



**Parks &  
Open Space**

2024

Volunteer Naturalist  
**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

## Natural History Program Staff



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**Anne Anderson**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2018

The open spaces of a rural upbringing made an impact on me to make time to be in natural settings throughout my life. Norfolk in England gave the opportunity to roam through beech and oak woodland, follow foot paths established for centuries over the countryside, and brave the coast and beaches with its sandy expanse and smashing grey waves. I am hoping to learn how to aid others to share the feeling of being a part of the environment.



**Dona Anderson**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2023

My childhood memories are endless joyful hours playing amidst miles of orange and avocado groves in Orange County California; bee stings were our greatest worry. Later in life I shared a love for speed and daring and joined my father in motorcycle and dune buggy events. Chagrined to say we just didn't know or think about ecology then. Summer camps taught me about hiking the Sierras and Rocky Mountains, and the need to preserve the natural beauty around us. I was awakened, transitioning from wanting to conquer nature through sports, to discovering nature's many-layered secrets through self-reflection, learning, and the sharing of those secrets with others. The volunteer naturalist program is a perfect fit for embodying a lasting partnership in mutual exploration.



**Karen Axe**  
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Lafayette  
 VN Class of 2022

Growing up in Colorado, my family shared a passion for nature. I carried that with me as a teacher in Idaho and Germany, and as an Industrial Hygienist on hazardous waste sites. My own family has shared a love of nature as we spent years building our cabin. That is where I first heard the two notes that made me curious to identify birds by ear, and later to learn about plants and tracking. Birders call it the spark bird, but it could be anything in nature that leads to more curiosity and care for nature. As a naturalist volunteer, I want to be the one with all the questions, rather than all the answers, in a way that allows others to discover their own spark.



**Suzanne Bhatt**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2020

After following careers in psychology, retirement has finally brought my husband and myself to Boulder. The high mountain peaks, alpine lakes, and rushing streams of the West have always been our refuge, so it feels as if we have finally come home. In addition to hiking, I enjoy bird watching, flower gazing, and wildlife observation and am slowly learning the complex geology of the area. Having had the opportunity to be a volunteer naturalist for a nature preserve outside of our previous home of Lexington Kentucky, I am looking forward to again having the chance to learn more about and explore our incredible local environment while sharing that love and knowledge with others.



**Harvey "Tres" Black III**  
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Superior  
 VN Class of 2023

I grew up in the San Francisco bay area (Marin) and took an early interest in birds, fishing, hiking, and the outdoors. I am a NOLS grad (WRW 1977) and am a certified Wilderness 1st Responder. I traveled east to college, pursued a career in investment banking in NYC, and raised a family in CT. I moved to Boulder in 2016. I am an avid birder and volunteered for BCPOS last year collecting data on nesting raptors. I am a passionate fly-fisherman and spend much of my free time in the back country.



**Vicki Braunagel**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2010

I moved to Boulder in the early '70's and immediately fell in love with the natural beauty of the area. So after law school I simply refused to leave. After 30 years of practicing law and then managing the Denver airport system I retired ready for a "new chapter". Volunteering as a naturalist seemed a perfect way to combine my love of the outdoors with a desire to share that love of nature with others. Since I had started birding after retirement and loved learning what birds teach us about nature, I have made that my area of study and program emphasis. The friendships that have developed with other VNs have been an unexpected and highly pleasurable benefit of volunteering with BCPOS.



**Jim Bush**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

I grew up in Colorado, mostly in Grand Junction, the San Juan Mountains, Lakewood, and finally came to stay in Boulder 40+ years ago. I spent my summers in the field with my dad and like him became a geologist. I worked as a geologic consultant my whole professional career, in Colorado, California, the west, and Namibia. I've always had an interest in the natural world, the physical and cultural history of wherever I am, and especially engaging with others. I'm told I'm a natural teacher (I've never been one), but I do like to share what I know. I'm acutely aware of how much I don't know. I'd like to believe I've made a difference helping others appreciate and preserve our county's natural wonders.



**Anne Busha**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

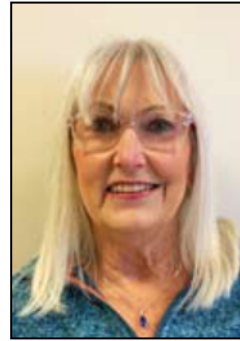
I enjoy being outdoors and delight in the harmony that nature's diversity brings. As a volunteer naturalist, I hope to promote an increased appreciation of our natural environment and how important this connection is to individual and community well-being. I am excited to share my experiences as well as learn from others through the volunteer naturalist program.



**Barbara Byrnes-Lenarcic**  
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Jamestown  
 VN Class of 2013

I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Since 1990, I have lived in Jamestown where I am surrounded by the National Forest. I enjoy hiking, biking and exploring Boulder County's open spaces. I also enjoy introducing art to others. As a docent at the Denver Art Museum, I teach children how to look at art. As a volunteer at the Boulder County Juvenile Assessment Center, I help youth discover their talents as we talk about art. I am excited to widen my world by learning about the natural history of Boulder County in the volunteer naturalist training program. I look forward to helping children and adults see nature in new ways.



**Janell Cannon**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2022

I'm from Texas and most people can tell that the minute I say anything because of my Texas accent! I lived in Colorado Springs for one short year and loved it but the job there ended, and we went back to Texas. As soon as my husband retired, we moved to Longmont and have no regrets. I like to hike, camp, backpack, and I'm active in the Hoe and Hope Garden Club. I volunteered at Rocky Mountain National Park with the Elk Bugle Corps this year and had so much fun! I love being outside and have been to a few Naturalist programs, learned from each presentation and decided I would enjoy doing that, too.



**Julie Cepulis**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

Exploring outdoors has been a lifelong happy place and sanctuary. Hiking, biking, ski sports, canyoneering, fishing, court sports, and travel are present pursuits. Volunteer naturalist training will enhance the things I love by deepening my understanding of the natural area that surrounds those of us that live in this magical and unusual spot on the edge of the mountains.



**Mary Cody Capone**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

My HS biology teacher inspired a love of nature by taking students on field trips to experience nature. I loved it and went to college to study biology. I was sidetracked by a 40-year career as a psychiatrist but my husband and I would take our family to visit the National Parks for our vacations. We loved the Cape Cod National Seashore, we camped in Yosemite, saw elk in RMNP, kayaked the Chanel Islands, etc. I recently retired to Boulder, and I am fully committed to being a volunteer naturalist. I am hoping to inspire others to discover the wonders of nature and its therapeutic benefits for humans!



