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[www.fomelc.org](http://www.fomelc.org)

## APRIL 2019 Newsletter



Mount Evans Entrance Station as of April 23, 2019  
Picture by Ralph Bradt

Monthly Meeting April 24

Trailhead Hosts Needed – See in Newsletter

**Chairman:**

Peter Vrolijk  
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**Treasurer:**

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**Forest Service Liaison**

Ralph Bradt  
[rbradt@fs.fed.us](mailto:rbradt@fs.fed.us)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Contact Project Lead:

Project Weeds: [alan@fomelc.org](mailto:alan@fomelc.org)

Project Trails: [steve@fomelc.org](mailto:steve@fomelc.org)

**Project information will be updated with each newsletter**

### **April:**

24: Monthly Meeting at Evergreen Fire & Rescue , 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen 6:30-8pm (See below)

**Mario Padilla, Entomologist at the Butterfly Pavillion**  
**"It takes a lot of little critters to make a BIG wilderness".**

### **May:**

4-5: Crew Leader Training. All slots have been filled.

18-19: **Spring Training (for all members)** & Monthly Meeting- Shawnee, Colorado.

### **June:**

TBD: Leave No Trace Train the Trainer Class. FOMELC looking for 2 members interested in attending this class.

Contact [admin@fomelc.org](mailto:admin@fomelc.org)

8: June 8, 2019, 9:00 AM- Noon Noxious Weed Identification and Control Training (More info in newsletter)

8: Trail Project - North Ben Tyler Trail (Lost Creek Wilderness) Corridor Work

15-16: Leave No Trace Training in Pagosa Springs. Need 2 volunteer to attend. Paid by FOMELC

22-23: Crosscut Saw Certification Class for A & B Sawyers, Buffalo Creek

29: Trail Project: ALL HANDS DAY & Monthly Meeting BBQ Upper Rolling Creek Trail (Lost Creek Wilderness)  
Corridor Work and Weed Control

### **July:**

31: Monthly Meeting at Evergreen Fire & Rescue , 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen 6:30-8pm

### **August:**

10: Trail Project- ALL HANDS DAY & Monthly Meeting BBQ (Mt Evans Wilderness) Beaver Meadows and Beartracks Lakes Trail Work and Weed Control

### **September:**

25: Monthly Meeting at Evergreen Fire & Rescue , 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen 6:30-8pm

## **APRIL MEETING: "It Takes a Lot of Little Critters to Make a Big Wilderness"**

Come and learn the essential role invertebrates play in the ecologies of our precious mountain wilderness areas. We usually think "big" when it comes to wilderness - thousands of acres, tundra vistas, old growth forests, large animals - moose, bears, elk, big horn sheep. But as Leopold teaches, "it begins with the soil" which is domain of invertebrates. Then, where would our wildflowers be without pollinators? Have you seen all the recent articles on the Insect Apocalypse ? Don't miss this program!



In case you are wondering about a hike here...

Resthouse Trail, North Side

Picture by Ralph Bradt April 23, 2019

## **SPRING TRAINING MAY 18-19**

**Shawnee, Colorado**

**The 2019 peak Wilderness Visitor Season is on its Way!**

**For new members and refresher for current members**

Are you prepared to hit the trail as steward of our two Wilderness Areas: Mt. Evans and Lost Creek? Help us to kick off the season right by attending our Spring Training. Camaraderie, informative presentations, and a day hike. Spring Training is the perfect opportunity to discover how you can help preserve our two Wilderness Areas.

If you are **new** to the Friends of Mt Evans and Lost Creek or a **long-time member**, you are invited to attend.

**Free Registration, FREE meals!!!**

**Contact Steve: [Steve@fomeic.org](mailto:Steve@fomeic.org)**

**RSVP by May 12th with your Name and Email** We do request you **RSVP** to ensure that we have enough awesome food for the weekend.

# FOMELC ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN!



## Peter Vrolijk

Peter Vrolijk is a retired geologist living in Evergreen, although he maintains some involvement in academic research projects on earthquake processes and scientific advisory panels. His appreciation and concern for wilderness arises from months-long geology field work in wild, remote places. He also enjoys long-distance trail-running, which also enables him to get far off the beaten track. Peter intends to build upon this breadth of wilderness experience to sustain and promote the effectiveness of FOMELC in our local wilderness areas.

