

President's Message for May, 2021



The Loveland Mountain Club is busy trying to get back to a normal or almost normal hiking season this spring/summer. There will be some COVID restrictions but we are hoping, with vaccines, more of our members will feel comfortable getting back out on the trail. Of course, there will be fewer trails to get out on but as the summer goes on, we believe more trails will be opened.

We're hoping more of you will step up to lead hikes in the coming months. All you have to do is contact the Hike Coordinator for the day you want to hike. They will compile the hike description and have them put in our LMC Newsletter. The Hike Coordinators are:

- Weekend Coordinator – Penny Kragie, pakragie@gmail.com
- Tuesday Coordinator – Jane & Dan Maddigan, maddigan2@gmail.com
- Thursday Coordinator – Tom Bruch, tombruch1964@gmail.com

Our Newsletter Editor, Melanie Pennington will be starting up our LMC Newsletter in June so we're hoping to include many more Club hikes.

We have hikes scheduled for May thanks to Tom Bruch, Pat Berman, Linda Hollingsed, and Gail Frasier.

- **Thursday, May 6:** Molly Moon Trail to Molly Lake, an 8.5 miles hike with an elevation gain of 1,463 ft. – a “B” hike. Contact Tom Bruch at tombruch1964@gmail.com or call 970-405-7794 to sign up.
- **Thursday, May 13:** Curt Gowdy State Park, a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 450 ft. – a class “A” hike. Contact Pat Berman at pberman@ecentral.com or call 303-956-7234 to sign up.
- **Tuesday, May 18:** Ouzel Falls, 5.4 miles RT, 960 ft. Elevation gain (Class A hike), Out of Wild Basin. Contact, Linda Hollingsed @970-613-9012. Linda@hollingsed.com. Bring sunscreen, mask, and water.
- **Thursday, May 20: Devil's Backbone,** Alltrails describes this hike as 4.3 miles round trip and moderate with 564 ft of elevation gain. It qualifies as an EZ hike with LMC. This Open Space park is just west of Loveland and has no parking fee. There are beautiful views of the Devil's Backbone from a vantage point only seen from farther back in. The terrain changes from dusty trail to red rocks and lots of them. We'll hike both the Wild Loop and the Hunter Loop. To sign up, contact Gail Frasier, billgailfrasier@gmail.com, limit 8 hikers. Waivers will be available at meeting site.

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Protocols for Loveland Mountain Club Hikes

- Group size – 6-8 people including hike leader
- Hikes are open to whoever wants to lead a hike and those hikers who are comfortable in attending.
- Full disclosure of vaccination status would be desired so that hiking and driving in groups can be done safely. Participants should disclose their vaccination status to the hike leader and other participants. Participants may then choose either to drive their vehicle to the trailhead or carpool with others. Carpool drivers may request riders to wear face coverings in their vehicle.
- All participants and hike leaders are required to wear a mask that completely covers their mouth and nose. The mask should be worn at the trailhead, when passing other hikers and when a 6-foot social distance cannot be maintained.
- If you must step off the trail for a moment to social distance, stop rather than continuing to walk alongside the trail thus preventing trail erosion.
- Include with the *essential items* in your backpack a facemask and hand sanitizer.
- Sign the Loveland Mountain Club Waiver of Liability-2020 if you have not already. Hike leaders should carry a small supply of the waivers with them.
- Please cancel from the hike if you are feeling any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or have had contact with anyone known to have symptoms in the last 14 days.
- Hike leaders must honor all local and county closures. Leaders should plan to avoid popular, over-crowded trailheads and have a Plan B ready in case the trailhead/parking area is already crowded.

In case you didn't see this in the papers, Rocky Mountain National Park will be instituting a new reservation system for 2021. Timed-entry reservations for the Bear Lake Road corridor will be required from 5 a.m. until 6 p.m. Entry reservations for visitors wishing to visit other areas of the park will be required from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Like last year, entry reservations would be for two-hour windows. Reservations will be required from May 28 through October 11 and can be reserved at www.Recreation.gov.

Also, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission recently approved a new Colorado State Wildlife Area Pass to access its more than 350 properties, 19 of them located in Larimer County. These include areas at Watson Lake, Dowdy Lake, West Lake, Boedecker Reservoir, Lon Hagler Reservoir, Douglas Lake and Wellington. Purchase passes at www.cpwshop.com starting May 1.

Just a reminder: Our membership dues for 2020 were extended to 2021 because we had no Club meetings or scheduled hikes (two years for the price of one). Only those who are joining for the first time will pay the \$30/family, \$20/single membership fee.

Hope to see you all at our May 16 outdoor picnic at Sylvan Dale Ranch, at our July 12 Annual Picnic at Fairgrounds Park or on the trail.

Happy Hiking,

Betsy Mosehauer, President
Loveland Mountain Club