

@ The Preserve

Protecting the history and future of the Monument Preserve

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Note: Board Meetings are now the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Upcoming Events

FOMP Board Meetings—
 Held in the classroom at the Monument Fire Center every **second Tuesday** at 7 pm. Everyone is invited!

Oct—9th

Nov—13th

Dec—No Board Mtg.

Trail Maintenance Nights

Meet at the main trailhead (weather permitting).

Saturday Oct 6th
9–12 pm and 1–3 pm

SCOUTS WORK THE TRAILS!

by Jon Nordby

The Boy Scouts of America continued their tradition of community support this summer by tackling another large trail project in the Monument Preserve. On Saturday, August 11, 2007, Troop 17 Eagle Scout candidate Zach Newton planned and executed an Eagle Scout project on Trail 715. Zach worked with FOMP members to understand the critical need on this trail, FOMP received approval from Pike District Forest Service Rangers, and Zach took it from there.

Zach had done some trail work in the past, and recently spent a weekend with a volunteer organization doing trail work on Fourteeners. His experience proved invaluable, as he already understood why work had to be permanent and safe for all users of the trails. Zach was able to instill in his crew the importance of building structures that could withstand the pressure of horse traffic, lots of mtb traffic, and still be safe and enjoyable for foot traffic.

Five large water bars were installed during the day, and 1/3 of a mile of trail was trimmed back for visibility.



Zach Newton, center, evaluates each rock used in his project

Five water bars may not seem like a days work for approximately 18 people working 6–8 hours, but take a look at the picture and realize the size of the rocks we needed to excavate, move to the worksite, reposition a dozen times for proper fit, and rebury in the trail.

Zach was responsible for coordinating all aspects of this project. Zach supervised the work done on the day of the project, communicated with FOMP and the USFS for approval and implementation of his project and setup emergency plans, supplies on the trail, lunch breaks, training, safety, tools availability and use, plus all documentation to show the plan and work day, and took care of many other dependencies and details. The quality of the work, and the quantity, exceeded the scope of the project definition.

For our scheduled trail nights, FOMP now borrows phrases from Zach's kick-off meeting that day "If you have to ask, then that

rock is not big enough" or "If you have to ask, those rocks are not fit together correctly" or "that drain is not right" or "that oak is not pruned close enough to the ground". Another Zachism we are using is instead of saying we want that water bar to be permanent, we are now saying we want that water bar to be there 100 years from now.

Thanks to Pike Ranger Rick Ellsworth, our liason to the USFS, for guidance in initial scope of this project, and for ensuring we had safe, updated trail tools so everyone was properly equipped. Thanks to the FOMP members, your membership and donations help us fund some of the tools and materials used in these projects. Thanks again Troop 17, for continuing your commitment to the Preserve, your work will benefit the community for many, many years to come.

Stay tuned, another Troop 17 Eagle Candidate is coming to the Monument Preserve in late October. Sam Weigand is planning a project for us on the trail west of Monument Rock. More info on this project is planned to be available on the website www.fomp.org

TRAIL NOTES

by Jon Nordby

The FOMP trail work crews had an enormous challenge ahead of us in May when the snow cleared from the amazing winter we had. Compounding the mud and runoff issues from the snow melt-off, the Preserve was frequently doused by intense rain and hail – with only a short dry spell in July.

Starting in late May, the trail crew met every Tuesday night throughout the summer. The regularly scheduled second Tuesday of each month was still the larger focused night, but a small dedicated crew was there every Tuesday. We were completely weathered out twice, on the 7th and 14th of August, from intense lightning. We had a few shortened work nights due to lightning as well, but always at least got a single water bar in before the race back to the vehicles. We even worked in some rain which gave us great perspective on what is working and what is not!

The major focus was on the heavier used trails, that in some cases have not shown a lot of damage yet. We went into prevention mode – and put measures in so those undamaged trails stay that way. Some other trails are still really suffering, and we hope to get to a few of those during our October 6th workday, and the Eagle Scout project planned late in October.

We did a lot of traditional work this year – water bars, outslopes, drains, and pruning. We also did quite a bit of damage repair work by rocking and filling washouts from the intense rains, and cutting some downed trees off the trails.

In addition, We are trying to prevent the trails from getting wider, especially where we prune back scrub oak for visibility. We are doing this by placing rocks on the areas of trail where traffic seems to wander off, especially the apex of corners. These again are large rocks, dug halfway into the ground, and finished to look like they were just already there. If we don't dig them in, they end up on the trail and are a hazard for all. We closed two trails that have been maintenance issues for several years now – if the trail is in the drainage we cannot do much with it and the problem will just get worse. We tend to be careful with closures, for many in the Preserve have historic value, and we ensure there are existing alternative trails nearby that we can maintain prior to closing a problem trail and starting the restoration process. Restoration includes slashing (logs, branches, organic material) the gully, reseeding, and often filling parts of it in with rock and dirt. We'd like to restore washed out trails so well that no evidence of a gully or trail remains.

Our number one source of damage is not a particular class of trail user – it continues to be the layout of our trails due to their historic origins. Many were created by workers in the nursery getting to and from the job site, and others exist from cattle going between feed and water. The number two source of damage? Folks on the trail when they shouldn't be – all classes of trail users. In 15 years of hiking, horse riding, and biking on these trails, last winter we had the trails widened and braided more than I have ever seen



them. Traffic packs the main trail down to ice, so traffic goes off to the side. If the trail is icy, just turn around and find an alternative. Sure, one user won't hurt a thing, but magnify your actions by the next 100 people that do the same thing. And so will the next 100. The mud season from snowmelt and intense showers also resulted in users riding and walking off to the side – turn back and use the roads in and near the Preserve on those days when it is too muddy. And just as important, hold others to the same rules that are in your group – turn everyone around. Go for a tour of Ute Valley Park or Palmer Park in Colorado Springs for an example of what happens to intense use on days when the trails should be left to dry out.

