



November 2010

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Friends of the Peak

Preserving
Restoring
Appreciating

Pikes Peak

26

199

113

Numbers and the power behind those numbers always intrigue me. Looking at the three numbers above it does not seem like much, but they are huge for a group like Friends of The Peak. This year we had 26 work days scheduled, 113 different volunteers worked those days and through repeat volunteers we had 199 total volunteer work days. That is an average of 1.76 work days per volunteer! It is outstanding that our volunteers have given us so much time and I want to thank you all for your hard work on Pikes Peak! We accomplished a lot, but there is still plenty to do.

Our regular Thursday crew has wrapped up work on the Buffalo Creek Trail to St. Mary's Falls. The trail is in great shape and I encourage everyone to take a nice afternoon before the snow gets deep and go check it out. We also had a couple of work days on Barr Trail, and David Skalla, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 54 in Monument, led a rail replacement day on Barr Trail. This was a huge effort for all involved and was a great benefit for the users of Barr Trail.

We also began work on the South Slope. While we had only two work days this year, the attendance for these days was outstanding and we got a good start for next year. However, I have to mention that these work days would not have been possible without the efforts of many people and organizations behind the scenes. I want to thank a few for all of their hard work, including Mary Burger, Eric Swab, the great people at the Trails and Open Space Coalition, everyone who helped lead tours on the South Slope, Medicine Wheel and many others who are too numerous to name in this newsletter. We have a lot of work planned for next year and we look forward to working with everyone to get the South Slope ready for visitors.

Speaking of next year, we are going to focus our efforts on four main areas: the Ute Pass Trail, Barr Trail, the South Slope and Section 16. Early in the year we are going to use the Ute Pass Trail as training ground for new crew leaders. We are going to up our efforts on Barr Trail in 2011 to address some of these troubled areas and put in some longer-term fixes. The South Slope speaks for

itself, but we are going to concentrate our work days late in the summer and have a couple overnight project days to allow people to camp. Finally, we are working with the Colorado Mountain Club to transition our Thursday work days to Section 16. This is our tentative plan and more details on dates are further on in the newsletter. For those of you who are interested, that is 4 areas and 23 work days, in 5 months, with a number of trainings and other events thrown in for good measure.

With all of this planned, we need your help. The popularity of the South Slope and the growing need for maintenance on Pikes Peak means we are in need of Project Leaders, Crew Leaders and even a few Board members. The Project Leaders and Crew Leaders are both great ways to get out and help us help Pikes Peak. There are more details on what each position requires later in the newsletter, but I view them both as great ways to translate your leadership skills into something you can come back and enjoy year after year.

Mary Burger and Eric Billmeyer have decided to step down from the FOTP Board. Don't worry though; they are both still going to be involved in different ways. Mary will still be helping in various efforts on Pikes Peak including the South Slope. Eric will still be working with Friends of The Peak and on Pikes Peak through his role with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute. We want to thank them both for all their dedication and hard work in support of our efforts. If you have an interest in joining the Board of Friends of The Peak or finding out more information about any volunteer opportunities send me an email at mike@fotp.com.

I want to thank all of our volunteers for their work this year. I also want to thank my fellow members of the Board for all their efforts. I hope to see you all out at an event next year — and bring a friend!

Michael Cotter, President, Board of Directors, FOTP

WANTED: PROJECT LEADERS

Over the years our capability to take on trail projects has been limited mostly by two factors — 1) seasonal and altitude considerations, and 2) availability of Project Leaders. We just have to live with snow cover and weather, but we can do something about project leadership availability.

To this end, we invite **anyone** who feels up to taking on the responsibility of project leadership to contact Mike Cotter (473-0158 — mike@fotp.com).

Being a Project Leader (PL) is different from being a Crew Leader (CL). In a nutshell, the PL makes arrangements for the workday; the CL and crew do the work. The PL is the single point of contact for the project — before, during, and after the work session. The CL takes charge of a particular section of work on a particular workday, and is responsible for technical details and the quality of work. The PL's job is mostly administrative and managerial. The CL's job is mostly technical and supervisory — and yes, sometimes back-breaking.

