



Spring 2018

FENW Newsletter

President Tim Drescher

The Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness have a lot to smile about these days; we have been busy revamping and rejuvenating the organization as we enter our twenty-fourth year of existence. In this newsletter (hard copy for the first time in three years), you will find just *a couple* of the things that we have been up to recently. We want to get these ideas into your mailbox and thoughts so that we can reignite the passion in our great base supporters - all of you who have been so loyal to the organization throughout the years – as well as entuse new volunteers and donors.



As the summer rushes towards us, we are preparing to host our Volunteer Wilderness Ranger training day on June 2. We have about a dozen new volunteers and about 50 returning veterans. The VWR program remains the cornerstone of FENW (page 3). In our other boots-on-the-ground program, nearly a dozen FENW trail stewardship projects are scheduled this summer - everything from overnight pack trips with llamas to day trips with various partners, including Colorado Outward Bound School and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (page 2).

Also, we introduce you to some new board members (pages 5 & 7), describe some of the board's major actions (page 5), and summarize our finances (page 6). Our dear friend Mike Beach (USFS Eagle/Holy Cross Wilderness Manager) provides a great update (page 4), and we sprinkle in vignettes about our treasured wilderness: stories, stats and facts. Our reinvigorated Noxious Weed program (page 7) and an update on the Tools of our Trade (page 4) are included, as well. We end with a mailable donation form for those who eschew online fuss (page 8). Finally, a big thanks to Chris Turner of Elite Pharmaceuticals for help in printing this newsletter.

Feedback is always appreciated, so don't be a stranger. The generous support that all of you have provided makes all of these things possible. Whether you help us with our adventurous (physical) outings, or make a financial contribution – each one helps continue our great mission to continue to advocate for preservation of these Wilderness areas that we value so very much. And, for years to come.

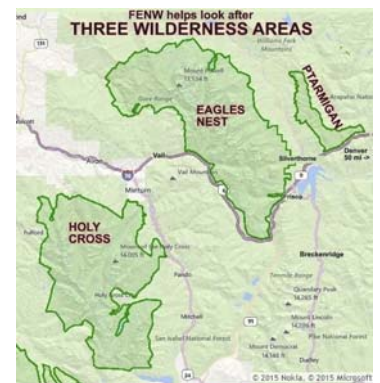
Our volunteers play important roles for Wilderness protection in both Summit and Eagle counties. Help us give back to this land which needs such close protection to make Wilderness, well ... wilderness. We hope you enjoy our wilderness, and our little newsletter. As Edward Abbey wrote, "The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders."



Shooting star
Dodecatheon pulchellum

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FENW Leadership

Tim Drescher, President
Currie Craven, Past President
Bill Betz, President Elect
Ken Harper, Treasurer, VWR co-Director
Dan Siebert, Secretary
Frank Gutmann, Tools Manager
Kate DeMorest, Trails & Campsites
Chris Turner, Business Sponsors
Maryann Gaug
Laurie Alexander, Social Media
Jim Alexander, Noxious Weeds

Mike Mayrer, VWR co-Director
Cindy Ebbert, USFS Dillon RD
Mike Beach, USFS Eagle/HC RD



VWR PATROL COMMENTS...

"spotted six Bighorn sheep"

"counted 7 people in sandals!"

"Wow....may be working. ALL DOGS ON LEASHES!!"

"We need to ban all campfires all the time."

"two backpackers reported seeing one other person in their four nights near Meridian Peak -- what a wonderful respite"

"evidence of bike on trail"

"hikers reported thigh deep snow and difficulty finding trail"

"we encountered a set of keys and a phone and two large tents. Looks like squatters"

"Much thanks to our wilderness trail crew as there were no trees across the trail.... I did that hike a few weeks ago and there were numerous trees across trail. Great job!!"

"I escorted seven hikers to the summit of Holy Cross."

"SAW A BEAR! - beautiful light brown, ~100 pounds, right on the trail at the Wilderness Boundary sign"

"I found a young man who was walking barefoot. He said he had lost one of his shoes in the river."

"Over 100 logs across trail."

"Fishermen mentioned Salamanders in lakes and no fish"

TRAILS & CAMPSITES



Our Trail Boss, **Kate DeMorest**, has announced plans for an exciting 2018 season. Dust off them boots, sharpen your Pulaski (actually, they are provided for you), and get ready for some fun on the trail - watch for updates as plans are finalized.

