

FENW Newsletter

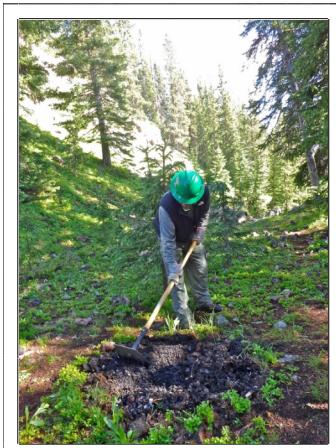
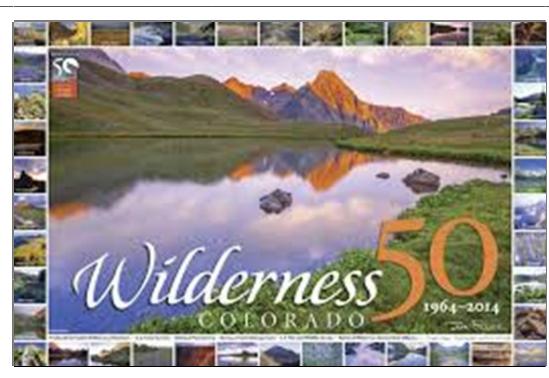
June 2015

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness www.fenw.org

Celebrating 50 Years of the Wilderness Act and 20 Years of FENW

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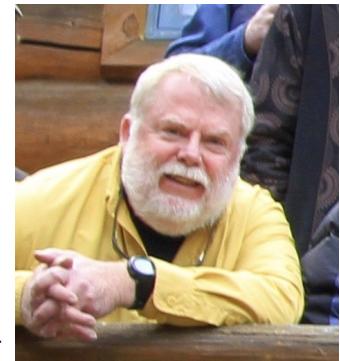
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Greetings from the President of the Board

The Board of Directors (BOD) of the Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness (FENW) would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of fine people and organizations for fantastic support given during the 2014 celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and FENW's 20 Anniversary. We shorthanded this auspicious time of celebration "50/20." In addition to the usual summer field season work of our Volunteer Wilderness Rangers and trail crew volunteers, whose efforts in 2014 we are even in more awe of and are grateful for, we gladly and wholeheartedly send thanks and offer public acclaim to the saints of the Summit. These profusions of gratitude bring glory and honor untold in the annals of public land stewardship. Please join us in recognizing and, in the case of our esteemed business partners, patronizing our fine supporters.

The Town of Silverthorne generously allowed the use of the outstanding community facility, the Silverthorne Pavilion, for John Fielder's moving visual tour of his wilderness travels and advocacy. Abby's Coffee in Frisco has been a steadfast supporter of our work throughout the years and kept us in the best coffee in the County. Arapahoe Basin continues to amaze through their match to employee giving which has generously supported FENW programs through the years; The Legend continues to rise above all in community commitment and support. The universally acknowledged legend of community based nonprofit giving, The Summit Foundation, has been a consistent supporter and is a huge part of FENW's success. We are deeply grateful to and make special acknowledgement of our longtime friend and continued inspiration, Lee Zimmerman, on his retirement. Lee will always be a special Friend of the Eagles Nest Wilderness. A very special "thank you" goes out to Andy Jessen of Bonfire Brewing for producing that quintessential need of wilderness volunteers, *beer*. The BeWildeRed Ale really made a big splash with tired trail crew volunteers, footsore volunteer wilderness rangers and Board members. Bonfire donated a hefty portion of profits to FENW of the sales of this special brew, making it truly the "beer that gives."



We could not continue this litany of thanks without special mention to dedicated humans. The heart and soul of any volunteer organization is the volunteers! The FENW Board, we all being volunteers, commends most sincerely all who have given so unselfishly of their time, talents, energy and leadership. FENW could not function without BOD members George Ressegue, John Taylor, Frank Gutmann, Bill Reed, Ken Harper, Mike Mayer, Cyndi Koop, new and enthusiastic BOD member (and our new web master) Bill Betz. We also thank former BOD members and volunteers extraordinaire, Marilyn and Dave Raymond, Maryann Gaug and far too many others to list. A special Board member, Rick Warren, whose passing we mourned last year, is in our thoughts and prayers, along with his wife, Helen Barker.

