsletter.

Finally, as most of you already know, I have been offered and accepted a promotion. On September 12 I will start a new (dual) position as the volunteer coordinator for the Alaska Region and the volunteer coordinator for Denali National Park. I will miss you all, and Rocky, terribly. You embraced me as your new volunteer coordinator back in November 2008 and have continued to support me since. You are an amazing group of people and it has been my privilege to work with you and serve you.

I would love to say goodbye to all of you, so if you want to come and can make it, there will be an open house at McLaren Hall on Monday, September 19, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

As always, feel free to call or visit the Volunteer Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers, Kathleen

## Volunteer Program Coordinator Fall & Winter



**Flo Bielat:**

September 11 - October 22



October 23 - Until the position is filled:  
**Leslie Brodhead**

You already know Flo, she moved to Estes Park seasonally in 2006 after a career with United Airlines in the Chicago area. Flo began volunteering here at Rocky almost immediately. She volunteered on trail crew, in the greenhouse, removed hazardous fuel, staffed Bear Lake as a Trail Master, participated in searches and rescues, worked with Resource Wranglers, counted elk, and, of course, ran the Volunteer Office (she trained all of us!). Since 2006 she has donated over 3,500 hours to the park. For the past two summers she traded in her khaki shirt and brown pants for grey and green and served as the seasonal park ranger in the Volunteer Office. She is planning to return for the 2012 season. Flo and her husband, Tony, are now full-time residents of Estes Park.

Leslie started her park service career as a seasonal interpretive park ranger at Sequoia National Park in 1997. From there she went to Oregon Caves National Monument and then to Cape Cod National Seashore. Leslie became a permanent park service employee at Independence National Historical Park and then went on to work at the C&O Canal National Historical Park. She is no stranger to volunteer management; she supervised volunteers at Cape Cod and Independence, and coordinated the west side volunteer program at C&O Canal. At the canal she was responsible for over 200 volunteers who performed a variety of jobs such as bike patrol, exhibit docent, visitor center information desk, and special events. She moved with her husband, Bryon, to Colorado in 2008. In 2009 she worked at Capitol Reef National Park and she joined the staff here at Rocky this past summer as a seasonal interpretive park ranger on the east side. She and Bryon currently reside in Nederland with their two dogs and three cats.

---

### Volunteer Office Hours

**Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (through October 22)**  
Closed Federal Holidays

**Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (October 26 - April)**

As always, if you would like to meet outside office hours, contact us at 970-586-1330 or [romo\\_volunteers\\_in\\_parks@nps.gov](mailto:romo_volunteers_in_parks@nps.gov) to set up an appointment.

### Upcoming Fee Free Days

The National Park Service will offer the following fee free days:

- September 24 (Public Lands Day)
- November 11 (Veterans Day)  $\begin{matrix} \backslash \ / \\ ( ) \\ \cdot ( \circ ) \cdot \end{matrix}$

---

### Volunteer Agreements 2012

The Volunteer Office is going to try something new this fall. Look for your 2012 *Volunteer Services Agreement for Natural Resources Agencies* (Optional Form 301 A) in the mail this November or December. It will be pre-printed with all your 2011 information. If you plan to volunteer in 2012 check over all the information, make any corrections or changes, sign it, and send it back to the Volunteer Office. If you're not planning to volunteer in 2012 simply write a little note and send it back. The return envelope will be also be enclosed.

Only the agreement will come in the mail. When your supervisor hires you s/he will have you sign the appropriate Job Description for which you are being hired.

We are always looking for ways to streamline your paperwork and hope this will make things easier for you next year!

