

Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses



November Newsletter 2021

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Note from the Chair – By Peter Vrolijk

Please Remember Us

We close out the year with the final newsletter on a happy note – we celebrate the selection of Alan Rockwood as a Wilderness Champion of the Year. This is a remarkable distinction granted by the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, and one that every member of FOMELC shares a part in.

On a different note, we end the year asking our members to help as they can with year-end contributions. Regrettably, FOMELC survives solely on charitable contributions. Support from the USFS dried up a couple of years ago, and there is little evidence that this funding will ever return. We do apply for and receive grants, but these funds are directed to specific projects. Our day-to-day expenses must be paid for through charitable contributions.



Fall reminds us that spring will follow with streams gushing with the flow of snowmelt. Bear Creek from the Cub Creek trail, Mount Evans Wilderness.

Recognizing that we need to survive in this funding environment, the FOMELC board undertook the task of trimming our regular expenses as far as possible a couple of years ago. At that time, we did things like obtaining an end-of-year, in-kind contribution from the USFS to purchase a storage shed that was placed in the South Platte Ranger District secured space, saving us the cost of ~\$1000/year in storage unit rental.

Despite those efforts, some costs remain; for example, insurance, cost for the website server, and the cost of hosting an end-of-year celebration for volunteers. We think we have reduced our costs to the minimum required for FOMELC to function.

Now we ask for your financial support to help us close out the year in the black and keep the organization functioning as needed to execute our mission. In fundraisers we often hear that a contribution of any size is appreciated. For FOMELC, running a shoestring budget, this statement is especially true. Our greatest benefit comes from the hours our volunteers contribute, but this only happens when we have enough money to keep FOMELC functioning.

Please contribute today using the link provided in this newsletter or on Colorado Gives Day (as per the next page).

-Peter

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

**Give Where You Live! Colorado Gives Day
Donate to FOMELC for your Local Nonprofit**



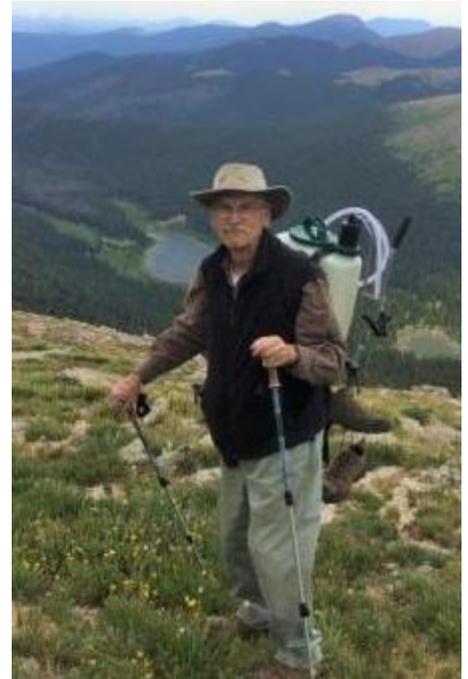
As you think about potential end-of-year charitable contributions, please consider FOMELC in your planning! As we are a 100% volunteer organization that is self-funded through grants and donations, any financial contribution makes a significant impact. Funds are used for brochure maps, Leave No Trace information and business cards that are given to hikers free, during trailhead host programs and public education event booths. Donations also keep our website up and running and provide for 501C(3) insurance for the organization. Free SWAG and BBQ's are provided for our volunteers in appreciation for all their hard work.

Thank you for helping make FOMELC a success!

Donate

Alan Rockwood Honored as 2021 Wilderness Champion

Alan Rockwood was chosen as one of two wilderness champions for 2021 by the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) on Nov. 19, 2021. The purpose of the recognition is to “recognize an individual wilderness steward that has demonstrated outstanding ability to steward their wilderness areas, complete a needed project, or overcome challenges and obstacles that led to improvements in wilderness stewardship in their areas.” While Alan deserves full credit for this award, the work undertaken to achieve this distinction is attributed to the hard work of the entire FOMELC volunteer community.



Alan’s nomination identifies these aspects of his contribution that warrant recognition (statements from the nomination): “Long-term effective contributions in seeking to eradicate invasive plants from the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses and preserve the wilderness character derived from a healthy, native vegetation ecosystem”.

“Alan’s coordinating efforts across multiple state and federal agencies, by motivating a deep volunteer base, working with contractors, and applying a relentless passion to achieve eradication of invasive species”.

“Leadership efforts have diminished Canada thistle and yellow toadflax infestations in select areas to the point where the idea of eradication seems plausible (e.g., Beartrack Lakes, Beaver Meadows, and Resthouse, Mt. Evans Wilderness; Wigwam, Lost Creek Wilderness), and considerable progress has been made by multi-year treatments in long-established infestations (e.g., Indian Creek musk thistle; Resthouse Fire orange hawkweed, both in Mount Evans; and an assortment of thistles and toadflax along the Goose Creek and Hankins Pass trails in the Lost Creek Wilderness)”.



“Alan’s passion for preserving wilderness was obvious”.

“Alan’s personality is positive, easygoing, innovative, and responsible”.

“Alan faithfully sits down at his desk and records acres of invasive weeds treatments accomplished due to his planning efforts”.

“Alan Rockwood stepped into the breach and began the first of a multiyear program in weed control”.

“He richly deserves to be recognized as a champion”.

Achieving such success is only possible through the hard work of volunteers who contribute to projects, both patrolling wilderness for evidence of invasive plants and treating infestations in a timely and responsible manner. Alan's achievement is a testament to the efforts of the entire FOMELC organization who help make these efforts possible and successful. Join Alan on a project in 2022 (he will be happy to have you along) and congratulate him on becoming a 2021 Wilderness Champion.



End-of-Season FOMELC Member Appreciation Celebration October 23, 2021

What a great day, as 35 people attended the end-of-year celebration at Staunton State Park covered picnic area. BBQ and more from Scooter's Smokehouse and a day park pass to the park were provided by the FOMELC organization. Volunteer members are appreciated for their hard work on trails, noxious weed eradication, patrols and as trailhead hosts. Several awards were given out and SWAG was had by all, including donated Patagonia clothing. Many volunteers went on a hike before lunch. Was great to connect with so many volunteers.

New 2021 Members winners for brand new daypacks!

Nancy Lynch



Bob Legrand



Joe O'Leary



Steve West received his award for the 2020 Wilderness Stewardship Champion from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and Society for Wilderness Stewardship.



Your Newsletter Crew will be taking time off

The project season is done. Patrols are ongoing even in winter if you want to hit the snowy trails for a different perspective. I want to thank my faithful editors in helping to create each newsletter, they are so important in producing a quality product. I am so grateful for each one of them. Thank you Dahl & Loren Winters and John Kruse, you are the best! We will be back in March with the New Year line up on upcoming events. – Dee

ZOOM meetings will be back for the winter with guest speakers, watch your email!



Dee Lyons



Dahl Winters



John Kruse



Loren Winters

FOMELC Board Members

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FOMELC WEBSITE: <https://fomelc.org/>

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:

The safety of our community is our top priority, and we are committed to doing our part to limit the spread of COVID-19 (aka coronavirus). We are closely monitoring guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE), and how these might affect our programs. We are also coordinating with our US Forest Service partners to remain in compliance with their COVID-19 response guidelines. Stay Safe and Healthy!

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.

*Friends of Mt Evans & Lost Creek Wildernesses
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**Of all the paths you take in life,
make sure a few of them are dirt.**

- John Muir

