



FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS

Foy's to Blacktail Trails | PO Box 81 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

CONGRATULATIONS!

Summarized from The Daily Interlake article, November 15, 2019

The Kalispell Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual banquet in November. Each year, outstanding community members are recognized for their support and contribution to our town. We are honored to announce that two integral and long-time supporters of FTBT brought home a well-deserved title.

Please help us in offering heart-felt congratulations to Carol Bibler and Jim Watson as recipients of the 2019 Great Chief Award! A standing ovation is certainly appropriate as this is the oldest and most prestigious honor of the night. Nomination letters were glowing.

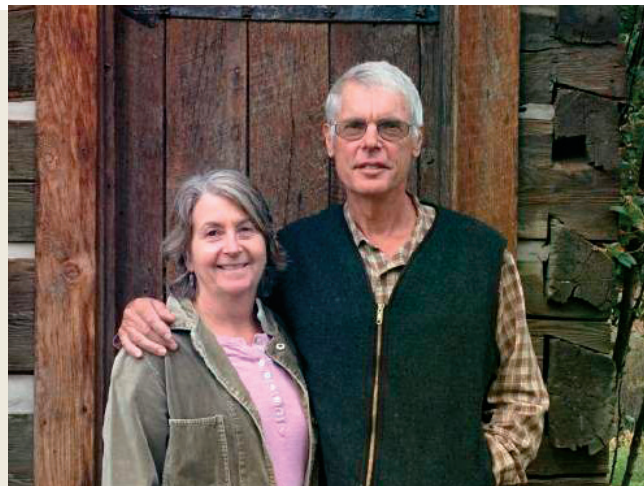
“For many years, Jim and Carol have worked steadfastly to preserve and protect land for people’s real use: recreation, ranching, timber production, experiencing the natural world,” one of the nomination letters noted. “Their interest is real land – parks, pastures and trails – used by real people – children, families, farmers, hikers, dog walkers, horse riders, hunters and anglers.”

Watson and Bibler’s involvement in the community has reached beyond the local trail systems to include work with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Hockaday Museum of Art, Flathead County Parks Board, Montana Conservation Corps, Kalispell PEO, Glacier Park Conservancy and more.

“They are tireless in enlisting others, working and playing side-by-side with people of all ages and all walks of life, infusing co-enthusiasts with energy for the long haul.”

Kalispell is fortunate to have this system of trails just out our front door and we offer so much admiration and gratitude to Jim and Carol for their commitment to our community.

To Jim and Carol: from the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your dedication to FTBT.



Congratulations to Carol Bibler and Jim Watson, recipients of the 2019 Great Chief Award from the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. We are so proud!

2019 PROJECT RECAP

We are thrilled to share our 2019 accomplishments with all our members and supporters. A huge thank you to the trail volunteers that came out and rolled up their sleeves. And if you didn’t make it out on a work day, be assured that your annual membership and donations are put to great use getting boots on the ground. Thank you for your continued generosity!

APRIL 2019

Second annual volunteer training with Flathead County Parks & Recreation. This helps balance knowledge (and removes some liability hurdles) when dedicated volunteers join us. If you’d like to lend a hand in 2020, please consider attending this training next spring. Safety doesn’t happen by accident.

Volunteers busted out their brushes to help re-stain the picnic tables at the Foy’s Community Center, horse stables area, the meadow and pavilion, and at the lookout. Gratitude goes out to Montana Academy, Herron Park Equestrians, the FTBT Trails Committee,

PROJECT RECAP, CONTINUED FROM COVER

and the committed volunteers (you know who you are) that helped us spiffy up the park for spring.

Each April the US Forest Service offers chainsaw training for FTBT volunteers. Thanks to our USFS partner and those that received this training to keep our trails clear of downed trees. Vroom vroom!

JUNE & EARLY JULY 2019

Thanks to generous supporters like YOU and other grant funding, we hired a Montana Conservation Crew (MCC) for three weeks to assist with trail maintenance on FTBT and John Chase Forest.

