



Friends of the Lower Blue River
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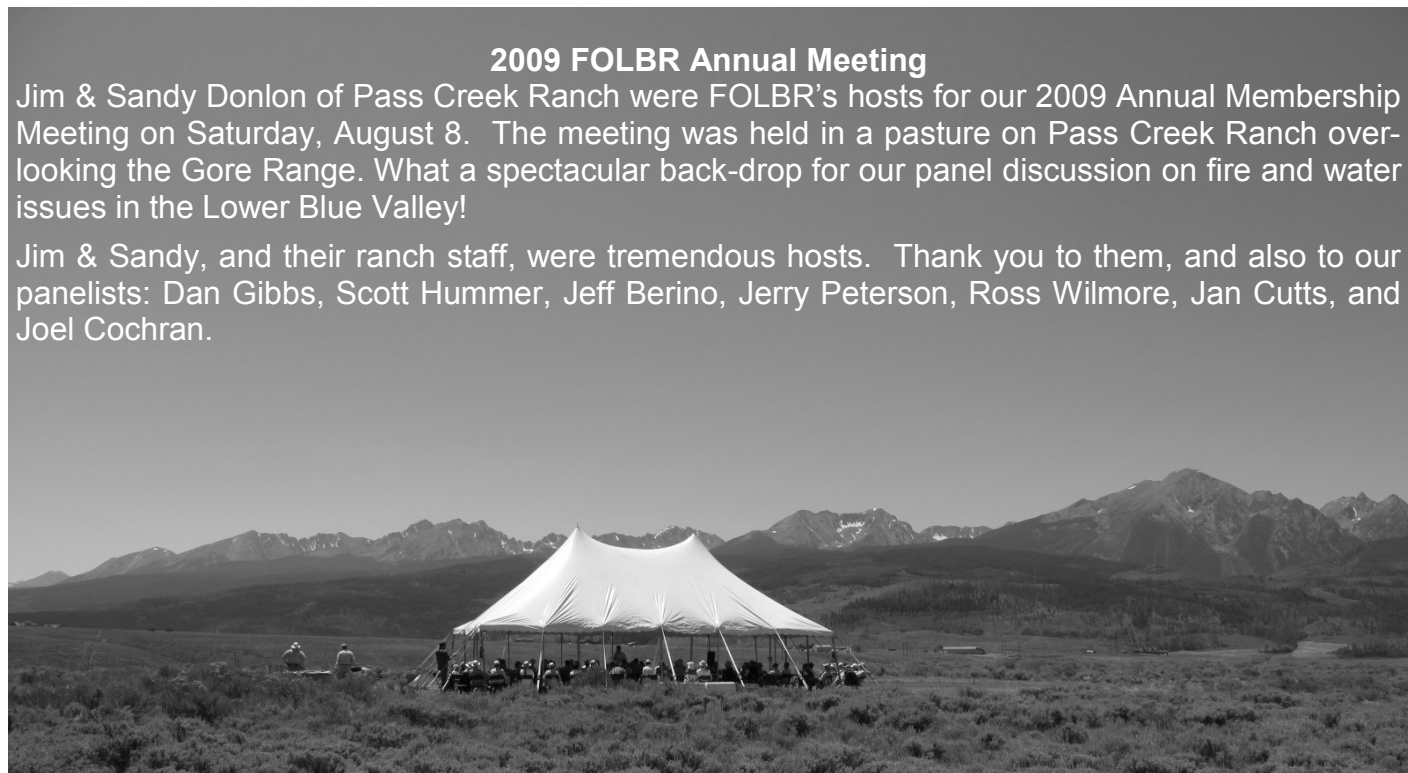
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For questions, comments or article suggestions for the FOLBR Newsletter, please contact Myrth McDonald at myrth@folbr.org.



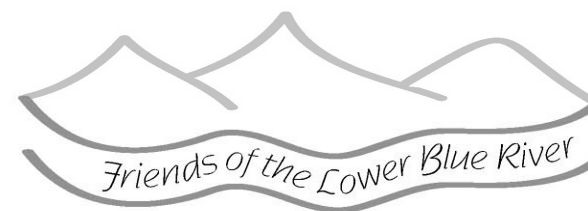
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2009 FOLBR Annual Meeting

Jim & Sandy Donlon of Pass Creek Ranch were FOLBR's hosts for our 2009 Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 8. The meeting was held in a pasture on Pass Creek Ranch overlooking the Gore Range. What a spectacular back-drop for our panel discussion on fire and water issues in the Lower Blue Valley!

Jim & Sandy, and their ranch staff, were tremendous hosts. Thank you to them, and also to our panelists: Dan Gibbs, Scott Hummer, Jeff Berino, Jerry Peterson, Ross Wilmore, Jan Cutts, and Joel Cochran.



