



Spring Newsletter 2005

Pondering the Peak

By Mary Burger

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Friends of the Peak. I have been asked to sum up our accomplishments, and quite frankly, I can't. While it doesn't feel like just yesterday, it sure doesn't seem like ten years ago that a group of concerned citizens got together at one of our city councilman's home to discuss what could be done to help our Pikes Peak. From that group of citizens, Friends of the Peak was formed. Since then, we have accomplished so very much that even a short overview would overrun the length of this letter. We have hosted 65 work days, and over 20 field trips, and educational activities. Perhaps we can get that overview together by the end of the year. We have lots of pictures and uncorrelated material. If we are doomed to repeat history if we do not study it, this is one history I would not mind repeating. It has been a good 10 years.

One could attempt to sum up the number of plants we have planted, the length of trail we have built, and repaired, etc. but that would not reveal what FOTP is about. The real story of Friends of the Peak is the story of people who care. It is

the story of the hundreds of volunteers who have participated over the years in study groups as well as in tundra restoration, sedimentation trapping, and trail building and restoration. These are the people who are FOTP. In some ways, whether they participated for a few hours or over several years, the

experience of being a good steward to the mountain has changed each person's life for the better. Regardless of how you show your love of the mountain, every person who reads this letter, loves that mountain. We all do our part to take care of it. WE are all friends of the peak.

See you on the mountain.

Save the Date!

Our annual meeting and volunteer recognition party will be October 22nd this year. This is a bit earlier than previous years, so hopefully the weather will cooperate. Mark your calendars now.



Learning about Pikes Peak

By Steve Jennings

For those of you who have been involved with FOTP, you may remember that we had educational fieldtrips sponsored by FOTP in combination with other organizations like the Colorado Springs Utilities. Those trips were designed to increase the enjoyment Pikes Peak through a better understanding and appreciation of Pikes Peak. Some FOTP members have asked whether or not we will have those opportunities again. The plan is to incorporate some educational program into the work days, but there is a catch. We need to have someone volunteer to do presentations. If you are interested let us know and we will arrange for you to give a presentation.

In a related note some of you may remember Curt Poulton who led FOTP trips to the South Slope. Curt died last November at the age of 73. He had a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and had written his thesis on water rights on Pikes Peak and taught at UCCS. Before entering academia Curt was an engineer. On his tombstone is inscribed the title "Geographer" and the words: "I regret that the only thing I found myself helpless to teach was curiosity – Oh, that, and the proper use of the apostrophe." He will be greatly missed for his wit and unfailing interest in the world around him.

Seasonal Closures

Just a note to remind everyone, some areas on the Ring the Peak Trail which cross through the North Slope Recreation Area, are closed in the winter. The City of Colorado Springs, (who owns and manages the area), believes the area near the reservoirs is

unsafe for travel during the winter months, and closes the area for this reason. It is not permissible to hike there when the area is closed. The closure dates vary somewhat each year, but are basically from October through May. Check the CSU website, or ask at the toll booth to ensure the area is open for use before hiking there.

In Memory of Guy de Chadenedes

September 2, 1929 – January 5, 2005

Guy was a true friend to many. He led a life of service to his family, and his community. He was a founding member of FOTP as well as leading the water crew at the summit for the Assent and Marathon for many years. He also was a referee for youth soccer leagues, and involved in Boy Scouts. For those of you who worked projects, you will remember him as the Guy who was always pushing more frozen éclairs on you, or making sure you got that free t-shirt, or generally making sure you were included in the festivities at the end of the day. Guy cared about people and the environment, and lived his life with those things as priorities. He will be missed.

The 2005 season is upon us.

Here is the schedule. To register go to fotp.com or complete the form at the end of the newsletter and return it by mail.

Bear Creek Trail repair,

(USFS666)

Alternate Thursdays starting June 2 through Sept. 22

This is my personal favorite activity, and currently, my favorite trail. Last year we

improved about the first ½ of the trail, installing steps, and drains and new stream crossings. This year we will continue the effort, repairing the trail surface to allow appropriate drainage and prevent further rutting. This year we hope to complete the rest of the trail to the intersection with USFS667.

Ring the Peak Trail construction

Saturday May 14, Sunday May 15, and Saturday June 18, and Sunday June 19, and Saturday August 27, and Sunday August 28 and Saturday September 17, if needed.