**Mike Cohan**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2024

My wife and I retired from the East Coast to Boulder County 7 years ago because of our love of Colorado and the great outdoors. I have been an avid amateur landscape photographer for more than 30 years and made many trips to Colorado and the Front Range to photograph its incredible beauty. I enjoy chasing wildflowers in the spring, hiking and jeeping in the summer and fall, fishing the local waters and of course photographing all of it. Boulder County's open spaces and mountain areas give me great joy. Being a volunteer naturalist will afford me the opportunity to give back to the residents of the County and share my passion for the very special place in which we live.



**Paul Cohen**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2014

I am excited to begin training to become a Volunteer Naturalist for Boulder County. My college major was Biology, and I always expected to return to the natural sciences when I had the opportunity. As a doc, I have lived in and practiced in rural mountain communities as well as urban settings. Now that I have retired from a career in medicine, I have the time to devote to exploring and sharing the beauty of Boulder County and the Front Range. I have always enjoyed teaching and sharing information with adults and children. It's amazing how much kids can teach us. I look forward to nature walks as well as in classroom teaching.



**Cathy Cook**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2000

I grew up in Kansas and my love for nature developed at a young age when my family camped in Colorado each summer. I loved climbing rocks, hiking, wading in creeks, and seeing wildlife. Colorado felt like home so after 20 years in MN, a Business degree (UMN), raising a family, and working, I moved to Boulder in 1995. Birds, butterflies, and wildflowers became a keen interest, and photography brought them all into view. Exploring and preserving nature is the core of my life and I want to share my passion with others. I treasure my VN friends and the opportunity to continue learning.



**Ann Cooper**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 1978

I grew up in a small village in Cumbria, with the English countryside as my wild playground. I accidentally emigrated in 1965, and since then have been catching up on all aspects of Colorado's wildlife. (My latest passion is dragonflies.) I have a B.Sc. in physiology from University of London, which I used only for five years of medical research. After a time-out for mothering, I turned to writing—twelve books so far—as a way to avoid working nine to five. I began volunteering for BCPOS in 1978, learning from doing. It hasn't stopped yet.



**Joyce Costello**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2008

I grew up in California. My first summer job in college was a camp counselor. The outdoor world was my home for the summer and I loved it! After that, I continued hiking and camping in the mountains and deserts of California. I married a Colorado native and we traveled to Colorado frequently to visit family and vacation with our children in the Rocky Mountains. Upon retirement we moved to Colorado, making our home in Longmont. I completed a graduate degree in biology and taught college biology for 30+ years. As a VN, I am thoroughly enjoying the change to working with children in preschools and elementary schools and presenting programs in natural history, ecology, and even geology.



**David Coupland**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2020

I have had a life-long love of the outdoors and teaching. I grew up in New Jersey and New Hampshire, earned a B.S. in Geology from the University of New Hampshire, then attended the University of Michigan for an M.S. in Geophysics and later an M.A. in Education. In Ann Arbor I spent 21 years in software development, management, and marketing; 5 years leading a small nonprofit; and 13 years teaching high school science and computer science. I volunteered for 12 years as a Boy Scout leader and another 10 as a FIRST Robotics coach. In 2004 I thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. In 2019 my wife and I happily retired to Longmont where we enjoy hiking, biking, birding, and cross-country skiing.



**Patricia Cullen**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2000

I grew up in Ramsey, NJ in a deciduous forested area, with wild pink ladies slippers on the front "lawn". Spent my childhood learning tree names, in New Jersey, and a few weeks every summer on Cape Cod, hiking and biking the sand dunes with my parents and sister. Studied metallurgy and materials science in college. Moved to Fort Collins in 1989 to work for Hewlett Packard, and took my first bird identification class in continuing ed at CSU. Relocated to Longmont in 1999, for husband's career, and to raise two sons. Really enjoy the winter raptor counts with BCNA, and helping with BC raptor tours, and the Living Map program. Try to count waterfowl every week at Lagerman Reservoir and other birding hot spots in Boulder County.



**Barbara Dobbs**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

Growing up in the gatehouse to a large country house in Norfolk, UK, the extensive parkland was my playground and where my love of all things in nature began. It continued with a career as a landscape architect/landscape ecologist, with re-wilding projects such as restoring old industrial areas back to nature and bioengineering the bends back into rivers to prevent flooding downstream. I love painting large watercolors, gardening, hiking and meditating. As a minister in a nondenominational church and a doctor in Spiritual Science I am excited to share my enthusiasm for how connecting with nature enhances our mindfulness and how it is all connected.



**Robert Drugan**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2023

I am a New Jersey native who came out to Colorado for graduate school and fell in love with the mountains. I have always enjoyed the outdoors including camping, hiking, skiing, and backpacking. Animal behavior in the natural environment has always fascinated me; I love to see animals in action. Following a career in scientific research and teaching, I look forward to sharing my passion and knowledge with others. I hope to help people appreciate the fragility and interconnectedness of our relationship with the animal kingdom and nature. Providing people with the opportunity to experience the breath-taking beauty of nature will convince them to be responsible stewards of the earth.



**Phil Ecklund**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2002

I became a VN in early 2000's if I wanted to hang out with my spouse. My highest interest is on-the-wing behavior of raptors. I observe their aerodynamic maneuvers for soaring, thermalling, hunting, mating, alighting and ascending. On my own glider flights I get to soar with Bald Eagles just yards beside me with a sense of total kinship.



**Robin Ecklund**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 1987

With a background in Environmental Leadership, I have been an enthusiastic naturalist for the county for many years. I believe that if people have the opportunity to experience and enjoy nature that they are much more likely to respect and even protect nature, so that has always been my goal whenever I lead a program. Besides, doing programs gives me a chance to be outside looking for the birds and wildflowers I love!



**Richard England**  
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Niwot  
 VN Class of 2023

In childhood, I spent weeks at a time in northern Arizona helping out on my grandfather's cattle ranch. In adulthood, I went to school for field biology in Prescott, Arizona then worked a few years as a land steward in Austin, Texas. Eight years ago I moved to Boulder County with my wife for her work. The last few years I have been a stay-at-home dad and now am looking to transition to finding what is next for me personally and professionally. I love adventuring with my family, reading books, running outdoors, and watching Wild Kratts with my son. My hope with doing the Volunteer Naturalist training is that I will deepen my understanding of our area and share that understanding with my family, friends, and the public.



**Dot Fears**  
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Lyons  
 VN Class of 2009

I find nature to be endlessly fascinating and love sharing my knowledge and enthusiasm. In 1975 I moved from New Jersey to Boulder and learned everything I could about the flora and fauna of the area and hiked the Flatirons to the Divide. A move to Kauai, Hawaii, in 1982 presented volunteer opportunities as a naturalist at the Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge and the National Tropical Botanic Gardens at Limahuli. 2008 brought me back to my beloved Colorado and I soon started my VN training. In leading interpretive hikes I hope to inspire others to discover a kinship and interest in preservation and stewardship of our precious wildlife and wild lands. I am also a new member of the Board of Directors of Boulder County Nature Association.



