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This email newsletter is published four times per year — February, May, August, and November.

It is in page format so, if you wish, you can print it off and read it at leisure or offer it to a friend who doesn't do email.

### Friends of the Peak

Preserving  
Restoring  
Appreciating

Pikes Peak

August 2010

Dear Friends of the Peak,

I have always been amazed at how quickly things can change. When Friends of The Peak started the year we had plans to do work on a few existing trails and to get electricity to the Barr Trail Trailhead bathrooms. Well, it is now August. We have added work days to build an entirely new trail, started planning for two major trail projects for the summer of 2011, begun working with another group to help maintain Barr Trail and finally have electricity installed in the bathrooms. It may not seem like a lot, but we have been working feverishly to keep up with it all.

To begin with, the Colorado Springs Utilities South Slope Concept Plan was unveiled in the spring of this year and City Council dictated that the area needed to be open to the public by June 1. This has had a huge impact on FOTP because we have agreed to help the Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department conduct tours, build trails and generally get the space ready for public access. Needless to say there is a lot to do and we have two work days planned to build trail this year with many more to follow in 2011.

Speaking of next year, the work on the South Slope will be only one of our major projects. We are also working with El Paso County Parks to help build out the Ute Trail that runs from Manitou to Cascade. This trail is mentioned in the Concept Plan and again FOTP has offered our expertise to help build this trail. This venture is in the planning phase right now with El Paso County and we will keep everyone posted on the progress. Both the South Slope and the Ute Trail will be major efforts in 2011 and we look forward to working with everyone on these exciting projects.

Barr Trail is one trail that is always on our agenda each year. It is probably the most popular trail in the area and was not constructed in a sustainable manner when it was built 90 years ago. Due to these factors, it is a trail that needs constant work. FOTP has be-

gun a partnership with the AdAmAn club to help maintain Barr trail. It is great to have AdAmAn as a partner in this effort and I want to thank them for taking on this monumental task.

The bathrooms are finally finished! As I mentioned in the last newsletter, FOTP has been working for over a year to get electricity into the Barr Trail Trailhead bathrooms. This will be a huge savings to FOTP because we will no longer need to supply port-o-lets in the winter months, all eight of them!

We are looking forward to a busy remainder of 2010 and a very busy 2011. If you are interested in any of these projects or want to know more about what is happening at Friends of The Peak please visit [www.fotp.com](http://www.fotp.com).

Michael Cotter, President, Board of Directors, FOTP

## GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY !

The South Slope of Pikes Peak has been closed to recreation for 100 years. We now have a chance to open it up for public use. Before we can open it, to protect the environment we need to provide trails for people to walk on. FOTP and Colorado Springs Park and Recreation will partner to build the trails. On August 21st and September 11th we will host trail building work days. Establishing the proposed trails around the reservoirs will allow fishing access as well as create



South Slope Watershed — Mason Reservoir, looking south

an opportunity for hiking in this fabulous environ. The work will all be at 11,000 ft. elevation. Only fit and active individuals should participate. Because of the distance, we will need to leave Colorado Springs by 6:15 a.m. We need 50 volunteers. Each of these dates will be day long events. Be among the first to experience the glory of the South Slope. You will have bragging rights, and a sense of accomplishment. Visit our web site to register and find more information. If you can't make either of these dates, there will be many more next year. But, if you want to be one of the firsts, act now.

*Submitted by Mary Burger*

## REMAINING 2010 PROJECT DATES

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECTS BELOW, PLEASE GO TO [www.fotp.com](http://www.fotp.com) TO REGISTER.

### Barr Trail

The Barr Trail is probably the most used trail in the Pikes Peak Region. Friends of the Peak will continue its ongoing efforts to address drainage and grade issues on the trail. In addition, Friends of the Peak will be working with volunteers to provide regular maintenance on the trail so additional dates may be added throughout the summer.

August 7<sup>th</sup>   August 8<sup>th</sup>

### Buffalo Creek Trail

This is also known as the St. Mary's Falls Trail. Maintenance on it was neglected for 30 years, which has created a unique opportunity to improve a great trail. Friends of the Peak began work on this trail last year and were able to complete the first 1.25 miles. The remaining sections of trail are generally in good shape, but need work to reduce further rutting. The trail-head will be accessed via the closed section of Gold Camp Road.