Four of the **10 projects** involve pack animals - **Llamas!** – to help carry tools and volunteer supplies. No advanced training is required. Reservations are needed for overnight trips. Questions? Email Kate at k.demorest@gmail.com

* **May 16:** Installation of registration boxes - Eagle/Holy Cross - 9am-noon.

* **June 2:** National Trails Day

* **June 16 & again June 17:** Gateways Trail Day

* **July 27-29:** Slate Lake Overnight - **llamas / 2 nights out**

* **Aug 2:** FENW/Colorado Outward Bound School at Piney Lake – **llamas**

* **Aug 11 & again Aug 12:** Salt Lick Connector Trail with VOC

* **Aug 17-19:** Gore Creek Overnight - **llamas / 1 night out**

* **Sep 15 & again Sep 16:** Deluge Lake Trail with VOC

* **TBD:** Lily Pad Lakes Plank Bridge Project - **llamas**

* **TBD:** FENW's Adopt-A-Trail on Deluge Creek – **three dates throughout the summer**

Thanks to our many **business sponsors!** It's not that we have forgotten you, but we are in the process of reorganizing our sponsor program, and we will acknowledge you individually in our next newsletter.

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR 2017 VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGERS

You are the heart of our organization!

Helen Barker, Robert Barrows, Scott Beebe, Bill Betz, Mike Boone, Jonathan Bowers, Jonathan Bowers, Jim Collins, Tom Combs, Ben Corwin, Jim Cullen, Lisa Currey, Sergei D, Allie Feldmeir, Jim Gabriel, Bill Gillilan, Frank Gutmann, **Ken Harper**, Becky Hopkins, Joan Hutchinson, Glen Johnson, Jerry Kelly, Cyndi Koop, Guy Laboa, Tom Larsen, Jeff Libby, **Mike Mayrer**, Cindy Muesing, Terry Patrick, Richard Ranieri, Marilyn Raymond, Dave Raymond, Bill Reed, Bob Reinert, Michael Rodenak, Carol Rodriguez, Sharon Siler, Ryan Simmons, Kristi Steed, Kem Swarts, Joe Szasz, Don Tebbs, Arianne Templeton, Bob Theodore, Drake Tisdale, Valinda Yarbber.



VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGERS

Under the direction of Mike Mayrer and Ken Harper, the VWR program is FENW's largest program, directly contacting thousands of Wilderness visitors. Training this year will be held Saturday, June 2 in Silverthorne. We will be introducing **Trailhead Hosting**, so if you're not up to a four hour hike, consider this way of volunteering in the Wilderness. To get started, go to www.fenw.org/volunteer-wilderness-rangers / or write us at info@fenw.org.



Volunteer Wilderness Rangers (VWRs) are ready to hit the trails and staff trailheads

We have about 60 VWRs, each of whom makes four or more patrols, each patrol lasting at least 4 hours. VWRs provide advice, directions, and useful information about the Wilderness, at times dispensing sunscreen and insect repellent as well. They remind visitors to follow the 7 Leave No Trace principles. Volunteers also report data about users, dogs, trail conditions and so forth. They wear the USFS patch on their left sleeve, and thus represent both FENW and the Forest Service. It is a rewarding opportunity to help preserve the Wilderness areas that we all enjoy.

Here are some stats from the 2017 season. From early May through mid-October, 45 VWRs (about 2/3 male, 1/3 female) patrolled trails from 33 trailheads (Lily Pad was the most patrolled - 28 separate days). The average duration of a patrol was 4.7 hours; the total number of hours on patrol was 994.

Bob Theodore made THIRTY patrols! He's the volunteer of the year. Thanks, Bob!

What did these intrepid Rangers encounter on the trail? Many people, many dogs, and many deadfalls, for starters. The average number of Wilderness visitors encountered was 54; the maximum on any single patrol was 295 (of course on the Lily Pad Lake trail). And the total number of hikers encountered? **11,257** (which is about 7.8% of the total of about 120,000).

Dogs visit Wilderness, too. VWRs counted 1,029 dogs, of which 309 (30%) were not on leash. The maximum counted on any single patrol was 23 on leash and 15 off leash.

