

Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses



Cub Creek Trail, Mount Evans Wilderness, Photo by Peter Vroijk

March Newsletter 2022

- Page 1 Cub Creek Trail, Photo by Peter Vroijk
- Page 2 Note from the Chair – A New Year Beckons
- Page 3 Grant Received from Resale Boutique in Bailey
- Page 4 Invasive Weeds
- Page 5 Trails Program
- Page 6 FOMELC Volunteer Open Position
- Page 7 Training Opportunities
- Page 8 Member Volunteer Agreements, Wilderness Stewardship Training Program, April Zoom Meeting
- Page 9 Board Members and Mission Statement



Note from the Chair

By Peter Vrolijk

A New Year Beckons

As I write this note, two storms are forecast to each bring more than a foot of snow. In this context, it's hard to imagine that it's time to think about this year's field projects. However, the FOMELC Board has been working hard through the winter to develop summer activities that will better serve the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses, and over the next couple of months you will hear more about these plans.



A late February afternoon on the Cub Creek trail, just east of the Mount Evans Wilderness.



Joe O'Leary

One winter accomplishment is the addition of Joe O'Leary to the FOMELC Board as the Membership Coordinator.

Joe first volunteered last summer, and some of you met him on the Payne Creek trail maintenance work or on

weed projects. Fortunately, Joe has a demeanor that will allow him to harangue each of you to come out on projects this summer in such a way that you will want to do more.

This year we will undertake more projects in coordination with other volunteer organizations, like Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. To help make these projects successful, we will need more of our volunteers to step up and commit to becoming leaders of other volunteers. Our tracking and treatment of invasive plants is a vital, long-term commitment to Wilderness character. We have ambitious trail maintenance plans and will need volunteers to help make these efforts successful. We are developing ways to help assist the USFS in wilderness solitude monitoring efforts, helping collect data to gauge one of the most intangible and valuable aspects of wilderness. In addition, we are committing to a greater public education effort through trailhead host outings. These goals will be further described in the April zoom meeting (4/7) and in future newsletter articles so please stay tuned to learn how you can best contribute to FOMELC's goals.

Until then, stay warm, protect your back shoveling snow, and join us in becoming excited about the work ahead of us.

- Peter Vrolijk

UPDATE ON THE GRANT RECEIVED FROM PLATTE CANYON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (RESALE BOUTIQUE IN BAILEY)

GORDON BROWN

November 2021 was FOMELC's Month at the Platte Canyon Community Partnership (PCCP) (Resale Boutique). PCCP gives out grants each month to different organizations.

FOMELC received a grant in the amount of \$3350 from PCCP, the cute little, totally volunteer run Resale Boutique in Bailey. In return for being rewarded this grant, FOMELC was asked to volunteer our time and talent to help them help others.

During the month of November there were many opportunities to volunteer:

- At least once a week, volunteers made an ARC run to recycle items the boutique could not use.
- FOMELC volunteered in the shop 2-4 hours. There was always a friendly face to make one's stay fun.
- On Sunday, Oct. 31, volunteers worked a couple hours to haul out tubs of winter and Christmas items so the store could change over from their fall season décor.
- On Monday Nov. 1, volunteers worked a few hours to get the store ready for winter and the holidays.
- On Nov. 27th or 28th, volunteers hung lights on the outside of the building and decorated a live tree.



Special thanks to Dee Lyons, Deb Grass, Melanie Brown, Amy Brown, Amanda Brown, Charlotte Wytias, Alan Rockwood, John Kruse and Gordon Brown for their volunteer support to make this grant possible.

The Resale Boutique has become a proud supporter of FOMELC over the years. So make an effort to support the Resale Boutique when in the Bailey area - **60629 U.S.Highway 285.**



FOMELC Volunteers - Gordon Brown & Charlotte Wytias

Invasive



Alan Rockwood
FOMELC Invasive Species Specialist

From the Weed Patch

Spring has arrived! As I draft this article, we are in the midst of another moisture-giving spring snowstorm. It is an exciting time, as we plan and look forward to the rewards of summer projects. FOMELC's weed eradication program will, as in previous years, be a major focus of our stewardship activities. Through grants and other fund raising, we again will be able to hire contract weed managers to treat the five largest infestations. Our volunteers will treat another 25 infestations. The first treatment projects will begin in late June and continue into early September.