Thanks to everyone for your help out there this year – memberships, donations, avoiding the trails when they need a rest, and of course for showing up with tools in hand. Thanks to all volunteers that were able to help this year. Special thanks to the core crew that showed up nearly every Tuesday, and folks who did work in the Preserve and nearby when you could (you all know who you are!), thanks so much for the huge impact your work will continue to make.

Join us for the last Trail Work Session!

When: Saturday October 6th
9 am -12 pm and 1 pm—3 pm

Where: Meet at the Main Trailhead
Questions? call Jon 640-1347



MEET OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

by Amy L. Smith

Our individual and family members are extremely important to FOMP, but our corporate sponsors also do a great job in assisting our organization. Hear from our corporate sponsors on why they choose to support FOMP.



Spirit Furniture is located in the Promenade Shops at Briargate on Briargate Parkway just east of I-25. It is a family owned company with a firm commitment to contemporary design. Julie and Steve Lawton opened the store in Colorado Springs in 1985. Their talented design staff is known for award winning interiors and superior service. The look of the store is soft contemporary with an emphasis on natural materials like leather, stone, fiber and wood. A variety of price points and unique accessory items make Spirit a fun place to shop.

I have enjoyed the Preserve for over 15 years – usually with a Golden Retriever or two by my side. Often, the best part of my day are the hours I spend in the natural beauty of the Preserve. I am grateful to have access to this incredible resource that has enhanced my life in so many ways.

The volunteer effort of the Friends of the Monument Preserve is inspirational and valuable beyond words. We should all feel nothing but gratitude for the folks who give so generously of their time to protect and preserve the trails. There are others who, unaffiliated with FOMP, also do their part to help out – whether picking up dog poop, clearing downed tree limbs or helping new hikers and bikers find their way, I've always been impressed with the community spirit of people who use the trails. I bring plastic bags and gloves every couple of weeks to clean up trash at the two

trailheads. It isn't at all uncommon for someone returning from a hike or heading out for a bike ride to stop and help me pick up beer cans!

I hope we can keep the Preserve exactly as it is – peaceful and not overly regulated, a place for animals and people to freely enjoy nature. The partnership between the Forest Service, the Firefighters and the Volunteers is community cooperation at its very best.

Come visit us—Mon–Sat 10–9, Sunday 12–5, www.spiritcontemporary.com phone 548–8100

Think & Tinker, Ltd

Our company, Think & Tinker, Ltd., sells printed circuit prototyping supplies and carbide tools. We sell business-to-business. We are located in Palmer Lake, Colorado.

We've lived across the road from the Mt. Herman trailhead for 18 years. We've walked, hiked, run, and biked in the park since we've lived here.

All the dogs we've owned over the years have traveled the width and breadth of the trails in the Monument Preserve – with the pond at the foot of Monument Rock their favorite swimming and watering hole. For all these years, the Preserve has served as spiritual and emotional therapy, mental escape, a backyard fitness center, and a place to revitalize one's soul. I feel truly blessed that such a beautiful piece of Rocky Mountain nature is so accessible for everyday use – virtually in our backyard. Keeping the Preserve a sanctuary of nature is important to us – we know it doesn't happen (and hasn't happened) without the investment of time and effort of the FOMP.

As the years have progressed, more and more weekend outdoor enthusiasts have found this haven. We sincerely hope that the Preserve will continue to be managed

with sensitivity to all the parties who are at the table and to those who have yet to pull up a chair.

We would really like to see an outreach effort made to teens/high-schoolers to become involved in the trail work efforts. Involving teens is part of the process of raising the next generation of stewards. Expose this generation of kids to the consequences of use of a public space AND the consequences of effort in maintaining it.

www.thinktink.com



Rampart Commercial is a commercially focused real estate company with a home office located in Monument at 350 Raspberry Lane. We also have offices in Colorado Springs and Woodland Park.

FOMP is supportive of the area that we enjoy as a recreational resource in Monument and a close-in buffer that preserves both wildlife and flora.

We hope that Monument Preserve will remain just that – basically an unimproved open space available to the residents of the Tri Lakes Region.



Dirk and The Wine Seller were our featured member in our last newsletter. You can check out his latest specials: 2805 Roberts Drive Monument, CO (across from the Bowling Alley) Tuesday – Saturday 11 am – 6 pm www.thewineseller.net



**FRIENDS OF
MONUMENT PRESERVE**

PO Box 634
Monument, CO 80132
Email: info@fomp.org
www.fomp.org

We're on the Web!!
www.fomp.org

Have plans for Oct 6th?

Join us for the last Trail Work Session
9-12 pm and 1-3 pm
Meet at the Main Trailhead

MEMBERSHIP FORM



**FRIENDS OF
MONUMENT PRESERVE**

Become a member of the Friends of Monument Preserve.

As a member of the Friends of Monument Preserve, you will help fund trail maintenance, educational programs, volunteer events and more!

Make your tax deductible donation to

Friends of Monument Preserve
PO Box 634
Monument, CO 80132

Annual Memberships

Individual \$15 _____
Family \$25 _____
Business/Sponsor \$100 _____
Other _____

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email* _____

* used for newsletters and event reminders

Your Interests:

Hiking _____ Biking _____ Horseback riding _____
Fishing _____ Nature/Ecology _____ Preservation/Archeology _____