



May 2011

FEATURES INSIDE

(click to go)

[2011 Schedule](#)

[South Slope Tours](#)

[4 June Event](#)

[Crew Leaders](#)

[About FOTP](#)

[New Director](#)

[Jones Park](#)

[Email or USPS](#)

[FOTP Web Site](#)

[Trails & Open Space](#)

[Coalition Web Site](#)

[Open Space](#)

[Volunteers Web Site](#)

[To Donate to FOTP](#)

Friends of the Peak

Preserving
Restoring
Appreciating

Pikes Peak

Some days I have to wonder, "What are people thinking?" I recently had this feeling when I heard about the damage that was caused in Garden of the Gods by people cutting an illegal trail. It was a real act of stupidity and shows what harm ignorance can cause. Luckily a great group of volunteers led by Medicine Wheel was able to go out and repair some of the damage. It will be years before the impact is completely erased, but at least the process is started.

This whole incident is just a microcosm of things that continually happen in and around Colorado Springs. Whether it is social trails in Palmer Park or people cutting switchbacks on Barr Trail, we have to deal with these issues all the time. Friends of The Peak is dedicated to helping address these sorts of problems on and around Pikes Peak, and lately we have also been partnering with our friends around this city to share best practices, conduct training and leverage resources. For me this has been an eye-opening experience.

Over the last two years, I witnessed the challenges of getting volunteers and resources to address issues on Pikes Peak. What I have come to realize is that we have the same challenges as all the parks groups in Colorado Springs. We all struggle to get crew leaders to run events and enough volunteers to accomplish everything we know needs to be done. In addition, the groups in Colorado Springs struggle with funding for keeping nature centers open and all other aspects of running a major park. Normally a lot of this would be the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation department, but their funding has been cut to the point where they have to rely on the volunteer groups for a majority of the care of the parks.

With all of this going on we all have more of a responsibility to help these volunteer groups where we can. You can do this through monetary donations, volunteering for events, working with your company to run a volunteer fair, or serving as a board member. Many of these groups need your help.

To learn more about how you can help, just click on one of the [green websites](#) listed at the left.

Mike Cotter, President, FOTP

2011 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Here is what is now posted on the website.
You may go there to sign up.

<http://www.fotp.com/projects2011.htm>

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



Signing (TBD — contact Carol Beckman)

Maintenance Hikes (specific trails and dates TBD)

National Trails Day Event (Section 16 — see article on next page)

4 June

Section 16 (all are on Thursdays, with focus on building technical structures)

2, 16, 30 June 14, 28 July 11, 25 August 8, 22 September

Barr Trail

21 May, 5 June, 9 July, 24 September

South Slope New Trails

25 June, 16 July, 20-21 August, 10 September
(overnight)

Octoolberfest (tool maintenance)

15 October

Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Dinner

12 November

2011 SOUTH SLOPE TOURS

There will be tours again this summer, similar to those of last summer. TOSC is administering them. The contact is Susan Davies at 719-633-6884 or susan@trailsandopenspaces.org. Please consider volunteering to be a guide.

FOTP is a partner in these tours, along with Springs Parks and Rec, and TOSC.

Most of the tours are on Saturdays (18, 25 June; 9, 23 July; 27 August; 10 September). The others are on Thursday 4 August and Sunday 18 September. Like last year, there will be a fee for the tour.



South Slope — the Mason Reservoir

4 June — NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT

The first Saturday in June is the day we celebrate trails as a nation. National Trails Day will be 17 years old this year. What better way to celebrate our trail system than to make it better!

This year volunteers are tackling Section 16. The TOPS program's newest purchase has been a conservation priority for about three decades because of its popularity with the public. Trails need to be repaired and rehabilitated. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., work will start at 8 a.m. and finish at 3:30 p.m. You can pre-register. Just go to www.rei.com/event/22028/session/27272

— or go to www.rei.com, then find the Colorado Springs store via the store locator link, and sign up for the service project. Parking is limited so please carpool. Please dress appropriately for trail work. Open-toed shoes are prohibited. Bring gloves, hat, sunscreen, lunch, and lots of water. This trail project is not appropriate for pets, so please leave your animals at home. Participants need to be 12 years and older. Anyone under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult.

This project is sponsored by REI, Colorado Springs Parks and Rec, TOSC, Friends of the Peak, Friends of Red Rock Canyon, the Intemann Trail Committee, Colorado Mountain Club, and Rocky Mountain Field Institute. For more information, please contact Susan Davies at TOSC — 719-633-6884 or susan@trailsandopenspaces.org

APB!!

WANTED: CREW LEADERS

APB!!

Over the years many of you have worked on the trails — scouting them out, preliminary clearing, cutting trees, removing stumps, 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).



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

FOTP

President: Michael Cotter — 473-0158 — mike@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
Director: Barry Dolan — 593-9179 — barry@fotp.com
Director: Ed Lynch — 635-0589 — ed@fotp.com
Director: Brian VanValkenburg — 634-4500 — brian@fotp.com

Friends of The Peak (FOTP) was organized in 1995 to ensure sound stewardship of Pikes Peak. We are dedicated to protecting, restoring and appreciating Pikes Peak. We work with the US Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, Colorado Springs Parks and Rec, the Pikes Peak Highway, and El Paso County Parks.