FOLBR News

September 2009

~ Working to keep the real Colorado in the Lower Blue River Valley. ~

FOLBR Elects Two New Directors



The business portion of our 2009 Annual Membership Meeting included the election of a new Director: John Taylor. Subsequent to the annual meeting, the Board also elected John Longhill as a Director.

John Taylor (above) has lived in the area for 17 years and has been a FOLBR member off and on during that time. Though John has been "retired" for those 17 years, he has been on the Friends of Eagle's Nest Wilderness Board since 1994, and has actively worked on Wilderness-related projects. John Taylor is well known throughout Summit County for his work to eradicate noxious weeds. John feels that it is important to "[preserve]...the history, natural surroundings, and values of the Lower Blue."

John Longhill (below) has lived in Colorado since 2001 and is a landscape architect. Together with his wife, John also runs the Swan Center Outreach, a horse rescue



2009 FOLBR Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Lower Blue River (FOLBR) would like to thank Jim & Sandy Donlon of Pass Creek Ranch for hosting our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 8. The meeting was attended & enjoyed by about 80 members. Jim & Sandy, and their ranch staff, were tremendous hosts.



This year our annual meeting was held in a pasture on Pass Creek Ranch overlooking the Gore Range. What a spectacular back-drop for our panel discussion on fire and water issues in the Lower Blue Valley! The meeting featured panelists Dan Gibbs, Scott Hummer, Jeff Berino, Jerry Peterson, Ross Wilmore, Jan Cutts, and Joel Cochran. They updated the membership on new

State Senator Dan Gibbs regaled the crowd with stories of how he literally brought the issue of Mountain Pine Beetles to the Capitol.



Ross Wilmore tackles the question: How is the USFS working to reduce the threat of wildfire?

and future state legislation related to our forests, the status of water shed and water rights in the Lower Blue River Valley, the availability of water and state and federal assistance for fighting forest fires, new projects for the Lake Dillon Fire Authority, the impacts of wildfire in pre- and post-beetle-kill forests, and best practices for what to do in case of a wildfire emergency and how to best stay in touch with what's happening in our area. Thank you to all of our panelists for their informative discussions.

Thank you also to John Taylor (Summit County Weeds), Dave Matthews (CoCoRaHS) & Kurt Kunkle (Hidden Gems) for sharing information with our group. Complete minutes from the meeting will be available on our website shortly: www.folbr.org.

Remember to Register for SC ALERT!

As Joel Cochran mentioned in his presentation, it is important to sign up for SC Alert. SC Alert is an alert notification system that allows Summit County officials to contact you during an emergency, and can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all your electronic devices. It is your connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information. To register, go to www.SCALert.org.



Congratulations to Bob Girvin: he was the winner of our membership raffle for the John Fielder print of McCullough Gulch.

Lower Blue Updates

Livestock Emergency Preparedness Meeting

On July 28, representatives from several ranches in the Lower Blue River Valley gathered to meet with local officials regarding emergency preparedness involving livestock. The key message coming out of that meeting is that it is very important to have an emergency plan in place & to communicate with your neighbors.

If you were unable to attend that meeting, and own or take care of livestock in the Lower Blue area, please contact Myrth (myrth@folbr.org). We will be holding a follow-up meeting to discuss issues such as livestock marking & safe zones. Preparation & communication is key given the current state of our forests and the threat of wildfire.

Hwy Clean-up Held September 1

A great big "THANK YOU" goes out to Lynn & Glenn Amstutz, Roger & Phyl Wegner, Myra Isenhardt, Priscilla Ledbury, and Rhoda Whitney for their hard work cleaning up our adopted section of Hwy 9 on September 1. The next clean-up will be held near Memorial Day, 2010.

USFS Projects

NORTH SUMMIT WUI

As was reported in the June edition of the FOLBR News, the North Summit WUI project is still held up in courts awaiting a ruling on projects in "roadless" areas. The North Summit WUI includes logging projects along the wildland urban interface from Silverthorne north to Sierra Bosque.

LOWER BLUE FOREST HEALTH & FUELS

The USFS recently completed the environmental assessment for the Lower Blue Forest Health & Fuels project. The Proposed Action would implement salvage, regen-

eration and fuel reduction treatments on about 4000 acres of lodgepole pine within the lower Blue River watershed. This project affects lands from Sierra Bosque north to the county line. The USFS will be accepting public comment on this project until September 23. For more information on how to comment or to request a hard copy of the EA, contact Peech Keller, phone 970-262-3495, email: cpkeller@fs.fed.us.

EMERGENCY POWERLINE CLEARING

The Medicine Bow-Routt, Arapaho and Roosevelt, and White River National Forests are seeking public comment on the Emergency Power line Clearing Project, a proposal to remove all dead and dying trees (i.e., hazard trees) along power lines crossing National Forest system lands in Northern Colorado. The USFS is currently accepting public comment on this project until October 10. For more information, or to comment on the project, please contact Mary Ann Chambers (machambers@fs.fed.us).