The lodgepole pine trees are coming down! Killed by the beetle about eight years ago, they are falling by the thousands. VWRs reported encountering 679 trees across trails (the maximum seen on a single patrol was 105!). The number would have been much higher if not for the combined deadfall-clearing efforts of FENW volunteer trail crews, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and especially the extraordinary work of the "Four Strangers" (see sidebar to the right).



New Ranger Melissa

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

Support the *Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act*, which would add 40,000 acres of Wilderness and close 60,000 additional acres of other forms of permanent protection to portions of the White River National Forest in Summit and Eagle counties. Senator **Gardner** has not yet signed on - contact him at 303-391-5777 or 202-224-5841 and thank Senator Bennet for his leadership and support **303-455-7600**

Block the *Bikes-in-Wilderness bill*. Even though IMBA has taken a stand against the Bikes in Wilderness bill, it's out of committee and awaiting a full House vote. Ask Rep. Scott **Tipton** to oppose HR 1349 - call him at **970-241-2499**.

FENW BYLAWS CHANGE

April 2018: The FENW board voted to change how board members are elected. Henceforth they will be elected by the board only, and not the general membership. This simply codifies a practice followed for years.

THE "FOUR STRANGERS"

That's "Forest Rangers," mispronounced by a four-year-old. Their crosscut saws were humming all summer long - they cleared more than **1500** trees from Eagles Nest Wilderness trails!

Pictured below before heading out on a trail project, Anne and Karrie are USFS Wilderness Rangers while Catherine and Nikki were USFS Interns.



...MORE VWR PATROL COMMENTS

"encountered 4 women on horseback, they requested a railing be added to the bridge ... so the horses could use the bridge also"

"The trail signs ... have additional words scratched in them, some incorrect labels. I should go out with some sandpaper to get them out!!!"

"there is an entire field of yellow toadflax up the trail, in the meadow just before the first large clump of coniferous trees. There are also lots of smaller groupings along the trail. Would need a team of people to dig them all up."

"1 guy was somewhat combative to my request to put his dog on its leash. He did, but told me I had gotten my point across, and "you can be done now". Ugh...people. -- -- --"

"All parking spots were taken by 8:40a.m. At least 7 more carloads drove in at that time looking for spots and asked me where they could park."

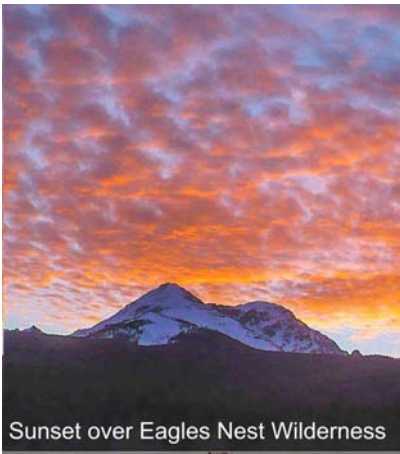
WHY CONTRIBUTE?

Your donations help us both **IN-SIDE** Wilderness:

- * To maintain Wilderness trails, campsites, and signage, and to lease the pack animals needed to haul heavy tools and supplies for these projects.
- * To provide training documents, uniforms, and swag to our VWRs

And **OUTSIDE** Wilderness:

- *To match funds for grant proposals
- *To pay for newsletter printing & postage, and similar items
- *To pay our website internet provider



WHY VOLUNTEER?

People volunteer for 6 major reasons, and FENW can satisfy all 6 of them:

- 1. Help others** - become a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger (VWR) and teach Wilderness hikers Leave No Trace principles.
- 2. Be involved in the community** - more than 60 locals make up our team of VWRs and Trail Crews.
- 3. Contribute to a cause** - public lands are facing historic threats; join our Advocacy Team to fight for Wilderness.
- 4. Develop new skills & have new experiences** - our Trail Crews will teach you to use Pulaskis, McLeods, and more in repairing damaged trails.
- 5. Use your skills in a productive way** - we will match your skills to fit your personal desire to help.
- 6. Stay fit** - get out there in the most protected public land in North America

We might add number 7: **Have fun!** And we do.

US FOREST SERVICE



By Mike Beach, Wilderness Manager, Holy Cross Ranger District

In 2016, the USFS began the Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) metric to Wilderness character. Wilderness managers have selected ten "elements" to assess each Wilderness area.