We have built sediment-trapping devices and restored native alpine tundra. We have built new trail and regularly restore existing trail on the Pikes Peak massive, including the Devils Playground Trail, Seven Bridges, Saint Mary's Falls, and Barr Trail. We sponsor seminars and field trips on items of interest on and around Pikes Peak.

One of our highest priorities is the Ring the Peak trail, which is intended to completely circle the mountain. About 90% of the Ring system now exists, including connecting segments built and maintained by FOTP. Only a few more connecting pieces are needed, notably the southwest segment. We are working toward closing all the gaps.

With the opening of the South Slope Watershed, FOTP is now constructing new trail at the McReynolds Reservoir and is slated to build part of a new alignment of the Ute Pass Trail. We are also working with other groups on Section 16 and will continue to maintain some of the most popular trails on Pikes Peak.

NEW DIRECTOR



Brian VanValkenburg grew up in upstate New York near Saratoga Springs, with the Adirondack Mountains as his playground. He's been a Colorado resident for nearly twenty years, a graduate of the School of Engineering at UCCS, an avid hiker, and a mountain biker.

He tells us, "I love spending the day with my feet on the ground and miles from the trailhead. I've only recently discovered the joys of trail work, and have spent the last two summers with FOTP on our overhaul of the popular Saint Marys Falls trail along Buffalo Creek, as well as several one-day projects like Devil's Playground and the South Slope trails. I was fortunate enough to be selected as the FOTP volunteer of the year for 2010, for which I feel truly honored."

Brian is also a Crew Leader. We welcome him to the FOTP Board.

JONES PARK

One of the more popular day hike destinations in our area is Jones Park, named after the first settler in 1873. Jones Park was originally accessed via the Bear Creek Toll Road; however, today there are other trails, including Seven Bridges, that lead to this beautiful location. The hike on Seven Bridges is a particularly enjoyable one as it parallels a peacefully flowing stream for the first mile, after which you traverse a scree field before settling into some beautiful scenery and forests of pine and aspen. In summer the grassy meadows display a variety of wildflowers and the area is teeming with an abundance of wildlife.

Joseph C. Jones was a prospector and explorer who, after acquiring approximately 160 acres, built a log cabin and cultivated a small portion of his land for a garden. Jones passed away in 1882 and his cabin burned down sometime later. Before his death, Jones had made several improvements to the property, including fish ponds, bird houses, and an area excavated for what he called his "Opera House."

Another early settler to the area was Frank Loud, a mathematics professor at Colorado College, who spent his summer weeks on his 118 acres. He built a cabin and corral. Although the original cabin was destroyed by a snow slide, another cabin was built in approximately the same location and can still be seen today, although it is in severe disrepair. A small stream flows lazily past the cabin. Evidence of a crude attempt to supply water to the cabin is still visible.

Grace E. McDonald and Frank F. Lavigne, possibly mother and son, each settled on 160-acre tracts upstream from Jones in December of 1882. They both built cabins and put in corrals but the land was unfit for cultivation due to a lack of water. Still, they used the land for grazing and dairy-ing.

Edith Corliss purchased a 158-acre tract of land in 1889. The property already had a log house with three rooms, a stable, woodshed, milk house, and chicken house. Edith married Edward Giles in 1894. Together they enlarged the original cabin to eight rooms. The building was called the Mariona Inn, and it provided a stopping off area for those travelers going to Lake Moraine and beyond.

There were several other settlers in the late 1800's but eventually all of Jones Park was purchased and owned by the city of Colorado Springs, the last parcel having been obtained by Colorado Springs in 1952.

The U.S. Forest Service began an experimental forest project in Jones Park in 1904. Nursery beds that were 50 feet long and six feet wide were prepared, shaded by lath slatting and watered by a pipe extended from Bear Creek. Engelmann spruce, Douglas fir, limber pine, and ponderosa pine seeds were planted. In 1909, after several years of continuous failures, the work was completely abandoned. However, some of the tall trees in Jones Park may be survivors of these early experiments.

Henry Thoreau said, "I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright." So, if you're looking for an enjoyable hike, have an interest in historical places, or are just attempting to put your life "aright", consider the hike to Jones Park.

Submitted by Barry Dolan — from "Shattered Dreams on Pikes Peak" by Ivan Brunk

NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE PEAK



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

Most of our readers are now receiving the newsletter by email, thus helping us “go green.” If you are receiving this newsletter by USPS, please note that later this year we will discontinue the print version except for those of you who specifically advise us that you want to receive a paper copy. To do this, just contact Mike Cotter at 359-0890 and he will arrange to get you a printed newsletter. If you do have internet access, just send your preferred email address to info@fotp.com.

NOTICE TO ALL OF OUR READERS

Everybody — please be sure we have your most recent street address so you can receive an occasional mailing from us, such as the invitation to the Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Dinner. You can contact us at info@fotp.com.

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