**Elise Flesher**  
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Lyons  
 VN Class of 2024

I have lived most of my life in a rural setting. I love being outside and exploring everything it has to offer. I enjoy hiking, swimming, bicycling and working out at the gym. I spent my working career in public safety, and have a PhD in Sociology from the University of Colorado. In my retirement I've taken numerous studio art classes at FRCC. I am a life-long learner who is eager to discover ALL the wonders of our county parks and to share that knowledge with others.



**Dave Fletcher**  
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Niwot  
 VN Class of 2018

Born in New Joisey, I headed west into the wilds soon after high school graduation; Washington state to be specific. An undergraduate degree in Environmental Science, working in National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks, my world was the natural world. My work life made some twists and turns and followed an information technology series of jobs including enough years to retire from IBM in Boulder after they moved me from Albuquerque to Colorado in the late 90's. Regardless of formal occupation, I've been the consummate volunteer and leader. More in-depth knowledge and experiences will help me influence others to love and respect the Boulder County natural world.



**Peter Gent**  
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 303-494-1750

Boulder  
 VN Class of 2018

I grew up in Staffordshire, which is in the North Midlands of England, and attended the University of Bristol. On September 1st, 1976, I arrived in Boulder on a 2-year visiting position at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. I immediately liked the area, and have lived here since that time. I have watched birds in Boulder County, Colorado and elsewhere intensively over the time I have lived here, and have also climbed the high peaks of Boulder County and Colorado on many occasions. I will retire from NCAR on June 30th, 2018, and wish to spend time on other productive activities. Becoming a Volunteer Naturalist for the Boulder County Parks and Open Space seems like a natural fit for my interests.



**Molly Greacen**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2020

While growing up, I spent summers near Flagstaff, Arizona on my uncle's cattle ranch. This began my love of nature, mountains, and the wild. I am excited to take the naturalist training and share this love of nature with others. I have lived in Boulder for 45 years, practicing acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine for 37 years, and raised my son, who is a physician. I have had a lifelong love of nature, of Boulder County and the mountains nearby, and medicinal plants, flowers and wildlife. I have been an organic gardener for over 40 years. Two neighbors and I started an environmental non-profit called Bee Safe Boulder, getting neighborhoods, stores and cities to stop using pesticides that kill the pollinators.



**Diane Green**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2009

My enthusiasm for nature, and wildflowers in particular, deepened as I participated in Boulder County and City of Boulder outdoor programs. Finally one of the volunteers suggested I become a volunteer for the county and 2009 I did. I love the enthusiasm and energy of being with other volunteers and the public and also the opportunity use my Spanish in bilingual programs.



**Jennifer Greene**  
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 720-203-2632

Boulder  
 VN Class of 2023

I've lived in Boulder since 1982, drawn to the beauty and wide-open spaces of the Rocky Mountains after growing up in the DC area as well as in the Middle East. I am grateful for the abundance of open space in Boulder County and want to help others to enjoy it as much as I have over many years. I'm especially interested in learning more and sharing with others about the local ecosystem and the big picture of the natural systems that sustain our open spaces. I'd like to inspire a deeper understanding of these natural systems that are essential to our well-being. I love to hike, bike, camp and explore new places outdoors.



**Paulina Gutierrez**  
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Broomfield  
 VN Class of 2023

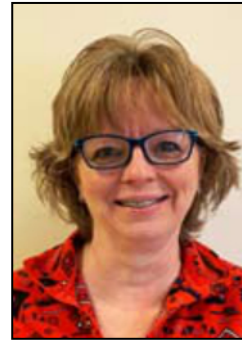
I was raised in Longmont but was born in Mexico. My father always loved the outdoors, and he had a significant role in my development of that passion. In Colorado, I spend my days longboarding, hammocking, hiking, and paddleboarding. Once a year, I visit Mexico and spend days at the stunning beaches in Mazatlán. My passion for conservation, animals, and nature began at a very young age. I got my degree in Evolutionary and Ecology Biology at CU Boulder and I now work at Environment for the Americas connecting diverse people to the conservation field. I make sure my days are devoted to discovering new ways I can help the environment. Through the volunteer naturalist program, I hope to share my passion with others.



**Lucy Haggard**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2020

I'm a Coloradan born and raised. Thanks to my parents – they were great at kicking me out of the house for some fresh air! – I learned how to enjoy hiking, camping, climbing trees and generally exploring outside. I found my way up to CU Boulder for my undergraduate degree in Human Geography, which I will finish in May 2020. While I'm a journalist by training, I joined Boulder County Youth Corps last summer for a change of pace. Who knew your office can be outside?! I want to fuse my passion for the environment with my communication skills to inform and intrigue the public about nature and hopefully help them feel connected to it themselves.



**Cindy Hutchins**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2020

I have been in Colorado most of my life - raised rural, from the mountains to the prairie. From an early age I was drawn to animals, whether on a ranch or in the wilds. I constantly was "rescuing" and caring for a variety of critters. Camping and backpacking were part of my childhood nature education- early on I savored the quiet and the wildness of the outdoors. Birding has been a consuming passion for 20+ years. One of my missions in life is to teach children about the natural world. I have enjoyed creating bird programs for kids' camps and leading nature walks. I am excited to take it to the next level and be part of a group of fellow naturalists/teachers.



**Jill Iwaskow**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

Boulder has been home for over 20 years. I live in the mountains near Walker Ranch, where I also volunteer. Originally from NY, I ran a creative writing school there, but moved here because of my love of nature and mountain air. I raised my daughter camping, hiking, exploring national parks to the wonders in our backyard forest. Curiosity and learning about the natural world, and about healing modalities for people and earth, have always been passions. I also practice yoga, meditation, other energy work, and play harmonium. I'm currently writing a book about building a nontoxic home. As I love sharing information and connecting people, I hope to create programs that combine writing and mind/body practices with the awe we feel in nature.



**Peter Judkins**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2023

I am filled with awe and wonder when in the out-of-doors. Nature brings out the best in me – reverence, curiosity, wonder and humility. I love to hike, camp, fly-fish, ski, and sometimes do nothing, but take it all in. In these endeavors I attempt to comprehend and appreciate the relationships between the land, water, and sky. My greatest joy is doing these activities with family and friends as it deepens the love and connection. As a Volunteer Naturalist I desire to instill a sense of wonder and caring through education to others in the hope that you are inspired through nature, you may also be moved to conserve it.





**Kirsten Kindt**  
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Boulder

VN Class of 2023

Throughout my life, I've gained strength by venturing outdoors with others. My most defining memories are of backcountry skiing, bagging Colorado 14ers, and trekking through Nepal, Patagonia, and Tanzania. These adventures have given me a healthy respect for mother nature, wildlife, and the environment. After years of working in marketing for tech companies, it is my hope that the volunteer naturalist program will help me transition to something closer to my heart. I know the value of open space and am passionate about good stewardship and preserving public lands for the benefit of all. I look forward to using my outdoor experience to help members of the public connect with Boulder County's amazing backyard.