August 12<sup>th</sup>   August 26<sup>th</sup>   September 9<sup>th</sup>   September 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Devil's Playground Trail

The workday for this trail will be on the uppermost section of this trail in its approach to the summit of Pikes Peak. The trail winds through a boulder field, and in some places the trail is not well defined. This is causing confusion for hikers approaching the summit from the west. Friends of the Peak will work to correct alignment problems and make sure the trail is clearly marked.

August 28<sup>th</sup>

### Maintenance Hikes

In an ongoing effort to ensure that all existing trails are well maintained, Friends of the Peak is offering maintenance hikes on existing trails. The goal of these hikes is to hike the trail, or sections of it, while documenting major areas to be addressed later and fixing minor issues as they are discovered.

Barr Trail:   August 14<sup>th</sup>

### South Slope New Trails

See article on next page.

August 21<sup>st</sup>   September 11<sup>th</sup>

Watch for further communications and check [www.fotp.com](http://www.fotp.com) as we are currently working on a number of items that may result in projects later this year.

## YES, THE SOUTH SLOPE IS OPEN !

After being closed for over 100 years, the South Slope of Pikes Peak is at last open to the public. Guided tours are being offered by Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Friends of the Peak and the Trails and Open Space Coalition. The tours include a preview of the day use area and the trail-head area proposed in the Recreation Plan, a 7 mile walk (3.5 miles each way) along the shores of McReynolds and Mason Reservoirs. Tour groups also walk along Boehmer Creek to the jewel of the South Slope, Boehmer Reservoir, with its beautiful rocky backdrop.

Tours are being offered on:

Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>

Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>

Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>

Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>

The cost is \$10.00 per person, all of which will be used to offset the costs of the hike. For information and to make a reservation call the Trails and Open Space Coalition office at: (719) 633-6884.

If you would like to volunteer to help build the new trail along the shore of McReynolds Reservoir, there are two opportunities:

Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup>

Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>

Participants will be limited to the first 50 people to sign up for each day. To sign up for one or both days visit <http://www.fotp.com/> click on "South Slope Project Days" link, check the date or dates you would like to work, then fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

Friends of the Peak is working with AECOM, the planning consultant, to lay out the new trails that will be built in the next several years. On July 30<sup>th</sup> Jim Schwerin and Harry Hamill (both of Medicine Wheel), Mary Burger, and I scouted out the southern end of the Bear Creek to Barr Trail connection. We have found a route that we think will work well. These trails will allow the hiker, mountain biker, fisherman and equestrian to experience the beauty and solitude of the South Slope. To download a copy of the "Recreational Use Plan" click the link below:

<http://www.csu.org/residential/environment/recreation/watershed/plan/item5564.pdf>

or copy and paste the link into your browser.

*Submitted by Eric Swab*

### FOTP MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

You can join us by emailing your name, address, phone, and preferred email address to [webmaster@fotp.com](mailto:webmaster@fotp.com)

You can contribute to Friends of the Peak by clicking on

[paypal](#)

or by mailing your check to P.O.Box 2494, Colorado Springs CO 80901

## MANITOU INCLINE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Progress continues to be made on the possible opening of the Incline to legal use. The consultant team hired to develop the management plan just wrapped up its series of initial public meetings on the issue. While participation was not as large as expected, the participants were definitely informed and engaged. Many of the comments expressed about the trail and trail design were very clear that the character of the trail should remain with essentially no "golden" staircase constructed. Addressing the erosion and safety concerns was very high on the list and it was understood that some modifications to the trail corridor would have to be completed to meet these objectives. All comments expressed at the three public meetings, along with additional information, can be accessed at <http://www.manitousprings-co.gov/incline.asp>.

The next steps for the consultant team include working with the landowners to determine how and who will have ownership of the trail right of way. The consultant team will also be presenting a list of alternatives regarding Parking/Traffic, Trails/Trailheads, and Operations/Management for public comment in late October. A draft management plan is scheduled to be presented in January with a final plan by March of 2011. FOTP encourages all of our members to participate in the public process so that your input can be heard on how you'd like the Incline managed.

*Submitted by Eric Billmeyer*

Mark your calendar now for the  
**FOTP ANNUAL MEETING and  
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER**

5:30 pm, Saturday 13 November 2010  
DOW Office on Sinton Road

**SEE YA THERE!**

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