FOTP will continue in the effort to connect existent trails on Pikes Peak to form an urban access ring around the mountain. This year's efforts will focus on Putney Gulch Trail: the connection of USFS road #383, (Four Mile Road), to USFS 708, (Horsethief Park).

Each weekend project will offer participants the opportunity to camp at the base of the Putney Gulch Trail in the dispersed camping area of the Pikes Peak National Forest along Four Mile Road. This is the only opportunity to build new trail on Pikes Peak.

A trailhead sign will be installed thanking the volunteers and our sponsors, and a dedication ceremony will take place upon completion of the trail segment.

Barr Trail Workdays

Saturday July 2, and Sunday July 3, and Saturday August 6. and Sunday August 7, if needed

FOTP has worked with the Pikes Peak Trail Dogs in maintaining Barr Trail since 1997. The Trail Dogs have

subdivided the trail into ownership sections, and perform normal routine maintenance. This plan works well and will continue. In addition, this year, two areas have been identified to receive heavy maintenance. This work goes beyond the scope of the activities expected of the Trail Dog section leaders.

The first area to be addressed is below Barr camp. The trail holds water and is unnecessarily wet. Drainage structures will be installed. Volunteers on the July weekend may be allowed to camp overnight at Barr camp, or they may descend on Saturday evening. Access will be by four wheel drive vehicles up the utilities access route from highway 24. The size of this project will be limited. So sign up early to ensure your participation.

The area to be addressed in August lies above Barr Camp. Here, the trail is trenched and eroded due to rock intrusions into the corridor. Volunteers will clear the path and install drainage devices as required. Access to this work site may be via a special work train provided by the COG railway, (if we can arrange it), or via carpooling to the top of Pikes Peak Highway, and hiking down. This will require better than average physical condition for participation. Volunteers will be hiking a couple miles, and working about 11,000 feet.

Crags to Devil's Playground

Saturday July 23, Sunday July 24

The trail from the Crags Campground to Devil's Playground starts out as an old logging road. Just below tree line, it becomes a single-track trail. FOTP began maintenance on the historic route

four years ago. We have completed maintenance to the top of the old logging road. This year, we are planning to address the trail from the top, (Devil's Playground), down. We will offer an overnight camping event at the halfway picnic area along Pikes Peak Highway to encourage more volunteers to help us restore this route. Volunteers need not camp to work one or both days. The camping opportunity is exercised by only those who choose to work both days and spend an evening with other volunteers.

We will meet at the start of each day at the picnic area, and volunteers will car pool to the Devil's Playground area. Dinner Saturday evening and breakfast and lunch Sunday will be provided by FOTP. The work will consist of restoration of the current alignment as far down the trail, from Devil's Playground as we can complete. With sufficient volunteers, we may be able to reach the top of the chutes, where a future re-route is planned. This work has been planned for the past two years, and has been snowed off each time. This year we are planning the work for earlier in the season. So let's all hope the snow has melted by then.

Tools for Trails

“Adze Hoe”

by: Bob Johnson

The Adze/Adz Hoe, Grub Hoe, or Hazel Hoe are synonymous. This hoe is one of the oldest tools known to man. Early indications show that ancient worldwide civilizations of “hunter gatherers” slowly decreased their nomadic tendencies and began to settle into regions for domestic habitation. The celt, a smooth chisel-shaped tool head that formed either an

ax or adz, dates from the establishment of agriculture. No particular region of the world can definitively lay claim to the invention of the hoe. Some researchers can attest that the African hoe evolved from a pointed stick which primitive man used in an upward and downward stabbing motion. With the new tool, they began to grub the earth rather than stab it. Most worldwide archeological excavations have discovered some form of hoe was utilized. The Adze Hoe use varied from African woodcarving to prehistoric Maroi woodcarvings in New Zealand. African and Egyptian adzes were used for planing and carving. Developing adzes were made from nephrite, also known as jade. Knapped flint adzes were made in central Europe in the late Mesolithic Period (8,000-2,700bc). Diorite or basalt stone, when ground created sharper edged adzes. Later meteoric iron were used and sharpened by grinding also. By Egyptian times, the adz had acquired a wooden haft (handle) with a copper or bronze blade set flat at the top of the haft to form a T. In this form but with a steel blade, it continued to be the prime hand tool for shaping and trimming wood. Egyptians used various sizes of adzes for different jobs. The larger adzes were used for removing bark, branches and in boat and house construction, smaller adzes for delicate carving and planing.