Week one: MCC took on noxious plants and targeted knapweed and thistle on the Lakeside to Blacktail Trail, the Foy's to Blacktail Trail, and associated trailheads. This was a first-ever effort, but a growing need. Once noxious weeds arrive and take over it's tough to hold then line. We are happy to report very little knapweed along the trails on Forest Service land, however, large infestations were at the trailheads and the two-track road at Emmons Saddle, Foy's to Blacktail Trail, the Lakeside to Blacktail Trail and Blacktail Mountain trailhead. Please keep an eye out for these invaders to avoid transport. Check your socks, clothing, canine companions and packs for burrs or seeds. Dispose of them in the trash, please do not toss them back on the trail or into the fields. Thanks for taking aim on weeds!

Weeks two and three: A MCC Youth Expeditionary crew showcased their excellent brushing skills on two

miles of Blacktail trails. These trails had not seen much love for several years so the crew got to work widening the corridor and cutting back of overgrowth to ensure a safer path. The same crew did a little digging and touched up the tread on the seldom-used Emmons Spring Trail. They removed 50 pounds worth of nails and trash at the Emmons Saddle Trailhead and knocked out another two miles of brushing along the Foy's to Blacktail Trail. This powerhouse crew finished their time with FTBT by digging in the dirt to stabilize and level the trail tread of the Chase Trail above Herron Park (1.5 miles in total). Because it was early July, they were rewarded with spectacular fireworks from atop the ridge on John Chase's property. Mr. Chase, we think you're pretty awesome! Thank you.

JULY to OCTOBER 2019

FTBT and Weyerhaeuser coordinated a safety effort to inform trail users of a summertime logging operation near Herron Park. Thank you hikers, bikers and other folks for your wonderful compliance and big thanks to Weyerhaeuser for allowing public use on their lands. All trees were hugged before logging.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY & PUBLIC LANDS DAY

In June and October, dedicated FTBT volunteers came out lend a hand with trail maintenance and we are proud to announce the sign installation of *A Landscape Shaped by Glaciers*. This educational sign is found at Foy's Overlook and offers a look at the landscape as it would have appeared 20,000 years ago. Yep, it's sweet.

IF YOU USE THESE TRAILS, IT'S TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER!

If you're a routine trail user please consider donating one dollar for each time you have enjoyed your outside time at Foy's to Blacktail Trails or Herron Park this past year. Your gift supports trail building, stewardships, youth education, signage and way-finding, maps and more! Get involved and support the place you love.



Mail checks and donation form to FTBT, P.O. Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903
Questions? Contact us at (406)203.3939 or info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU ENJOY FTBT TRAILS THIS YEAR?

WOULD YOU CONSIDER DONATING \$1/DAY?

Become a FTBT Member for as little as \$15 a year and feel great about pitching in! And, even better, please encourage others to get on board when you rock your FTBT membership sticker. All the cool kids do, ya know.

- \$15 Friend
- \$45 Family
- \$100 Supporter
- \$250 Sustainer
- \$500 TrailBlazer
- \$ _____

DONATE ONLINE AT
FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

Do **NOT** send me a membership decal

MOVEMENT IN A NEW DIRECTION HELPS FIND NEW CHEESE

You may be asking yourself, "What's cheese got to do with trails?" Well, *Who Moved My Cheese* is a short, light-hearted parable by best-selling author, Dr. Spencer Johnson, about the different ways we successfully respond to life's changes to create new opportunities.



That brings us to a change coming your way. We are letting go of the paper newsletter and launching a digital newsletter for Foy's to Blacktail Trails. This allows us to be the best fiscal stewards of your support by using more cost-effective technology to share our news and updates. We also understand that this adjustment is not ideal for everyone and we'll be able to accommodate those that would like to stick with the old-school hard copy, but we'll need to hear from you please.

For this issue, all FTBT members will receive both a

paper copy *and* a digital version in via email. If we have an email on file for you, the next newsletter will be strictly digital as well as future issues.

Thank you for helping us save a few bucks and some trees. We'll be sure to provide plenty of new cheese for you in the new FTBT e-newsletter sent out on a quarterly basis. Thank you for your on-going support and for leaping into the 21st century with us.

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEWS?

PAPER?

Contact FTBT to let us know you'd like to receive a hard copy.
(406) 203-3939

EMAIL?