## Those who reached Milestones in 2011

<b>10,000 Hours</b> Fred Engelman	<b>6,000 Hours</b> Tena Engelman Roger Leverton	<b>4,000 Hours</b> James Burke Barbara Hoffman Wes Hoffman Betsy Leverton Janice Newman Bill Newman Robert Tull	<b>3,000 Hours</b> Rich Gilliland Bud Lester Bob Schwartz Lois Sumey Jayne Zmijewski	
<b>8,000 Hours</b> Liz Campbell Nina Embich	<b>5,000 Hours</b> Russ Buckley Roger Gunlikson Dave LaMontagne Forrest McVicar			
<b>2,000 Hours</b> Linda Barry Alice Knox Ellis Laitala David Landers Bud Lester		Ronald Meskimen Lyle Reynolds Cheryl Ridsdale-Schimansky Peter Strange	<b>1,000 Hours</b> Linda Carr Lon Carr John Cockrell Bill Cottrell Bob Greeley	
			Ellen Greeley Susan Harris Jayne Kriofske Kris Kriofske Dennis Lee	
			Sandy Osterman Joan Sessel Judy Tumolo Jerome Vigil Kitty Vigil	

## Contributing Photographers to the East Side Appreciation Event Program

Because the rolling credits at the end of the east side event program went by so fast (I thought I had slowed it down), I really wanted to acknowledge them and thank them for their contributions:

Debbie Biddle	Lynne Geweke	Jean Muenchrath
Peter Biddle	Kelly Lester	Ann Schonlau
Flo Bielat	Rebecca Main	Judy Tumolo
Lon Carr	Erin Meier	Jayne Zmijewski



Photo by Debbie Biddle

### A Call for Hours...

It's that time of year again, time to look back at all your volunteer service since last October and ask yourself, "Did I record all my hours?" "Did my supervisor turn in all my time sheets to the Volunteer Office?"

Regional funding for our volunteer program is based on the number of volunteers we have and how many hours they donate. It really helps the park when you report all your volunteer hours.

Help us house interns, replace the old hard hats, and purchase needed safety vests, uniform shirts, hats, and jackets, just to name a few!

We're behind on hours compared to this time last year so odds are there are unreported hours out there. If you have hours to report, or just want to check your records, stop by the Volunteer Office, call 970-586-1330, or e-mail [romo\\_volunteers\\_in\\_parks@nps.gov](mailto:romo_volunteers_in_parks@nps.gov).

### Road Hogs are Safety Stars!

The group of Road Hogs who constructed an elk exclosure fence in Horseshoe Park this summer has been nominated as a RMNP Safety Star. The group included Ray Nieder, Steve Sheldahl, Dave Landers, Craig Seaver, Marvin Rowan, Ellis Laitala, Jeff Carter, Howard Pomranka, Wes TeWinkle, Larry Allen, and Lynn Weissenrieder. These gentlemen showed a strong commitment to safety while contributing over 300 volunteer hours building a fence using hand tools, with no injuries or accidents. The crew spent the extra time needed to safely install heavy duty posts using only hand tools, identified and mitigated potential hazards with installing two piece fence posts and monofilament, stopped work on a number of occasions as storms moved through, communicated changes in site conditions in a timely manner, and showed superb teamwork with all of the lifting, carrying, and pounding of heavy materials required! Great Job Guys!

# Help Save Rocky's Bears

## From the Bear Management Team:

### Prevent Residential Bear Problems

Bears are highly adaptable, intelligent animals and may learn to associate human dwellings with food. Bears are attracted to residential areas by the smell of food around homes.

- The most common food attractants are bird feeders, garbage, and pet food, but grills, livestock food, compost, and beehives can also attract bears.
- Residential bear problems may occur at any time of year, but are more common when natural food supplies are limited, especially now!  
During late summer and early fall bears need 20,000 calories a day to gain enough fat to survive the winter without eating or drinking. This period is called Hyperphagia and it is happening now!
- Most common bear problems have simple solutions.  
The typical problems involve turned-over garbage containers, trash littered across the yard, bears entering dog pens or coming onto porches to eat pet foods, or damaged birdfeeders. However, bears that learn to associate food with people can cause property damage in their search for food around houses.



Photo by Debbie Biddle

### If addressed quickly, problems are often resolved immediately.

After a few failed attempts to find food, bears will usually leave the area and return to more normal wild food items. If problems are ignored, property damage can not only get worse, but bears may lose their fear of humans. Bears habituated to humans pose public safety concerns and often need to be destroyed.

