

## EAGLE POST 32

The newsletter of **Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness**, apprising you of important activities in and around Eagles Nest, Holy Cross, and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas.



January 2019

Dear \*|FNAME|\*

Greetings! Our topic this month is **Leadership turnover at FENW**

Bill Betz is President in 2019, while Tim Drescher (President in 2018) becomes Past-President

### INTRODUCTION

Nearly two years ago, the FENW Board of Directors voted to change the term of the FENW president to just *one year*. Some expressed concern that one year was too short, that leaders need more time to make their mark. The counter argument - that a three year series of President-elect --> President --> Past President would provide the needed continuity - prevailed as the Board voted unanimously in favor of the change. The process was set in motion a year ago, when Tim Drescher succeeded co-founder and longtime President Currie Craven. Bill Betz was named President-Elect.

Now the process has racheted a notch as Bill replaces Tim for 2019.

Below, read their reports - Bill's hopes for 2019, and Tim's review of accomplishments in 2018.

### BILL BETZ

#### FENW President 2019

I joined FENW about five years ago as I neared retirement. Raw guilt provided the *push*: having frequented the Gores for decades, saying my silent thanks as I cruised along trails cleared of deadfalls and enjoyed lakeside campsites free of fire rings, I decided it was payback time. What I didn't realize at the time was that there existed an even stronger *pull*: the great joy that came from the fellowship of new friends of all



ages who share a passion for wilderness, its protection and preservation. Today, a little residual guilt still persists, reflecting my net gain - no matter how hard I try, I keep receiving more than I've given back. My gratitude runs deep.

I've worked on several different projects and I feel that I understand the workings of FENW in considerable detail. I am an experienced Volunteer Wilderness Ranger, and I've been on a number of trail maintenance & campsite rehab trips. I rejuvenated our website and rebooted our biannual hard copy newsletter, and I'm the editor of our monthly eNewsletter (you are reading number 32). I led successful efforts to create an archive, update our bylaws, and establish our Endowment Fund. I also screwed up, trying in my enthusiasm to organize an [event](#) that we were just too small to undertake effectively. The effort was summed up succinctly by a board member and friend who said simply, "We don't do Mardi Gras."

He was correct.

As we begin 2019, our signature boots-on-the-ground programs are doing well. It's our boots-OFF-the-ground projects that present a challenge – planning and staffing events (including a celebration of our 25th year), keeping track of stuff, nurturing our endowment, creating an Advisory Board. It's not that we want to put on a Mardi Gras, but we do want to expand our committee structure. Remember the pull: if you join us, you'll get back more than you invest, I promise. Begin by attending a monthly planning meeting (second Thursday, 5:30 PM). We'll feed you, and you'll see in action our mantra of "have fun, no drama." You might even decide to join the happy melee.

Of course, we won't be neglecting work in the forest. We're reviewing our Volunteer Wilderness Ranger program (led by Mike Mayrer and Ken Harper); last summer more than 50 rangers contacted more than 10,000 hikers. That's a lot, but it's less than 10% of the total. We also will consider starting a *winter* VWR program. Our Trail Maintenance program (led by Trail Boss Kate DeMorest) augments the hard work by Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps rangers. And our renewed Noxious Weed program (led by Jim Alexander) is set to launch in 2019.

Our work has never been more important. The Forest Service, that wonderful agency with an awesomely broad charge, a ginormous amount of acreage to look after, and a pitifully scanty federal budget (and *none* as I write: our FS advisors Cindy Ebbert (Dillon RD) and Mike Beach (Eagle/Holy Cross RD) are furloughed, due to the government shutdown) needs us more than ever.

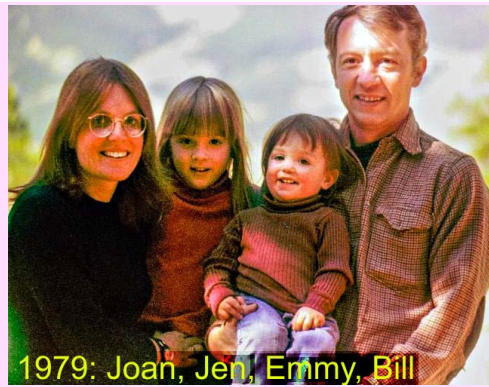
### **ABOUT BILL BETZ**

Bill and his wife Joan moved to Colorado in 1971, joining the faculty at CU Medical School as basic scientists (neuroscience and molecular biology, respectively). Today

they hold emeritus status, and still do a little teaching.