Go to the FTBT website to subscribe to our digital newsletter.
FoysToBlacktailTrails.org

THE GIVING TREE

This December you may notice something a little different and special in Herron Park. We are kicking off a new idea for this unique time of year called The Giving Tree. We hope The Giving Tree will provide a wonderful opportunity to give back to the trails we all use, often on a daily or weekly basis. We really hope you'll participate with us. Especially those that have never donated before.

We're going to keep the full details under wraps (no pun intended) for a little while longer, but stay tuned to our website and social media pages for more info coming soon. Until the big news is out, please remember that it takes a village of dedicated community leaders, volunteers and supporters to make our town great. That means YOU!

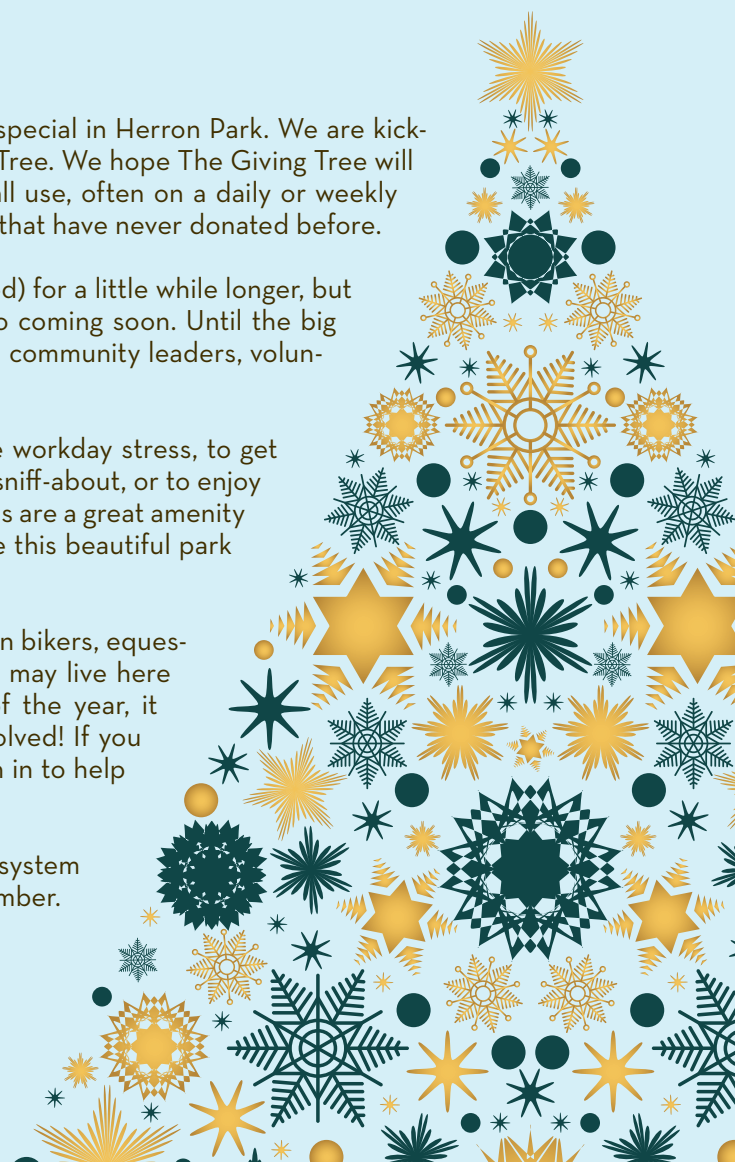
We are so lucky to enjoy FTBT trails during the week to relieve workday stress, to get routine exercise and fresh air, to get Fido out of the house for a sniff-about, or to enjoy some quality outdoor time with the family. Foy's to Blacktrail Trails are a great amenity to enjoy year-round and the Flathead Valley is fortunate to have this beautiful park and trail system out our front door.

And, these trails are for everyone! Hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, equestrians, bird nerds, adults, children, flower-lovers and more! You may live here twelve months of the year or live somewhere else for part of the year, it doesn't matter. What matters is that you care. That you get involved! If you use these trails even once a week or once a month, please pitch in to help support the effort.

We are counting on you to help us look after this amazing trail system and hope that you'll help us decorate The Giving Tree this December.