Today's adz hoe has largely been replaced by the sawmill and the power-planer, at least in industrialized cultures. Adz hoes of various weights and sizes are available and are good for building and repairing trail tread and for digging trenches to hold turnpike logs and waterbars. They usually come with a 34-inch handle and a six-inch-wide

blade set at an “adze angle” and are maintained and used like a mattock.

Adze hoes are some trail builders tool of choice and should be respected for their continued historical significance.

Annual Meeting Notes

At our annual meeting in November last year, we asked for your thoughts on many subjects. Here are the results:

	Yes	No
We would like more educational programs	21	3
We should add a fund raising component	6	18
We should do more plantings	12	8
We should have monthly members meetings	7	13
People would volunteer more if we had shorter days	3	17
People would volunteer more if we had w/e	1	18
We should work more with COS parks	3	19
We should arrange carpooling	20	2
We do NOT need food on projects	2	19

On the write in question the thing most people would like to receive for volunteering is “thank you”.

As a result, we will be trying to add educational talks to our events. See Steve’s article “Learning about Pikes Peak”. We need people of all walks of life to help out with our talks.

We will be offering suggestions on car pooling for each project. The meeting place will be near old Colorado City for convenience to all car poolers

And, we will continue offering food on projects. To that end, I would like to invite anyone interested in helping out with the food to a fun filled meeting to discuss creative ways to ensure we always have a meal on each project. That meeting will be May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at Janice de Chadendes’ home. 490 Guyout Ridge Ct. Call Janice at 598-7183 or the office for instructions to her house. Janice has headed up our support committee for a number of years and has agreed to do so again this year. But she needs helpers. Let’s all give her the support she needs to ensure we have the best possible project season again this year.

Toilet at A-frame?

For years now, we have been talking about the installation of a toilet to relieve the “sanitation situation” at the A frame. Last fall a group from the Forest Service met with a group from FOTP to assess the situation and determine if a suitable site could be found to install the toilet. During that visit the group noted an absence of any need for a toilet.

In the past couple years, we have posted signs encouraging people in appropriate waste disposal above tree line. Also, Barr Camp has installed two very nice composting toilets. Is it possible these efforts have eliminated the need for a toilet at A frame? Let us know your thoughts on this ‘hot’ topic. If you have every visited the area in question, especially if you frequently pass it, please send me an e-mail with your opinion. At this time we have suspended all actions regarding the toilet, while we decide if we even need it. So, please let me know what you think at Mary4thepeak@att.net

Thank you 2004 Donors !

Summit Contributors: \$500 to \$10,000

Wild Oats Markets

Triple Crown of Running

Barr Trail Mountain Race

Life Zone Contributors: \$100 - \$499

T. Rowe Price

Mountain Chalet

Sharon & Ed Benson

Michael Bartmess

Ed & Rhonda Moore N.A. Rieger

Dick Bratton

William Thomas

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Sponsors: \$35-\$99

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Marc McClure

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Stephen Orr

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Charles Schroeder

John & Carol Stansfield

Bill Tiedt

Lynn Waite

Nancy Whitford

Kay Wieder

Katherine Worthen

Joseph Woznicki

***Friends of the Peak
Project Registration 2005***

All volunteers must pre-register. You may do so by completing this form and mailing it to us at:

P.O. Box 2494
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Or Fax it to us at: (719) 471-3145

Or visit our web site at:
www.fotp.com

Registration Form

You do not need to be a member to participate. Please circle the dates you intend to participate.

Name: _____ Member? _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

E-mail: _____

Please register me for the following events or programs:

_____ Bear Creek Trail repair
_____ Thursdays 6/2 6/16 6/30 7/14 7/28 8/11 8/25 9/8 9/22

_____ Ring the P 14 May 15 Both Camping Y/N
 June 18 June 19 Both Camping Y/N
 August 27 August 28 Both Camping Y/N
 September 17

_____ Barr Trail Maintenance
 July 2 July 3 Both Camping Y/N
 August 6 August 7 Both

_____ Craggs to Devils Playground Trail
 July 23 July 24 Both Camping Y/N