Orange Hawkweed

Before the first treatments, we will have an optional **training class** with weed specialists from the US Forest Service, Boulder Ranger District. It will cover calibration of our equipment, the herbicides used on wilderness lands and how to use them safely. This will be at the **Cub Creek Trailhead in mid-June.**

This season our weed program will work in partnership with Volunteer for Outdoor Colorado (VOC). We are beginning with 3 projects in Mount Evans Wilderness accessed from the Captain Mountain Trailhead. FOMELC has the expertise in weed management and crew leadership. VOC has a great pool of motivated volunteers interested in stewardship projects. We believe this has the potential to be a great partnership.



Yellow Toadflax

Look for a tentative schedule of weed projects in our April newsletter. Remember that nature is the final arbiter of the schedule - is it a cold wet start to the growing season or is it hot and dry. To get the best results we have to adapt to conditions in the field. As a teaser we will be installing our first "boot-brush" kiosk at the Goose Creek Trailhead, Lost Creek Wilderness on Saturday, May 21st. These kiosks are a great education tool and an effective means of reducing the spread of invasive weeds by hikers. Generous gifts in 2021 allowed us to purchase two kiosks to be installed at Goose Creek and Abyss Lake Trailheads. It will be a fun event - again look for the details next month.

- *Alan Rockwood*

Trails Program



*Wyatt Stanland
Trails Coordinator*

Welcome all to a new season on trails! As the snow begins to melt and the wilderness trails dry out for the season, we at the Trails Program are getting excited to get back outside and see what the trails look like after winter. Building upon last year's success on the Payne Creek Trail, FOMELC will be adopting the Abyss Trail for maintenance in 2022. The Abyss Trail is a beautiful trail that starts in the southwest corner of the Mount Evans Wilderness, passing through expansive aspen groves and alpine tundra before ending at the picturesque Abyss Lake. The Adopt-a-Trail program on the Payne



Creek Trail was a huge success last year, thanks to many wonderful volunteers who came out for one or more projects. 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!



As always, FOMELC and the Forest Service greatly benefit from trail patrol data collected in Survey123 by our volunteers. We are expecting 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 dee@fomelc.org or wyatt@fomelc.org for more information on how to get started!



New for 2022, the Trails Program at FOMELC is looking for a volunteer to lead the Trailhead Hosting Program (see page 6 for details). This position has the potential to become a major source of public outreach, education, and recruiting, and we are very excited to expand this program.

As you can see, there are many exciting happenings in the Trails Program in 2022 with many different ways to get involved. We can't wait to see you all out there this year!

- Wyatt Stanland



FOMELC Volunteer Open Position

Assistant Trail Projects Coordinator

The Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses is looking for a dedicated wilderness steward to become an Assistant Trail Projects Coordinator. The Assistant Trail Projects Coordinator will have the exciting opportunity to build and run a Trailhead Hosting program, which has the potential to be a significant source of public exposure and outreach for FOMELC. This position will also assist with organizing trail patrols, which are a primary source of trails upkeep and information for FOMELC and the Forest Service. Finally, the Assistant Trail Projects Coordinator will spread the love of wilderness to other users and will be a part of making the wilderness a special, inclusive, and welcoming space for all users!

Specific responsibilities include:

- Trailhead Host Program
 - Coordinate a Trailhead Hosting schedule for the year during the early spring, in collaboration with the trail and weed project specialists and managers.
 - Lead Trailhead Hosting events at wilderness trailheads to provide wilderness users with information about the specific trail, Leave No Trace, and the Wilderness 10 Essentials.
 - Communicate with members to organize volunteer sign-ups for Trailhead Hosting events. Draft Constant Contact communications and email individual members with information regarding each event.
- Assist with the organization of trail patrols
 - Use trail patrol data in Survey123 to inform Trailhead Host information, such as possible deadfall, trail maintenance issues, or recent wildlife sightings that users may encounter on the trail.

