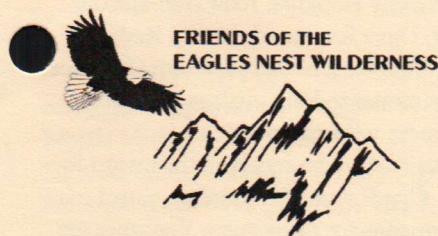


Forty-Ninth Official Newsletter March 2005



Introduction to Friends:

The Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is an apolitical nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation formed in May 1994 to raise in-cash, in-kind, and in-service goods to help the Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest maintain the Summit County portions of the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas. The Eagles Nest Wilderness consists of 82,903 acres of Summit County while the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness has 13,175 acres (totaling about 25% of Summit County). We presently raise money through membership dues, donations, and grants. We accomplish our mission through Stewardship, Education, Outreach, and Advocacy.

2005 Success = Big Plans for 2006

Thanks for the Grants!

Thanks to The Summit Foundation for the \$2,500 and the Towns of Frisco and Silverthorne for \$100 each for our 2006 noxious weed treatment program. The Town of Breckenridge also granted FENW \$100 to train volunteers to identify and inventory noxious weeds. These funds will be used as matching funds for proposals submitted to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and The National Forest Foundation.

We received word from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation that our proposal for \$2,000 received initial approval and is now at their national office for further consideration. Keep your fingers crossed!

The National Forest Foundation proposal is due March 3.

Thanks so much for your support, The Summit Foundation, Breckenridge, Frisco, and Silverthorne!

New Programs in 2005 a Roaring Success!

In summer 2005, FENW developed and implemented a Volunteer Wilderness Steward (VWS) Program and started a noxious weed treatment program. We completed three trail projects, too!

Fifteen VWS volunteers contacted Wilderness visitors, and inventoried campsites noxious weeds.

FENW hired Weed Busters to treat noxious weeds in four drainages in the Eagles Nest Wilderness and later added two more areas to the contract.

See pages 2 and 3 for more details on these successful programs!

Thanks to FENW Volunteers

In 2005, FENW celebrated its 11th anniversary, a testament to its role in the community and the support it receives from our members and sponsoring organizations. Beth Boyst, US Forest Service Wilderness Specialist, has acknowledged the fine work of FENW, including physical improvements to trailheads and trails and establishing a support base for the wilderness. She especially feels that the citizen support will be what protects and maintains the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas throughout time.

Mark your Calendars for Trail Projects!

June 17 - Saturday - Gateways Project

Join us for our annual trail clearing and general maintenance day! Help open hiking trails from wilderness trailheads to the snow-line. Some people may check and maintain trailhead signs. Full-day and half-day projects available.

July 17 - Sunday - Surprise Lake Trail

Last year our team worked on the erosion gullies on this trail and this project will continue up the trail, building water bars and other diversions. A 2 - 2.5 mile uphill hike is required.

August 19 - Saturday - Buffalo Cabin Trail near South Willow Cr.

Come help us with trail work which may include re-routing the trail past a boggy section. This project requires at least a 3-mile hike one way.

Volunteer Wilderness Steward Program

Training for the VWS program (patrol and visitor contact, campsite and noxious weed inventory) will be held on Saturday, June 10.

For more information and an application log on to www.fenw.org, click on volunteer opportunities. Or call Maryann at 970-468-6219 or email steward@fenw.org.



Papa watching over the little one and two friends on Buffalo Mtn.

Photo by Maryann Gaug

Volunteer Wilderness Steward Program First Year Exceeds Expectations!

By Maryann Gaug, VWS coordinator

With the help of grants from The Summit Foundation, the Town of Frisco, and donations from the Cortina Property Owner's Association, and Arapahoe Basin Employee Environmental Fund, FENW and the USFS Wilderness staff developed a Volunteer Wilderness Steward program during last winter. We obtained information on three other such programs: Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance, Mt. Adams Wilderness Stewards, and San Juan Mountains Association. Twenty people applied for the volunteer positions which included any combination of backcountry patrol, campsite inventory, and noxious weed inventory. Seventeen people attended training and one learned campsite inventory techniques later. Volunteers came from Summit County and the Denver Metro area.

Volunteers were asked to contribute at least four volunteer days. Fifteen people actually participated in the program. (You know how busy Summit summers can be!)

Twelve volunteer rangers patrolled 32 days at 12 different



Volunteers Jacque Kriegel, Becky Hopkins, Warren Hancock, and Joan Hutchinson pose by Lily Pad Lake during VWS patrol mentoring with Wilderness Manager Beth Boyst who took this photo.

destinations from June 20 to September 30.

