

**Foys to Blacktail Trails • P.O. Box 81 • Kalispell, MT 59903 • [www.foystoblacktailtrails.org](http://www.foystoblacktailtrails.org)**

## From The Chair

Greetings Foys to Blacktail Enthusiasts!

In our last newsletter, we highlighted the award of \$70,000 from the State of Montana supporting the purchase of land adjacent to Herron Park. Since then, we've been notified of another \$40,000 grant award from the State. In addition, Flathead County Parks Department has agreed to purchase 10 acres of land from The Conservation Fund and add it to Herron Park. Continue reading to learn more about each award, and while you do, please bear in mind the significance of those entities' support for our project; not only are our efforts noteworthy on a local scale, but they carry regional and statewide value as well.

As fortunate as we've been in seeking grants, our project would barely be off the ground if it weren't for our fundraising committee. Since January, locals have pledged and donated enough to purchase about 10 acres! Thank you all so much; we cannot say enough how much we appreciate your contributions.

While much is being accomplished indoors, our Trails Committee chairman, Matt Brake, spent most of the month of April, and a good portion of May coordinating the construction of three new trails in the park (read more about this on page...). The completed trails are the result of our successful partnerships with Flathead County, Forestration, Inc., the Montana Conservation Corps and local volunteers. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Midway and Triple W rental companies for the donated use of equipment, and Cenex Harvest States for donating seed to help with revegetation of disturbed areas. Last, but certainly not least, we recognize the host of volunteers who contributed numerous hours of physical labor to help the project along.

Our Outreach/Events Committee has been hard at work as well. Tamarack Brewing Company in Lakeside has created a beer in honor of FTBT. Stop in this summer and enjoy a fine meal and cold glass of "Save the Trails Ale." We also hosted an incredibly successful Herron Hustle footrace in May which was attended by a record 115 racers.

As I indicated at the outset, the momentum continues to build for this organization and our mission. If you're not currently involved, NOW is the time to donate, volunteer, or inquire about serving on the board/committees. If you are currently involved, please accept these words of THANKS.

Best Regards,

**Clifford Kipp**  
*Chairman of the Board*



**Flathead County Parks Board** is purchasing 10 acres of The Conservation Fund Land. The money comes from the county's "Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland" fund. This fund was created to give developers the option of donating to the fund in lieu of creating a new park within their development. We are grateful to the Parks Board and the county commissioners for their continued support!

**Newsletter Editor**

*Carol Bibler*

**Layout and Design**

*Marilee Ramsell*



*Lander Busse, 5, and Badge Busse, 2 – both are enjoying the new Family Trail.*

*Photo Sara Swan Busse*

## Trail Building

### Matt Brake, Trails Chair

The wet start to Spring 2010 brought hardworking crews from Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) to Herron Park for some much needed trail work. For a total of 23 days crew members and local volunteers built three new trails and reclaimed two unsustainable eroding trails. With assistance from FTBT, Flathead County was awarded a \$13,000 Regional Trails Program grant from the State of Montana. This funding paid for the MCC crew members. An anonymous donor provided operating funds for design, management, and equipment operator time. Equipment was largely donated. Contributors included United Rental, Midway Rental, Forestoration, Inc., and Spring Brook Ranch.

Week one we created a new trail to the upper kiosk and reclaimed an old user created trail that had been deemed unsustainable. By the end of week two we had finished a complete re-route of the lower section of the Horse Trail and volunteers had roughed in a new connector trail we have named the Scary Stump Trail. Volunteers also scratched in the upper section of the new Horse Trail this second week. Again, the old trail was reclaimed by adding drainage ditches, cultivating the compacted soil, and seeding heavily with wilderness mix donated by Cenex.

For week three we brought in a mini-excavator and operator who began work on the Family Trail. In total it took 13 days to establish the rough trail. MCC'ers and volunteers rejoined the effort for week four and began the work of establishing a proper backslope and finished tread behind the mini-excavator. Some of this work remains to be completed, but the trail is open for use. We also seeded the disturbed areas and compacted the tread with a rolling and vibrating compactor. Longer term goals into next year include finishing the backslope cut, raking the excavated material downslope further, and regrading a few sections that are steeper than we would like. Further long-term plans call for hardening the Family Trail with 3/4" crush or similar to add durability and a smoother, harder surface.