Equally dedicated are the official guardians of the land, the folks in green, the inspirational Americans of the Dillon Ranger District (DRD), so ably led previously by Jan Cutts, and now the newly appointed District Ranger William Jackson. Staff members Cindy Ebbert, Ken Waugh, Aubrey Miller and Tyler Kirkpatrick among others are deserving of deep gratitude for their dedication, passion and patience for keeping volunteers organized and most importantly, safe. From our "other" side, the incomparable Sam Massman and Carol Rodriguez of the Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District under District Ranger (and former Wilderness Ranger) Dave Neely worked countless hours helping and organizing 50/20 celebrations in our other area of operation.

Our local USFS Wilderness staff, under the guidance of Cindy Ebbert, brought us in 2014 the insights of Colorado State University Professor Richard Knight in a fascinating presentation on the life of Aldo Leopold, acknowledged as the father of Wilderness.

Our local 50/20 celebration in late August 2014 was truly the icing on the birthday cake. John Fielder's inspiring photo tour of Wilderness near and far, accompanied by his passionate testimonial moved all who attended to a commitment to make the next 50 years of Wilderness stewardship and advocacy an inspiration to those who will follow in our footsteps. We are forever grateful to John, Colorado's greatest living spokesman for conservation, for being an unwavering friend of the Eagles Nest Wilderness who encourages us to climb ever higher and see with greater clarity the unending beauty of our natural world.

I have only these meager words to express what is in my heart forever, unending gratitude to all mentioned and not mentioned but not overlooked, who have made 50/20, Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness and the National Wilderness Preservation System the shining success of conservation worldwide.

John Currie Craven
President of the Board of Directors, FENW

Trailmaster's Column

2014 Trail Projects

Our 2014 trail maintenance program was slightly abbreviated to accommodate the special events surrounding our season-long 50/20 celebrations. We joined FDRD again in June to sponsor and participate in the National Trails Day (NTD) project on the Frisco Peninsula, where a new trail is being built along higher ground to replace the damaged Shoreline Trail. Building new trail is tough work — think tree-root removal — but the many hands that pitched in enabled us to make great progress. Because NTD is in early June, these projects are limited to lower, non-wilderness trails. Our wilderness trails tend to still be snow-covered at that time.

We did do a traditional FENW gateways project again this year. Seven volunteers and our two FS interns joined forces on 21 June to clear trees and repair extensive drainage problems on the lower reaches of the Meadow Creek Trail. The heavy snows and late melt had the trail turned into running streams in several locations and it took some serious mucking about in the mud to get the water off the trails. Our intrepid FENW volunteers rose to the occasion though, and we showed the newbie interns a thing or two about what determined volunteers can accomplish. Thanks to the usual suspects (Sue and Roy Carlson, Joel and Mern Bitler, Shirley Beaty and Frank Gutmann).

Another trail project tradition continued with the pack-in crew on the weekend of 11 July. Our original plan to work at Lost Lake was thwarted by snow but we were able to camp and work at Wheeler Lakes and accomplish a great deal there. We removed 15 illegal campsites, some of which were the most egregious examples of flagrant disregard for wilderness ethics (much less regulations) that we've had the displeasure to erase. But erase we did... while also cleaning and building water-bars and drains along a mile of trail above the lakes.

FENW trail volunteers never let the hard work or discouraging damage get in the way of having a good time though. A bit of rain didn't dampen spirits either, especially when it produced a double rainbow for our gawking pleasure (see page 1). For the first time this year, Gore Range Outfitters packed in our heavy camping gear in addition to the tools and liquid refreshments. Several volunteers took advantage to add luxuries like chairs to their camping gear and the lighter backpack loads were appreciated by all.

Thanks to Sue and Roy Carlson, Frank and Mary Gutmann, Tom Meads, Bob Barr, John Taylor and Suzanne Reed for their hard work and great company. Special thanks are also due to Gore Range Outfitters for their continuing support of our pack-in program.