## From the Chairman

### “Greetings to FOMELC Members!”

“Welcome to the start of the 2019 field season. The green grass around my house tells me that spring is approaching, even if it has to peek up through the snow. I know that I am anxious to see how the trails open after the heavy snowfall this year, and I look forward to the first wildflowers.

First, let me introduce myself as the new FOMELC Board Chair. As many of you know, Matt Komos, the previous chair, resigned because his work is in Chicago. Matt is leaving some very large shoes to fill, and I am gratified to inherit such an effective organization from him. Some of you know me already from 2018 FOMELC activities, and I look forward to getting to know all members through this field season.

This field season offers a variety of different work projects again, including trail surveys, trail maintenance projects, invasive weed mapping and treatment, and public education and outreach. Upcoming newsletters will focus on each of these areas in more detail. Last year was an outstanding year of accomplishments, and we should set our sights on matching and exceeding those goals this year. Please consult the calendar for upcoming volunteer events and opportunities.

Thank you for your effort and commitment, and I look forward to seeing everyone out on the trails.”

- *Peter Vrolijk*

# FOMELC Marketing

By Gordon Brown

1. Several FOMELC members attended the **Colorado Rockies Wilderness Volunteer Workshop** in Ft. Collins on April 10-11. We learned a lot from networking with other wilderness groups in utilizing our membership, writing grants, building Forest Service relations, trailhead hosting, Leave No Trace principles and funding ideas. The Board is looking into how we can implement many of these ideas into our organization. Ralph Bradt presented a review of our App application as the "Wilderness Data Collection Tool."

2. FOMELC hosted a booth at the **Foothills Home and Lifestyle Show** on March 30 - 31 at the Evergreen High School. The show had an excellent turnout increasing FOMELC's visibility with many attendees stopping by to discuss the Wilderness, what our volunteer group does and signing up for the monthly newsletter and more information regarding Spring Training. We had 37 sign up for the newsletter and 11 sign up for Spring Training. We actually had one-person sign up to volunteer and join on the spot by completing the signup documents.



3. Our next two events are BaileyDay on June 22, 2019 in Bailey, CO (up route 285) and the Evergreen Rodeo on June 15-16, 2019.

## Volunteers needed to help in booths:



**Bailey Day June 22**



**Evergreen Rodeo June 15-16**





## **FOMELC WEED ERADICATION PROGRAM**

From the Noxious Weed Patch – *Alan*

Save the Date:

### **Noxious Weed Identification and Control Training**

June 8, 2019, 9:00 AM- Noon

US Forest Service Clear Creek Ranger District

101 Highway 103

Idaho Springs CO 80452

If you are serious about controlling invasive weeds in the wilderness, on public lands or on your own property, you will want to attend this class. The class will include identification, treatment methods and the optimal timing. For those volunteering on public lands there is a session on mapping protocols.

For more information: [alan@fomelc.org](mailto:alan@fomelc.org)

## **Colorado Wilderness Conference May 10-11, 2019**

### **Buena Vista, Colorado**

Colorado Mountain Club is returning to Buena Vista to discuss the state's most pressing Wilderness topics such as new designations, current management strategies, and grassroots organizing skills.

- Advocacy, Stewardship and Protections for Colorado's Wildest Landscapes
- Workshops, Speaker Panels, Networking & Field Trips
- Volunteers, Staff and Wilderness Lovers Welcome!
- Food, Drinks & Entertainment

Register at: <https://www.cmc.org/wild>



## Front Range Crosscut Saw Skills Training and Certification Workshop

**June 22-23**

This course will cover crosscut techniques, procedures, and best practices for clearing trail safely and effectively in challenging situations. It will also cover basic tool care and maintenance. Certification will be a recommendation that must be approved by each local agency or land manager where work with saws is performed. We hope to get everyone evaluated and certified, but this will depend on the number of participants as well as the number of qualified certifiers available to help.. All participants must have a **valid basic first aid certification** for the crosscut certification or recommendation to be given.

Online registration: <https://www.voc.org/project/front-range-crosscut-saw-skills-training-and-certification-workshop-2>

**Dates: 6/22/19 to 6/23/19**

**Location: Buffalo Creek Area**



# TRAILS – Steve West



## WHY HAVE TRAILS IN WILDERNESS?

Sometimes when asking a “why” question it is a benefit to start with a definition. Below is the definition of wilderness taken from **The Wilderness Act of 1964:**

“Section 2 (c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable;...

