

Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses



All Hands Day Trail Crew May 18th

June Newsletter 2022

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Note from the Chair *By Peter Vrolijk*



Make the Commitment to Volunteer

This past weekend I volunteered for a trail race in Logan, UT. I was supposed to have run this race, but a sprained ankle injury prevented me from participating. I decided to volunteer to check in runners, arriving at 4:50 am, and help record finishers' times throughout the late morning and afternoon. At the end of the day, I realized the deep satisfaction I felt for my efforts and the enjoyment of working with the other volunteers. Even though I would have preferred to have been running on Saturday, my volunteer efforts came a close second-best. This always surprises me, even though it shouldn't.



Mount Evans beckons us from our neighborhood vantage point

My purpose in telling this story is that it is all too easy to let the everyday grind of activities hinder us from showing up as a volunteer. It is hard to recollect the deep feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction that comes from a day's effort. I wish that I had the key to recalling this feeling as a motivation – if anyone knows it, please share it with the rest of us. Instead, I rely on the knowledge that it is the right thing to do. What motivates you to volunteer your time and effort?

Please consider the variety of volunteer opportunities available over the next 3 months ([Project Calendar](#)) There are opportunities for all levels of activities, from the hard work of repairing the Abyss Lake trail to the mentally stimulating work of engaging trail visitors at trailheads. Invasive plant projects involve carrying and using a spray pack but also need people to seek out every invasive plant. Trail patrols favor those of us who relish solitude, even if it sometimes involves engaging other trail users.

Rekindle that feeling of success that comes from a good day as a volunteer. Make a difference for Wilderness and for your own peace of mind. I look forward to seeing you out on a project.

- Peter

Survey123 Glitches

Ralph Bradt

With the most recent updates to Survey123, there have been a couple problems with saving answers as “Favorite answers”.

The first problem is now fixed, but a second problem is occurring sporadically and doesn't seem to affect the data from everyone. Some data that hasn't been saved as “Favorite answers” seems to be getting pasted or written into unrelated data records. I'll be working with the company about this problem, but I'd like your help in trying to track it down.

My suggestion is to delete all your saved drafts before you save any new “Favorite answers”. The drafts are where those answers are stored and perhaps something is getting unexpectedly remembered in those old drafts. Whether this is or isn't the case, it's probably a good practice to delete those old drafts and start fresh.

There hasn't been a problem prior to the recent updates but, as a refresher, here are the steps for saving answers:

1. On reaching the trailhead, open Survey123 and the survey tool and hit “Collect”.
2. Enter the Number in Group, Last Name, Other Members (if any), Wilderness, and Trail Name.
3. Tap the three lines at the upper right, and “Set as favorite answers”.
4. Tap the X at upper left to close the survey.
5. When you get the Close Survey screen, tap “Save in Drafts”.

You should be set to go! Now when you begin collecting a data point, tap the three lines at the upper right, and “Paste from favorite answers”, and your saved answers will be filled in.

Collected data has been really good and is valuable to us. So far this year, we've collected over 600 data points. The problem is not damaging the data you collect. I can and have been fixing it as data comes in, so keep it coming! Hopefully, the issue will be resolved soon.

Questions? Ralph Bradt - ralph@fomelc.org

2022 Wilderness Stewardship Online Training Program

New or interested in becoming a member with the Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness Organization? A great way to begin is with an online training program beginning now. Be ready to jump into projects to protect these two wildernesses this summer.

We offer this training to help make the volunteer experience more enjoyable and rewarding, both when working in teams and individually. The training modules consist of three basic components:

- Modules 1-3: Discussion on wilderness protection and how the federal law came into being
- Modules 4-6: There are many ways volunteers can contribute
- Modules 7-9: How to collect data for the forest service and patrol training hike

Register now for this self-paced training. Contact Dee dee@fomelc.org



Invasive



From the Weed Patch – Alan Rockwood

The field season begins! First up on June 15th was an in-the-field introduction to the tools and methods for eradicating noxious weeds from wilderness lands. You might say it was a “show and tell” for weed management. The session’s objective was to explain how volunteer organizations like FOMELC can safely and effectively work to eradicate noxious weeds. This involves combining the appropriate treatments for wilderness lands. When herbicides are to be used, how do we ensure that we apply the optimum amount of chemicals – too little allows the plant to survive, while too much can quickly “burn” the vegetation but does not kill the plant’s system. More is not always better! Participating volunteers were Gary Finley, James Hess, April Jones, Joe O’Leary, Brian Parsons, Alan Rockwood, Peter Vrolijk, and Loren Winters.



The “Weed Team” for Boulder and Clear Creek Ranger Districts, Cyrus Van Haitisma and Jake Milford, attended to assist in the discussion and lead demonstrations. During the season, the Forest Service Weed Team provides FOMELC volunteers technical support and works jointly with FOMELC volunteers on specific treatment projects. FOMELC provides the “Weed Team” detailed reports on the chemical and manual treatment projects conducted. Cyrus and Jake also emphasized how much they valued the efforts of FOMELC volunteers. They do not have the resources to treat the areas FOMELC manages.

Now is the time to commit to stewardship projects protecting and restoring natural wilderness habitats. Check out the schedule in SignUp: <https://fomelc.org/volunteer-signup>

“Why do I volunteer season after season?”

Deb Grass and John Kruse say:

Weed assassins... thistle slayers... hawkweed annihilators... toadflax terminators. Yup, that’s us. Why do we do it? One reason we love volunteering for FOMELC is the satisfaction of knowing that we are making a difference in the health of the wilderness. Another reason is that we work with a fantastic group of hardworking and dedicated people. And the third reason is the cool monikers we are all given...no, not really, I just made the last one up.





