



**LOVELAND MOUNTAIN CLUB**  
**PO BOX 983, LOVELAND, CO 80539**

[www.LovelandMountainClub.org](http://www.LovelandMountainClub.org)

Vol. 44, #3: May, 2022

## President's Message

The lifeblood of an outdoors organization is a program of activity for members to enjoy. At the April Board Meeting, we discussed ways to encourage more hikes. We have lived through strange times over the past two years with folks reducing social contact and limiting group events. Now that restrictions are relaxing and there is more confidence about getting out, the Club is doing a couple of things to promote more hikes.

First, prior to the regular meeting on May 2, at 5:30 pm, there will be a meeting to schedule hikes for the next few months. Anyone interested in leading a hike is encouraged to attend and select dates from May through September for a hike to lead, like what we used to do in the old days. Generally, we offer hikes on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Weekends. If you can't come, please contact one of the Hike Coordinators, Steve Bergstrand (Tuesdays), Gail Frasier (Thursdays), or Penny Kragie (Weekends) to offer a suggested date and name of hike. Their contact information is in this newsletter. We want to end up with a selection of hikes to offer each month.

Second, the program part of the June 7 meeting will be devoted to a discussion of hiking as sponsored by the Club. Long-time members can share their knowledge and experience and new members can ask questions and get information on taking that first step to leading a hike. Topics can include what kinds of hikes do members want, writing a description for the newsletter, co-leading an outing to gain confidence, how the hike is conducted, Covid considerations, location alternatives to the timed entry system in RMNP, your concerns, and much more.

At the April meeting, elections were held to fill the two remaining officer positions that were still vacant. Chosen were Carol Watt, Vice-President and Ted Hartman, Treasurer. Thank you both for your dedication to our Club.

What an outstanding speaker we had at the April meeting! Estee Rivera Murdock from the Nature Conservancy spoke about fire remediation in RMNP, ongoing projects in the park, her take on the Timed Entry System, youth initiatives and answered a host of questions from attendees. Although not in an official position with RMNP, she is quite knowledgeable about what is happening.

Circle Monday July 11 on your calendar for the Annual LMC Picnic to be held at Fairgrounds Park starting at 5:30 pm. The Club supplies the main dish and beverages. More details to follow as we get closer. There is no meeting on Monday, July 4 due to the holiday.

Finally, if you have not paid dues, this is your last chance before the roster is trimmed in early May.

*Tom Bruch*

President

[tombruch1964@gmail.com](mailto:tombruch1964@gmail.com)



### **Monthly Meetings**

Meetings take place at Grace Community Church, 240 Barberry Place, Loveland. The Church is located off 14<sup>th</sup> Street SW, east of Taft and west of 287. Turn south onto Valency Drive and take the first right onto

Barbarry Place. It takes a slight left-hand curve and dead ends into the Church parking lot. The entrance is on the East side next to the main entrance (ignore the sign that directs you to the south entrance). Masks are optional at this time, but may become mandatory based on the status of the pandemic in Larimer County.

## **Monday, May 2 5:30 – 6:30 PM: Special Hike Leader Meeting**

Please join us and help us schedule hikes for the next few months. Anyone interested in leading a hike is encouraged to attend. You can select dates from May through September for a hike to lead, find a co-leader for your hike, and/or get suggestions for hikes to lead. The meeting will take place at Grace Community Church in the regular meeting room.

## **Monday, May 2 7 – 8:30 PM**

Bill Ciesla is a Master Gardener, an entomologist and retired from the forest service. He will give a presentation on pollinating insects.

## **Monday, June 6 7 - 8:30 PM**

If you are curious about how to go about becoming a hike leader, join us for an informative meeting on how to pick a hike, how to pick a date for your hike, how to write a hike description, etc., so you can start planning hikes with confidence! If you are new to the club, this is a meeting that will answer all your questions. If you have been in the club for a long time but were hesitant to lead a hike, this meeting will spark your interest in being a more active member of the club. So please join us on this special night and make a commitment to contribute to making this the best hiking club in Colorado!

## **June 7, 9, and 11: Round Mountain Trail Maintenance**

It's that time of year again when the Loveland Mountain Club does trail work on the Summit and Nature Trails at Round Mountain. This spring, we will devote 3 days to getting the trails in ship-shape condition. The work mostly includes cleaning out water bars and trimming vegetation. You bring work gloves, eye protection, water and snacks. I will bring tools and provide training, if needed.

The easiest day for trail work will be on Tuesday, June 7, when we work on the Nature Trail. If you have never helped with trail maintenance before, this will be the best day for you. It is a shorter, less steep trail that culminates at an observation shelter.