Some well-written manuals lay out the qualifications, responsibilities, and how-to's for PLs and CLs. One set is by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC). A point worth emphasizing is that to be a PL you don't have to first have been a CL.

We plan to conduct PL training on Thursday, 10 March 2011 — probably an evening, indoors.

THE MORE PROJECT LEADERS, THE MORE PROJECTS.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR 2011 PROJECTS (etc)

For your preliminary planning purposes, here are the 2011 project dates we are proposing to USFS, City Parks and Rec, El Paso County Parks, and other invested parties. After tweakings and approvals, hopefully by January, we will post the final dates on the [fotp website](#) so you can pick your work days and register.

We thank you ahead of time for this very meaningful gift of yourself to the community.



South Slope New Trails (photo at right)

25 June, 16-17 July, 13 August, 10-11 September
(overnight) (overnight)

Ute Pass Trail (Northwest connection to Cascade)

30 April, 14 May, 4 June, TBD July, TBD August, TBD September

Barr Trail

21-22 May, 5 June, 9 July, 24 September

Section 16 (alternate Thursdays)

TBD June, TBD July, TBD August, TBD September

Maintenance Hikes (specific trails and dates TBD)

Crew Leader Training (both include maintenance trng, April also includes construction trng)

4, 16 April 19, 21 May

Project Leader Training (contact Mike Cotter)

10 March

Octoolberfest (tool maintenance)

15 October

APB!!

WANTED: CREW LEADERS

APB!!

Over the years many of you have worked on the trails — scouting them out, preliminary clearing, cutting trees, getting stumps out, building the walking surfaces, making drains, constructing elbows, building bridges....or all of the above. Every once in a while one of you steps up to serve as a crew leader — and then gets trained and certified as such. If you haven't already done so, maybe this is the year to do it. Yes, there is a little training involved, but it is mostly your experience that will make you comfortable with taking on this very important responsibility. Search your soul and contact Mike Cotter (473-0158 — mike@fotp.com).

2010 EVENT PARTICIPATION

10+ WORK DAYS

Carol Beckman
Mary Burger
Brian van Valkenburg

5-9 WORK DAYS

Richard Battersby
Bob Bunch
Michael Cotter
Jim Davies
Hodge Hartley
David Jones
Cliff Poulton
Eric Swab

2-4 WORK DAYS

Beckie Avera
Michael Bartmess
Charles Belote
Greg Davies
Barry Dolan
William Hilton
Jeremy Howard
Steve Jeroslow
Dale Kemmerer
Ed Lynch
Marc McClure
Jason Moore
Jonathan Murray
Fred Mutter
Jim Strub

1 WORK DAY

William Alexander
Tyler Allison
Shaun Atkinson
Brad Baker
William Bartlau
Caleb Battersby
James Battersby
Reid Bolander

Evan Brewer
Gwen Brewer
Isabel Brewer
Macey Brewer
Christopher Brooks
Kevin Brooks
Jack Busher
Jeremy Butler
Russell Cahill
Michelle Campbell
Beth Cichon
Jeanne Cichons
Jacob Janowski
Tim Dolan
Bill Donovan
Phillip Donovan
Michael Dornick
Paul Douglass
Lloyd Duval
Wyatt Dyer
Richard Eastland
Colene Edwards
Caroline Eggenschweiler
Jerry Forte
Jonathan Forte
Giovanny Franco Diaz
Ann Gerber
Andrew Gonzalez
Connor Gonzalez
Jon Gray
Gabriel Grommett
Mark Haisley
James Harford-Reynolds
Teresa Heckel
Kaylee Heer
Jeffrey Hight
Sabine Hight
Eric Hunt
Dave Jones
Tanner Jons
Jacob Kaiser
Alex Kiel

