

# @The Preserve

*Protecting the history and future of the Monument Preserve*

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**Election Night!**  
**March 11th.**  
**Renew your**  
**membership &**  
**vote!**

## Upcoming Events

### FOMP Board Meetings

7 pm, Classroom at the Monument Fire Center. *Everyone is invited!*

**Tues, March 11th—election night**

**Tues, April 8th**—yearly project planning and prioritization

### Hot Shot Potluck

April—date/time TBA via email

### Trail Maintenance Nights

6 pm, @ Main trailhead. Tools provided, wear jeans, gloves, bring water.

**Tues, May 13th—seedling release**

**Tues, Jun 10th—seedling release**

**Tues, July 8th**

**Tues, Aug 12th**

**Tues, Sep 9th**

(dates weather permitting)

**For more info:**

**719-640-1347 Jon**  
**or 719-439-8865 Chris**

## 2013 SCOUT PROJECTS

*by Jon Nordby*

Mid-summer last year, FOMP was approached by Andrew and Daniel Jacobsen, two Eagle Scout candidates from Monument Boy Scout Troop #6. They were seeking worthy projects that leveraged and enhanced their knowledge of the outdoors and trailwork, served the local community, and met the requirements to earn their rank of Eagle Scout. The FOMP board of directors met and chose from several projects we felt high on our priority list.

The first project we decided on was to reroute one of our fairly new trails to prevent future issues. Many of us have been doing this for 10 and even 15 years now, and we are getting a lot better at seeing what works and what doesn't, and often we can see it now before it becomes an issue so we work to prevent it if we can get the resources to do so. We decided to reroute a section of the "Cool Runnings" trail, that runs uphill from Monument Rock to the West side of the Preserve near Mount Herman Road. We have not closed the old one yet, but you will see the new trail disappear to the left along the old irrigation ditch as you head uphill. Andrew

chose this project, and worked closely with FOMP volunteers Joe Ennis and Jon Nordby to learn what we needed, why we needed it, what tools to use, and how much resource it would take to do this. The area we had to reroute had long sections of very thick and mature scrub oak, so it was hard to see the lay of the trail until it was cut out.



FOMP Volunteer Joe Ennis (left) teaching some of the crew how to use Pulaski's to remove roots from the new trailbed.

After many meetings at the worksite, and dry runs with tools along the flagged trail, September 14th came around and the project was on. Andrew coordinated his crew, that consisted of approximately 10 scouts and several adults. In addition, Joe and Jon were on the crew to ensure the work met the guidelines FOMP requires to meet the needs of the variety of trail users that utilize the area. Some of the hardest work is removing the root systems of the oak we went through – it has to be dug up and cut off well below ground level – extremely hard work even with Pulaski's designed to do this sort of thing. The project went well, and is seeing a lot of use



Andrew Jacobsen's team takes a water break.

by horses, bikers, and foot traffic alike.

The second project was to continue the ongoing restoration of the burn scar that runs through the 1000 acre property and up the face of Mt Herman. Our FOMP board is lucky to have Dianne Strohm on the board not only as treasurer, she is also an expert in fire restoration and forestry health from the US Air Force Academy and USFS. She has taught and led FOMP volunteers in "softwood release" projects, where a crew of volunteers cut the scrub oak brush back away from native Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir seedlings that are taking root naturally on the edges of the burn. We decided on an area adjacent to Mount Herman Road where the South side of the burn scar finally fades off into the trees again. Daniel Jacobsen selected this project, and planning began. Although the Eagle candidate must run the planning and implementation of the project from start to finish, they must design and

## 2013 SCOUT PROJECTS— (CONT.)

plan out the project with the beneficiary and be trained to perform the work correctly in all phases. FOMP volunteers Joe



Daniel Jacobson's team cut their way through 1.5 acres of oak to allow natural seedlings to regrow.

Ennis and Jon Nordby met on site with Daniel and his family multiple times to map out the project area and train Daniel so he could lead his crew to a successful project outcome.