- Volunteers counted 944 Wilderness visitors
- Volunteers contacted 689 Wilderness visitors
- Volunteers discussed Wilderness regulation violations with 85 Wilderness visitors
- 98% of Wilderness violations involved dogs off leash
- Volunteers contributed 161 hours in the field
- Destinations covered: Boulder Lake, Buffalo Cabin, Buffalo Mountain, Eaglesmere Lake, Eccles Pass, Lily Pad Lake, North Tenmile, Ptarmigan Peak, South Willow Creek Falls, Wheeler Lakes, and Willow Lakes.

Six volunteer field stewards inventoried 39 campsites in five drainages: 10 sites at Wheeler Lakes, 11 sites in Meadow Creek drainage, 3 sites at Lily Pad Lake, 4 sites in North Tenmile Creek

drainage, and 11 sites at Eaglesmere Lakes.

Thanks to Jim Anthony, Elaine Bennett, Warren Hancock, Terry Hardie, Elliot Henry, Becky Hopkins, Joan Hutchinson, Cyndi Koop, Jacque Kriegel, Dave Raymond, Nancy Redner, Marilyn Repsher, Bill Reed, Paul Rosen, and Maryann Gaug for volunteering their time this summer to help visitors understand Wilderness and keep Wilderness wild and pristine.

Congratulations to Cyndi Koop who received the award for contributing the most hours. Cyndi spent 41 hours on patrol over six days and inventoried campsites for three days. You may see Cyndi on patrol on skis this winter.

Congratulations also to Joan Hutchinson who received the award for the most visitor contacts. Joan saw 168 people and talked with 158 of them. That's a lot of chatting with visitors!

Overall, our Volunteer Wilderness Steward program met program objectives and exceeded expectations for the first year. The program will continue to a small extent during the winter. We hope to attract even more volunteers in summer 2006.

2005 Trail Projects

By Jonathan Kriegel, Trails

As always, our trail projects were popular and effective. We continued to team successfully with the US Forest Service and completed three projects in 2005.

Gateways (June)

Eleven FENW volunteers worked during a snowstorm - yes, several inches of the white stuff - to clear a section of the Surprise Lake Trail and a section of the Ute Peak trail near Ute Pass. They also completed trailhead board repair and register maintenance. Thanks to Anne and Michael Rohr, Bill Reid, Jacque and Jonathan Kriegel, James (Terry) Hall, Jan and Dave Lacey, Barbara Bouche, and Susan and Austin Arrance.

Boulder Creek (July)

Fourteen volunteers completed trail and bridge-related maintenance projects, including bank stabilization work at the Boulder Creek bridge site (around a new bridge completed by the US Forest Service) and bank stabilization and erosion control steps at Boulder Lake. The team also finished trash and fire ring clean-up and willow clearing on the Gore Range trail to increase the width for horse users. Thanks to Marshall Rutz, James Groves, Tom Meads, Bill Reed, Patrick Dobey, Cyndi Koop, Doug Lane, Dean Garland, Duane Stewart, Carol Bosserman, Kurt Steuer, Guff Van Vooren, John Taylor, and Currie Craven.

Surprise Trail (August)

Ten volunteers installed about 35 water bars/check dams that will help slow down erosion caused by poor drainage. Thanks to Ted Boehlke, Dawn Kruger, Becky Hopkins, Brian Cooley, Ryan Janaes, Janet Jacks, Mark Sabatini, Barbara Stiltner, Jonathan Kriegel, and Ray Marshall.

Thanks to Abbey's Coffee for continued support for all three projects! Note: Abbey's has been providing tasty, hot coffee for FENW's tail-gate breakfasts for many years now, helping volunteers wake up for a great day on the trails.

Message about Noxious Weeds

By Currie Craven

Last summer, FENW embarked on one of the most important ecosystem improvement projects in our history – our Noxious Weeds Mitigation Program. We partnered with the US Forest Service, Summit County Weed Program, local homeowners' associations, and have gratefully received the support of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The project to control invasive noxious weed species in Summit County's designated Wilderness areas is part of an overall, county-wide and Dillon Ranger District strategy to work collaboratively to identify species and locations of invasive noxious plants, and to develop and implement complementary programs to control this scientifically identified threat to Colorado's native ecosystem.

Noxious Weed Treatment Project Successful!

By Maryann Gaug

With a matching grant from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and donations from FENW members and local businesses and organizations, we started to eliminate weeds in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. FENW sent letters of interest to eight noxious weed abatement contractors who have experience treating noxious weeds using non-motorized means. Four contractors responded but only one, John Pickering of Weed Busters, bid on the job. John has been treating noxious weeds in the Flat Tops Wilderness for several years so he knows his stuff. FENW contracted with Weed Busters (John and his mules).