Jenna Kirchhoefer
Ramsey Knowles
Samantha Krainock
Chaz Lalonde
Suong Lee
Avenal Marshall
Chad Marshall
Cheryl Marshall
James McCowen
Brianna McEwen
James McKelvey
Jamie McMillan
Gary Michels
Allison Mosser
Mark Nage
Phillip Narwold
Sammy Nelson
Orville Raabe
Kenneth Rabourn
Mary Lou Radice
Amy Resman
Jacob Resman
Mark Sabosi
Roger Sajak
Crystal Salas
Randy Semrau
David Skalla
Peter Skalla
Paul Smith
Robert Sommers
Nick Stolk
Trevor Stolk
Dallih Stratte
Scott Stratte
John Stribling
Sean Stuntz
David Wallingford
Darren Weaver
Bethany Webster
Shwana Winn
Helmut Zenger
Nick Zoller

SOUTH SLOPE — McREYNOLDS TRAIL

Trail building on the South Slope has started. — a watershed event. Colorado Springs Parks and Rec is in charge, with Sarah Bryarly as project manager. FOTP has agreed to do the initial trail building, which consists of the trails along the McReynolds and Mason reservoirs.



We have now finished two-days' worth of trail along McReynolds. It is a gorgeous setting — worth working on just to enjoy it. You can find maps of it by clicking [here](#).

There's the work base in the photo above, and a shot of Carol Beckman's crew at left.

We are hoping to have four work sessions next summer, two of them overnights. Watch the website for firm dates — and register!

ST MARY'S FALLS TRAIL WORK A SUCCESS

One of the things I most enjoy about trail repair is the element of improvisation. St Mary's Falls trail was an excellent example of this. Where there were trees, we used wood steps. Where the trees were thinner, we installed rock steps. Frequently, we found the materials close to where the work was to be done. But, sometimes we had to haul it.

Suffice it to say, we 'got it done'. The worst section of the trail has long been the S curve above the cut off to the falls. This section has been in need of repair for at least 15 years. The S curve was completely washed away. The Thursday morning club tackled this and everything up to

this and beyond. The trail is still steep. But, I think if you would care to hike it now, it will be much friendlier than in years past.

Many thanks go to the volunteers who showed up week after week and hiked an hour to an hour and a half to work on this trail. Their commitment to sound stewardship is repaid by good camaraderie and a sense of a job well done. Next year, we will take on something closer, but not necessarily easier. See you all then.



Submitted by Mary Burger

RMFI RESTORATION WORK ON PIKES PEAK

The Pikes Peak Watershed Sediment and Erosion Control Project is a cooperative project between RMFI, the Pikes Peak Chapter of the Sierra Club, the USDA Forest Service and the City of Colorado Springs. The project is a large scale, multi-year effort to address severe sedimentation and erosion impacts caused by decades of uncontrolled storm water runoff from the Pikes Peak Highway into adjacent streams and wetlands. The sedimentation and erosion issues initiated a 1998 lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club against the City of Colorado



Springs and the USDA Forest Service alleging violations of the Clean Water Act under Section 401. In 2000, the Court ruled in favor of the Sierra Club and instructed the City of Colorado Springs and the Forest Service to address the erosion and sedimentation problems of the highway and to bring the road into compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act. The court set a timeline of 10 years for these improvements to be made. Since 2002, the City of Colorado Springs has been diligently working to address the storm water runoff by paving the highway and constructing erosion control structures to reduce sediment and attenuate the storm water flow. Paving of the entire highway and placement of all erosion control structures is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012.

