Women of the CMC: Bea Slingsby

March is International Women’s History Month. The CMC is celebrating all month long with women’s specific programs, outings, and events. We’re also highlighting some of the leading women of the Club who help inspire and motivate us all. Learn more at www.cmc.org/Calendar/WomensMonth2019.aspx.

Meet Bea Slingsby. Bea is an avid recreator and a passionate volunteer with the Colorado Mountain Club. Her love for Colorado stems back to 1950, when her family moved to the state. The mountains quickly captured Bea, but her earliest days in the outdoors were spent hiking with the Girl Scouts of America in Ohio. Bea joined the CMC 46 years ago, after seeing the Club mentioned in the Denver Post. She quickly became involved with the hikes and snowshoe outings the CMC offered, and had a special fondness for Fourteeners. After just four years and three months, Bea became the 204th person to summit all of Colorado’s Fourteeners.

Bea loves the peace and solitude that she finds in Colorado’s backcountry: “Just being in nature is where my heart and soul thrive,” she told the Club, a sentiment many of us share. But while Bea appreciates the more contemplative nature of the outdoors, she also values the community she’s found through the CMC. She enjoys getting out on new trails with her fellow members, creating memories and relationships with fellow recreators and cherishing these moments in nature.

While Bea would likely be one of the last to admit it, she serves as a great inspiration to many who know her. She is a bright beacon in the CMC, serving as a model of volunteerism, passion for the mountains, and encouraging others to pursue their outdoor goals. At the 2018 Backcountry Bash, Bea was awarded the CMC’s Gudy Gaskill Award, an annual award that honors a female CMC member who serves as a positive and inspirational example of volunteerism. Bea says she often hears younger CMC members tell her, “I want to be like you when I am your age!” but to Bea, ‘old’ is more of a state of mind than a state of being—and she’s not quite there yet.