### You Can Prevent Nuisance Bear Problems

Black bears have a natural fear of humans, are shy, and usually avoid people. However, bears may be attracted to food sources in residential areas.

- Secure your garbage: Store garbage indoors, in a shed, in a garage, or in a bear-proof container.
- Put garbage out in the morning of pickup, not the night before.
- Take trash to the dumpsters (only bear-proof ones!) frequently.
- Pick up pet food: Feed pets only what they will eat in a single feeding or feed them indoors. Remove the food bowl soon after pets finish. Pick up uneaten food. Do not leave food out overnight.
- Remove the bird feeder. Bears consume seeds and nuts found in the wild, so bird feeders become a favored target for bears.
- Clean the outdoor grill often.
- Talk to your neighbors. Make sure your neighbors and community are aware of the ways to prevent nuisance bear problems.

**What is Your Role? Prevention and cooperation! Rocky's bears thank you.**

## Help Wanted

### Air Quality Monitor

Resource Stewardship is seeking a winter volunteer to help with air quality monitoring at Loch Vale. The position requires a backcountry-trained volunteer who is able to hike, snowshoe, or ski six miles round trip in winter conditions with a partner most Tuesdays throughout the winter. Some days you would be asked to help carry heavy loads. Some days will be very cold and you can expect to experience some very snowy, icy, windy conditions. The technical aspects of the air quality monitoring will be handled by a CSU researcher. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the park's long-term air quality monitoring and to stay fit over the winter. To learn more please contact Lindsay Springer at 970-586-1252 or [Lindsay\\_Springer@nps.gov](mailto:Lindsay_Springer@nps.gov).



### Greenhouse Internship

This intern will work from February through April 2012. S/he will support the park's Native Plant Restoration Plan by growing and maintaining native plant material to be used for 2012 ecological restoration projects. The greenhouse facility is approximately 1440 square feet, and can produce up to 30,000 plants each spring. An outdoor nursery facility surrounds the greenhouse, and houses over 50,000 plants.

The volunteer must possess excellent communication skills, a solid work ethic, and an enthusiastic personality. The volunteer/intern will direct a group of volunteers on a daily basis and must be able to work independently, often times performing repetitive tasks. Under the supervision of the greenhouse manager, the intern will help propagate, transplant, and care for native plants. S/he will be trained in techniques and procedures specific to greenhouse management. Other duties include native plant identification, seed cleaning and scarification, basic greenhouse maintenance, troubleshooting irrigation systems, fertilization, weeding, record keeping, and organizing. Ideal candidate will be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access.

The volunteer/intern will work 32-40 hours per week. Incumbent must possess a valid state driver's license. Optional park housing will be provided, which typically consists of a shared apartment within walking distance to the greenhouse facility. Desired dates of service are Monday, January 30 - Friday, April 20, 2012.

If interested in position, please email cover letter and resume to Lindsay Springer, Greenhouse Manager, by Sunday, November 25, 2011. Hope to hear from you soon!



Thanks to Tony Bielat who took this great picture at the appreciation event on the east side on August 9.

To download your own copy visit the park's website at [nps.gov/romo/supportyourpark/volunteer\\_newsletter.htm](http://nps.gov/romo/supportyourpark/volunteer_newsletter.htm).

## National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day 2011 is Saturday, September 24. Once again Rocky Mountain National Park will partner with Arapaho National Forest.