**Mary King**  
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Boulder

VN Class of 2017

Moving to Colorado (about 24 years ago) sparked my interest in hiking and snowshoeing the trails in Boulder County and Rocky Mountain National Park. I particularly like wildflowers, but I'm curious about all sorts of other topics, too, and I love learning new things and sharing that info with others. I grew up in California and Oregon, and I've also lived in the Midwest and on the East Coast. I'm a biochemist and freelance medical writer, although I'm slowly easing into retirement. I've been a volunteer ESL teacher with Intercambio for several years.



**Kathy Kirby**  
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Louisville

VN Class of 2023

I grew up on a farm, working the fields and managing livestock. Very early, I developed a thirst for understanding connections: what plants grew only near water, what bees preferred, why did some animals thrive, and why did others die. In college, I was introduced to the Colorado mountains by my husband, and we spent many years camping, hiking, backpacking, and exploring Colorado with friends, neighbors, and family. He encouraged my love of birds, flowers, trees, and even edibles, and I learned that I shared his passion for geology and fossils. As a volunteer naturalist, I look forward to learning more, sharing my passion for nature, and seeing the delight in others as they learn and connect with the ecosystems that surround them.



**Barb Kirchner**  
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Longmont

VN Class of 2013

I've been called a chronic volunteer. I went to college in Iowa City (BS/MS in Botany) and later was an instructor there. I worked in a large hospital for 10 years in an SICU/ER. Yes, I volunteered — burning prairies for TNC, patient advocate/lab tech at the IC Free Medical Clinic, chair of Disaster Services for Johnson County Red Cross, member of the county Local Emergency Planning Committee. Hmmm...are you sensing a pattern? I also worked as a software tester/DBA. Other things I've been paid for: accompanying a singer without clothes in a talent show, calling square dances, making recycled art, teaching CPR classes, and eating pizza with chocolate pudding on top. I'm currently obsessed with chickens and organic gardening.



**Richard Klassen**  
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Longmont

VN Class of 2024

I am a lifelong resident of Longmont. I have always loved the natural beauty and history of our area. I am always outside identifying tracks and looking for new species to study, photograph, and adore. There is so much wildlife around us in the city, we often just overlook it – from birds, turtles, and raccoons to foxes, beavers, and more! We also have an abundance of edible plants in BoCo that indigenous peoples have foraged for millennia that I love searching for and learning about. I want to be a Volunteer Naturalist for BCPOS because I want to foster a relationship between humans, plants, and animals through meaningful education so that current residents and future generations can enjoy exploring nature like I do.



**Chris Koerner**  
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Boulder

VN Class of 2005

I grew up in the Adirondacks of Upstate New York. I've climbed all the ADK 46ers (46 peaks above 4000') and also enjoy canoeing, sailing, and skiing. I rowed crew in college while pursuing an electrical engineering degree. Moving to Colorado in the early 80s was a dream come true. I married my college sweetheart, Janet, a few years later and have worked and played in Colorado ever since. I've always enjoyed the outdoors so volunteering for BCPOS was a logical thing to do after retiring. I especially enjoy connecting with the younger kids. Seeing their eyes light up when they learn or understand something is awesome. It's quite a change from working in high technology!



**Deborah Krabbendam**  
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Berthoud

VN Class of 2024

I am a lawyer and an outdoor adventurer, with many years of experience as a backpacker, hiker, rock climber, and outdoor guide/educator. As I head toward retirement, I am excited to be part of Boulder County's volunteer naturalist program, to learn more about this area's natural history and then share with my community what I've learned and what I love about the outdoors. Given the growing threats to our environment, I am particularly interested in joining with others to explore how to enter wild spaces not as consumers, but as respectful guests of the plants and animals that live there.



**Tamar Krantz**  
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Louisville

VN Class of 2018

I am a substitute teacher, with a wonderfully flexible schedule. I live in Louisville with my husband, and three of my four boys. For fun, I photograph and identify wildflowers. Previously, I was an environmental scientist for a consulting company. I worked onsite at Rocky Flats and then remotely doing NEPA compliance for government projects. I grew up in Philadelphia, went to college at Oberlin, and grad school at University of Michigan. Of the Boulder County parks, I am most familiar with the Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm where my family loves bird watching and skipping rocks. I am excited to meet other naturalists and geek out over ecological trivia!



**Russell Lambert**  
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Longmont

VN Class of 2023

I was born in Iowa, but raised in Buena Vista, Colorado. My love for nature started with a backpack trip and climbing Mt. Princeton as a youngster. Upon graduating from Buena Vista High School, I chose Ft. Lewis College and earned a degree in Biology. I brought my passion for nature and its preservation to my sons with backpack trips, and fishing trips into the Collegiate Peaks. In 1979 I was asked to give a presentation on insects, and birds for my son's 3rd grade class. Over the years I have greatly expanded my collection and speak whenever asked! I hike, bike, and spend time outside daily. In Colorado Springs I volunteered in parks and hope to continue here in Boulder County.



**Leslie Larson**  
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Lyons

VN Class of 2009

I've been an outside, nature child forever. It was never a profession, only an obsession. It took a number of years to find the time for the volunteer naturalist training program, something I wanted to do for a very long time. Retirement helped a lot, and finally in 2009 I signed up. The program was everything and more than I'd hoped. I have met a number of lifelong friends, helped with lots of hikes, proposed new programs and enjoyed working with so many talented and interesting people. I intend to continue as a volunteer as long as I am on this side of the dirt.



**Viki Lawrence**  
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Louisville

VN Class of 2014

The natural world has always been my first love. I grew up outdoors exploring with my parents, and was tricked into loving it with chocolate milk, marshmallows and pickled herring! In college I majored in earth sciences and biology and ended up working for the U.S. Geological Survey, which got me outdoors a lot, mostly in the Sonoran desert, birding and photographing flowers (OK, some geology too). Children tied me more to home, but even as a single mom I took my kids out camping and backpacking regularly. The last four years I have been volunteering as a wildlife monitor for BCPOS, and now that I have retired it was the obvious next step to become a volunteer naturalist.



**Tim Leddy**  
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Boulder

VN Class of 2023

I grew up in northwestern Ohio, and my favorite place always outside. Connecting with the outdoors led me to an undergraduate degree in Biology with an Environmental concentration. In the early eighties, I came to Colorado on vacation and fell in love with all the state had to offer. Living in Colorado has been a great gift, and I need to give back to the community in appreciation for all I have received and experienced. Becoming a volunteer naturalist is the perfect way to meet that need. It combines my curiosity about the natural world, my love for the outdoors, and the opportunity to provide service to those who also call Boulder County home.