Two of the elements used to assess performance within the Eagles Nest Wilderness are 1) *Opportunities for Solitude*, which is a key provision of Wilderness, and 2) *Trails*, of which we have about 200 miles within the Eagles Nest Wilderness.

We will employ two seasonal employees this summer whose specific duties will be to conduct **solitude monitoring** and **trail assessments** within the Eagles Nest Wilderness, with goals of improving our WSP scores and collecting valuable data that will help us better steward the 133,496-acre Wilderness area.

These two employees, along with FENW Volunteer Wilderness Rangers, will use a standardized solitude monitoring procedure to assess how current use within several areas of the Wilderness align with guidelines set forth in the 2002 White River National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan. Additionally, the two employees will hike every mile of trail within the Wilderness and assess trail conditions, social trail development, and project needs for future years. They'll also bring a crosscut saw along and log out the trails while they're at it!



GRANTS FOR WILDERNESS WORK

In 2017, FENW received **\$2000** from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) to monitor campsites and *opportunities for solitude* in Holy Cross Wilderness. We also received **\$9000** from The Summit Foundation (TSF) to hire a crew from RMYC to help with trail maintenance this summer. FENW chipped in \$5400 so that the crew can work for two weeks. We were able to do this thanks to donations through Colorado Gives, and a generous gift from Bill & Susie Gillilan. A 2018 application to NWSA to lease 2 llamas (**\$2200**) is pending.

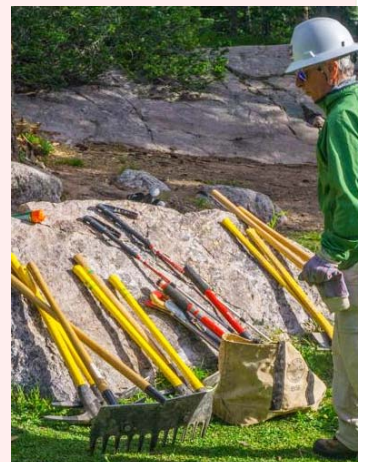
TOOLS OF OUR TRADE

On a clear, cool autumn day last October, FENW volunteers and Friends of Dillon Ranger District (FDRD) volunteers and staff met at the US Forest Service grounds in Dillon to refurbish the myriad types of tools stored there, and used for trail maintenance on USFS lands including Wilderness in Summit and Eagle Counties. About 200 tools were inventoried, cleaned, sharpened, and wooden handles wiped down with linseed oil for winter storage and the 2018 summer-season's use. Cross-cut saws were prepared for shipping to California for customized sharpening.

Led by George Resseguie, the storage facilities and tools were originally installed by FENW volunteers starting in 2007 with generous grants totaling \$20,000 from the State and from The Summit Foundation.

The inventory includes trail maintenance staples like McLeod rakes, Pulaskis, pick mattocks, shovels, crosscut saws, as well as associated items - work gloves, hard hats, loppers, rock bars, axes, and small saws. The tools are in heavy use all summer by FENW and FDRD, as well as by other non-profits. FENW hopes to buy a new crosscut saw in 2018.

We aim to recruit lots of eager and strong-backed volunteers this summer to put these tools to good use on our planned trail maintenance projects. See page 2 for a list of projects and dates, times and other details. Remember, there is no formal training required to join a trail crew!



MEET CHRIS TURNER

A Colorado native, Chris grew up in Arvada, and enjoyed camping with his family all over the state and also Canyon Lands in Utah. It was because of these trips that he developed his passion for the outdoors. With an extended family ranging from the Northeastern plains to the Western slope, Chris has seen first hand the changes that are affecting our public lands.

Chris joined the FENW board in early 2017. As the CEO of a Denver based skin care company (Elite Therapeutics), he brings management and sales experience to the board, which makes him a perfect addition for obtaining and nurturing our business sponsors.

When Chris is not working, he spends a lot of time, well, working - outside with his father on his ranch, but also recreating - fishing, snowboarding, coaching soccer, biking, and hiking.



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www.fenw.org

We love to be social and provide you with quick hits of timely information.

Be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram!**

Search *Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness*.