In 1973 they bought a rustic - no, *primitive* - log cabin on Pebble Creek on the east side of the Gore Range. Little did they guess that the cabin would so shape their lives - for

example, it was the subject of college and medical school essays by their two daughters. It remains a focus of their lives, and they delight in seeing their four grandchildren discover the joys of Nature like their children did. As FENW begins its second quarter-century of service, Joan and Bill begin their third quarter-century of marriage.

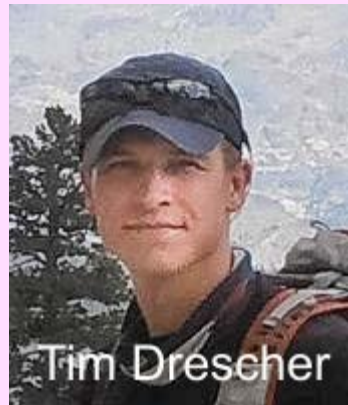


1979: Joan, Jen, Emmy, Bill

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### **TIM DRESCHER** **FENW President 2018**

It has been an honor to serve as FENW President over the past year. Twenty-Eighteen served as the first year in more than two decades since our organization has had a new President. Currie Craven passed the torch to me just over a year ago, and I've enjoyed leading FENW into year twenty-five. That's right! - 2019 marks Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness's 25th Anniversary. We plan to commemorate this year in a few different ways, so keep your eyes and ears out for the details. There have been many accomplishments in the past year; I've decided to list some of the biggies:



- New Board Members: Jim Alexander, Laurie Alexander & Mike Browning. The board continues to revisit and review our bylaws in order to update and refresh guiding policies.
- Received a grant from the Summit Foundation that went towards the cost of hiring Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to clear hundreds of deadfall from the Gore Range trail in Summit County
- FENW paid for the rental of two Llamas that the USFS in Minturn was able to use on work trips into designated Wilderness throughout this past summer. The feedback that we received for covering this cost to the Forest Service was tremendous, and we plan to do the same for 2019.
- Eight different FENW-sponsored summer work projects completed, including two overnight trips with the llamas
- Cross-cut saw sharpening cost covered and completed for Volunteer Wilderness Rangers and the USFS
- March FENW Board and Leadership team retreat & workshop which resulted in a number of streamlining processes and action items for improvement
- Production of two hardcopy newsletters that were mailed out to about 250

core supporters and donors.

- Revitalization of the FENW noxious weed program
- Creation of the FENW Endowment Fund through the Summit Foundation, and a beginning gift of 20K to help establish it. There are now different options of donating to FENW: traditional (to the general operating budget), bequest & endowment.
- The number of active Volunteer Wilderness Rangers is at an all-time high, and we contacted over 10,000 Wilderness visitors last summer
- Colorado Gives contributions totaling \$2400
- Our monthly email newsletter now reaches over 900 individual mail boxes
- We held a fun Volunteer Wilderness Ranger "Thank you" party at the Vail Pass huts to look back at our accomplishments over the past summer, and to recognize our terrific volunteers

Business Sponsor SPOTLIGHT on  ELITE THERAPEUTICS  one of our two major business sponsors. Developed by an oncologist for post-radiation skin therapy, [Elite](#) products provide soothing anti-aging benefits that are of special use in our intense, high altitude sunshine. Supplier to  Support ELITE - support FENW.

Make a donation to FENW....



... make a difference!

Join us in 2019 - There are many ways to take part!  
Our **2018 Trail & Campsite Projects**, led by Trail Boss Kate DeMorest, took us to Slate Lakes, Piney Lake, Salt Lick Trail, Gore Creek, Deluge Lake, and more. We were greatly aided by two very special friends - Dom and Powell - LLAMAS! Join us in 2019 - learn more [HERE](#).

**Volunteer Wilderness Rangers** met more than 10,000 wilderness visitors in 2018. Become a VWR in 2019 - training will be held on **Saturday, June 8**. Learn more [here](#).

**Join us!** for our next **Planning Meeting**  
THURSDAY, January 10, 5:30 PM,  
Copper Mountain Chapel ([MAP](#)) and

Follow us



Our Fall 2018 **hard copy newsletter** is available.

It contains two dozen fun and informative articles, all of them about FENW - past, present, and future. If you haven't received your copy, then *we don't have your mailing address* - please send it to us at [info@fenw.org](mailto:info@fenw.org) .

[Recent monthly eNewsletters](#)

CITY MARKET COMMUNITY  
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Please [register](#) your City Market Value Card, linking it to FENW, which will

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Details at [www.fenw.org/](http://www.fenw.org/)

send rebates to FENW without compromising your earned fuel points. Please note that each card holder may only sign up for one tax exempt organization. **THANKS!**



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