**Richard (Rick) Lewis**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2022

I have always had a love of the outdoors. To pursue this love professionally I became a geologist, my occupation for over 40 years until I retired in Boulder County. I enjoy all things outdoors, and I continue to stay active through hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, and nature photography. My wife and I have an ongoing goal of hiking every marked trail in Boulder County. This has extended our focus from rocks to include the local flora and fauna. I truly enjoy learning about the outdoors and sharing my experiences. I was active in teaching during my professional career, and I hope to continue to learn, teach and meet people with similar interests as a Volunteer Naturalist for Boulder County.



**Rick Long**  
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 808-298-5559

Longmont  
 VN Class of 2023

Born in Pueblo, scouting gave me a love of nature and an early knowledge of conservation. After retirement, I became a marine naturalist on Maui, and led a sea turtle program for 7 years. Before returning to Colorado, I completed a Nevada naturalist program and worked in the desert. For the past year I've volunteered on the trails and photographed flora and fauna for iNaturalist. I want to be a volunteer naturalist to share my experience in the outdoors and to help others find their own connections with nature.



**Joan Lutz**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2023

In sixth grade, our class studied plant and animal phyla. This world of nature was a revelation to me, and I began a life-long journey of learning about living organisms and their relationships with each other. I received degrees in nursing, law, and landscape architecture. Most of my career has been in land planning. But all along, I kept adding to my knowledge of the natural world, propelled by curiosity to photograph and research every new thing I saw while hiking, first through Wisconsin, then Maryland, and now for the last two decades, Colorado. I am so excited about becoming a volunteer naturalist for Boulder County. Maybe I'll be fortunate enough to inspire enthusiasm for the natural world among youth or adults.



**Olivia Luyties**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

I am a lifelong Coloradan! I grew up in the suburbs around Denver, earned a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, and am now attending the University of Colorado Boulder for a PhD in Biochemistry. Living across Colorado has instilled in me a love of the outdoors, from skiing and hiking in the Rockies to biking and birding along the Front Range. In all my outdoor adventures, I love nothing more than seeing great wildlife. The diverse habitats across Boulder County support countless animals. I'm becoming a Volunteer Naturalist to teach my community about the incredible variety of ecosystems that make up Boulder County and to share my love for all the wildlife that inhabit it.



**Allison Lyle**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2022

I love exploring. As an engineer, I love observing and asking questions to understand how people and things interact with their environments. I grew up exploring the creeks and prairies surrounding our family farm in the Midwest. For 20 years since, I have been exploring the peaks, rivers and forests of the Rocky Mountains and Boulder County. There is so much to gain from spending time in nature, be it fresh air and beautiful views during a casual saunter, or the mental and physical growth from a challenging outdoor adventure. There is nothing better than sharing an awe-struck glance, inspired by nature, with another human. I am so excited to share more of those while serving as a Volunteer Naturalist!



**Divya Mahadevan**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2020

Born and raised in a busy city in Southern India, being outdoors was a concept I thought only existed in movies. And then I moved to Boulder. The easy access to nature made me go out and experience everything I had been missing all my life. On a nice sunny day I would find myself looking for a parking spot at Chautauqua Park or just staring at the perfect reflection of the sky on Lagerman Reservoir. As I started to explore the trails around here, my travels also turned from just visiting places to trying out trails wherever I go. When I'm not outside taking in the beauty of this wonderful place we live in, you will find me practicing my calligraphy and creating art.



**Andrew Mahoney**  
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 626-590-8634

Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

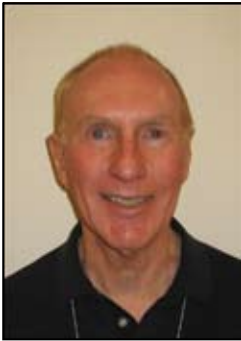
Originally from the Pasadena area, I grew up exploring nature out in the San Gabriel mountains and throughout California. Moving here to Boulder, I reconnected with activities that I love (hiking, running, camping) and found new ones like biking and snowshoeing. And being outside in this landscape, I couldn't help but wonder more about how it was formed and the relationships between organisms that exist here today. I'm excited to join the VN group to learn from others with a deeper understanding of the Boulder County ecosystem. I can't wait to share that knowledge to encourage participants to learn about the nature around them, reflect on their role within our ecosystem, and inspire them to protect the land.



**Carol Marcoux**  
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 303-396-2558 (Cell)

Boulder  
 VN Class of 2015

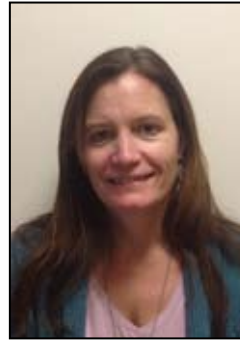
My father was a barnstormer and I inherited the excitement of flight. While serving in the U.S. Air Force as a flight nurse, I had the wonderful opportunity to join the aero club and take flying lessons. Yes, I earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and was a leader before and after I had children of my own. I married the General's Aide. We have two children, one grand, and another arriving soon! Now a retired Urgent Care RN, I believe time spent in nature could be the next "vital sign." I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and participate in the Volunteer Naturalist program.



**Ken Marcoux**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2012

I grew up outside of Tucson, exploring the Sonoran Desert including Baja California, climbing in the mountains of southern Arizona, tracking birds and wild animals like black bear, javelina, mountain lions, even following rumors of jaguars in remote areas like the New Mexico "boot-heel". The plants, animals, geology, weather and cultures of these areas became a life-long fascination. My parents were college professors who loved to explore; we visited every national park and monument that existed at the time - designate a new one and we had to go see it! To serve as a VN only expands the opportunities to continue to explore, and to help others to see and to enjoy the wonderful area in which we live.



**Sharlene Mazza**  
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Louisville  
 VN Class of 2017

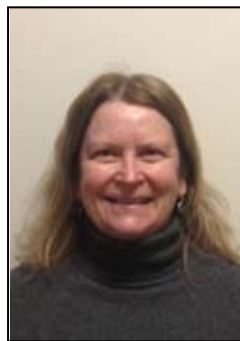
I am a born and bred Delawarean who was raised by city parents. Other than being a skier since I was 11, I did not spend much time outdoors. Once I had children, I discovered a love for the outdoors that has also been instilled in my now adult children. I enjoy camping, hiking, biking, skiing, and traveling. I have been to all 50 states. I have lived in Boulder County for close to two years and try visit as many places as I can but still have a lot of things to try, experience, and visit in the area. I love to learn and share what I have learned with others.