The second day of work will be on Thursday, June 9. This is the day that we work the upper part of the Summit trail. It is a steep, 4.75-mile hike to the top of the mountain and we typically work the upper mile and a half.

The third day of work will be on Saturday, June 11. We will work on the Summit Trail up to the 3-mile mark.

If it has been a while since you have helped out with trail maintenance, please consider one of these days to give back to the community. You may sign up by calling 260-413-2686 or by emailing me at [jcdflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:jcdflyfisher@gmail.com).

**Monday, July 4th: No meeting due to holiday**

**Monday, July 11: Annual LMC Summer Pot Luck Picnic 5:30 – 7:30 PM**

It's time for some outdoor fun, food, and friendship! Join us at Loveland's Fairgrounds Park, Pavilion 1A, for an enjoyable evening with fellow hikers. The picnic is free, and LMC will provide delicious fried chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Also, bring your own table settings, napkins, and something from which to drink. In an effort to decrease our contribution to the landfill, we request you bring re-usable items.



### **Editor's Notes:**

Whew!!! What a windy month April has turned out to be! I hope May brings us some calmer weather so we can enjoy the cooler weather and get lots of hikes in before summer arrives.

Welcome to Ted Hartman, our new treasurer, and to Carol Watt, our new Vice President. It is so nice to have a full board and to have both experienced club members as well as newer members on the board. We were able to meet as a board for the first time since January 2019, and it was a great meeting led by our new president Tom Bruch. We came up with some innovative ideas to help move the club into post-pandemic times. Tom mentioned two of the ideas in his message (see above). We want to make it easy for everyone to be involved in helping get the club back on its feet again (pun intended 😊).

If you need to contact me about special announcements or questions regarding the newsletter, please feel free to use my personal email [melpenning1010@gmail.com](mailto:melpenning1010@gmail.com). I am happy to send out group emails to the membership regarding any hike additions or changes, meeting announcements, etc. Hike leaders should also contact the appropriate hike coordinator about any additions or changes.

Melanie Pennington, Newsletter Editor

## **Have you paid your dues?**

Club dues were payable March 1<sup>st</sup>. You have until April 30th to pay them before your name will be placed on the inactive list (you will no longer receive newsletters, club emails, or have access to the members only parts of the website). Dues are \$20/person or \$30/couple. If you have not already done so, please send a check or money order to Loveland Mountain Club, PO Box 983, Loveland, CO 80539. Thank you!

## **Did you know?**

The LMC web site (LovelandMountainClub.org) has both a public and a member only interface. The member-only section has access to the club roster and other important information. If you are a paid member, and you have any problems logging into our web site, please contact webmaster John Pape at [John.Pape@gmail.com](mailto:John.Pape@gmail.com) for help signing in.

## **Thanks to our April Hike Leaders:**

Tom Bruch, Ted Hartman, and Melanie Pennington volunteered to lead hikes last month. Many thanks to our hike leaders for stepping up to put nice hikes together for us!

## **Hike Coordinators:**

Weekend Hike Coordinator for 2022: Penny Kragie - [pakragie@gmail.com](mailto:pakragie@gmail.com)

Tuesday Hike Coordinator: Steve Bergstrand: [stevebergstrand73@gmail.com](mailto:stevebergstrand73@gmail.com)

Thursday Hike Coordinators: Gail Fraser: [billgailfrasier@gmail.com](mailto:billgailfrasier@gmail.com)

## **Important Hike Information**

Loveland Mountain Club welcomes non-members to join us for any of the hikes we offer. Membership is encouraged after two hikes. Visit [www.lovelandmountainclub.org](http://www.lovelandmountainclub.org) for more information about club activities and membership.

- Disclaimer: A hiker assumes the risk of any injury to person or property resulting from any of the inherent dangers and risks of hiking, snowshoeing or participating in any of the club's activities, including driving or riding to and from the trailhead, and may not recover from the Loveland Mountain Club for any injury resulting from any of the inherent dangers and risks aforementioned.
- All participants must contact the hike leader to participate in a hike. Contact the hike leader at least three days prior to the activity
- Hike leader should notify participants in case of change of weather, etc. Participants should inform the hike leader if they are unable to make the trip
- Participants should refer to the suggested hiking equipment list

- When hiking, lead and rear hikers should be readily seen. Person in front should wait for the slower hikers
- The last two cars of each trip should leave together so no one gets stranded
- Hike leader needs to be assertive as necessary; if in doubt, the hike leader is in charge and should not be questioned
- There should be a minimum of four participants. If there are not four, it is no longer a club activity
- Participants should pay gas money to the driver and bring a change of footwear and a bag for dirty boots

“Spring is the best life coach: It gives you all the energy you want, all the positive thoughts you wish and all the boldness you need!” — **Mehmet Murat ildan**