Oak is pared back from

the natural seedlings up to a 5' circle using saws and sharp loppers to clear it. The saws and loppers used for this are

paid for by FOMP through member donations – thank you because they are used extensively with projects like this one. The cuttings must be kept near the ground to avoid creating a ladder fuel in case of a future wildfire. The result is a healthier seedling that is not competing for water, light, and soil nutrients with the thick and maturing oak in the area. Daniel's project on September 21<sup>st</sup> was a success, with 15 young men, women, and some adults participating. Well over 500 seedlings were “released” from the pressure of encroaching oak brush by this project – it is easy to spot the green below Mount Herman Road as you look East and below the road at the South side of the burn area. Please join the FOMP team and help us continue this “softwood release” effort in 2014 – every trail night we try to make progress on this aspect of our charter.



Daniel Jacobson's Troop 6 team takes a lunch break partway through the day.

On Sunday February 9th, 2014, I represented FOMP at the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Andrew and Daniel at the First Presbyterian Church in Monument. It was very well attended by family, friends, and of course many in the scouting family. I am always inspired by these ceremonies, hearing these young men take the oath of an Eagle Scout and committing themselves to service and positively impacting those around them throughout their lives.

## THE SCOOP ON POOP!

by Darlene Dingleberry

As the weather warms up, we anticipate increased use of the Monument Preserve by both the two-legged and four-legged varieties. While we understand that dogs and horses are ready to void as soon as they hop out of your car or trailer, we ask that pet owners police the areas near trailheads.

Further, if owners scoop poop into bags along the trail, please carry those bags back to your vehicles. Otherwise, let your animals relieve themselves in the open where the waste will decompose faster than that enclosed in plastic.

### Fun Fecal Facts:

Time required for decomposition of manure in open field >>>>3 months

Time required for decomposition of manure in plastic bag>>>>3,000 years  
Visibility of manure in field>>>>5 yards  
Visibility of manure in bright blue plastic bag>>>>50 yards  
Probability of manure decomposing and providing nutrients to forest:>>>>100%

Probability of someone else collecting your plastic bag full of manure:>>>>0%

## DANGEROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE FIREARM USE

by Pete Pistol

While many issues have arisen in our husbandry of Pike National Forest (fires, floods, graffiti) one of the most frustrating is the increasing amount of shooting along Mt Herman road. Targets have been set up in dangerous proximity to roads and high volume trails. Trees have been razed to

the ground. The soil has been polluted with thousands of rounds of ammunition. Numerous accounts of close calls from random bullets and actual pin-downs by automatic fire have been reported by trail workers and trail users. Neither the County nor the Forest Service (USFS) has shown much interest in helping solve this problem. On 8 Nov

2011, Jon Nordby and Joe Ennis gave a presentation to the El Paso Board of County

Commissioners with maps and photos describing the

levels of shooting, destruction, and danger posed by irresponsible shooters.



## DANGEROUS FIREARM USE— (CONT.)

The Board showed little interest.

After previous unproductive discussions with USFS personnel, Jon Nordby, Chris Tirpak, and Joe Ennis met with Alan Hahn and Tom Healy of USFS on 2 Feb 13, who appeared to appreciate the problem. We reiterated offers to install "Unsafe to

Shoot" signs along the most dangerous areas, organize massive cleanups, close areas for reforestation and plant trees in severely affected locations. Before we were able to finalize plans for these activities, USFS personnel efforts were justifiably diverted to focus on firefighting.

We will again approach USFS with these offers, but in the meantime we request our members and other forest users to report dangerous shooting, deforestation, and littering to Tom Healy, USFS, at [thealy@fs.fed.us](mailto:thealy@fs.fed.us), office (719) 477-4204, cell (719) 641-4698.

## BLUE BIRD NEWS

by Hermann J. Spielkamp

It is almost time to look for the first arrivals of this season's migratory birds and compare it to last spring's activities and breeding season. Bird lovers always await the arrival of their favored birds as a sign of good luck.