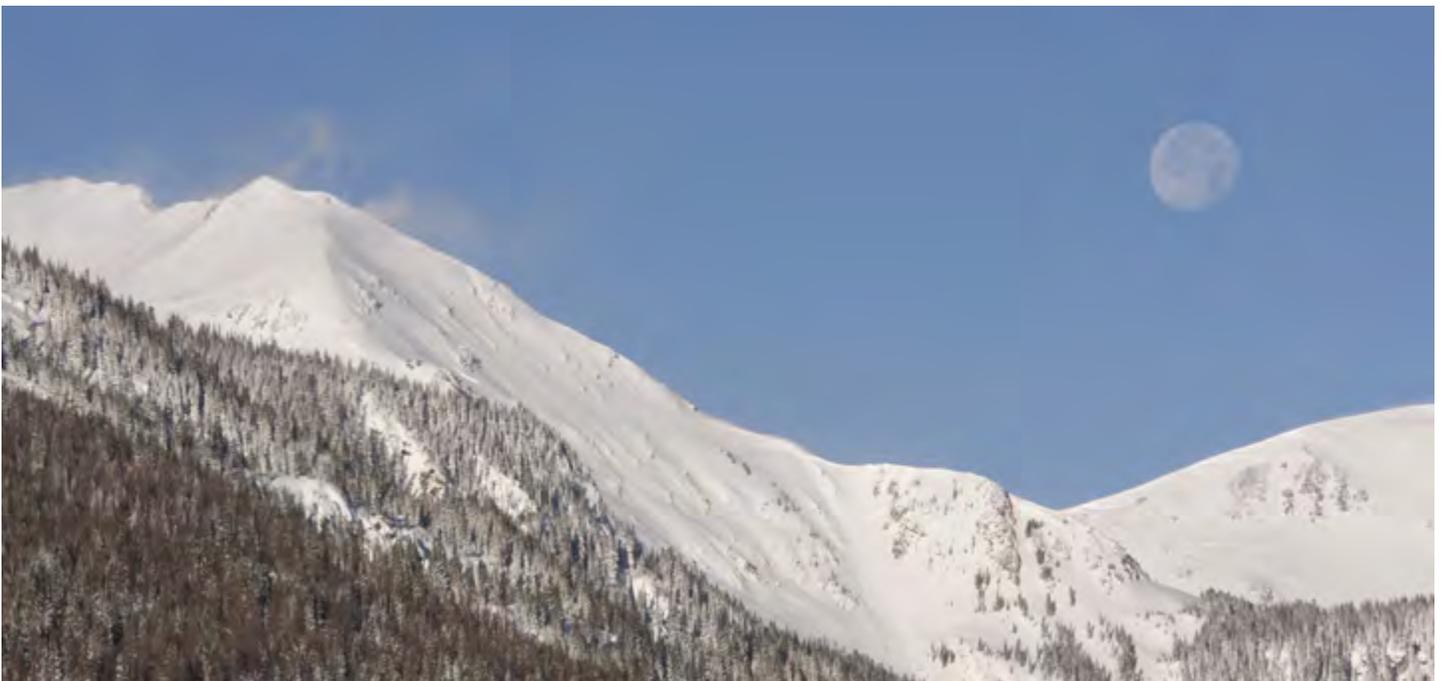
This year's project will take place on the Bowen Gulch connector trail. This trail connects the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail to the Arapaho National Forest on Rocky's west boundary. The project will need about 30 volunteers to assist in installing log retainers, drains, a causeway with a foot bridge, and trail narrowing from double to single track. This project can accommodate all skill levels, but will be hard work (rated as moderate).

The venue for this year's NPLD registration and party will be held at Camp Chief Ouray (Nordic Center), part of the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch Facility.

### Event Schedule

- 7:00 a.m. Registration at Camp Chief Ouray building and continental breakfast
- 7:45 a.m. Buses depart for work sites
- 8:30 a.m. Buses arrive at work sites
- Noon Lunch on the trail
- 4:30 p.m. Buses leave work sites and return to the Camp Chief Ouray building
- 5 - 9 p.m. Appetizers, dinner, awards, door prizes, party and live music.

For more information call the Kawuneeche Visitor Center at 970-586-1513 or visit [publiclandsday.org/](http://publiclandsday.org/)



*Never Summer Mountains from Bowen-Baker trailhead in winter*

Photo by Russell Smith



### Changes to the Volunteer Office

The Volunteer Office is being renovated and improved this fall. We are receiving a new front window, carpet, lighting, and bathroom fixtures.

The office will probably close for a couple of weeks around the end of October during construction.

If you're on the on-call list we may be asking for help packing up files, computers, etc.

Photo by Ann Schonlau