**Sue McEachern**  
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Louisville  
 VN Class of 2022

I grew up in Boulder with parents who took me hiking, backpacking, biking, and skiing from a young age. We explored all of Colorado, especially the Front Range, and I would happily have spent every waking moment outside. I funded my journalism degree at the University of Colorado with a one-person landscaping business, which sparked my interest in native and xeric plants. I've just retired from a long career as an editor at an academic publisher, and after raising my two daughters to love the outdoors, I'm looking forward to helping a new generation explore and appreciate the natural world we are so lucky to share here in Boulder County.



**Roylene McNeal**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2017

I was born and spent my childhood in Canon City, Colorado. After graduating from CSU with an accounting degree I moved to San Diego and spent the next 10 years in Southern California. I used my free time to explore California's wonderful parks and history. I moved to Boulder in 1988 to take a job at Ball aerospace. I retired from Ball in 2016. My best post retirement trip so far was to travel to Churchill Canada in October to see polar bear and the northern lights. What a wonderful trip. I feel very privileged and lucky to live in Boulder and Colorado where I can experience so many extraordinary outdoor activities. I'm looking forward to volunteering with BCPOS.



**Suzanne Michot**  
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Boulder, CO  
 VN Class of 1996

Since becoming a VN in 1996, I have worked for the City of Boulder Open Space Mountain Parks Department as an Outreach Specialist, as an environmental educator for Eco-Cycle, and as a nature hike guide for Front Range Community College Continuing Education, Boulder Walking Tours, and BVSD Lifelong Learning. In the Summer of 2020 I'll be leading hikes for Historic Boulder. I think that's pretty good for a Louisiana girl! Prior to becoming an environmental educator, I was a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines and a paralegal for various law firms and corporate legal departments. I love backpacking, biking, skiing, traveling and learning more about nature in my free time.



**Gaia Mika**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2023

I am a lover of plants, a student of native plant gardening, an avid hiker and a retired psychologist. I've spent most of my adult life in Boulder learning this land while working at the Multicultural Counseling Center at CU, facilitating JEDI, conflict and dialogue work, and teaching at CU and Naropa. I look forward to engaging with others in deepening our sense of connection to this awesome place, and in opening our senses to the land and water and plants and critters whose lives we are entangled with.



**Pouria Montazeri**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

In the embrace of nature's sanctuary, I found my sacred refuge from youth's tender age, a mirror reflecting and guiding my soul's passage. An intimate and profound love affair intertwined with my zeal for service across diverse realms beckoned me onto the path of a forest therapy guide. As a certified interpretive guide, the heart-nourishing journey unfolded, culminating in the organic embrace of deeper realms, weaving threads of connection between humans and the more-than-human world, immersing me in the wisdom of BCPOS' Volunteer Naturalist training.



**Roger Myers**  
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 303-421-1853

Arvada  
 VN Class of 2009

I got hooked on being in nature as a kid wandering the palmetto scrub and backwaters of west coast Florida in search of critters and fossils. Though a third-generation geologist, I've never earned a dime with my geology degree. For 3 years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana, West Africa, I taught secondary school geology, chemistry, math, and general science. A second degree in graphic design led to a career in technical and scientific illustration. Since 1976, I've been a VN for several groups in CA and TX, where I became a Certified Texas Master Naturalist. Now retired, I continue to channel my passion for geology and reptiles as a BCPOS and JeffCo Open Space VN as I excitedly explore yet another new region and ecosystem.



**Betsy Neely**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2023

Born in Atlanta, I came to Colorado for college and outdoor adventure. I've explored Boulder's trails with family and friends for many years. I love hiking, cycling, skiing, gardening, and the changing seasons. I retired from the Nature Conservancy, a non-profit dedicated to conserving lands and waters. At TNC, I worked with partners on conservation planning and addressing climate change. I also led field trips at our preserves across Colorado. Before retiring, I facilitated a climate resilience and wetland restoration partnership project in Gunnison. I believe that building an understanding and appreciation of our natural world is critical to long-term sustainability and conservation. I look forward to sharing my enthusiasm and knowledge of the natural world with others through the Volunteer Naturalist program.



**Wendy Nelson**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2020

I spent my childhood playing with salamanders and squirrels in the woods surrounding our home outside of Wilmington, Delaware. My sense of adventure was awakened exploring national parks across the country via travel trailer, and later challenged as the youngest (18) participant in a 5-week mountaineering trip in the Cascades with NOLS. I moved to Boulder in 1974 and attended CU (BA Environmental Economics) and UC-Berkeley (MBA). After a 15-year career in information systems, I changed directions and obtained a masters in somatic psychology. My career in mind-body health has evolved over the past 20 years, and I currently work as a medical intuitive and instructor and practitioner of energy medicine.



**Daryl Ogden**  
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 303-562-7943 (Cell)

Boulder

VN Class of 2018

I am one of those lucky enough to have been born and raised in Colorado. I developed a great interest in all things biological when I was young but it was in college that I started to appreciate the diversity of the natural world and the complicated interdependence of biological systems. These are what constantly amaze and surprise me to this day. My undergraduate degree is in zoology from the University of N. Colorado and a graduate degree from the University of Texas. I currently assist the Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance in helping to preserve and protect nearby wilderness areas and educating hikers on the value of these wonderful areas. I remain an avid student of the natural world.



**Amy Olsen**  
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 512-799-3229

Boulder

VN Class of 2024

I grew up in Austin, Texas in awe of the natural springs in the hill country and Barton Springs. At a young age I became enamored with all aquatic life and their interactions with their environment. I followed that passion to Hawai'i, studying Marine Science, water quality in analytical labs and the importance of Indigenous knowledge. I now live in Boulder, Colorado studying G.I.S., teaching scuba and learning Lakota culture. To live, is to learn. I'm so elated to be in the naturalist program to learn from everyone and in turn share this knowledge with our community.



**Anna Paraskevopoulos**  
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Boulder

VN Class of 2023

I am a PhD student at the University of Colorado, Boulder in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. I am originally from Northern California, but I finished my undergraduate degree in Southwest Oklahoma. In Oklahoma, I worked with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service where I helped lead educational programs, aided in conservation efforts, and contributed to land management practices. I love natural history and I have a particular fondness for insects. Outdoor activities that I hold dear are hiking, backpacking, camping, and birdwatching. I'm so excited to share knowledge and learn from others!



**Pam Payne**  
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Boulder

VN Class of 2003

Born in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BSE in 1972. Moved to Colorado right after graduation! Loved the drier climate and was always outdoorsy. Loved to hike and camp. Worked for Master Goldsmiths for 30 years and created my own line of jewelry. I have been devoted entirely to nature's many facets since 2009.



**Rose Pearson**  
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 614-309-2612

Longmont

VN Class of 2024

I am a retired elementary teacher. I was coordinator at a math/science/environmental studies school in Columbus, Ohio. We even took our first graders camping! I moved to Longmont five years ago to be near my two sons and five grandkids. I walked seven caminos in the last decade, totaling over 3200 miles. I'm looking forward to meeting people who love to be outside and sharing my love of the outdoors.



