

Trail Log 2022

January 1, 2022. New Years weekend and last days of December 2021.

Huge wildfire near Boulder. Families watched helplessly as homes smoldered in aftermath of Marshall fire. The Marshall fire destroyed 991 structures, damaged 127 more as it swept quickly through Superior and Louisville. The number of homes destroyed will exceed 1,000. The hurricane-force winds pushed the flames east and it exploded within minutes, sending a column of smoke skyward as it burned across parched grassland toward the suburban subdivisions of Superior.

Tens of thousands of Boulder County residents fled, ordered to evacuate. The firestorm, accelerated by vicious winds and drought conditions, tore through Superior, jumped the turnpike and burned into Louisville. Initial cause is unknown.

Snowstorm dropped 12-15 inches on Jan 2, and firefighters got fire spreading under control. We had 12-15 inches in Fort Collins. Below zero temperatures.

January 15, 2022. On a small island in the South Pacific, named Tonga, the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai Volcano erupted, producing the largest atmospheric explosion in recorded history. This sent shock waves around the world and a plume of ash into the upper atmosphere. The volcano's centre collapsed and spewed an enormous amount of magma that reacted violently with water, powering several large blasts and hundreds of smaller explosions. "The volcano produced this enormous new caldera," some 6.5 cubic kilometres of rock were thrown out, roughly equivalent to a sphere as wide as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California. The four-kilometre-wide caldera dropped in depth from less than 200 metres below sea level to more than 850 metres. This produced unusual tsunamis that skipped about in the Pacific Ocean. Story in *Science*, 1 July 2022, vol. 377, p, 30, and photo on the cover.

February 3, 2022. - 3⁰F at home. - 15⁰ Ft. Collins report. With 12 inches of snow. CSU was closed one day, also Poudre R1 schools. Some big nationwide snow and ice storms closed various interstates across the country. Big nor'easter in Boston area.

March 14, 2022. Seven crocuses in bloom, appearing overnight on a warm day. They were not there yesterday. Good yellow flowers, though I did not see them opened up. This is a patch two feet down the driveway. None seen along the edge of the cement of the front porch. John Vander Vliet saw one, maybe more, at their house, several days ago.

April 14, 2022. Pasqueflowers with Fred Johnson in Lory State Park. Nice day weatherwise, sunny and off and on wind. I went with Fred for company and security,

with my increasingly tottery sense of balance. Probably couldn't have done it safely without him.

Drove to his house and we went into the park in his car. Up the usual Well Gulch trail, picking my way carefully, often steadied by Fred on the bigger step ups. This was Thursday, and Fred had been in Tuesday, two days before and seen dozens in the usual place but somebody had picked them.

We found three in good bloom, though blooms were not open in the shade. Fortunately almost no wind at the site while we were looking for them.

A woman in a family group of 8-10 passed, and she spotted Fred and figured out that he was the Fred of Fred'swildflowers.com.

Maybe half a dozen other wildflowers in bloom, usually the blooms right at the ground.

Made it down safely, steadied in the hard spots by Fred.

Drove back on the road up Horsetooth Reservoir and ate my snacks about noon in the car. You could feel the parked car rocking some from the wind.

I predict I will be too feeble to make this Pasqueflower trip in 2023.

September 8, 2022. Queen Elizabeth died, at Balmoral Castle. In 1957, 65 years ago, Jane and I saw the then young queen getting out of a car and walking into the Crathe Kirk. This has the memory of the custodian we checked with the previous day about whether and what time we might see her there and he replied. "Yes and you'll not be the only pebble on the beach." The queen was then 31 years old. She had been queen 4 years. Prince Philip awarded me the Templeton Prize in Buckingham Palace in 2003.







November 30, 2022. 7.9° on our back porch. 4° on the weather phone. about 4" of snow yesterday.

December 2, 2022

Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, began erupting this week for the first time since 1984.



Dec. 22, 2022. Severe cold weather nationwide with lowest temperatures in decades. -9.9° at home -13° reported in town. Massive cold front moves down from Canada.

National Weather Service: An Arctic blast of dangerous and life-threatening cold will consume much of the Lower 48 over the next few days. Wind chill warnings currently extend from the Northwest to as far south as the Gulf Coast and east into the Eastern U.S. A powerful winter storm is also expected with the blast to produce heavy snow and blizzard conditions in the Midwest and Great Lakes. Record-breaking cold and life-threatening wind chills over the Great Plains to overspread the eastern half of the Nation by Friday. Higher wind gusts of up to 60 mph will continue to lead to wind chills as low as minus 40 degrees across a large swath of the Intermountain West and northern/central Plains, with more localized areas of minus 50 to minus 70 possible through the end of the week.

More than 200 million people — about 60% of the U.S. population — were under some form of winter weather advisory or warning on Friday. The weather service's map "depicts one of the greatest extents of winter weather warnings and advisories ever," forecasters said Friday. More than 4,400 flights within, into or out of the U.S. were canceled Friday, causing more mayhem as travelers try to make it home for the holidays. More than 458,000 homes and businesses (over a million persons) were without power Friday morning. Some of the worst-hit areas are Quebec, and North Carolina, Connecticut and Texas. This will be the coldest Christmas in roughly 40 years for parts of the Plains and Midwest.

The rapidly intensifying storm is in some areas what meteorologists call a "bomb cyclone," which means the barometric pressure must drop by at least 24 millibars (a measure of air pressure) in 24 hours.

end of 2022