Finally, in the first week of June we took advantage of MCC's need to train new crew members in the techniques of proper trail design and maintenance. In a massive effort they finished the upper Horse Trail, built a short section of new connecting trail, and added some much needed drainage on the trail leading to the Overlook area. Then on June 5th, National Trails Day, volunteers reclaimed the upper section of the old Horse Trail to conclude our scheduled trail work for the year.

A new trail map is in process, so check the kiosks and our website this summer. A big thank you goes to all of the wonderful volunteers, MCC'ers, and local businesses who contributed. We are planning to build more new trail next year on the 40-acre Phase 1 land purchase.

Enjoy,

**Matt Brake**



*FTBT rider, Sheli Thomas, enjoying the new Family Trail on a morning ride.*

*Photo Sara Swan Busse*



*Montana Conservation Corps building the new Family Trail.*

## Poker Ride

*Carol Bibler*

Hooves and Company, a Flathead-area trail riding organization, held their annual Family Poker Ride at Herron Park on May 22. The group donated \$200 in proceeds from the event to Foy's to Blacktail. "Our club likes to support Foy's to Blacktail because you're working to protect access to land that is near and dear to all of us", said Hooves and Company board member Brenda Zuschin. "All of us have logged many miles on The Conservation Fund land you're buying, and of course without that land we'd no longer be able to get into the beautiful country between Herron Park and Blacktail Mountain."

A total of 77 riders participated in this year's event, which included an 8-mile loop beginning and ending at Herron Park, followed by a barbecue and silent auction. Ellie Eberts of Elfen Photography took pictures of each horse and rider and is donating proceeds from photo sales to FTBT.

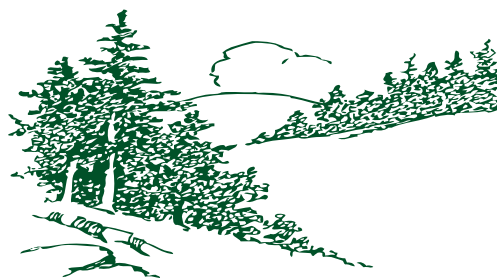


*Cliff the Cob says "Follow me to Blacktail Mountain."*



*Carol Bibler and Christy Novak enjoy the poker ride.*

*photos by Ellie Eberts*



### **Foy's to Blacktail Board of Directors**

Clifford Kipp, Chairman  
Liz Makman, Vice Chairman  
Rosemary McKinnon, Secretary  
Liz Seabaugh, Treasurer  
Matt Brake  
Danielle Coffman  
Cathy McDevitt  
Tom Esch

### **Our Mission**

To secure historic access to trails and lands connecting Herron Park to the forest lands at Blacktail Mountain.

To provide long term stewardship of this corridor.

To accomplish this mission through voluntary and cooperative means.

## Big Turnout for Herron Hustle

The third annual Herron Hustle on May 15 was a huge success with about 115 participants and perfect weather. The race is 5.5 miles with a mix of single-track trail and double-track trail (logging road) and spectacular views of the Swan Range and even Flathead Lake. Kelly Redfield, 40, won the women's race in 44:55 and Nate Peterson, 17, won the whole enchilada and the men's race in 36:05, which is just under a 6:30 average pace. Very impressive! Trailing a mere second behind was Scott Gaiser who is 30 years senior to Nate. One could not help but wonder whether Scott let Nate win or whether it just helps to be 17.

New this year was chip timing, provided by Matthew Smeltzer of "Competitive Timing." This made the volunteers' jobs much easier and offered instant results. This was very cool and FTBT sure appreciates Matthew's help, along with the many volunteers who made the Herron Hustle so awesome.

Finally, this year for the first time there was a kids race, which appeared to be a good time for all who participated. The kids run was a fun one-mile trail that looped on the Herron Park trails. There is nothing cuter than seeing the kiddos with ear-to-ear grins coming across the finish line after a gnarly kids' trail run. Hopefully these kids and their parents will be back to sweat a little and enjoy nature in Herron Park.

Thank you to our sponsors, Hammer Nutrition, who supplied prizes and samples, Ceres Bakery who supplied bread, butter and jam, Tamarack Brewery who supplied prizes and runners. Colter Coffee and Wheatons are also longtime supporters of this event. These businesses make it even more fun!