**Jeffrey Peck**  
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 303-717-5967

Westminster

VN Class of 2023

I moved to Boulder in 1987, from Connecticut, to attend CU Boulder. I have always enjoyed spending time outdoors and quickly grew to love my adopted state. For over thirty years, I hiked and biked over much of Boulder County. I also volunteered as a trail crew leader for many years, in an effort to build more trails to enjoy! My wife and I are retired elementary teachers and have spent the past year traveling our country and visiting many natural areas. Colorado remains as my favorite place, and I can't wait to share it with others as a VN and hopefully foster their stewardship for our beautiful state.



**Brenda Peterson Pieper**

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Longmont

VN Class of 2023

My family moved from the Midwest to Wheatridge in 1962, and then to Boulder in 1965. To say I've seen a lot of change in this area is an incredible understatement. This reflection makes me feel a responsibility to honor and care for our little part of this big, beautiful world. When I learned about the BOCO volunteer naturalist program I was selfishly excited to grab an opportunity to learn more about this county that I love, and hopefully pass on information to spark a love of our BOCO natural environment and feeling of responsibility to generations to come. I see this as a golden opportunity to give back to Colorado and beautiful Boulder County.



**Cat Pickett**

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Longmont

VN Class of 2024

I'm a native of New England and have always enjoyed living close to the earth. I grew up spending a lot of time outdoors, including hiking, skiing, camping, gardening, and farming. I moved to Colorado in 2018, and the beautiful environment here has inspired me to explore native wildlife, plants, and natural resources, in all seasons. I enjoy spending time in my community, doing hands-on learning and sharing knowledge about our environment with people of all ages.



**Ruth Przybeck**

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Longmont

VN Class of 2016

In a nutshell, I am a wife; mom; grandmother; retired trial attorney; not for profit board member; ESL tutor; recently returned US Peace Corps Morocco Volunteer, and happy new Coloradan. Though I have no formal science background, I consider myself a disciple of "mother nature". Running, hiking, walking and exploring the U.S. and foreign countries has always been a very important part of my life. I could not believe my good fortune to read the article about the opportunity to become a Volunteer Naturalist in Boulder County. A chance to learn, present, teach and share all the wonders of nature; make new friends who love and appreciate the outdoors; and continue to volunteer in the Boulder County Community.



**Steve Pulos**

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Hygiene

VN Class of 2023

I have lived in places starting with a "C" (Canada, Colorado and California). I have a Ph.D. in Cognitive/Developmental psychology. Most of my research and applications have been concerned with how people and other animals come to know their world and the natural world outside formal education or training. While I have conducted research and applications in many contexts, much of it was conducted within the context of activity-based science museums. I enjoy being in the Wild.



**David Ray**

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215-205-0707

Longmont

VN Class of 2024

I am a retired lawyer from Philadelphia. My city experience did not, however, preclude my connection to nature and geography. Beginning in the Wissahickon park, which coincidentally, is the largest forested city park in the country. On most weekends I would walk my dog on the many and various hiking trails. When my children (now 42 and 40) were able, and young kids, they joined me on my walks and developed a love of nature and hiking.



**John Reed**

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Boulder

VN Class of 2016

I am a 60+ year old with "5 year old" eyes and enthusiasm, falling back in love with the earth, becoming re-enchanted with Nature. I've always been active in the great outdoors ..... wilderness guide, farmer, USFS contractor, fishing, camping, skiing, hiking etc..... and now with quasi retirement have the time to follow my heart and share my passion and expertise with others .....paying forward an appreciation for, and knowledge of, the natural wonders of the world.



**Gwen Robeson**  
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 303-475-3209

Longmont  
 VN Class of 2018

I grew up in Oklahoma and graduated from Oklahoma State (undergraduate degrees in French and Secondary Education and Master's degree in Counseling and Student Personnel). While in school I developed a love for the outdoors as a camp counselor. I moved to Colorado in 2009 after marrying my avid-outdoorsman husband. Last June I resigned from my position as an academic advisor at CU Boulder, which opened up the opportunity to volunteer at Rocky Mountain National Park. That experience was so rewarding that I started looking for more opportunities to invest in and give back to the amazing natural resources that surround us, which is why I am here. I love to hike, camp, backpack, read, knit, and do yoga.



**Chris Ross**  
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Niwot  
 VN Class of 2020

I was born and raised in England and have been lucky enough to also live in Geneva, Stockholm, Berkeley and Boulder. My husband and I moved to Colorado in 1985 and have chosen to remain ever since! We are avid travelers and love spending time outside experiencing the natural world. I have always been an educator, receiving my initial teaching experience in the UK, my masters at CU and working for 20 years as a Boulder Valley middle school counselor. I am now retired and enjoying all the extra time I have with friends, family and the great outdoors! I am excited to learn more about the natural wonders on our doorstep and then being able to help educate and share my passion with others.



**Heather Ryan**  
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 720-324-3560

Boulder  
 VN Class of 2024

I was born in Colorado and since I became adult Boulder has been my home. I have lived outside of the United States in many interesting places for professional opportunities, but I always come back to Boulder. I am a retired lawyer and am celebrating the freedom to enjoy and learn about the natural world that is Boulder's great gift. I love walking, hiking, and tai chi. I want to learn more about the birds, flowers, geology, and other aspects of the Boulder County natural environment. Learning and connecting with others who want to experience more of our natural world has motivated me to participate in the volunteer naturalist program. I hope to make a contribution to our communities' appreciation of nature.



**Paul Schultz**  
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 303-818-3261

Boulder  
 VN Class of 2014

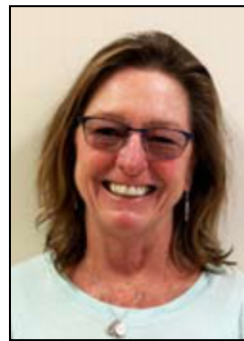
I recently retired from a full career as a meteorologist at a NOAA research lab in Boulder. My parents would tell you no other career seemed possible for me, my eyes were always on the sky. As an adult living in Gunbarrel my curiosity about the natural world broadened to include forests, grasslands, animals, and geology. The best way to learn is to teach! As a Volunteer Naturalist I will grow as a scientist and I'm eager to share what I learn.



**Lyn Simuns**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2020

I was the kid that always found the stray bird, lost kitten, or baby squirrel fallen from the tree. For a long time, I wanted to be Jane Goodall and live in some remote part of the world hangin' with nature and critters. While that was not to be, animals and nature have always been a part of my life. I moved to Colorado in the early 90s for a computer job, and bought my first hobby farm in Lyons. For many years I raised fiber animals (alpacas, angora goats and sheep) and was a 4H leader for the local neighborhood. Now that I am retired, this feels like coming home to be able to share my love of the outdoors, nature and enjoying all the critters that live among us. I also will enjoy sharing my photography of nature and wildlife.



