



# Fort Collins Chapter Newsletter

January  
2011

Your local resource for outdoor adventure

Vol. 2011  
No. 1

**Winter is here (get out in it!)**



Little Matterhorn from Odessa Lake during a recent Fort Collins Group snowshoe trip.

## ***Inside***

**Chair's  
Corner:  
Happy 2011**

***Page 2***

***Naturalist Kevin  
Cook to speak at  
January program***

***Page 3***

**Welcome two  
new Fort Collins  
Group trip  
leaders**

***Page 4***

***An interview with  
Fort Collins  
Group authors  
Frédérique  
and Joe Grim***

***Page 6***

# Welcome to the New Year!

Howdy and welcome to the new year.

2010 is now history and I hope you were able to get out and explore the mountains and plains of Colorado like never before whether you were hiking, climbing, skiing, bicycling, snowshoeing, or boating. Now that we are in to 2011, it is time to determine the places you'll explore in Colorado this year.

The 2011 trip schedule is full of activities through March. But we can always use more. If you have a particular area or type of trip you'd like to see in the schedule, start talking with the volunteer trip leaders now so the planning can commence.

Congratulations to our new Fort Collins Board Members elected at the Annual Meeting/Dinner in November: Bob Link is our new Treasurer and Kevin McCartney is our new Programs Director. Thank you both for stepping up to help make the Fort Collins Group the best it can be.

Board members continuing in their positions this year are: Linda Brisbane (Secretary), Mike Smilie (Activities), Eileen Edelman (Leadership & Safety), Laurie Fol-

ladori (Membership & PR), John Wullschlegler (Newsletter) and myself as Chair. If you need to contact any of us, check out our website at [FortCMC.org](http://FortCMC.org).

At the Annual Meeting we also adopted some by-laws changes. A copy of the new by-laws can be read, downloaded, or printed from our webpage at: <http://fortcmc.org/reports/Bylaws2010.pdf> or from the link on the main page of our website.

On January 8th, John Raich, Eric Erslev, Ed Seely, and myself attended a Safety and Leadership Training Qualifications discussion at CMC headquarters in Golden.

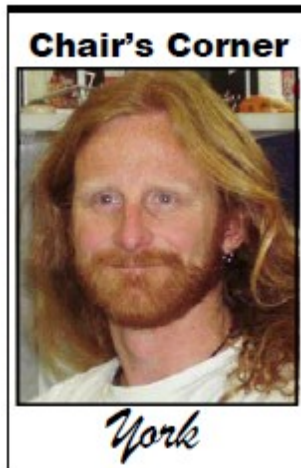
Most of the participants were from the Front Range. The CMC's Insurance Agent and Legal Counsel also attended. We discussed the reasons for having qualified leaders, how leaders are trained, what standards mean, differences between groups in the CMC, and how our qualifications compare to other organizations such as the Seattle Mountaineers and Appalachian Trail Club. The state Safety and Leadership Committee publishes the Leadership Standards document that is used as the starting point by each group to develop their leader training.

Yearly reviews of our training and guidelines ensures we have activity leaders that are interested in leading trips, know the areas they head into, and are prepared to deal with situations that may come up. If you have any questions about this meeting please contact one of us that attended.

With the fresh snow on the ground I'm itching to get out skiing and snowboarding. May you be likewise motivated to get out and enjoy the great outdoors of our state.

Play and Think Hard!

York



## Fort Collins writer and naturalist Kevin Cook to speak at January program

Kevin Cook will relate his favorite cross country ski and snowshoe hikes where the destination is not a lake, peak or pass, but instead is wildlife. To maximize his chances of seeing wildlife at work he prefers moonlight and starry evening snowshoe hikes when predators are most active.

He writes, conducts seminars, teaches classes, and leads tours, all based on wildlife or natural history themes. Though birds are his specialty group, he studies all wildlife and uses his writing and teaching to help people enjoy the natural world more by coming to understand it better.

Kevin's first great life passion is to find and experience first hand everything that lives in Colorado; his second great life passion is to share that life with others. He is well known for his Kevinisms, for example, if it's alive and it lives wild, it's wildlife. And the name 'prairie dog' is egregious on two



points: the animals are not dogs and they do not inhabit prairie. They are, in fact, squirrels that inhabit the steppe, hence should be called Steppe Squirrels. He has lived in Fort Collins over 30 years, published over 7000 pieces of writing, and conducted nearly 200 wildlife observation tours. Many of his tours have been with Elderhostel ( now called Roads Scholars) and his talks include the *Views and Vis-tas programs sponsored by the Fort Collins library.*

Visit Kevin's website [www.wildlifewindow.com](http://www.wildlifewindow.com) for examples of his philosophy and poetic writing style, including his Naturalist's Daily Reading.



