



PO Box 3431
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February 2020 Newsletter



Goose Creek Trailhead February 1st.
 Trail shows several folks have braved the cold snowy weather for Wilderness solitude.

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Forest Service Liaison

Ralph Bradt
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Note from the Chair – Wilderness Rest

Winter brings quiet to the wilderness as plants lie dormant awaiting the return of the summer sun and the rare animal you spot is bundled in a heavy winter coat and foraging for any remnants of food. Most humans also hibernate from their activities, which creates an opportunity for those of us who enjoy the solitude that wilderness offers. While popular trailheads still attract visitors, like the Goose Creek trail photo in this



newsletter, you don't have to venture far to get away from any human influence or find a trail that no one else has visited, like during the snowshoe outing on the Cub Creek trail below.

In spite of the dormancy that envelopes wilderness, work on maintaining access to wilderness and planning for the summer season also progress during the winter months, as the articles in this newsletter illustrate. This work is undertaken by dedicated volunteers who understand that the summer season is too short for all the work that needs to be done while at the same time taking a moment to enjoy the particular qualities of wilderness.

I encourage you to consider visiting wilderness while snow lays heavy on the ground. You might discover an unappreciated aspect of wilderness and another motivation to help preserve and protect those unique qualities.

- Peter Vrolijk

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Only a game trail marks the position of the Cub Creek Trail just outside the east side of the Mount Evans Wilderness.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact The Project Lead For More Info:

Project Weeds: alan@fomelc.org

Project Trails: steve@fomelc.org

Project information will be updated with each newsletter
Projects are currently being scheduled for the upcoming season.

February: No Monthly Meeting

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

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

May: Spring Training (for all members) & Monthly Meeting- May 16-17, 2020.
Watch the newsletter for more info.

Be Involved In Protecting Your Wilderness Areas in Partnership with the Forest Service

Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses

Join FOMELC today!

Admin@fomelc.org

(FOMELC is a 501(C)3 Volunteer Organization)

**The idea of wilderness
Needs no defense.
It only needs more defenders**
- *Edward Abbey*



Clearing fallen trees from Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness Areas Trails: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall

Steve West

Keeping trails open and safety of the trail users is only some of the volunteer work that Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness (FOMELC) provides to the Forest Service. In January Grover Cleveland, a volunteer for the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) and Steve West, a volunteer for FOMELC, hiked the Ben Tyler trail from the Trail Head to the Wilderness Boundary. The volunteers removed 4 trees during the 1 mile hike.

Please visit our Website: www.FOMELC.org for more information about FOMELC and the two Wilderness Areas.

If you find fallen trees across a USFS trail please record the location of downed trees with the FOMELC Survey 123 App (for volunteers), or contact:

South Platte Ranger District	(303) 275-5610
Clear Creek Ranger District	(303) 567-4382
South Park Ranger District	(719) 836-2031

From the Weed Patch – Alan Rockwood

WHAT DOES THE 'FOMELC WEED GUY' DO WITH ALL THIS SNOW?

There are two obvious answers - take a break and/or go to where the weeds are. We have done both but mainly the former.

For the moment, my wife Candy, Rikka (our new puppy) and I have positioned Tuktu (our boat) and ourselves at 29 degrees 40'8" N / 81 degrees 12'54" West otherwise known as Marine land, Florida. A city of 5 or 6 permanent residents. A funky little spot on the charts is great for R & R. We have a resident family of osprey with one noisy adolescent, a raft of brown pelicans, two manatees, and a pod of dolphins that regularly take lunch in the marina's entry channel.

To the south of the marina is a park hosting interpretive nature trails for "River to Sea" explaining the ecological connections from Florida's saltwater marshes to the sea coast. To the west across the Matanzas River is a national environmental research preserve for the study of estuaries. This is an area of great biodiversity as it has an overlap of white mangrove trees from south Florida and red mangrove trees adapted to wetlands that are more northerly. It is also a great area for kayaking. We have miles of beaches to walk just across the road FL A1A. With these natural amenities, the University of Florida has established the Whitney Center for Marine Studies adjacent to the marina. One of their unique specialties is a sea turtle hospital. (This area has been an important nesting area for sea turtles - especially the Green turtle, hunted to near extinction, Loggerhead and Leatherback.) Between the salt marshes and the hardwood groves (known as "hammocks" here, the native word meaning a "restful place") there are discussions of invasive species. Florida has serious weed problems. In this area are Brazilian Pepper, Downy rose-myrtle, Coral Adria's, and Lantana. Many are escape cultivars, the offending area is often South American, and not the Eurasian species we experience.



This may not sound like the typical sailor's hang out - no tiki bars or dives, but it works for us. The University enclave provides some entertainment - lectures and concerts. Our puppy Rikka figured out cruising on a boat on the third leg of the journey. She is enthralled by the empty beaches. I know the endless runs on the broad Florida beaches will forever be in her memory when we return to the mountains.

So what 'weed guys' do once the reports are filed and next year's grants are submitted is regenerate with something fresh and different. We will see you the first of May. (However, let me tell you when it is cold in Florida you KNOW IT.)

Spring Training 2020

Dee Lyons – Committee Chair

The Planning for Spring Training for FOMELC members has begun. The first Planning Committee Meeting is set for February 23rd Sunday 3pm to 5pm at the Lariat Lodge in Evergreen.

FOMELC Volunteers who have attended a prior Spring Training have the experience needed to help on the Planning Committee.

The current date for this year's training for new recruits is May 16-17. We will be discussing the possibility in condensing the program from 2 days down to one day. Mentors who know the FOMELC roles and responsibilities will be needed to train new FOMELC Volunteers with items that may not be taught in a classroom environment on the training weekend. Mentor Volunteers will be a critical need. If you would like to be a mentor please contact dee@fomelc.org

If you are a current FOMELC member and have not attended Spring Training, please consider attending. You can sign up at dee@fomelc.org We need your name, address, email and phone number.

The location of the 2020 Spring Training has not been confirmed. Watch your newsletter for details.



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 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

Like your Newsletter?

Let Us know!

admin@fomelc.org