Under the court settlement, monies were also awarded to the Sierra Club for remediation and restoration work outside the highway corridor. These monies were placed into a fund (the Pikes Peak Fund), with the Sierra Club, the City of Colorado Springs, and the USDA Forest Service acting as partners to ensure the best use of these monies for erosion control and restoration work. In 2003, the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) was contracted by the Pikes Peak Fund to assess the environmental damage outside the highway corridor and begin prioritizing basins within the watershed. This work was completed in 2005, with four basins (North Crystal Creek, Severy Creek, Ski Creek, and East Fork Beaver Creek) identified as a high priority for restoration work. RMFI was then asked by the Pikes Peak Fund partners to oversee project work in these basins. Since 2006, RMFI has completed over a mile and a quarter of stream restoration and stabilization, and restored one and a half acres of disturbed forest land. This past summer, volunteers helped RMFI to reconstruct a 200' drainage channel, build rock check dams, and seed and mat over an acre of denuded alpine landscape immediately adjacent to a newly created sediment detention pond off the Highway (see photo above). Volunteers moved over 32 tons of rock to cobble the drainage channel and to build 5 check dams measuring a total of over 2,500 cubic feet, all at an elevation of over 13,000 feet! To complete the work, volunteers decompacted, seeded, matted, and installed 439 alpine tundra plugs in the restoration of 20,000 square feet of the bare alpine landscape. However, our work is far from done! In 2011, we will restore another two acres of disturbed alpine tundra near Mile 17 and stabilize gullies in the Halfway Picnic area. If you're interested in helping RMFI out with these projects please contact RMFI at rmfi@rmfi.org or 719-471-7736.

Submitted by Eric Billmeyer, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Field Institute

FOTP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Michael Cotter — 473-0158 — mike@fotp.com

Vice President/Webmaster: Michael Bartmess — 238-0791 — webmaster@fotp.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Carol Beckman — 527-1384 — carol@fotp.com

RTP Website: Eric Swab — 632-0251 — eric_s@fotp.com

Newsletter: Jim Strub — 634-2821 — jim@fotp.com

Toolmaster: Ed Lynch — 635-0589 — ed@fotp.com

Director: Barry Dolan — 593-9179 — barry@fotp.com

WANTED: BOARD MEMBERS

Remember the recruiting poster "Uncle Sam Wants You!" Well, the FOTP Board wants **YOU!**

Mary Burger and Eric Billmeyer have left the Board. Each served in several functions. Those now need to be covered, as well as some others. So we are inviting each of you to carefully consider volunteering to serve on the Board for a year or two — or more. There are no term lengths or term limits.

Functions that you could sink your teeth into are publicity, ecology impact, website building, database management, contacts with the wider community (including academic), NEPA issues, events management, crew support (including food), interagency calendar coordination, responses to emails, history and other records, grant writing.

Some of these would be big enough to occupy one person. Others can be creatively combined.. It all depends on how much time and talent you want to volunteer to FOTP.

Please ponder. Then call Mike Cotter with questions and, hopefully, your "yes!"

TOOLMASTER

Much to Mary Burger's delight, one of our long-time members and Board member, Ed Lynch, has volunteered to take on the responsibility for the fotp tools. He is moving them from Mary's backyard over to another property, in the same general area of town. He'll make sure the tools are where they're supposed to be for each project day, and he'll conduct the Octoolberfest. Thank you, Ed.

And a huge, huge thank you to Mary for having taken care of all those tools for so many years!

FOTP MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

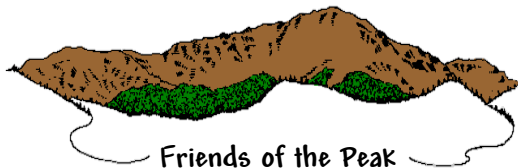
You can join us by emailing your name, address, phone, and preferred email address to webmaster@fotp.com

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

NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE PEAK



Friends of the Peak
P.O. Box 2494, Colorado Springs CO 80901

Most of our readers are receiving this newsletter by email. If you are one of those, we would appreciate your going to info@fotp.com to confirm or update your street address so you won't miss any of our occasional mailings, such as the invitation to the Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner.

For this issue we are using this extra page as a cover for USPS delivery of the newsletter to those of you for whom we have no email address. The street address we are using for you is the most recent one we have or the one supplied by USPS if our first attempt was not current and you provided USPS with a forwarding address.

If you have received this newsletter by USPS and do have internet access, you could help us "go green" by emailing us at info@fotp.com with your preferred email address and to confirm or update your street address.

We publish the newsletter four times per year — February, May, August, and November.