

@The Preserve

Protecting the history and future of the Monument Preserve

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Upcoming Events

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

June 20th—Board Mtg.

July 18th—Board Mtg.

Aug 15th—Board Mtg.

Trail Maintenance Nights

Meet at the main trailhead at 6 pm (weather permitting).

June 5th

June 12th

June 19th

June 26th

July 10th

TREES FOR THE FUTURE

by Amy L. Smith

May 30th was not Earth Day or Arbor Day or Tree City USA day, but for a class at Prairie Winds Elementary, it was a day to give back trees that were lost in the Berry fire of 1989. Davonne Johnson, a 4th grade teacher at Prairie Winds Elementary School and member of FOMP, helped organize her class for the tree planting.

The school volunteers helped plant 90 trees on a ridge near the Memorial Grove area that was heavily damaged by the fire. The area selected had dense re-growth of Gambel



Jon Nordby helps a young volunteer with planting his seedling.

Oak, but very limited re-growth of pine or fir. The seedlings were Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine from the Colorado State Forest Service.

The tree planting was originally scheduled for an afternoon after school, but it had to be re-scheduled twice with the daily

afternoon thunderstorms of May.

The students who attended the planting were newcomers to the Preserve and were excited to find a new place to explore. "My husband and I are both runners and it is by far our favorite area, as well as our dog's favorite too", says Davonne Johnson.

Years ago, FOMP used to participate in large plantings of trees, but with the recent drought, the success rate was not worth the effort of the planting. If we achieve good success rates with this project, we may plan on more projects in the future.

4-H CLUB IS "FOR THE BIRDS"

by Amy L. Smith

Have you seen some new bird boxes at the Preserve? You have the Mt. Herman 4-H Club to thank for them. As part of their Community Service project, the Mt. Herman 4-H Club built 6 new birdhouses and cleaned and repaired an additional 3.

The new bird boxes are located in the meadow, a short walk from the main trailhead. The bird boxes, over the course of the year may be utilized by Western Blue Birds, Tree Swal-

lows, Violet Green Swallows, Wrens and Chickadees.



Mt. Herman 4-H Club rests after installing bird houses

This year, FOMP member and bird enthusiast, Hermann Spielkamp wanted to try out a new theory with the position-

ing of the bird boxes. Instead of placing the bird boxes equally spaced throughout the meadow, they located several bird boxes close together. The theory is that since swallows dominate nesting sites, placing one additional bird box nearby provides the blue birds with a place to nest since swallows will not nest near one another. Hopefully, this will give the blue birds an equal chance at the new digs.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Amy L. Smith

At the April 18th meeting, elections were held for 2 key Board of Director positions. The terms of both Chris Tirpak as President and Jon Nordby as Vice President were expiring. Member turnout was good with a few welcome new faces. Nominations were made to keep both Chris and Jon in their respec-

tive positions for another term. There were no objections and Chris and Jon were voted to carry on their positions. For the 2007-2008 year, the Board Members are as follows:

President—Chris Tirpak

Vice President—Jon Nordby

Secretary—Diane Bandle

Treasurer—Amy L. Smith

Historian—Mary Carew

Members at large—John Dworak, Hermann Spielkamp and Bill Benson.

If you would like to join the Board in the future, or just get more involved, please attend one of our Board Meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at the Fire Center classroom.

MEMORIAL GROVE CEREMONY

by Diane Bandle

The Memorial Grove Ceremony took place on Saturday May 5th. It was a beautiful day outside the brief rain showers. To start the ceremony was a bag piper playing "Amazing Grace" while the American flag was risen. Following was several speeches from the Forest Service recognizing the Forest Service personnel that have passed this year. That was followed by the plaque ceremony

where their names were added to the plaque.

To end the ceremony "Taps" was played by the bag piper while Brent Botts, district forester, walked the dirt path with the horseless rider symbolizing the passed forest service men and women.

Following the ceremony, lunch was served the family members of the Forest Service personnel. The Hot Shots and Helitak crew helped with the lunch. It was a very touching and memorable day.



Memorial Grove has been honoring fallen Forest Service personnel since WWII.

SOME LIKE IT HOT! - HOT SHOT DINNER

by Jon Nordby

On Monday evening, May 7th, FOMP continued its tradition of honoring the summer residents of the Preserve with a potluck dinner. Every Spring, the Pike Hotshot and Monument Helitack fire crews assemble and prepare for the upcoming fire season. Although a few of them are locals, many come from all parts of the country to join these elite fire crews.