*Leo Ginepra is 8 years old and going into 3rd grade at Russell School. When asked how he decided to compete in the adult run (5.5 miles) Leo said "I run the mile at my school in 8 minutes, so I thought I could just run a little farther."*

*Hardest part, going up hill.  
Easiest part, going downhill.  
Leo's time was 1:06:33.*



*Nate Peterson & Scott Gaiser.*



*Cheryl Steenson*



*More than one way to run a race - Gus Cox in kids 1 mile race with mother Denise.*

## Save the Trails Ale!

Attention, beer lovers! Tamarack Brewing Company in Lakeside is featuring a Kolshale this summer to benefit Foys to Blacktail Trails! Proceeds from every pint of Save the Trails Ale will benefit our work to secure permanent public access to the non-motorized trails connecting Herron Park to Blacktail Mountain. Tamarack Brewing Company is located at 105 Blacktail Road, in the heart of Lakeside. In addition to a variety of microbrews, Tamarack also features delicious lunches and dinners.





Help spread the word about Foys to Blacktail Trails by sporting one of our new shirts! Available in women's, men's, and unisex sizes. Women's short cap sleeve comes in asphalt grey with lime green & white logo: \$18. (Women's tee runs small, so we recommend ordering up one size.) Men's short sleeve comes in asphalt grey with lime green & white logo: \$18. Unisex long sleeve comes in light blue with teal blue & white logo: \$22. Send orders [info@foystoblacktailtrails.org](mailto:info@foystoblacktailtrails.org). Please include \$5 shipping and handling for each address.

## SUMMER CALENDAR

**July 6**

FTBT at the Whitefish Farmers Market

**July 14**

FTBT on tap at  
Tamarack Brewing Company  
75 cents from every pint sold  
between 6 and 9 p.m.  
goes to support FTBT's work

**August 1**

Paddlethon on Foy's Lake

**August 21**

FTBT at the Kalispell Farmers Market



### **Paddlethon (păd'-lě-thŏn):**

A 3-mile canoe or kayak on Foy's Lake, followed by a 5-mile mountain bike ride in and around Herron Park; concluding with a 4-mile trail run.

Join us for our version of a mini-triathlon on Sunday, Aug. 1 at 9:00 a.m. Soloists and teams are welcome! For more information or to register, contact Steve Mulr at 261-9250 or [smulr@hotmail.com](mailto:smulr@hotmail.com).

## **Party Like It's 2012!**

We have until September 2012 to raise the money to purchase the Conservation Fund's 320 acres adjacent to Herron Park. We are making steady progress toward our goal of purchasing this land and adding it to the park, but we need everyone's help! One acre costs \$7,000. Can you and your friends party like it's 2012 and in the process raise enough money to buy one acre to add to Herron Park? Let us help you plan an "Acre Party". For more information, contact Sara Busse, Fundraising Co-Chair, at 755-4648.

## **Now Showing...**

For less than the cost of seeing a matinee at the local movie theater, you can help secure permanent public access to some of the best hiking, biking and horseback riding trails in the Flathead Valley.

Visit [www.foystoblacktailtrails.org](http://www.foystoblacktailtrails.org) to find out how you can sign up to automatically donate as little as \$5 per month to Foys to Blacktail Trails.

[www.foystoblacktailtrails.org](http://www.foystoblacktailtrails.org)

We're on the web!



Kalispell, MT 59903

P.O. Box 81

Foys to Blacktail Trails



Return Service Requested

### **THANK YOU!**

There are so many people who donate their time and talent to Foys to Blacktail Trails on a regular basis. We want to take this opportunity to thank a few of the most dedicated individuals.

Marilee Ramsell volunteers her time and artistry to design this newsletter.

And where would we be without Phyllis Carr, our very attentive bookkeeper, and

CPA Justin Sliter and the staff of Jordahl & Sliter PLLC

who cheerfully donate their expertise to FTBT. Thank you, all!

### **THE THERAPIST IS IN**

Feeling guilty because you haven't donated to Foys to Blacktail Trails yet? Take that guilt, put it in the enclosed donation envelope, and mail it to us! You'll feel so much better.

### **NEW MAP COMING!**

Our Web site, [www.foystoblacktailtrails.org](http://www.foystoblacktailtrails.org), will soon feature an updated map of the new trails we've constructed in and around Herron Park.