**Mary Smith**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2022

Growing up in a small town in South Carolina, days were spent roaming the outdoors with my siblings. Climbing trees, picking their fruit, and wading in streams were just a few activities that awakened my awareness to the wonders of nature. Camping and hiking, swimming in the ocean and natural springs, developed my appreciation of the magic our natural world provides. My spirit comes alive when engulfed in nature. Because of this, I developed a sense of how important it is to share my love of our world with others. As a teacher, I delighted in the spark that occurred when children were introduced to our natural world. Being a volunteer naturalist will afford me the opportunity to enrich others appreciation of our wonderful planet!





**Amanda Smith**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2019

My family (which includes two retired racing greyhounds) moved to Boulder two years ago from Alexandria, VA. I hold an undergraduate degree in chemistry, biochemistry, and German, as well as a master's degree in food science and nutrition. Part of moving to Boulder was to finally practice food science, however, I found that it was not the right fit for me. I just completed a semester of continuing education at CU Boulder in climate, meteorology, and geology. The Volunteer Naturalist program seems to be a great way to give back to the community while learning where environmental science might take me. I also volunteer with Colorado Greyhound Adoption, Community Fruit Rescue, and Metro Caring through Naturally Boulder.



**Janet Strickler**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2023

I grew up in Boulder County, and have always loved the landscape here, from the plains to the high peaks. One of my parents was a scientist and the other a visual artist, and both perspectives have influenced my life. It's important to understand how things work, and also to appreciate their beauty. As an artist, a passionate gardener, and a Franciscan, I try to integrate both knowledge and love into everything I do. One of the most important challenges for humankind right now is to understand our place in the ecosystem, and learn to live like the rest of the natural world is our kin. I hope with other volunteers to help inspire people towards that.



**Robin Strelow**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2024

Originally from NE Ohio, I moved to Colorado in 1991. I grew up with adventurous parents that took us on long camping trips all over the US and Canada where I became fascinated with wildlife, all of the natural world, and how to be a steward of our precious outdoor spaces. I love sharing the beauty of my adopted state with others that come to visit. I am looking forward to sharing the knowledge of our outdoor environment through the Volunteer Naturalist program with our community and to learning lots more about our little corner of the planet too!



**Sally Tarbell**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2023

Growing up in New England, I spent my childhood outdoors exploring beaches and waters to discover new creatures and investigate whatever washed ashore. In the woods, I enjoyed hiking, climbing and exploring what lay beneath the leaves. As an adult I lived along Lake Ontario and in the Midwest becoming acquainted with new varieties of flora and fauna. I moved to Colorado 13 years ago and enjoy hiking, biking, skiing and learning about the wildlife with whom we share our open space. As a pediatric psychologist I have helped children and families cope with serious medical conditions. Nothing is more healing than being in nature and I want to share my love of the natural world with others through the volunteer naturalist program.



**Claudia VanWie**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2010

As a child, I frequently explored New York's forests and beaches. After moving to Gold Hill in 1970, I quickly came to love the Boulder County mountains, plains, and areas in between. Since then, I have worked for the Colorado State Forest Service helping landowners during the beetle epidemic, wrote environmental impact statements for HUD, and taught middle-school and high-school science. At present, I am having fun learning more about photography and designing web pages, traveling, and working with other naturalists to present programs for children and adults.



**Mary Jane Voogt**  
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Longmont  
 VN Class of 2008

I was born and raised in Michigan enjoying summers at the cottage catching turtles and snakes, fishing and bird watching. My love for music and musical education hooked me on bird song! We have lived in Colorado for 17 years and for 15 of those years I have enjoyed being a Volunteer Naturalist. I especially enjoy bird and flower programs and sharing nature with children.



**John White**  
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Lafayette  
 VN Class of 2022

I have been interested in nature and wildlife photography since I was a kid growing up near the Chesapeake Bay. I got a degree in Zoology at the University of Maryland and did post graduate work in wildlife management before moving to Boulder in 1982. I worked as a programmer, systems engineer and network architect both here and in Virginia. I spent as much time as possible exploring the trails, wildlife, history and geology of Boulder County and Colorado in the 25 years I have lived here. I also became interested in astronomy since the clear skies here also provide a great base to explore the night skies. I love showing people the wide diversity of natural gifts available in this amazing area.



**Kristin White**  
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Louisville  
 VN Class of 2024

I grew up in Iowa and spent lots of time outside. I moved to Colorado with my husband in fall of 1999. Growing up my family would do hikes on the weekends to local areas, and we'd pick up walnuts and hickory nuts then work to crack them open. We grew various fruit trees and bushes in the yard and made lots of jams and pies. My husband and I have raised two sons, who both grew up to love the outdoors. I am excited to be a volunteer naturalist and hope to help people appreciate how important nature is for our lives and the importance of protecting the earth.



**Amy Wildgrube**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2022

I am passionate about learning and playing in the wonders of our natural environment. This curiosity is woven into all aspects of my life — my career, service, recreation, and home. Through my career in graphic design, I've focused on supporting organizations in the education, conservation and the not-for-profit sectors such as UNICEF, Colorado School of Mines, The Nature Conservancy, and Colorado State Parks. As I work part-time now, I wish to share and communicate the wonders of the natural world to others through an even more personal connection by being a Volunteer Naturalist in my own backyard. My hobbies include maintaining a pollinator garden, birdwatching, camping, hiking and botanic illustration.



**Margaret Wynne**  
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Niwot  
 VN Class of 2019

Born into an adventurous family, they inspired my love for the outdoors while growing up in Virginia, Austria, and Germany. After attending Syracuse and Georgia State Universities with degrees in education, I lived in Atlanta, Summit County, and Boulder. In addition to my responsibilities as teacher and administrator, I had opportunities to incorporate outdoor education experiences and share my appreciation for the natural world. In 2015 after a 42-year career, I retired, live in Niwot, and enjoy raising bees, monitoring raptor nests, leading school nature groups, and spending time outdoors with family and friends in our beautiful state.



**Bill Zager**  
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Boulder  
 VN Class of 2022

I'm originally from Illinois and have lived in Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana and Massachusetts. My education is in psychology and clinical psychology. I worked as a clinical psychologist and later spent 29 years in the insurance industry, adjusting claims and conducting fraud and arson investigations. My interest in the outdoors began in scouts, when we went canoeing in the Boundary Waters in MN and Quetico National Park in Canada. Since retiring I have worked in four National Parks; Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Mojave National Preserve, Pinnacles National Park, and Yellowstone NP. I have also volunteered as a Park Patroller in the Jeffco Open Space Parks since 2002. Now I am pleased to be able to serve as a Volunteer Naturalist in Boulder County.