Author Kevin Cook and a friend

Our monthly programs are at the Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr., Multipurpose Rm #3 (about one block north of Drake and one block west of

Shields). Contact: Kevin McCartney [kmccartn@frii.com](mailto:kmccartn@frii.com) or 267-6793).

Join us on:  
Wednesday, January 26, 2011  
Refreshments and Social Hour  
~ 7:00 p.m.  
Program ~ 7:30 p.m.

## Fort Collins leaders meet to plan trips for 2011



A gathering of the Fort Collins hike leaders was held at the Carpenters' home on November 30th. Don and Mary provided the

pizza dough and the group brought lots of makings for pizzas.

Some pretty interesting and tasty combinations were created before the group got down to business and added 12-14 hikes to the calendar for the next three months. If you haven't checked out the activities for the next few weeks be sure to do so, there is something on the calendar for every skill set and ability. Thanks to all who attended. Since the gathering was such a success we plan on doing it again in late February or early March to get hikes on the calendar through May and into June.

One of the other outcomes of the gathering was to create an ongoing third Friday hike each month. The purpose of a regularly scheduled event is to allow interested members to add the dates to their planning calendars in ad-

vance with the assurance an event will occur on that date. To that end we are soliciting leaders to submit hikes for the third Fri-

day of the month from April through September (and beyond).

And members—please sign up and support the effort to create solid advanced schedules!

## Fort Collins Chapter welcomes two new trip leaders

*Congratulations to two of the newest Fort Collins Group trip leaders, Mark Lorie and Kevin McCartney. Although both Kevin and Mark are relatively new members of the Colorado Mountain Club, both have spent much of their lives exploring and enjoying the outdoors. Mark completed his leader-in-training hike with Ward Whicker; Kevin was mentored by Paul Weber. Together, Kevin, Mark, along with member Brian Waite have founded the Young Adventurers, a Fort Collins Chapter sub-group geared toward people in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Read more about Mark and Kevin below and plan to participate in one of their trips in 2011.*

### Mark Lorie

Mark Lorie's passion for the outdoors developed when he was

growing up in New England, where he spent countless hours roaming the woods next to his house. In 1995, on his first backpacking trip, the view from South

Twin Mountain in the White Mountains of New Hampshire opened his eyes to the thrills of outdoor adventure. Since then he has been an avid hiker, back-



A group of Fort Collins CMC members on the summit of Table Iron Mountain, during Mark Lorie's leader-in-training trip, July 10, 2010. Mark and Cassie Lorie are on the right



packer and cyclist.

In 2008, Mark and his wife Cassie relocated from Baltimore, Maryland to Fort Collins and began enjoying their favorite activities in the Rocky Mountains. They have stayed busy, mountain biking, snowshoeing, downhill skiing, camping with their dogs and spending as much time in the Colorado outdoors as possible.

A little over a year ago, Mark and Cassie joined CMC to connect with others who enjoy the outdoors and to further develop their backcountry knowledge and skills. Mark is grateful to have had the opportunity to go on CMC trips with and learn from leaders who are very knowledge-

able and very generous with their knowledge, including Steve Martin, Ward Whicker, Eric Erslev and Eileen Edelman.

Mark's interest in becoming a trip leader grew out of a love of planning trips and sharing these experiences with others. He completed his leader-in-training trip to Table Iron Mountain in the Neota Wilderness in July 2010, and has since led trips up Mount Lady Washington and Bighorn Mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Mark is particularly interested in leading long, difficult hikes and snowshoes, but also hopes to lead backpacking, XC skiing, mountain biking and road biking trips for people with a range of

abilities.

Mark is excited to be collaborating with Kevin McCartney and Brian Waite in establishing the Fort Collins Young Adventurers: "There seem to be many people in these age groups (20-40) within the Fort Collins area who would enjoy CMC as much as we do." Mark plans to lead a number of Young Adventurers trips over the next year.

Mark is hoping to take the Fort Collins Basic Mountaineering Course next year to expand his technical and leadership skills so that he can lead ever more interesting trips with CMC. He is looking forward to meeting more CMC members out on the trail!

## Kevin McCartney

Kevin McCartney grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming where he developed a love of the outdoors while hunting and fishing with his family. Over time this has grown into a passion for sharing outdoor experiences with others, one-on-one or with larger groups.

Kevin has happily called Colorado home since 1991 and has been a CMC member for the last 18 months. He has worked at Hewlett-Packard as a Software Engineer for 9 1/2 years and enjoys balancing time in the cubicle with outdoor adventures of all kinds.