The key part of the above paragraph is “means in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions “

So the question remains why have trails in wilderness since the trail is a permanent improvement in the Wilderness?

Designed trails are to provide a single path from point A to point B, provide recreation opportunities, or a safe passage for travel. Yet they are permanent improvement to the wilderness. Pictured to the right, is the **Tanglewood Trail** prior to a reroute that was constructed. The Forest Service definition of social trails: “Social trails are not part of the official Forest Service trail network and are an indication of human disturbance.” The trail was a “social trail” that users created. It followed the “fall line,” meaning that it went straight uphill allowing water to flow down the user created trail. It was 30 to 40 feet wide and in places 3 feet deep.





# TRAILS – Continued

Trails direct users onto one path to protect the surrounding environment. On any given weekend, there can be 300-400 users on the more popular trails in both of our Wilderness areas in Mount Evans and Lost Creek. So therefore, the impact to the trails is significant. As with any trail, maintenance will need to be accomplished to bring the trail up to Forest Service (FS) standards.

Over the years, Forest Service budgets have been reduced and hard decisions have to be made to support the public's use of the forests and wilderness areas. The result of this reduced funding, the Forest Service has trimmed back or eliminated all trail crews. The FS had to develop a plan to maintain trails. This plan involves the use of volunteer groups like the Friends of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness, Front Range Backcountry Horsemen, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the Colorado Mountain Club.

Throughout a project season, FOMELC conducts several projects to maintain specific trails in the two Wilderness areas. [Check the schedule at the beginning of this newsletter for an opportunity to make a difference in your Wildernesses.](#)

## [You - as a volunteer can help!](#)

**You may ask yourself, "I don't know what to do?"**

FOMELC will have a knowledgeable Crew Leader on these projects to teach you what it takes to maintain trails. FOMELC will provide all tools needed.

Please remember that the Ranger Districts that have management responsibilities for the Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness areas **depend on volunteers** to maintain the trails.

## Trail Head Hosts Needed for Goose Creek

### Trail May 2019

At the request of the USFS, FOMELC is adding a Trailhead Ambassador program as part of our Education and Outreach efforts. The purpose of the program is to greet trail users at popular trailheads and provide them with information about the exceptional value of wilderness, Leave No Trace principles, and the trails they will be using. FOMELC members in uniform would have a table with maps of the Wilderness and share information regarding trail conditions and where hikers can and cannot camp. There is no hiking required for this program.

[Dates to volunteer: May 5, May 11 and May 24.](#)

Training will be provided about the trail and the Lost Creek Wilderness.

[Contact: steve@fomelc.org](mailto:steve@fomelc.org) for more information and to sign up.

# Do you know your **Leave No Trace Principles?**

(Part 6 of a 7 Part FOMELC Newsletter Series)

[www.Lnt.org](http://www.Lnt.org)



The future of wilderness camping, hikes and other sustainable outdoor recreation depends on more people adopting what's known as Leave No Trace principles. The **Seven Principles** of Leave No Trace were developed to help educate and guide recreationists in sustainable minimum impact practices that mitigate or avoid recreation-related impacts.

## Minimize Campfire Impacts #6

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the environment. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely and then scatter cool ashes.



**Be aware of FIRE BANS** in the local county as well as the National Forest or Wilderness  
(LNT Principle #1 – Plan Ahead and Prepare)

*“For the last 10 years, an average of about 3,500 human-caused wildfires have burned an average of approximately 400,000 acres of National Forest System land annually, with most caused by campfires.”*  
- U.S. Forest Service Website

**FOMELC is looking for members, who would like to attend a 2-Day LNT, Train the Trainer Class June 15-16. Class paid by FOMELC. Interested?**  
Contact [admin@fomelc.org](mailto:admin@fomelc.org)

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### **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.

## **I Have a Question!**

Got a general or specific trail question? [Admin@fomelc.org](mailto:Admin@fomelc.org) email will go to all board members and one of us will get back to you.

How do I become a volunteer with FOMELC?

Check out our website to sign up. [www.fomelc.org](http://www.fomelc.org)

Like your Newsletter?

Let Us know!

[admin@fomelc.org](mailto:admin@fomelc.org)