The 2nd week of May marks the end of their training and the crews are ready to be deployed. These guys and gals work very hard, over long days, hauling around the gear to get in top physical shape and refine fire fighting techniques to be used all summer. Combine some great cooks with hungry young folks

who haven't had home cooked meals for a while, and you get a wildly successful combination!

The FOMP board members organized a potluck with a Mexican theme, and a call to members resulted in an awesome response: green chile, pork stew, enchilada plates, soft tacos, casseroles, deserts, and many other great dishes. Ten FOMP members stayed on for supper; even two of the original FOMP board members who had a hand in starting this tradition - Special thanks to Mary Carew and Donna Rezak! There were about 25 folks from the fire crew



there, and the Pike District Ranger Brent Botts joined us as well.

It's great to sit down for a while with the fire crew and hear about their adventures, and where they might be heading this year. Georgia and California get brought up, but we also learned their secondary mission (behind wildfires of course) is to provide support for disaster cleanup and relief. Some speculated they might find themselves at the site of a tornado or hurricane as the weather has already proven to be capable of this year.

We wish them a successful, but SAFE season and hope to serve them again next year! Stay tuned to more FOMP events through the Board meetings or www.fomp.org.

TRAIL NOTES

by Jon Nordby

Spring has sprung and we are seeing what a wet spring does to dirt trails. First, an important reminder, please when using the trails, turn around if it is too muddy and encourage those with you to do the same. If you must proceed, please stay IN THE TRAIL. Do not go around it – the damage from the next 100 users following your tracks is ruining our trails. The next time you are hosing off your bike, or horse, or tennis shoes, realize where that mud came from and that the trails are now that much worse for the wear.

The second Tuesday of each month is

our main trail night, with local businesses providing raffle items for all attendees. Due to the increased runoff from the winter and traffic on the muddy trails, FOMP is running additional organized trail crews every Tuesday evening at 6 pm–dark through the months of May and June (weather permitting), meeting at the parking lot at Nursery and Mt Herman Road.

The additional trail nights are typically smaller groups, focused on trail maintenance that is permanent, effective and safe for all users. We are also trying to restore some of the more damaged areas, by reseeding and using natural materials to prevent more damage. If



Trail crew working on a trail in the work center

Tuesday evenings do not work for you, call Jon Nordby at 719-640-1347 and we'll arrange another crew going out at a different time and focus on how you want to learn and contribute to the trails. Stay tuned to our website

and get on the email list for updates on Limbaugh/USFS715 trail work days as well.

MEET THE MEMBER—DIRK STAMP, THE WINE SELLER

by Amy L. Smith

Do you think that most mountain bikers like to crack open a tall frosty one after a killer ride? Not all of them, meet Dirk Stamp.

Dirk can be found on the trails of the Preserve in the morning, and hosting a gourmet food and wine dinner in the evening. Dirk is the owner of The Wine Seller, located just outside of Monument on Highway 105 across from the Bowling Alley. Dirk hosts monthly wine tasting events and wine dinners with his local restaurant friends at Bella Panini, Mozaic @ The Inn at Palmer Divide, The Margarita at Pine Creek and La Baguette.

Mountain biking is definitely Dirk's favorite activity in the Preserve. He also enjoys hiking with his wife Laura and two boys, Jason and Jean-Luc. In the winter he cross country skis when the snow permitting. He was out skiing in great conditions in January and February.

This is Dirk's first year as a member of FOMP, although he has been helping out on trails informally for a year with Tim



Dirk returning to his store after a ride at the Preserve

Watkins from Balanced Rock Bike and Ski. Dirk firmly believes in volunteering his time. "I believe that if you use it then you should help maintain it. The Forest Service has limited budget for trail maintenance so it's imperative for volunteers to do it", says Dirk. When Dirk rides, he sees first hand the damage rain storms can do to the trails. He believes that if no one stepped up to the task then it wouldn't be long before many of the trails would become very difficult and unpleasant to use.

Being a local business owner and believing in giving back to the community has driven Dirk to take on another role for

FOMP. Dirk is recruiting like-minded business partners to sponsor a trail work

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Dirk Stamp, The Wine Seller

evening each month. Business partners will offer prizes and perks to our hard working trail volunteers. This works for everyone all around, the Preserve, the trail work volunteers and our business partners.

So, this summer keep an eye out for Dirk and ask him about a reasonably priced Pinot Noir and the business sponsor of the month.



**FRIENDS OF
MONUMENT PRESERVE**

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

*Give us some story ideas or
ideas for volunteer activities
at info@fomp.org*

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



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 _____