Perks of volunteering:

- Get to volunteer in a meaningful way in the wilderness areas that you love!
 - Work with passionate, dedicated volunteers and Forest Service Rangers to educate wilderness users and steward these special places.
- Room for growth into other aspects of wilderness stewardship that interest you
 - Access to wilderness skills training including Crosscut Saw training, Trail Crew Leader training, wilderness program knowledge sharing events, and more.

Interested? Please contact me. wyatt@fomelc.org

- Wyatt Standland

Training Opportunities for FOMELC Members

Trail Crew Leader and Invasive Weed Training

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact [wyatt@fomelc.org](mailto:w Wyatt@fomelc.org) for space availability and reimbursement information.

FOMELC is looking for enthusiastic volunteers who want to grow their wilderness stewardship knowledge and skills in 2022. There are a variety of exciting training programs that FOMELC members can take advantage of. **FOMELC will reimburse the cost of any approved training! Spots are limited and some courses fill up quickly!** We hope to see you all out there this year!

The Trails Program is looking for volunteers to become Trail Crew Leaders. As a Crew Leader, you will be able to lead and independently supervise a group of your own during official trail work days, while making informed and knowledge-based decisions about trail design. Of course, you will still be able to do a significant amount of work yourself! To volunteer as a Crew Leader, you will need to take the Crew Leadership for Trails training, and Introduction to Trail Design is highly encouraged.

There are two weekends offered this year for the Crew Leadership for Trails course: April 2-3 at Roxborough State Park in Littleton, and May 14-15 at the Mt Evans Outdoor Lab west of Evergreen.

<https://www.voc.org/event?data-id=22281>

<https://www.voc.org/event?data-id=22280>

There are two weekends offered this year for the Introduction to Trail Design course : May 21-22 at the Mt Evans Outdoor Lab west of Evergreen, and April 23-24 in Boulder.

<https://www.voc.org/event?data-id=22284>

<https://www.voc.org/event?data-id=22316>

The Weed Program is also looking for volunteers to grow their knowledge of invasive plant identification and treatment. FOMELC's Weed Program is one of the few of its kind in Colorado and is looking for volunteers that are passionate about becoming leaders on projects that foster healthy biodiversity in our wilderness areas.

Currently, the only course offered is Crew Leadership for Ecological Restoration on May 6-7 in Greeley. (There is an online portion Friday evening, followed by an in-person session on Saturday.)

<https://www.voc.org/event?data-id=22307>

Additionally, there are other courses offered that teach skills valuable to volunteer work with FOMELC, including First Aid and CPR certification through the American Red Cross.

The Crosscut Saw Training & Certification Workshop is offered June 18-19 in Buffalo Creek.

<https://www.voc.org/event?data-id=22328>

The Drainage Structures Overview and Trails Overview courses are both offered any time in self-paced online modules.

<https://www.voc.org/event?data-id=22001>

<https://www.voc.org/event?data-id=21994>

2022 MEMBERSHIP VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Attention Potential 2022 FOMELC Volunteers!

You must sign a new Master Volunteer Agreement each year.

Before your first volunteer event this season, please go here to sign up:

<https://fomelc.org/volunteer>

Get this signed now and you won't have to worry about it for the rest of the year.

Volunteers are our lifeblood. Thank you so much for volunteering!

Questions? Contact John Kruse john@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



April Zoom Meeting

Fun in the Sun: Preview of 2022 FOMELC Field Activities by Peter Vroijk. **April 7th.**
More to come, watch your email.

FOMELC Board Members

Chairman: Peter Vrolijk
peter@fomelc.org

Trail Projects Coordinator: Wyatt Stanland
wyatt@fomelc.org

Secretary: John Kruse
john@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
PO Box 3431
Evergreen, CO 80439

<https://fomelc.org/>



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

- John Muir