



# Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses



## October Newsletter 2023

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# Why Do I Volunteer?

## Comments from 2023 New FOMELC Volunteers



This was my first year volunteering with the Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses (FOMELC). After participating in multiple projects and spending time with the group I can tell you that this far exceeded my expectations. The professionalism, enthusiasm and care showed by the FOMELC members was exceptional. They take you as you are and help you learn about the Wildernesses and how we can take care of them. Plus, being a part of FOMELC gave me extra incentive to be in the Wilderness areas. The peace the Wilderness areas bring to me is second to none. Knowing that I'm helping protect and preserve these areas makes me feel good. I endorse joining FOMELC. You can do as much or as little as you want, but I think you'll end up doing more than you expected and you'll also feel good about it.

- *Martin Quinlan*

Initially, Ron and I were slow in immersing ourselves in the organization after learning about it, attending Zoom meetings during the pandemic, followed by a couple of in-the-flesh ones once restrictions began to be lifted. We were warmly welcomed by the leadership and members, and inspired by their passion for preserving the wilderness. And upon completing the stewardship and invasive weed training programs, we were hooked.

Although we are active volunteers for other organizations, we have learned a great deal during our FOMELC trail maintenance, weed eradication and trail patrol outings. Our lives have been greatly enriched through our interactions with the individuals and experiences in the wildernesses. We highly encourage others to partner with FOMELC and the USFS to protect our priceless wildlife and wilderness resources!

- *Jan and Ron Schmidt*



I recently relocated to Colorado from the State of Maryland. I was drawn to Colorado by the majestic beauty of the mountains and wilderness areas. We settled in Bailey, when a friend suggested I get involved with the Friends of Mount Evans. I completed the online training and participated in a trail hosting event. The training helped me get "up close and personal" with the wilderness areas outside my door. It has also been a pleasure to be involved with like-minded people who value the wilderness as much as I do. Thank you FOMELC for all the hard work you do and I look forward to more involvement in the next season!

- *Marilyn Lawson*





This year I discovered the joy of volunteering with FOMELC. As a new member, I've had the privilege of learning, giving back to the wilderness, meeting great people, gaining a new appreciation for the trails, and generally found another reason to enjoy the beauty of our wilderness. I particularly enjoyed building check steps and generally repairing trails, meeting people while on patrol, and seeing the thrill in my wife's eye when she killed an invasive weed! FOMELC offers a new set of adventures that I can see myself enjoying for many years to come. If you or someone you know is looking to make a difference and share the outdoors with incredible people who care about our wilderness, give FOMELC a try. *-Bob Kulp*

Ha! Thanks for the weed coment Bob! Here's what I would say about my experiences:

A few years ago while backpacking in Mt. Evans Wilderness my husband and I passed a FOMELC trail crew. This spring we looked up the organization and decided to explore what it was all about. I have really enjoyed getting to participate in a variety of projects and trainings. It was great that I could jump right in as a new member. The crew leaders and mentors of FOMELC are knowledgeable, passionate, and inspiring men and women. I appreciated getting to explore weed mitigation projects led by Alan, trail maintenance projects with Wyatt, and trail patrol and campsite inventory training with Dee. FOMELC membership allows you to spend time in the wilderness with purpose and I look forward to spending more time giving back, learning, and meeting other people who have a passion for wilderness. *-Tara Kulp*



In May 2020 I just moved to the area from California, joining FOMELC allowed me to be with like-minded people and learn about the trail system in Lost Creek and Mt Evans Wildernesses. I have used trails throughout the world. I always appreciated the work the trail crews did when repairing, cleaning, and extending the trails. I knew that someday I would be part of the trail work crew and contribute to the maintenance of the trails. FOMELC has allowed me to pay it forward. I was excited to also participate in the noxious weed mitigation program this year. I became more aware of how invasive species devastate the wilderness environment. FOMELC has something for everyone to participate in caring for these wildernesses.

*-Theresa Gilliland*

# End of Season Celebration at Staunton State Park

In October we celebrated the end of the season with a BBQ, hiking and awards with volunteers. It was really great to spend time together. [Watch your email for upcoming speakers for this winter at the Evergreen Fire Station.](#) (Photos by Ronda West)



Alan Rockwood –

Lifetime Achievement Award for the Invasive Weed Program

New volunteer Achievement Awards (L to R)  
Peter Bohm, Theresa Gilland, Martin Quinlan,  
Tara Kulp, Bob Kulp. Dee Lyons – Wilderness  
Stewardship Program Coordinator.

New volunteers receiving awards that were not  
present: Jan & Ron Schmidt, Kim Stammer and  
Marilyn Lawson.