With U.S. Forest Service (USFS) guidance and approval, FENW requested the contractor to treat noxious weeds in four drainages in the Eagles Nest Wilderness. John started to work in mid-July and wrapped up in early August. Because the noxious weeds were not as thick as previously thought, treatment proceeded quickly and two additional drainages were added. Noxious weeds treated included Canada and musk thistle, oxeye daisy, and yellow toadflax. The USFS (Wayne Nelson and his crew) reviewed and approved John's work by checking for dead weeds.

Treatment Summary:

- Slate Creek - 29 places including 2.33 acres of Canada and musk thistle
- Pebble Creek - 10 places
- North Rock Creek - both sides of trail to Boss Mine
- Maryland Creek - 12 places
- North Tenmile Creek - 4 places
- Wheeler Lakes Trail - 3 places

John took GPS readings where he treated weeds. Maryann Gaug entered the coordinates onto topo maps using National Geographic TOPO! software. Maps with notes corresponding to John's reports were printed and given to the USFS, John, and kept in FENW's records. The USFS will enter the data in their GIS system as well. The noxious weed program helped identify that noxious weeds are low enough in quantity for possible eradication.



John Pickering, his faithful mules, and weed treatment rig.

Photo courtesy of John Pickering

Four volunteers, Maryann Gaug, Nancy Redner, Bill Reed, and John Taylor kept an eye out for noxious weeds and turned in reports to the USFS. GPS coordinates for some of these areas have also been entered in TOPO! for use in this summer's weed treatment.

Noxious weed treatment will continue for the foreseeable future. Most weeds require at least three consecutive years of treatment to be knocked out.

Thanks to Jim and Sue Anthony, Rosemary Archangel and Ellen Sappington, Beth Boyst, Keith Brown, Currie Craven, Maryann Gaug, William Greene, Cyndi Koop, Dave and Jan Lace, Steve and Pat Larson, Frank Lilly, George and Kathryn Resseguie, Laura Rossetter, Barbara and Irv Strauss, and Doug and Pat Tormey for their donations. Thanks also to Summit County Weed Program, Cortina Property Owner's Association, Buffalo Mountain Metro District, Neils Lunceford, Inc., Friends of the Lower Blue River, and Arapaho Basin Employee Environmental Fund/Arapaho Basin Ski Area for helping match the National Forest Foundation grant.

Helping the Dillon Ranger District

In May 2006, FENW will celebrate 12 years of helping the Dillon Ranger District (DRD) maintain about 30% of district-managed national forest lands. These Wilderness areas make up 25% of Summit County. All members and sponsors should be very proud of the work that we have accomplished over the years.

The noxious weed treatment program and the Volunteer Wilderness Steward program (rangers, campsite inventory, and noxious weed inventory) are actually helping DRD not only on the ground but also to achieve the Forest Service Chief's 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge.

The goal of the Chief's 10-Year Challenge is that within 10 years (by 2014), every Forest Service unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System will meet at least 6 of 10 stewardship elements. Currently, only 18 percent of the FS wilderness units meet minimum standard.

FENW is helping DRD meet three the elements: Wilderness is successfully treated for noxious/invasive plants; Wilderness education plans are implemented; and Wilderness has completed recreation site inventory.

Ambitious Plans for 2006

FENW will continue the Volunteer Wilderness Steward Program again in 2006. Funds remaining from grants and donations in 2005 were carried over for this year's program. At the end of the season party, the attending people enthusiastically supported the program and said they'd return in 2006. They even asked for an additional half-day of training to learn and practice more!

Noxious weed treatment will take place in 2006 during July and then again in August. July is best for treating Canada thistle, musk thistle, and oxeye daisy. Yellow toadflax blooms in August. Weed Busters will return again to do in those villains and any persistent thistles and daises!

Our weed mitigation program will include re-treatment in Pebble Creek, Slate Creek, North Rock Creek, Maryland Creek, and North Tenmile. Inventory and weed treatment will be launched in Meadow Creek, along portions of the Gore Range Trails, the Three Peaks/Oxbow area, and Elliott Ridge.

All this work requires money and as always, our membership dues provide a significant level of support for our ongoing efforts. Thanks everyone for your continued interest, excitement, and passion for all things associated with the Wilderness.