2015 Trail Projects

- **SAT 06 JUN: National Trails Day.** Location TBD. We will join forces with our friends at FDRD and Summit Fat Tire to work on one of our lower altitude trails and celebrate our public lands heritage. A light breakfast and lunch will be served.
- **SAT 27 JUN, 0800-1400 h: Gateways Maintenance Project.** Location TBD. We will select one or more trails needing early season work to manage run-off and repair damage. We'll also clean water bars and drains and may do some signage work. We gather at the DRD office to carpool to trailheads. **THE FENW ANNUAL MEETING** and a picnic will follow immediately after completing this trail work project.
- **SAT 11 JUL: Ranger Trail-head Day** in conjunction with FDRD
- **17-19 JUL: Lost Lake Pack-in Project** Trail repairs, drainage improvements and camp site remediation.
- **11-13 SEP: Boulder Lake Pack-in Project:** Trail drainage improvements, camp site removals and impact remediation.

To perform badly-needed maintenance in areas too deep into the wilderness to reach on single-days projects, FENW initiated its pack-in projects several years ago. In 2015, we are expanding the program and conducting two *pack-in* projects in JUL & SEP. We hike to a campsite on FRI, do our trail work on SAT and hike back out on SUN. All of our tools, heavier camping gear and common liquid refreshments and snacks are packed in by horseback. Volunteers supply their own camping gear and meals. Bring your fishing gear. This is too much fun to be considered work. RESERVE YOUR SPACE EARLY.

Bill Reed



Wheeler Lakes Pack-in Trail Maintenance and Illegal Campfire Cleanup, July 2014

Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Co-Coordinators' Column

Thanks to all our wonderful, passionate rangers for all the questions you answered, sun screen you shared, directions you helped with and above all for your welcoming smile that made each visitor's day. You are an amazing group of people who are sharing your passion with others. Together I hope we can influence people to see that our wilderness is a protected treasure for generations future .

We had a very special summer celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Part of this celebration included guided hikes at Cataract Lake where our rangers took groups of visitors around the lake explaining the history of this special area. Cataract Lake was once privately owned and it was a goal of the Forest Service to include it into the Eagles Nest Wilderness. On August 9th, Wilderness 50th Volunteer Day, Bill Reed organized several trail projects, pairing rangers from FENW and Friends of the Dillon Ranger District at each wilderness trail head. The rangers greeted all visitors to the wilderness and recruited some new volunteer rangers in the process.

I hope all of you had a chance to come to the John Fielder Slide Show last August. It was an inspiring and moving slide show of our Nation's Wilderness. After the show, which was sponsored by FENW with a generous grant from the Town of Silverthorne, there were several people who were interested in becoming a volunteer ranger.

Summit and Eagle Counties Volunteer Stats

Volunteer hrs*	914
Miles hiked	894
Visitors encountered	6,349
Illegal campsites	28
Illegal fire rings	60
Dogs on leash	594
Dogs off leash	133

*USFS calculates volunteer hrs at \$20.50/hr; FENW program contribution was \$18,737 in 2014.

One problem I have is most of the people who were very excited about joining the program do not return to Summit County until June. Therefore, we are going to move the training date for new rangers to 13 JUN '15 in Minturn 0900-1600h to hopefully include these people. Do mention this change to any friends that are interested in our program; see our new website at www.fenw.org for specific address. Deadline to register is 29 MAY '15.

Once again we were fortunate to be able to have our volunteer thank you celebration at Jay's Cabin on Shrine Pass, thanks to the generosity of Chuck Ogilby.

I would also like to recognize Warren Hancock, who helped us with the website last year and compiled our spread sheet results for many, many years. We have several people who work very hard to make sure this program goes off every year, thanks to Ken, Pam, Mike, Currie, Jason, Bill, Frank, Mary and George. For the last two years, we have been striving toward making it easier for rangers to hike both sides of the Eagles Nest Wilderness, regardless of the county they are in. Results include volunteers from both counties.

Cyndi Koop & Ken Harper

Noxious Weeds Specialist Column

FENW Noxious Weed Program in Transition

FENW's Noxious Weed Program was kicked off in 2006 by Mary Ann Gaug. Since that time, The FENW has received grants in the amount of \$90,549 from the National Forest Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to fight noxious weeds in the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Wilderness Areas and adjoining National Forests. Volunteers put in 5,858 hours to support these grants. Together this amounted to a staggering \$202,309 equivalent dedicated to fighting noxious weeds. During this time, two full-time DRD rangers were dedicated to this task but were soon cut to one. 2012 saw the last noxious weed dedicated USFS Ranger in Summit County.