FENW RETREAT

For nearly seven hours - even through a working dinner - the FENW Board and interested volunteers huddled to review the past, assess the present, and plan the future. Led by STUART DODD, the Chair of our sister organization, Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance, we hewed close to Stuart's mantra - *Have Fun, No Drama*, and even though it was St. Pat's Day, there was no ire, just lively, creative discussions. The walls were covered with twenty sheets of flip-chart paper that Stuart had filled during the day.

We traced out some ambitious plans for wilderness projects in 2018 and beyond. We also articulated how we will grow the working groups, our volunteer base and the funding necessary to sustain those plans. Through self-study (e.g., Why do you volunteer?), SWOT analysis (that's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), and program reviews, we confirmed that our greatest need is to *engage more people*, bolstering our cadre of active supporters, enlarging the community of volunteers on whom we can depend for support (i.e., people like you). Details will follow in upcoming newsletters.



FROM THE FENW ARCHIVE

December 1997 Newsletter: "**Interpretive Display is Ready for Viewing** The Wilderness Interpretive Display is now on exhibit at the Dillon Ranger Station in Silverthorne. Thanks to the hard efforts of the designer, Todd Parker, and John Taylor."

And since 1997 the display has given good service, but after these 20 years, it needs an update. We seek volunteers for a 21st century remake of this important educational tool. Send an email to info@fenw.org if you are interested!



BACK: D. Owens, K. DeMorest, M. Beach, K. Harper, S. Dodd, M. Gaug, J. Alexander, J. Betz, C. Turner, D. Siebert. FRONT: F. Gutmann, C. Crayton, T. Drescher, L. Alexander, C. Ebbert

Is **PHOTOGRAPHY** an interest of yours? We are seeking volunteers to record - and post to *Instagram* - the wonders of the Wilderness - the natural beauty, the people who volunteer and recreate there, the awe-inspiring deep backcountry. If you can volunteer, please let us know. THANKS!

ADVOCACY: RENAME THE GORE RANGE?

The Summit County Commissioners, led by Chair **Karn Stiegelmeier**, passed a Proclamation in 2017 to urge the USGS to rename the Gore Range. FENW supports the Proclamation. The proposed new name, tentatively, is **The Shining Mountains**, which honors the original inhabitants, the Ute Indians, who were known as The People of the Shining Mountains. Naturally, support from the Ute Tribal Council is crucial, and we expect to hear from them soon.

The names of many monuments have lately been subjected to scrutiny, and it becomes a challenge to weigh positive and negative considerations. Not so for Lord Gore, for whom virtually nothing positive can be said, at least during his three year hunting rampage in the West.

FENW FINANCES

We are on target to provide nearly \$50,000 in assistance to the Forest Service in 2018. About one-third will be provided in direct funding, thanks to member donations, and especially to a grant from The Summit Foundation and major gifts from A-Basin (see list to the right) and Bill & Susie Gillilan. The rest (~\$30,000) is provided as "in kind" volunteer hours from our VWRs and Trail Crews.

We are also planning to create the **FENW Endowment Fund** to provide a steady source of funds for USFS projects.

Individual contributions are a big part of our income. As an all-volunteer organization, we have virtually no overhead, so all of your donations go straight to helping the USFS. Please donate today!



THANKS TO OUR DONOR / MEMBERS!

Our deep thanks to those who have donated in the past year (see also donors at A-Basin (below)):

Carol Allen, Bill & Joan Betz, Joel & Mern Bitler, John & Barbara Boldt, Tom Brennom, Jay Browne, Michael Browning, Susan Carlson, Rene Celley, Matthew Coye, Currie Craven, Kate Demorest, Tim Drescher, Charles Dykman, Rick & Shawna Emarine, Infinite Scope Inc, Justin Erwin, Bruce Field, Eleanor Finlay, Maryann Gaug, Lucia Gill, Bill & Carol Gillen, Linda Ginsberg, Dave & Leslie Griffith, Linda & Bob Growney, Frank & Mary Gutmann, Ken Harper, Kenneth Heuer, Bob & Linda Hrycaj, Joan Hutchinson & Stan Wagon, Terrance & Rose Mary Jackson, Jerry Kelly, Pamela Kennedy, John & Pam Kitslaar III, The David & Paula Kraemer Fund, Jeff Leigh, Sally Liu, Megan & James Macintosh, Jerome Marra & B. Schuster, Howard Mazur, Augusta Molnar, Kurt Morscher, Allyn & Joyce Mosher, Todd Nice, Melinda Pearson, Rick Pratt, Bill & Suzanne Reed, George & Kathryn Resseguie, Gary & Jeanne Rusch, Matt & Diana Scherr, Diana Scherr, Thekla Schultz, Julie Shapiro, Jan Shipman, Daniel Siebert, Tom Smart, Amy Sorapuru, Susan Sprague, Kristine Steed, David & Sandy Street, Erin Tatar, Linda Tatem, John & Pat Taylor, Robert Theodore, Barbara Townley, Andrew Walker, Michael & Jane Walker, Connie & Don Welch.