### Covid Related Protocols for Loveland Mountain Club Hikes

(We are currently reviewing these protocols, will update them in the June edition)

- Group size will be at the discretion of the hike leader taking into consideration management of the group, parking availability and difficulty of the hike. As always, participation will be on a first come, first serve basis.
- Hikes are open to whoever wants to lead a hike and those hikers who are comfortable in attending.
- Masks are not mandatory while hiking but may be needed when in a car.
- 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 own vehicle to the trailhead or carpool with others. Carpool drivers may request riders to wear face coverings inside their vehicle.
- 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 and have the necessary reservations for the Rocky Mountain trails. Leaders should plan to avoid popular, over-crowded trailheads and have a Plan B ready in case the trailhead/parking area is already crowded.

### Classification ratings

EZ Hikes: Hikes of less than 4 miles and less than 600' of climbing; these hikes will be highlighted in yellow.

- A. 4 to 8 miles maximum round trip with elevation gain up to 1200 feet
- B. 8-12 miles maximum round trip with elevation gain of 1200 to 2500 feet
- C. 12-15 miles maximum round trip, and/or elevation gain of over 2500 feet. Steep or rough terrain may be encountered

- D. More than 15 miles round trip, and/or elevation gain over 3500 feet. Trips in this classification may require additional climbing skills
- E. Designates peaks of any classification as dangerous. Basic mountaineering skills and/or the approval of the leader will be required

Some hikes will not exactly fit these ratings and may be designated A/B or B/C, etc. to convey the real nature of the hike. In those instances, pay close attention to the stated distance and/or elevation gain and discuss with the hike leaders when you call them to arrange to join the hike.

## Hike Offerings

### **Tuesday May 17: Eden Valley Trail**

This will be a pleasant stroll along a trail off the main Bobcat Ridge Trail System. It is quite flat and has nice open views of the area. It will be a class EZ hike of about 4 miles round trip with no significant elevation gain. We will hike at a slow, casual pace. Fully Covid vaccinated hikers only please. Call Ted Hartman at 970-292-8431 before May 15 for details or to sign up for the hike.

### **Thursday, May 19: Curt Gowdy State Park**

This hike takes place in a scenic Wyoming State Park west of Cheyenne. The area features towering hills, unique rock formations, trees, lakes and streams. We will do a loop going around the hills above Crystal Reservoir with a mix of easy and more challenging trails including Crystal Ridge, Canyons and Cliff Hanger. The hike is A+ with 7 miles RT, 1,250' elevation gain and maximum elevation of 7,230' in mostly open areas. Due to travel distance, this is an all-day outing. Covid vaccinated hikers only please. To sign up, call Tom Bruch at 970-405-7794 or send an email to [tombruch1964@gmail.com](mailto:tombruch1964@gmail.com).

### **Thursday, May 26: North Fork**

North Fork Big Thompson River Trail via Dunraven Trailhead 6 miles (RT) to the homestead meadow. Elevation change is 1,007.

Features a river and is rated "A". Vaccinated hikers only please. Contact Kris Millard at: [millard\\_bobkris@msn.com](mailto:millard_bobkris@msn.com) to sign up for the hike.

### **Tuesday, June 7: Round Mountain Trail Maintenance**

Join the LMC for Spring work on the Nature Trail. This 3-4 mile round trip trail features an observation shelter at the top. We will spend the day cleaning water bars and trimming back vegetation. Bring work gloves, water and snacks and I will provide tools and training. To sign up, call 260-413-2686 or email: [jcdflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:jcdflyfisher@gmail.com).

### **Thursday, June 9: Round Mountain Trail Maintenance**

Details will be posted on the email closer to the date.

### **Saturday, June 11: Round Mountain Trail Maintenance**

Details will be posted on the email closer to the date.

## **Rocky Mountain National Park Reservation System:**

Rocky Mountain National Park has a timed-entry permit reservation system. The system will run May 27 to Oct. 10. Here is what you need to know, as planning will be key to entering the park when you want to.

**When you can start booking:** Reservations will go on sale through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) starting at 10 a.m. MDT May 2 for May 27 through June 30.

The next releases will occur at:

10 a.m. MDT June 1 for July and any remaining days that have not been booked for June

10 a.m. MDT July 1 for August and any remaining days that have not been booked for July

10 a.m. MDT Aug. 1 for September and any remaining days in August that have not been booked

10 a.m. MDT Sept. 1. for October and any remaining days in September.

### **2 types of reservations to be offered:**

One permit will be for the Bear Lake Road Corridor, which includes that area as well as access to the rest of the park. This reservation period will be from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The second permit will be for Rocky Mountain National Park excluding the Bear Lake Road corridor. This reservation period will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Permits issued using the reservation system will allow park visitors to enter the park within two-hour windows of availability. The reservation system will apply to all areas of the park.

