



Foy's to Blacktail Trails | PO Box 81 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | [www.FoysToBlacktailTrails.org](http://www.FoysToBlacktailTrails.org)

## FROM THE CHAIR

### *Greetings Foy's to Blacktail Enthusiasts!*

The year 2014 was extraordinary for several reasons, and we're poised to carry significant momentum through 2015. Our board members, individual contributors, corporate sponsors, partner agencies and the public at large have great reason to celebrate the year's accomplishments.

We surpassed a significant benchmark last fall when we completed a capital campaign that was set in motion nearly seven years ago. By raising over 2.25 million dollars, FTBT facilitated the purchase and transfer of 320 acres of open space to Flathead County, increasing your Herron Park to 440 acres.

Working to reach such a challenging goal could have been accomplishment enough, but there were other important advancements of our mission.

Alongside the USFS Swan Lake Ranger District, local volunteers, and crews from the Montana Conservation Corps, we completed the construction of the 4-mile Lakeside to Blacktail Trail. This year, both the LTBT and FTBT will receive trail identification numbers, be officially entered into the federal database, and will show up on the next iteration of the district's user map.

In Herron Park, thanks to in-kind contributions from several firms, we installed a new kiosk which provides navigation information, park regulations, event updates, park history and interpretation in an attractive, sturdy design. The Society of American Foresters lent their time and expertise to develop an interpretive trail that will showcase the vegetation and wildlife in the Birch Creek drainage. George and Elma Graphic Design put some refining touches on navigational signage within the trail system. To top it off, with the help of the Flathead Fat Tires, we laid out the uppermost portion of Herron Park's newest trail - The Boundary Trail - and with the help of volunteers on National Public Lands Day, cleared the trail corridor. We expect to lay out and construct the remainder of the trail this coming year.



*Officially closing the deal on the final 60 acres in December, 2014. Clockwise, from top left: Tom Esch, Kelly O'Brien, Liz Makman, Liz Seabaugh, all of FTBT; Sarah Tennant of Alliance Title.*

Early in 2015, in response to having completed the campaign to expand Herron Park, the FTBT board revised our strategic objectives to focus on Stewardship, Partnerships, and Outreach; we invite you to find out how those terms relate to our organization and our important work. In this time of transition, we'll be saying adios to a few well-serving board members and welcoming some fresh faces to the table.

If you've been a part of our exciting journey, we thank you for helping advance this meaningful project. Your membership (see Page 2) will support the construction and maintenance of trails in the expansive, ever-popular, high caliber trail system right out your front door.

Onward,

**Clifford Kipp**

*Chairman of the Board, Foy's to Blacktail Trails*

## WHY JOIN FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS TODAY?

### BECAUSE WE NEED YOU!

For the past six years, FTBT was focused on raising \$2.25 million as quickly as possible so that we could protect 320 acres of at-risk land by adding it to Herron Park. Thanks to hundreds of individuals, businesses, grant-making organizations and agencies we achieved this goal.

Now we're shifting focus to stewardship of Herron Park and the John Chase Forest, and we are working with other forest landowners toward the original goal of a dedicated trail from the park to Blacktail Mountain. Your annual membership will help us sustain the legacy we've created.

Your membership donation supports trail building, stewardship (trail maintenance, weed control); improving the user experience (signage, maps, trail courtesy

education); nature and forestry education; and outreach (informing you about volunteer opportunities, events at the park, user surveys and more).

If you are among our many past supporters, we thank you and ask that you become a member today. If you have not donated in the past, now is the perfect time to start! For as little as \$15 a year you can become a member and feel great about supporting the place you love.

To kick off this membership campaign, an anonymous donor is matching all membership gifts received between now and May 15. Please take advantage of this offer by using the enclosed envelope or making an online donation today. Be informed - be supportive - become a member!

### TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN NOW!

1. You'll get a cool member decal
2. We'll keep you informed (while respecting your privacy and your valuable time)
3. It's affordable — as low as \$15/year
4. Through May 15, 2015 your member gift will be matched dollar for dollar
5. **You're giving back to the place you love**

## VOLUNTEER DAYS IMPROVE PARKS, TRAILS

BY DEREK MILNER

For the 21st anniversary celebration of National Public Lands Day, Foy's to Blacktail Trails joined with MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks to complete projects in Herron Park and Lone Pine State Park in Kalispell. Last September 27, approximately 70 volunteers from Montana Conservation Corps, Kalispell Daybreak Rotary, Montana Academy, the Center for Restorative Youth Justice, Flathead Combined Training Association, and several individuals participated in stewardship projects to beautify and improve the parks. The service event celebrated volunteers and the importance of public lands for recreation and community health.