THANKS TO OUR A-BASIN DONORS!

*For nearly two decades, A-Basin staff have donated generously to their **Employee Environmental Fund**, of which FENW has been a steady beneficiary. The following donated in 2017-18, led by A-Basin Director Alan Henceroth. Our enduring THANKS!*

Steven Abrams, Alicia Ahumada, Dylan Alberson, Eleanor Allan, Brittney Allen, Benjamin Avink, Tyson Ball, Steven Barr, Nicholas Bartholomai, Lindy Bickel, Scott Bickel, Justyn Bischoff, Rebecca Bolton, Patricia Bonner-Vilas, Matthew Bradley, John Briggs, Bonnetta Brown, Willard Bruce, Leah Burnside, Julian Caballero, Maxwell Chenail, Martha Cleveland, Maria Clifford, Lily Conrad, Mary Corrigan, Michael Cox, Charles Cundiff, Susan Cundiff, Ian Davies, Susan Dell, Jean Denckla, Andrew Dengate, Jacob Devine, James Dimon, Jared Drake, Kojo Effraim, Ashley Elms, Paul Felix, Timothy Finnigan, Keagan French, Michael Frey, Chelsea Gasper, Samantha Gehrman, Chadrick Goertz, Scott Goldstein, Mickie Gonwick, Meryl Gura, Bridget Guthrie, Tobias Hamrick, Joshua Harris, **Alan Henceroth**, Whitney Henceroth, Jeffrey Hessler, Seth Hicks, Leigh A Hierholzer, Margaret Hiller, Kurt Hoffman, Joshua Malachi Holcombe, Charles Hughes, Lukas Johnson, Katherine Jordan, Aaron Keller, Connor Kenworthy, Susan Knopf, Christopher Koschnick, Mary Kruse, Daniel Lee, Matthew Lee, Issac Lehman, Jeffrey Leigh, Lynzee Lewis, Wyatt Lienhard, Kyle Lindemuth, Zoey Livermore, Horatio Lloyd, Jonathon Lunney, Jessica Lyons, Carly Maher, Kelsey Malin, Timothy Marshburn, Taylor Matson, Tanner Pfeiffer, Kyle Pirolo, Joseph Podgorski, Jack Poole, Neil Powell, Brian Raffio, Mikhail Ramirez, John Ray, Deborah Rosenberg, Cameron Rothhaas, William Rowntree, Charles Ryan, Christopher Rybak, Duncan Saunders, Tyler Schneider, Elizabeth Schofield, Elan Seideman, Thomas Shaw, Tyler Shinn, Kelly Short, David Singleton, Jacob Sivinski, Jeffrey Skinner, Raymond Louis Skowyra III, Rachel Sowers, Cameron Spang, Daniel Spicher, Emily Stone, Samantha Streletsky, Timothy Stroh, John E Timmons, Mackenzie Voelker, Kevin Voss, Sarah Walker, Gabriele Walsler, Madeline Walton, Nathan Weldon, John Western, Jasmine Wieger, Steffany Wildbrett, Michael Wilson, Scott Winn, Jarrod Wright, Alicia Zimmer.



WHAT'S IN A NAME? FENW? ESWA? SHOULD FENW GET A NEW NAME?

That which we call a rose /By any other word would smell as sweet! So said Juliet to Romeo. At FENW, we've been talking about our name, and how it doesn't exactly describe us today. We're still *Friends*, of course, but in addition to Eagles Nest, we help look after Holy Cross and Ptarmigan Peak Wildernesses —with 3 more to come if Rep. Polis' Continental Divide Act passes. Moreover, people often confuse us - Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness - with Friends of Dillon Ranger District So, Juliet's opinion aside, we have been thinking about a new name. An acronym referring to all 3 areas is really tough to come up with —EN + HX + PP (6 areas would be even tougher!). One emerging favorite is **Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance (ESWA)**. All of our Wilderness Areas are in these two counties (Eagle & Summit). Let us know what you think—email your thoughts to info@fenw.org.