John Fielder Fundraiser Planned

We are planning an FENW fundraising event with John Fielder in November at the Silverthorne Town Pavilion. We hope it will be as successful as the events hosted by the Continental Divide Land Trust in 2005 and by FENW in 2004. Fielder's work is very popular in Summit County and if the event is successful, we can expect it to provide excellent funding for our programs. John always brings books and calendars to sell at his benefits and our event will be just in time for Christmas and holiday shopping! He generously donates a hefty percentage of the proceeds to the benefitting organization. In 2004, FENW's Fielder slide show benefit netted \$3,000. Details on this fun fundraiser will be forthcoming in newsletters and other announcements.



Interaction with Other Groups/Meetings

During 2005, a key success has been functioning as a sponsoring organization for the newly formed Friends of Dillon Ranger District (FDRD). Many of our Wilderness-based programs are mirrored by FDRD in the other areas of Summit County, and there has been very positive feedback from the USFS and FDRD regarding our role in helping the FDRD get up and running.

FENW Website

Please visit our website at www.fenw.org for the latest information regarding major projects and other Wilderness-related information.

Volunteer Wilderness Steward Program

To recap what our VWS program is, here are a few highlights. People can volunteer to do one of three jobs in two categories or any combination. We request that each volunteer sign up for four days between June 12 and September 30 plus one training day, June 10.

Backcountry Rangers provide visitor education and awareness of the Wilderness resource while hiking various trails or during a backpacking trip. Volunteers will **not** provide regulation enforcement. Backcountry Rangers will wear authorized uniforms and name tags.

Field Monitors inventory campsites and other recreation sites within the Wilderness and/or inventory noxious weeds. No visitor contact is required in this position. No uniform will be provided or worn.

If you are interested in participating in the VWS Program and were not involved last year, an application is required. You can download one from www.fenw.org, click on volunteer opportunities, call Maryann at 970-468-6219, or pick up an application at the Dillon Ranger District Office in Silverthorne in the rack with other information about FENW.

FENW Brochure

By George Resseguie

Our latest FENW Brochure was completed this month and is available at the Dillon Ranger District Office, Wilderness Sports locations, Silverthorne Visitor Center, and the Frisco Visitor Center. Thanks to Maryann Gaug for her leadership and hard work in getting the Brochure completed, and to Kim Fenske for help in redesigning the Brochure layout. We encourage each of you share the Brochure with your friends; please contact any of the Board members if you would like additional copies.

Membership

We have over 100 individuals who are members, with most (80%) living in Summit County. The remainder are primarily from Colorado, but there are members from as far away as the East Coast.

Wilderness Posters for Sale

FENW is selling Colorado Wilderness 40th Anniversary posters, which include photos donated by John Fielder. Please contact any Board Member to buy a poster (\$15 each).

To see what one looks like, please check it out on our website, www.fenw.org, then click on Colorado 40th Wilderness Anniversary Posters for Sale - Fundraiser on the first page.

Contact either Maryann at 970-468-6219, maryann@fenw.org, or Jonathan at 970-262-2399 or jonathan@fenw.org to purchase one.

Welcome New and Renewing Members!

Since our last newsletter in May 2005, the following people have joined FENW! Thank you ever so much for your support of Wilderness!

Guff VanVooren, Ken Waugh, Sue & Howard Carver, Martin Eisenberg & Pan Herring, Dick & Margaret Marshall, Brian Duchinsky, Duane Stewart, Leigh Girvin, Cyndi Koop, Michael & Anne Rohr.

The following people have renewed their memberships:

Tom Aguirre, JoAnn C. Dufty, Joe Kramarsic, Sandy Mortensen, Dave Raymond, Marie E. Roberts, Steve & Laura Rossetter, Barbara Stiltner, John & Pat Taylor, Ed & Nancy Widmann, Beth Boyst & Phil Bowden, Irv & Barbara Strauss, William R. Greene, Bob & Fran Jones, Currie Craven, Dr. John Craven, Jim & Sue Anthony, Ellen Sappington & Rosemarie Archangel, Joel & Mern Bitler, Keith Brown, Patrick Dobey, Maryann Gaug, Vera Gesse, Kristin P. & John R. Howland, Ron James, C. Thomas & Mary Kisker, Sally Liu, Kurt Morscher, Jim & Mil Plant, Michael & Anne Rohr, Maxine and Martin Solomon, Dennis & Edith Taratus, Doug & Pat Tormey, Connie Tussel, Ernie & Barbara Werren, Friends of the Lower Blue River, Omni Real Estate Co. Anne Marie Ohly, Dave & Jan Lace, Doug & Judith Lane, John Roberts, Pat Spitzmiller, Sylvia Conway, Marjorie Kroeger, Steve & Pat Larson, Todd and Susan Robertson, Kim Fenske, John Miller, Laura & Roger Bohart, Lynzie Flynn, John & Connie McKeague, Allyn & Joyce Mosher, Rob & Debbie Nelson, Marshall Rutz, Bob & Martha Gani, Bill & Dee Simon, Kurt & Penny Steuer, Gordon Anderson, Stephen & Elisabeth Weseley, Bill & Marylee Adamson, Jonathan H. Kriegel, Leland Miller, George & Kathryn Resseguie, Karn Stiegelmeier, Larry and Mary Ellen Gilliland, Roger and Sue Paluska, and Peter Packard.