Since joining the CMC, Kevin has made many new friends on over 30 outings including hikes, snowshoes, backpacks, an ad-

venture travel trip to Moab, and the Basic Mountaineering Course.



Kevin McCartney (2nd from left) with a Fort Collins CMC group during his leader-in-training trip to Thunder Basin

Kevin finds the CMC rewarding because of the opportunities it provides to spend time in the outdoors, learning and sharing experiences with great people who have the same passion. It is his appreciation of the group and all he has received from it that motivated him to give back by becoming a trip leader. He is also serving as the Fort Collins Group Program Committee lead.

Kevin completed his leader-in-training program with a hike to Thunder Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park during July 2010. Kevin's primary goal in

leading CMC trips is to get people together to share each others company in superb Colorado outdoors. Kevin believes that a trip is successful "if the group has a good time, regardless of whether the ultimate destination is reached".

As one of the founding members of the Fort Collins Young Adventurers, Kevin is looking forward to engaging people in their 20s, 30s and 40s in the broad range of outdoor activities that the CMC has to offer. On January 8th, Kevin led a Young Adventurers completed a snowshoe to Sky Pond

in Rocky Mountain National Park. Despite brisk winds, the group stuck together and worked as a team to reach the destination.

Because the Young Adventurers group is in a trial phase, Kevin and his co-founders will be looking for suggestions and making changes based on feedback and experience.

Kevin is looking to make 2011 another great year full of friendship and fun in the fabulous Colorado outdoors

## An interview with Comanche Peak Wilderness Guide Authors Joe and Frédérique Grim

**Editors Note:** *A guidebook to Fort Collins' "backyard" wilderness area, co-authored by two members of the Fort Collins Group, was released by the CMC Press in 2010. In this month's newsletter we interview Joe and Frédérique Grim, the husband and wife authors of Comanche Peak Wilderness Area: A Hiking and Snowshoeing Guide*

**Q:** *There is a short biography of you two in the book but I found myself wondering how you developed your interest in the outdoors.*

**A:** Joe grew up in Indiana in a family that spent a lot of time outdoors, usually at least once a week or more. Frédérique grew up in France, and often took vacations with her family to beautiful natural locations around France. Since we got married 12 years ago, essentially all of our vacations have been centered



Joe and Frédérique at timberline with the Medicine Bow Range in the background.

around hiking.

**Q:** *I notice that you've contributed to other CMC books. Is this the first book for which you've*

*been the primary authors?*

**A:** Frédérique has published another book based on her research in Applied Linguistics,



while this was Joe's first opportunity to be a first author.

**Q:** *Was writing a book harder or easier than you thought it would be? How long did it take from the time you had the idea to the time the book was published?*

**A:** It was definitely more work than we thought it would be, although it wasn't hard work, and was pretty fun most of the time, especially the hiking part! Because Joe likes to have memories of every hike and trail we do, he has nearly always posted photos online and written up descriptions of our hikes. Frédérique had encouraged Joe to turn these descriptions into a book, but he didn't seriously consider doing so until we realized that our favorite hiking area, the Comanche Peak Wilderness (CPW), didn't have a comprehensive hiking book. It was 2.5 years from that point until the book was published.

**Q:** *Why a guidebook to the Comanche Peaks Wilderness in particular? So, is there any particular hike or location within Comanche Peaks that inspired you*



Sod cabin along the Mirror Lake Trail.

*to write this book?*

**A:** There are a lot of great hiking books out there, including many for our impressive Wilderness areas. But for whatever reason, no one had written a comprehensive book on this beautiful and relatively close-to-home area. It seemed like a great opportunity, so we proposed the idea to Alan Stark of CMC Press and the rest

is history.

Our favorite area is in and around Pingree Park. Since Frédérique is a professor at CSU, we have the opportunity twice each year to spend a weekend at their Pingree Park campus. During those weekends, we got to explore much of the nearby Comanche Peak Wilderness.

**Q:** *Had you done all of these hikes by the time you started writing? If not have you done them now?*

**A:** We would write descriptions for each hike immediately after doing the hike. As we mentioned earlier, we didn't originally know that these descriptions would turn into a published book. The last two summers before the book was published, we had to spend a majority of our July, August and September weekends hiking in the CPW, in order to finish all the trails and hikes for the book. Because snow closes many of the access roads for most of the year, half of the trails and hikes



Alpine sunflowers near Crown Point.

are only doable during three months of the year (the rest of the area is accessible year-round.) At this time, Joe was unable to carry a heavy backpack due to neck and shoulder issues, so we had to do quite a few 12+-mile day hikes to finish up the area. Some of the trails are best done as backpack trips. Many of the hikes we did multiple times to get better photos and/or to get a better indication of the exact trail location, since it is under snow much of the year and can be hard to find.