Dear Members and Friends,

Each year, tens of thousands of people drive to the top of Mount Blue Sky (previously Mt Evans) or hike the trails of the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses. Annually, more than 35,000 people hike the Mount Bierstadt trail alone. Colorado's population has doubled since the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980 created these Wildernesses increasing use, enjoyment and regrettably, damage. In addition, government programs to provide the materials and equipment needed by our volunteers have become increasingly scarce and uncertain.



Volunteer time alone is not enough, though our programs contributed nearly **3800** hours, valued at over **\$120,000**, to the Forest Service this year. To complement the volunteer time, our volunteers benefit from your financial support to collect data, complete trail maintenance projects, and run educational programs to help protect this precious resource. And, we don't meet the requirements to participate in Colorado Gives Day, so we rely on end-of-year campaigns to help support our financial goals.

Wilderness shapes how we feel about our world and ourselves. In return, the wilderness needs us to protect and preserve its beauty and sustain nature beyond its boundaries for generations to come. A donation of as little as \$25 can purchase materials for education or to sharpen a saw for trail maintenance. Your gift of any amount makes a difference!

**Our goal is to raise \$2500 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to help fund our operating budget.**

The operating budget is typically around \$10,000 each year to maintain our website, support member events, pay for member training, purchase educational materials for the public, tools, safety and other supplies and supporting services for patrolling, maintaining the hiking trails, and camping areas in the Arapaho and Pike National Forests.

Donations to Friends of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation. FOMELC is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Note: When making a donation, you might want to explore whether your employer has a matching donations program.

Go to our website, <https://fomelc.org/> click on Support Us and then click Donate and follow the directions or send your check to FOMELC, PO Box 3431, Evergreen, CO 80437.

The FOMELC Mission Statement states our stewardship activities are to preserve the wilderness character of these lands for current and future generations.

**Consider supporting FOMELC to help steward the wildernesses you love. Your contribution will make a difference.**

Sincerely,

FOMELC Board of Directors  
board@fomelc.org

# ***FOMELC EVENTS & NEWS***

**Latest alerts, trail conditions, campfire restrictions, reservations and pass information:**

**Know Before You Go –**

**Clear Creek County Fire Restrictions –**

<https://www.co.clear-creek.co.us/AlertCenter.aspx?CID=Fire-Ban-4>

**Know Before You Go –**

**Pike-San Isabel National Forest & Cimarron & Comanche National Grassland:**

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/psicc/fire/?cid=fseprd667413>

**Know Before You Go –**

**Park County Fire Restrictions:**

<https://www.parkco.us/alertcenter.aspx>

**Know Before You Go –**

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife:**

<https://cpw.state.co.us/>

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## **FOMELC Volunteer Needed**

Interested in volunteering to track FOMELC membership and monitor the website inquires?

Contact Steve at: [steve@fomelc.org](mailto:steve@fomelc.org)

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## **Priority Trails to Patrol: Mt. Evans Wilderness**

BEAR TRACK LAKES  
CAPTAIN MOUNTAIN  
CHICAGO LAKES  
CUB CREEK  
HELLS HOLE  
INDIAN CREEK

LINCOLN LAKE  
MT EVANS RIDGE  
RESTHOUSE MEADOWS  
ROOSEVELT LAKES  
SOUTH CHICAGO CREEK

# FOMELC Board Members

**Chairman:** Steve West  
[steve@fomelc.org](mailto:steve@fomelc.org)

**Trail Projects Coordinator:** Wyatt Stanland  
[wyatt@fomelc.org](mailto:wyatt@fomelc.org)

**Secretary:** Loren Winters  
[loren@fomelc.org](mailto:loren@fomelc.org)

**Membership Coordinator:** Vacant - Volunteer Needed

**Web Information Tech Lead:** Deb Grass  
[lildeb@fomelc.org](mailto:lildeb@fomelc.org)

**Noxious Weed Projects Coordinator:** Alan Rockwood  
[alan@fomelc.org](mailto:alan@fomelc.org)

**Outreach & Trailhead Hosting:** Gordon Brown  
[gordon@fomelc.org](mailto:gordon@fomelc.org)

**Newsletter Assistant Editor:** Loren Winters

**Newsletter/Wilderness Training Program:**  
Dee Lyons [dee@fomelc.org](mailto:dee@fomelc.org)

**Treasurer:** Matt Komos  
[matt@fomelc.org](mailto:matt@fomelc.org)

**Forest Service Liaison:** Ralph Bradt  
[ralph@fomelc.org](mailto:ralph@fomelc.org)

**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! As of April 2023, According to the Forest Service as of April 2023, there are **no restrictions** and all counties in Colorado are in low status.

## 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.



<https://fomelc.org/>

Friends of Mt Evans & Lost Creek Wildernesses  
POBox3431  
Evergreen, CO 80439

**“And Into the Forest I Go To Lose My Mind and Find My Soul”**

**– John Muir**