MEET MARYANN GAUG

As FENW begins a new era, we could not have been more fortunate than to have Maryann join us. Or, *rejoin* us, we should say, for Maryann was present not long after the dawn of creation of FENW, and played a key role for many years, before taking a decade's sabbatical. Here's a partial list of her accomplishments: she founded the Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Program; she served as FENW Secretary; she worked to start the noxious weed program; she organized the plan to install bulletin board signs at many trailheads; she edited (and wrote most of) the newsletters; she authored many, many grant applications for a variety of projects. If you visit the FENW Archive on the website (www.fenw.org/), you can see her hand on just about everything before 2008. Welcome back, Maryann!

But there's much more. Maryann has authored a series of popular hiking guides, most recently one for trails near Breckenridge and Vail. These are not merely perfunctory directions and practical details, but they also are replete with interesting historical, geological, and biological vignettes. Did you know, for example, that the lower Blue River Valley is actually a graben?

In addition to sharing the wisdom gained from her past FENW experiences, Maryann will be volunteering her proven writing skills in editing and proofing our text to make everything we write gooder.



NOXIOUS WEEDS - PRETTY BUT BAD!

Noxious weeds are sometimes pretty, but they're never good for a wilderness. Weeds like Oxeye Daisy, Canadian Thistle, Yellow Toadflax and False Chamomile are all non-native species, which tend to take over for native plants. Some weeds aggressively fill fields, taking the place of more delicate plants that should be in our ecosystem. Noxious weeds are distasteful or actually harmful to animals that normally would forage on the native plants. As a result, weeds grow unchecked – and native animals suffer from the loss of food sources.



Ox-eye daisy
Leucanthemum vulgare

FENW has had a strong program since 2007 – under the dedicated leadership of John Taylor and MaryAnne Gaug. Over the past decade, dozens of volunteers have worked with FENW to track and slow the spread of noxious weeds throughout the Eagles Nest, Ptarmigan Peak and Holy Cross Wildernesses. The program includes education and volunteer help (pulling weeds!) as well as larger eradication programs using professional specialists.

Yet those pernicious weeds are still a problem, and FENW is redoubling the war on weeds. We are working with the forest service to better identify problem areas in our wilderness areas, and to build sustainable strategies for attacking those weeds. If you'd like learn more and be part of the war on weeds, contact Jim Alexander (jimofcolorado@gmail.com).

NO PROB-LLAMA!

... for us to get tools, equipment, and supplies into the wilderness for trail work. We are leasing **two llamas** this summer to help us schlep stuff into Eagles Nest Wilderness for trail projects. But the tools are useless without volunteers to put them to use. Please sign up to help - there are FIVE projects you can choose from. Two are overnight trips, deep into the backcountry, and three are day trips. See page 2 for the schedule.



THIS DAD IS TAKING HIS FAMILY BACKPACKING

His pack is a metaphor for how we feel, trying to keep up with the 100,000 plus visitors to our wonderful public, protected Wilderness.



Dad got help from his family. We could use your help, too. Please volunteer.

Thanks!

A big thank you to **Elite Therapeutics** for their generous assistance in printing this newsletter. Elite offers a variety of physician-developed skin products - anti-aging, cancer care, and more. elitetherapeutics.com



ELITE THERAPEUTICS

FRIENDS OF EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS CONTRIBUTION FORM

Yes! I want to help FENW preserve Wilderness. Sign me up at the level of:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Booth Creek (\$25/yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo Mountain (\$80/yr) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cataract Lake (\$40/yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagles Nest (\$100/yr) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piney Lake (\$60/yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Cross (\$250/yr) |

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you willing to work on volunteer projects? _____

Please mail this form and personal check to:

FENW, PO Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443.

OR – pay online via PayPal at www.fenw.org . Click the DONATE tab at the top.

For more information, email info@fenw.org or call Bill Betz at 303 903 7127

Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness

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www.fenw.org/

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MAILING ADDRESS