**Q:** *I found your website to be an excellent supplement to the book - was that your idea or something you had seen elsewhere?*

**A:** The website was first. We had created the website long before we moved to Colorado for our many hikes and trips. We had wanted to put a lot more information into the book, but since a pack guide is so small, the website became a great place to put this additional information. On the website we have many more photos, additional hikes on unofficial trails and to off-trail locations, more detailed topographic maps, trail profiles, more GPS waypoints, and more. The website is also an ongoing work, as we still do new off-trail hikes from time to time to neat locations in the CPW.

**Q:** *Can you say a little about the research and fieldwork it took to complete the descriptions?*

**A:** First of all, we had to hike all of the trails under snow-free conditions, so we could know exactly where the trail went. We carried a GPS with us for each entire hike, so it could mark our path, and so we could mark all points of interest to later place on a map. We also took literally thousands of photos. It was our goal to describe every officially maintained trail, and to describe the route to every named peak within the Wilderness, so we verified this with the USFS (through the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, PWV). In fact, we were members of PWV at this time, so our trail hikes served the additional purpose of patrolling the trails for the USFS, reporting to them the trail conditions and encounters with other hikers.

**Q:** *Is there a hike in the book that you would recommend as a good introduction to the area?*

**A:** The Emmaline Lake Trail is the best introduction to the area. It's only a moderately-difficult hike, yet takes you through some of the most impressive parts of the CPW. For the less-serious hiker, you can only do half of the trail and still have a great hike, as

Cirque Meadow is near the half-way mark and provides impressive views toward the permanent snow fields in the cirque between Fall Mountain and Comanche Peak. The best part though is at the end of the trail, where two alpine lakes sit at timberline at the base of the cirque.

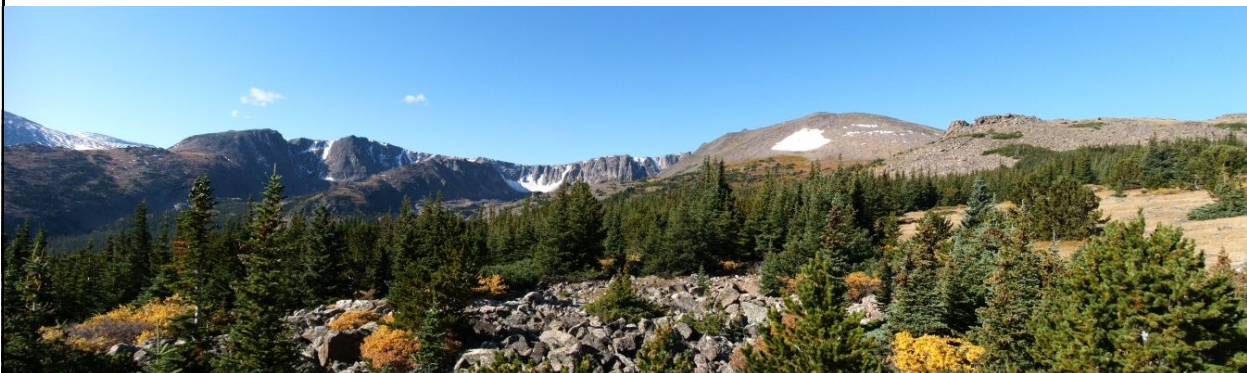
**Q:** *Do you have a hike that is a personal favorite?*

**A:** That is a hard question to answer because each trail and hike has its own unique and impressive aspects. However, if we were pressed to pick one and only one, we would have to say it is the Emmaline Lake Trail.

**Q:** *Do you have plans to write another guidebook in the future and, if so, for what area?*

**A:** We hope someday to write another guidebook, but we're not sure when and where. In the meantime, we'll just keep on hiking and posting photos and descriptions of all our hikes online at [Joe and Frede's Colorado Photo Albums](#)

*Copies of the book are available at most local outdoor and bookstores, or through [CMC Press](#) on the CMC website for a discounted rate.*



Approaching timberline on the Old Morril Trail, with a view of the cirque between Fall Mountain and Comanche Peak.



**Fort Collins CMC wishes to thank businesses that have previously supported us with paid advertising in our newsletter. However, due to a policy change , we will no longer be including paid commercial advertising.**

**This newsletter is published by the Fort Collins Group of the Colorado Mountain Club. Please send submissions to [jgw311@hotmail.com](mailto:jgw311@hotmail.com) to by the 10th of the month to include in the next month's edition. Members send address changes to \*\*\* . Also, please notify the state CMC office if your address has changed.**

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