The first Blue Birds for the 2013 season were spotted on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the Monument Palmer Lake area and it was therefore very timely that the annual bird house cleanup took place on April 4.

The 4-H chapter of Monument/Woodmoor under the direction of Frank Puckett builds Bluebird houses in their woodworking class during the winter and install them in early spring, hoping to attract

the colorful Western Blue birds. However all birds are welcome and a variety of birds make use of the opportunity offered. With fewer old growth trees there are less natural nesting cavities and other than Woodpeckers, who chisel their own holes, birds have to find existing nesting opportunities. Beside the Bluebirds, Treeswallows, Chickadees, Nuthatches and Wrens are the most frequent birds to use the houses.

As in previous years the 4H group showed up with tools, Lysol spray to disinfect the houses and of course new birdhouses to install. Approximately 30 people made it a family outing, even the children who did not participate in the

wood classes seemed to have had a good time hiking the trails on this beautiful spring day.

We split into two groups one cleaning the houses on the existing Bluebird Trail, which over the last twenty years has grown to over 25 boxes. The other group repaired and installed new houses.

So to the 4H club and their parents a very grateful THANK YOU from all the bird enthusiasts, who enjoy the variety of birds on their hikes through the area. A special personal thanks from me!



## NEW "HOTSHOT" TRAIL

by Jon Nordby

Early each Spring FOMP volunteers organize and treat the new wildland firefighting crews to a potluck supper as a thank you from the community for their service. The Monument Helitack and Pike Hotshot crews train and are deployed across the country from the 35 acre administrative site in the center of the Preserve.

Part of the Hotshot training is building fire lines in rough terrain to simulate what they will encounter when they are deployed on wildfires. We have plenty of rough terrain in the preserve, and no shortage of non-native scrub oak that has taken over the burn scar that resulted from the 1989

Barry fire. A few of the trails in the preserve are the results of "fireline" training, including the trail that is just west of the "Ghost Town" foundations in the East Central area of the preserve just off Nursery road.



This year, the hotshots asked where a fireline would benefit the users of the Preserve the most – below and parallel to Mount Herman Road made sense for several reasons. Most importantly the area was ideal fireline training for the Hotshot crew – it is super rocky, choked with snags from the old fire and is infested with some of the thickest scrub oak in the 1000 acres. The benefit to the community is great

since it ties USFS Trail 715 with the top of the preserve, and gives folks the option to stay off Mount Herman Road. Trail usage is spread out on a much larger loop, helping reduce the traffic and impact within the main trail system in the preserve. Less oak, and more firelines are ideal given the decades long drought pattern we are in. In 2014, this gives us access that we have not had before to reach areas in the burn scar to further our restoration and reforestation efforts.

We've called this addition to the Preserve "Hotshot" in honor of those who serve fighting wildfires and who knocked that wide corridor through the oak and brush this Spring. Thank You!



**FRIENDS OF  
MONUMENT PRESERVE**

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Email: [info@fomp.org](mailto:info@fomp.org)  
[www.fomp.org](http://www.fomp.org)

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Save a stamp!  
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membership using  
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## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

At 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, FOMP will be holding its annual membership meeting and Board of Directors elections. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a governing board to direct the activities of FOMP and act as your representatives to interface with the community and the USFS. If you or someone you know is interested in a board position, or just want to be more involved in defining our goals and operational plans, please plan on attending. The meeting is held in the classroom in the Fire Center Administration area. Follow the Mt. Herman Road and take the first left after it turns to dirt, and continue into the parking area. The classroom is the first building on the right. Only active FOMP members are eligible to vote, so plan on renewing your membership either prior to or at the meeting itself.

## 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 fire restoration efforts, quality tools for our monthly volunteer crews, scout projects, Bluebird house materials, Hotshot potlucks, and other expenses.

**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\* \_\_\_\_\_

Renew or join using Google Checkout at: [www.fomp.org](http://www.fomp.org)



\* used for newsletters and event reminders

Your Interests: Hiking \_\_\_\_\_ Biking \_\_\_\_\_  
Horseback riding \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_