Fast forward to 2014 when DRD was promised by the East Zone USFS weed technician to receive 58 work days but in actuality only received 23. Backpack volunteers John Taylor, Frank Gutmann, Gerry Peterson and John Miller hit a high of 240 spray hours in 2012, placing most of their emphasis on trail heads and heavily used vistas to retard the spread of these noxious devils from gaining access to our precious wilderness area. We saw success, though slow in a number of areas. *Where do we go from here? HELP!*

- We desperately need at least one dedicated Summit County USFS ranger back.
- Going forward, our faithful backpackers are all in their 70s and the heavy packs are less of an option. We need new, energetic bodies to take up this important charge.
- Whereas volunteer rangers find noxious weeds in their travels and report species and coordinates, there is no process to follow up and treat these new invasive infestations. Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) is the key to an effective noxious weed control program. What starts out as a plant or two before long ends up being an infestation of an entire meadow of oxeye daisy, musk, Canada thistle or yellow toadflax. Case in point, one healthy musk plant can produce 20,000 seeds that may remain viable for up to 10 years.

Would rangers and volunteers properly trained and given a small spray bottle of herbicide be a viable option?
Let's see if we can promote this idea for 2015.



Noxious weed sprayer

John Taylor



FENW 2015 ANNUAL DUES CAMPAIGN

Membership Levels

Please register me for the following membership level (check one level)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUFFALO \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> PINEY LAKE \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CATARACT LAKE 60.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> GORE TRAIL \$80.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EAGLES NEST \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> BOOTH CREEK \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MT. POWELL \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER \$_____ |



I would also like to help with:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Weed Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ranger Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (_____) |

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

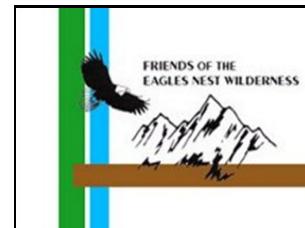
CITY: _____ STATE, ZIP: _____

LOCAL ADDRESS (if different): _____

CITY: _____ STATE, ZIP: _____

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E-MAIL: _____



**FENW
PO Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443**

Please check box below if you would like us *not* to mention your contribution in a future newsletter.

- PLEASE DO NOT PUBLICIZE MY DONATION

Please tear off this page and mail with your check, payable to FENW, to the address above. Or, use PAYPAL payment option on the FENW.org website.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Thank you for your continuing support

We are continually grateful for the generous support you give FENW. Your contributions are used for the purchase of tools, supplies and other items used in the work of maintaining Wilderness trails. Money received is leveraged by matching grants which FENW uses for weed mitigation, trail signage and other trail maintenance projects.

100% of your contribution goes for the improvements of the wilderness. There are no salaries. All work is accomplished by volunteers.

New members are sorely needed both as Volunteers and contributors to insure that the work of FENW continues. Please recommend FENW to your friends.

Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP DONORS MAY 2014 – MAY 2015

Rosemary Archangel &	Leland Miller
Vera Sapington	Kurt Morscher
Robert Barrows*	Richard & Marta Nelson
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Joan Hutchinson & Stan Wagon	Gene & Becky Tomlinson
Dave & Cyndi Koop	Ken Waugh
Joe Kramarsic	Peter & Anita Welles
Jonathan & Jacqui Kriegel	Ernie & Barbara Werren
Dave & Jan Lace	Stephen & Elisabeth Weseley
Sally Liu	Hans & MJ Wurster
Mike Mayerer	 *New Members
John & Constance McKeague	(We apologize for omitting any names.)

Grant Donors

The Summit Foundation
 National Forest Foundation
 NFF/Ski Area Conservation Fund
 Summit County Weed Program
 A-Basin Employee Environmental Fund*
 Black Hills Parks & Rec Fund (USFS)
 Colorado State Trails/GOCO
 Larry Thomas Memorial Fund
 Pulling for Colorado (P4C)
 Rick Warren & Jake Oster Memorial Fund
 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Town of Breckenridge
 Town of Dillon
 Town of Frisco
 Town of Silverthorne

*Thanks to A-Basin COO Alan Henceroth and the 40+ contributors to the Fund for their generous donations for the 15th year in a row! We greatly appreciate their generous support (almost \$17,000 to date).