*Wyatt Stanland
Trails Coordinator*

Adopt-a-Trail Program

Abyss Lake Trail

Greetings from the trail! FOMELC continued up the Abyss Trail on June 18th performing exciting and vital trail maintenance! 12 volunteers installed or improved 12 drainage features including drain dips, water bars, and check steps, removed 2 man-made tipi structures, fixed multiple stretches of braided trail, removed an unsustainable fire ring, and built one log bridge over a creek crossing! A huge thank you to Keith Kuhlman, Michael Janis, Elizabeth Motley, Chris Sill, April Jones, Gregory Angstadt, Mallory Angstadt, Brian Parsons, Theresa Gilliland, Kirk Hilbelink, Ryan Tancin, and Doug Blaisdell for an excellent day of volunteering.



The Abyss Trail is a beautiful trail that starts in the southwest corner of the Mt. Evans Wilderness, passing through expansive aspen groves and alpine tundra before ending at the picturesque Abyss Lake. This year, we will host a work day on the Abyss Trail once a month from May through September, so lace up your boots and join us out there!



New Bridge!

June's Adopt-a-Trail day saw the successful creation of a beautiful log bridge across a creek. FOMELC will endeavor to provide interesting and varied projects like this on future Adopt-a-Trail days in addition to our usual, vital work installing drainage structures. With these larger structures, potentially including bridges, log work, campsite rehabilitation, and rock work, volunteers can grow their skill sets and feel pride in having created something beautiful that will bring delight to trail users.

Check out the full schedule on SignUp.com, where you can easily sign up for all of our exciting projects!

<https://fomelc.org/volunteer-signup>

As always, FOMELC and the Forest Service greatly benefit from trail patrol data collected in Survey 123 by our volunteers. There is lots of deadfall after the wet spring snow and high wind events early in the winter, so trail patrols will be especially vital this year for collecting data on the conditions of the wilderness trails. If you are new to trail patrols, contact wyatt@fomelc.org for more information on how to get started!

Pictures provided by Wyatt Stanland, Gordon Brown, Jim Shelton and Dee Lyons.



*Several mountain goats moving
through the trail*





Trailhead Safety Briefing



*Father Daughter Checkstep
Trail Crew – Gregory &
Mallory Angstadt*



Transporting prepared drainage log



End of Day BBQ for our amazing volunteers!



“Do I Need a Wilderness Use Permit?”

Gordon Brown – FOMELC Education



At every Lost Creek and Mount Evans Wilderness trailhead there is a kiosk that says **Permit Required**. Why does the US Forest Service ask you and your hiking members to complete one of these forms? Permits are free. They are used by the USFS to:

1. Record accurate traffic on trails
2. Set budget requirements for maintenance of trails
3. Monitor days hikes on trails
4. Monitor backpack hikers who hike overnight with expected destinations and camp locations
5. Report number of nights
6. Require hikers understand the laws, rules and regulations of hiking in a Wilderness area. Regulations are located on the back of the form
7. Read and understand **Leave No Trace** principles

Please take the time to complete the **“Wilderness Use Permit”** and deposit in the slot. Enjoy your hike, practice safe principles and enjoy being out in the Wilderness.



WILDERNESS USE PERMIT

- ONE PERSON FROM PARTY FILL OUT PERMIT
- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
- DEPOSIT BOTTOM PART IN REGISTER BOX

The purpose of this permit is to (1) obtain accurate Wilderness Visitor use data and (2) educate visitors. No fee is charged.

Party Leader Name and ZIP Code	
Name	zip code
I agree to abide by all laws, rules, and regulations which apply to this area and will do my best to see that everyone in our group does likewise.	
Signature	Date

For more information contact:

South Platte RD 10318 Goddard Ranch Court Montrose, CO 81403 (303) 275-5810	Clear Creek RD 101 Chicago Creek PO Box 3307 Idaho Springs, CO 80452 (303) 567-3000
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One person in party must have this upper portion of permit in possession during Wilderness visit.

Please tear here

Please deposit lower portion of this permit in slot below.

Home ZIP code		
Date Trip Begins	Date Trip Ends	
Point of Entry (Trailhead) BOGSALE	Point of Exit (Trailhead)	
Number of People	Number of Stacks	Number of Days
Expected Destinations and/or Camp Locations		# Nights (if any)

FOMELC Board Members

Chairman: Peter Vrolijk
peter@fomelc.org

Trail Projects Coordinator: Wyatt Stanland
wyatt@fomelc.org

Secretary: April Jones
april@fomelc.org

Membership Coordinator: Joe O'Leary
joe@fomelc.org

Web Information Tech Lead: Deb Grass
lildeb@fomelc.org

Noxious Weed Projects Coordinator: Alan Rockwood
alan@fomelc.org

Marketing/Education Team Lead: Gordon Brown
gordon@fomelc.org

Newsletter/Wilderness Training Program:
Dee Lyons dee@fomelc.org

Treasurer: Matt Komos
matt@fomelc.org

Forest Service Liaison: Ralph Bradt
ralph.bradt@usda.gov

FOMELC WEBSITE: <https://fomelc.org/>

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:

The safety of our community is our top priority, and we are committed to doing our part to limit the spread of COVID-19 (aka coronavirus). We are closely monitoring guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE), and how these might affect our programs. We are also coordinating with our US Forest Service partners to remain in compliance with their COVID-19 response guidelines. Stay Safe and Healthy!

FOMELC Mission Statement:

The Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses encompass 194,400 acres with over 170 miles of trails in Colorado's Pike and Arapaho National Forests.

We work in partnership with the US Forest Service, engaging in education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the wilderness character of these lands for current and future generations.



*Friends of Mt Evans & Lost Creek Wildernesses
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<https://fomelc.org/>

**Of all the paths you take in life,
make sure a few of them are dirt.**

- John Muir