Second Xcel Open House

On August 5, Xcel held a second open house regarding their proposed Ptarmigan substation. In February, Xcel had presented a "preferred" site for the substation on the Daley Ranch; at this last open house they presented a new location just above Angler Mountain Ranch and just below the Hamilton Creek subdivision. This new site is directly adjacent to the existing transmission lines. Xcel also presented a plan for the substation that employs newer technology that would give the substation a smaller footprint and would allow them to place much of the equipment in buildings, rather than having towers and switches sitting out in the open. Xcel is currently reviewing public input from the August open house.

Upcoming Events

Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival

Friday, September 25, 2009 at the Silverthorne Pavilion

The Blue River Watershed Group will host a selection of films from the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival. This event is a fundraiser for the BRWG so bring your friends and family, support a good cause, and catch some great films. Doors open at 5PM and the show starts at 6pm. Tickets are \$20 and include dinner. For more information call 970-485-5581 or email info@blueriverwatershed.org.

Easement Stewardship Day

Saturday, September 26, 2009

Volunteers are needed to help the Land Trust monitor the conservation easements they hold. The day will start with training about conservation easements, what they are, why they monitor them, and how. The afternoon will be spent in the field with a qualified volunteer Land Steward performing an actual monitoring visit. Monitoring includes hiking the property boundary, taking photos from set points, and recording notes and observations. Volunteers

must be prepared for an afternoon of moderate hiking. Lunch is provided. Volunteers are requested to sign up in advance. For more information or to sign up, please contact Continental Divide Land Trust at 970-453-3875 or info@cdlt.org.

John Fielder: Ranches of Colorado Slideshow

Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at the Silverthorne Pavilion

Join the Continental Divide Land Trust for a slide show, book sale, and book signing by Colorado nature photographer and Summit County resident John Fielder. His new book highlights Colorado's ranches from mountains to plains, including ranches protected by conservation easements. John will be available before and after the show to sign and dedicate books. A wide variety of John's books and calendars will be for sale, including the new "Ranches of Colorado." A significant portion of the proceeds from the sale of the books benefits CDLT.

Tickets are available at the door for \$10/adult, kids 17 and under free! Doors open at 6:30PM and the show starts at 7:00PM.

Open Space & Trails: WILLOW CREEK

The 39-acre Willow Creek Open Space includes the confluence of three forks of Willow Creek and abuts the National Forest between the Ruby Ranch and Willow Creek Highlands subdivisions, just north of Silverthorne. Willow Creek Open Space was acquired in 1999 by the Summit County Open Space Program to protect the undeveloped buffer between subdivisions, provide an extension of National Forest Lands, protect unique wetland resources, and provide trail-based recreation.

The property is traversed by two main trails that meet near the trailhead parking area, on a pullout from Willowbrook Road. The trail that heads northwest provides one of the most direct routes to the Eagles Nest Wilderness. A second trail, known as the Teepee Trail, heads roughly southwest across the largest portion of the property and crosses the south fork of Willow Creek. In 2005, volunteers constructed a number of log bridges ensuring safe crossing of the creeks. Both trails provide access to the Gore Range Trail and Mesa Cortina Trail within the Eagles Nest Wilderness and are enjoyed by hikers in the summer and snowshoers and cross-county skiers in the winter.

The lush wetlands and forested areas of the Willow Creek Open Space are rich in diverse flora and fauna. Deer, elk, beaver and fox call this home, and wildflowers of every description present a kaleidoscope of color from spring through fall.

SOURCE: Summit County Open Space and Trails Department



Two New Directors Elected to Board (con't from Page 1)

center. Currently John serves as a Director on the Willow Brook Metro District for Ruby Ranch. He is also Board Supervisor for the Middle Park Conservation District, and is President of the CSU Extension Advisory Committee for Summit County. John believes "the Lower Blue Valley begins in Silverthorne and there is much that Silverthorne could do to broaden their perspective regarding view corridors, habitat preservation and open space. I believe in the stewardship of the Lower Blue Valley as a historical, aesthetic, and sustainable resource for present and future generations."

In addition to John Taylor & John Longhill serving on our board, the following Directors were re-elected at the annual meeting to continue serving on our board: Lynn Amstutz, George Beardsley, Pam Beardsley, Currie Craven, Signe Ferguson, John Fielder, John Hillman, Frank Isenhardt, Myra Isenhardt, Sam Kirk, John LeCoq, Priscilla Ledbury, Jim McCotter, & Roger Wegner.

Yes! I would like to support Friends of the Lower Blue River in 2009.

New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Levels

Friend: \$35.00

Supporting: \$100 or more

Sustaining: \$1,000 or more

Mail this form, along with your check, to FOLBR: PO Box 2007, Silverthorne, CO 80498