Business Donors

Abbey's Coffee
 All Seasons Catering
 Backcountry Brewery
 Beaver Run Resort
 Bonfire Brewery
 Breckenridge Brewery
 City Market
 Copy Copy
 Dillon Ranger District Staff
 Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District Staff
 Eagles Nest Property Homeowners Assoc.
 Friends of the Dillon Ranger District
 Friends of the Lower Blue
 Gore Range Mountain Outfitters
 Infinite Scope
 Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
 John Fielder/Westcliff Publishing
 Key to the Rockies
 Keystone Center
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 KSMT the Mountain
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 South Maryland Creek Ranch
 Subway
 Summit County Government
 Summit Daily News
 TRAFx Research, LTD
 Kenosha Steak House (Breckenridge)
 Kroger/City Market Community Rewards
 Shell Oil Company (matching)

Board Members

President:	John Currie Craven
Secretary/Treasurer:	George Resseguie
Members:	Frank Gutmann Mike Mayer
Trailmaster	Bill Reed
Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Coordinators:	Cyndi Koop Ken Harper
Noxious Weeds Specialist:	John Taylor
Webmaster:	Bill Betz

Contact Information

Mail: FENW
PO Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443

Website: www.fenw.org
QR Code (scan with iPhone)



Financial Report



The FENW financial position continues to be excellent. We ended 2014 with a cash balance of \$30,861. In 2015, we forecast spending will exceed the budget by about \$7,000 and leave us with a balance of \$24,000 at the end of 2015.

George Resseguie

Newsletter Editors' Column

- We apologize for not issuing an end of 2014 FENW Newsletter.
- Many thanks to the members of the Board of Directors (BOD) for their contributions. We welcome contributions to the Newsletter from members who are not on the BOD. Please share with other members any thoughts you have on how to enlarge our membership (especially some with young, strong backs), expand our mission or enrich members' and non-members' wilderness experience.
- We've run into some unexpected hurdles regarding construction of the Warren-Oster Memorial kiosk; please be patient.
- Remember to register your city Market Value Card again in 2015. In 2015, City Market will once again make a significant contribution to area non-profit organizations. The program allocates funds (rebates) to the organizations based on purchases made using the City Market Value Card. Organization members must go online at www.citymarket.com to register their Value Card and link your card to FENW's organization name and/or registration number – **46910**. Individual purchases will begin counting towards FENW's rewards allocation without compromising your earned fuel points. Allocations are determined each quarter based on total purchases among all participating and eligible organizations. *Each card holder may only sign up for one tax exempt organization.* We encourage each of our members to participate in this program in 2015 by selecting FENW.
- There is still a generous supply of 50th Anniversary Fielder Posters, Celebrating 50 Years of the Wilderness Act, on sale for \$5.00, which is less than our cost, at the USFS DRD station; please consider purchasing one of these beautiful posters at a bargain price.
- We have or will present framed and John Fielder autographed copies of the foregoing posters to the Town of Silverthorne, A-Basin, Abby's Coffee in Frisco and Bonfire Brewery for their special support of FENW.
- You can view the Newsletter in full color and enlarge the text on our new FENW website at www.fenw.org created by our new BOD member and website wizard Bill Betz.

Frank & Mary Gutmann

FENW
PO Box 4504
Frisco, CO 80443

Upcoming 2015 Trail Projects

SAT 06 JUN: National Trails Day in conjunction with FDRD

SAT 27 JUN, 0800-1400 h: Gateways Maintenance Project. THE FENW ANNUAL MEETING and a picnic immediately afterward

SAT 11 JUL: Ranger Trail-head Day in conjunction with FDRD

17-19 JUL: Lost Lake *Pack-in* Project

11-13 SEP: Boulder Lake *Pack-in* Project

To sign up, contact Bill Reed at 970.513.9741
or wwr412@comcast.net