Most of this volunteer work resulted in the clearing of a corridor for a new addition to the trail system in Herron Park. The group worked all morning removing vegetation and debris from the upper portion of the planned trail. Afterward, they returned to the picnic shelter at the top of Lone Pine State Park for a well-deserved cookout provided and prepared by Daybreak Rotary members.



Please join us for more exciting trail work in Lone Pine and Herron Park on **Saturday, June 6 for National Trails Day**. Initial plans include more clearing for the new trail as well as additional trail stewardship work. See you there!



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT HERRON PARK

For More Details and Updates Visit [Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org](http://Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org)

**May 17** (Sun): Flathead Cycling's Annual Herron Hammer XC mountain bike race. Contact [thomasshelit@gmail.com](mailto:thomasshelit@gmail.com) for more details. Helps benefit Foy's to Blacktail Trails.

**May 30 & 31** (Sat & Sun): Equestrian Mini-Event. Dressage and arena jumping in mornings, cross country jumping Saturday afternoon. Visit [FlatheadEventing.org](http://FlatheadEventing.org) for more info.

**June 6** (Sat): National Trails Day. **Morning:** grab your work gloves and join Montana Conservation Corps in helping maintain the park & trails. **Lunchtime:** all volunteers enjoy a free BBQ lunch at Lone Pine State Park courtesy of Kalispell Daybreak Rotary Club. **Party Time:** celebrate Foy's Fest at Kalispell Brewing Co. from 2-4 PM. Free admission, family friendly. Enjoy a beer (or other beverage) and snacks with old and new friends, and get up to date on all that's happening with FTBT. For more details visit [Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org](http://Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org).

**June 7** (Sun): 4th Annual Herron Half Marathon & 10 km race. High-burning benefit run in a beautiful setting. For registration and details visit [RunFlathead.com/herron-half-10k](http://RunFlathead.com/herron-half-10k). Benefit for Foy's to Blacktail Trails!

**June 27** (Sat): Jumper Derby. Arena jumping in the morning, cross-country in the afternoon. Visit [FlatheadEventing.org](http://FlatheadEventing.org) for more info.

**August 29 & 30** (Sat & Sun): Equestrian Mini-Event. Dressage and arena jumping in mornings, cross country jumping Saturday afternoon. Visit [FlatheadEventing.org](http://FlatheadEventing.org) for details.

**September 5 & 6** (Sat & Sun): 24 Hours of Flathead bike race. Visit [24hrsofflathead.org](http://24hrsofflathead.org) for details and registration. Benefits D.R.E.A.M. adaptive recreation program.



Come on out to Herron Park and see what the jumps in the meadows are all about. Cross-country horse jumping takes place May 30th, June 27th and August 29th in the afternoons. Mornings feature dressage and arena jumping. Everyone welcome and spectators are free.  
(Photo by Robin Loznak, courtesy Flathead Combined Training Association)



The annual Herron Hammer is May 17  
(Marjory McClaren photo)

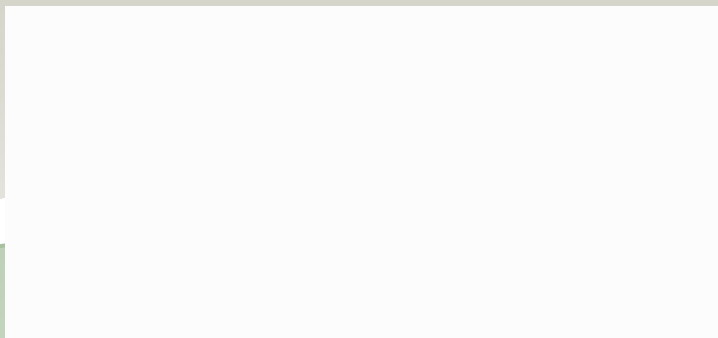


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**THANK  
YOU**  
—FOR—  
**YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

**2014**

### FTBT ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2014 Annual Report is now available at [Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org](http://Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org). Or call us at **406-203-3939** if you'd like to receive a hard copy.



### GIVE LOCAL FLATHEAD

Support FTBT during Give Local Flathead, the Flathead's Fiesta for Philanthropy on May 5. Visit [GiveLocalFlathead.org](http://GiveLocalFlathead.org) for details.



### PLEASE REMEMBER...

- Everyone yield to horses
- Cyclists also yield to pedestrians
- When approaching a horse, step off the trail and be sure to speak up (horses get spooked if you stay silent)
- Trail safety is everyone's business