Reservations are not required if entering the park before 5 a.m. or after 6 p.m. for the Bear Lake Corridor or before 9 a.m. or after 3 p.m. for the rest of the park. There are areas of the park that do not require a permit (Lily Lake, Wild Basin for example).

### **Day-before reservations still an option**

Initially, 30% of the timed-entry permits will be held and made available for purchase at 5 p.m. the day before a visit through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). The day-before permits are expected to sell out fast, so it's better to plan ahead if you can.

For answers to frequently asked questions and other information, visit

<https://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/timed-entry-permit-system.htm>

***Hike Leaders:** Please call the RMNP Backcountry Office at 970-586-1242 and report any changes in trail conditions after your hike. They have requested our help as they cannot cover the hundreds of miles of trails. Also call this number the day before your hike for the latest road, trail and weather conditions at the Park.*

### **Interested in posting your "Club Hike" pictures to the club Facebook page?**

Please forward your pictures to [LMCphotos98@gmail.com](mailto:LMCphotos98@gmail.com) with Hike Destination and Hike Leader in the subject line of email, by the end of the day following the day of the hike. The number of pictures posted to Facebook is limited to 10 so the possibility exists that all your pictures will not be posted. Request you do not annotate your pictures, please? Visit our Facebook page Loveland-Mountain-Club to see photos from recent hikes.

### **Useful Telephone Numbers**

Rocky Mountain National Park – Backcountry Office	970-586-1242
Rocky Mountain National Park – Emergencies	970-586-1204
Colorado Road Conditions	303-639-1111
Larimer County Emergency Number (connects to Sheriff)	970-416-1985 (or just dial 911)

Links to useful information can be found at [http://joeandfrede.com/wx/Mountain\\_Weather.ppt](http://joeandfrede.com/wx/Mountain_Weather.ppt)



**Loveland Mountain Club Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnification – 2020**

Signed waivers can be submitted at the next club meeting, to your hike leader, or mailed to the club address: LOVELAND MOUNTAIN CLUB, PO BOX 983, LOVELAND, CO 80539.

**Parties and Definitions.** The individual whose name appears at the bottom of this waiver shall be referred to as “Participant.” Loveland Mountain Club, Inc., is a Colorado non-profit corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Colorado and registered with the Colorado Secretary of State. Loveland Mountain Club, Inc., including its employees, agents, volunteers, instructors, guides, officers, directors, and members shall be referred to as “Released Parties.” Loveland Mountain Club and its employees, agents, volunteers, instructors, guides, officers, directors, and members either partially or wholly sponsor, organize, direct, conduct, or pay for various recreational activities, events, and trips that include, but are not limited to: hiking; snowshoeing; mountain biking; skiing and geocaching (collectively referred to as “LMC Activities”).

**Specific Activity if Not a Member of LMC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Waiver:** Participant desires to participate in LMC Activities. In consideration and exchange for allowing Participant to participate in LMC Activities, Participant, for him/herself, heirs, personal representatives and assigns, agrees **not to sue the Released Parties, and to hold harmless and release any Released Parties from any and all liability and/or claims for any injury, death, accident, illness, property damage, or property loss** arising from Participant’s engagement in the LMC Activities, including, but not limited to, those claims based on any **Released Party’s alleged or actual negligence or breach of any express or implied warranty.**

**Assumption of Risk.** Participation in any recreational activity or LMC Activities carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another. Some risks include but are not limited to: 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, and sprains. 2) major injuries such as broken bones, eye injury or loss of sight, joint or back injuries, heart attacks, and concussions. 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death. 4) exposure to unstable, steep, slippery terrain, wild or poisonous animals, insects or plants, altitude sickness, lightening, cold weather, avalanches, various other forces of nature, extreme remoteness from medical facilities, and/or equipment malfunctions and/or 5) contraction of or exposure to airborne illness and infectious diseases. I understand and agree that I am solely responsible for my own safety and well being while participating in LMC Activities.

**I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in participating in LMC Activities. I hereby assert that my participation is voluntary and I knowingly assume all such risks.**

**Indemnification and Hold Harmless.** I also agree to **indemnify and hold** Released Parties **harmless** from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities including attorneys’ fees brought as a result of my involvement in any LMC Activities and to reimburse the Released Parties for any such expenses incurred.

**Severability:** Participant expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of Colorado and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

**Acknowledgement of Understanding:** I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and **understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue.** I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and **intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability** to the greatest extent allowed by law.

**PARTICIPANT**

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If Participant is a minor under the age of 18 please **also** fill out the legal guardian's information below.

**PARTICIPANT'S LEGAL GUARDIAN**

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_