Apologies if we missed someone!

Thank you so much!

Your support helps us with trail projects, matching funds for grant proposals, newsletters, and lots of other projects!

Thank you for your support of FENW and the Wilderness areas we help maintain and preserve.

FENW Newsletter in Color

To see FENW's newsletter in full color, please log onto www.fenw.org, click on newsletters, then click on the one you'd like. It will download to your computer as a pdf file.

If you would prefer to not receive a paper newsletter, please email info@fenw.org and we'll add you to the list of people we notify when the newsletter is online. The email includes a hyperlink to the latest newsletter, so it's really easy!

Earth Day Event in April

Mark your calendars for the Earth Day Action Fair and Green Scene Awards on April 22 at the Silverthorne Pavilion.

FENW will have a booth there as will many other environmental groups. The High Country Conservation Center (formerly the Summit Recycling Project), the Blue River Group of the Sierra Club, the Continental Divide Land Trust, and the Blue River Watershed Group organize this fun and information-filled event.

For more information on the Green Scene Awards and to find out how you can nominate someone for one of the categories, please contact Carly Wier at recycle@colorado.net or call her at 970-668-5703.

In 2004, Currie Craven received the Wild Wilderness Wonder award, followed by Maryann Gaug in 2005.

Thank you to our Sponsors!

We decided to list FENW's many sponsors on our new brochure and to include the list here. Thank you for your great support! Without your help, we would have accomplished far less in our 12 years.

Abbey's Coffee
Arapahoe Basin Employee Environmental Fund/Arapahoe Basin Ski Area
Backcountry Brewery
Bayou Fund
Beaver Run Resort
BigHorn Materials, Inc.
Breckenridge Brewery
Buffalo Mountain Metro District
City Market Breckenridge
City Market Dillon
Colorado Mountain Club Foundation
Copy Copy
Cortina Property Owner's Association
Everist Materials, LLC
1st Bank Silverthorne
Friends of the Lower Blue River
J. Henry's
John Fielder/Westcliffe Publishers
Lenzmeier/Williams Advised Fund at the Summit Foundation
Merriman Family Foundation
Mountain Outfitters
Mt. Powell Ranch (Gary Land Co.)
National Forest Foundation (NFF)
Neils Lunceford, Inc.
Nobel-Sysco
Omni Real Estate
Pembroke Foundation
Safeway
Slate Creek Ranch
State Trails/Parks/GOCO
Summit County Government
Summit County Weed Program
The Summit Foundation
Town of Breckenridge
Town of Frisco
Town of Silverthorne
Wilderness Sports
Wildernest Property Management

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness
P.O. Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443-4504

Membership Expiration

Please note your membership expiration date located on your address label. Please use the membership form below to renew your membership. Please help us gain new members by passing this form along to friends and family.

Remember to send any email or address changes to FENW!

FENW Board of Directors

Currie Craven, Chairman/President, 453-9056
Jonathan Kriegel, VP, Travel Management Task Force, Trail chairperson, 262-2399
George Resseguie, Secretary, 513-6547
John Taylor, Treasurer, 262-5940
Maryann Gaug, lots of stuff, 468-6219
Kim Fenske, At-Large, 389-4436
Tom Jones, Sr., At-Large, 468-5463

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Membership Form

Yes! I want to join Friends and help preserve Summit County Wilderness. Sign me up at the:

- Trailhead level (\$10 per year)
- Buffalo Mountain level (\$20 per year)
- Cataract Lake level (\$30 per year)

- Red-Buffalo Pass level (\$50 per year)
- Eagles Nest level (\$100 per year)
- Mount Powell level (\$500 per year)

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Are you willing to work on volunteer projects? _____

Email Address: _____ I can best work weekdays weekends

Please mail your membership form to: Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness, PO Box 4504, Frisco, CO 80443-4504. Your dues are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. FENW is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For information, call 970-453-9056, 970-262-2399 or info@fenw.org. Check out our website: www.fenw.org.