For news and updates stay tuned to
FoysToBlacktailTrails.org
and follow us on social media.



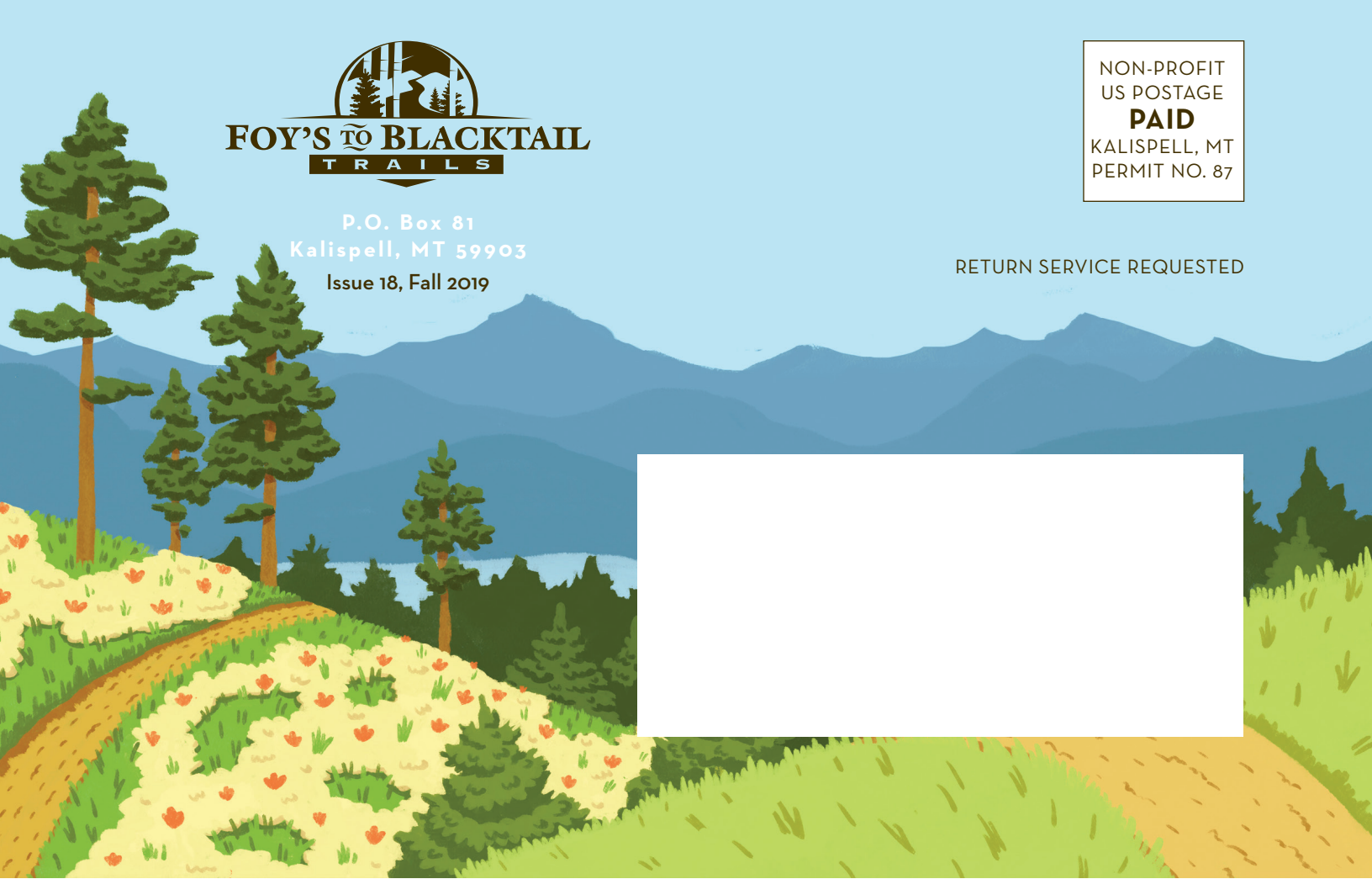


P.O. Box 81
Kalispell, MT 59903

Issue 18, Fall 2019

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
KALISPELL, MT
PERMIT NO. 87

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**THANK
YOU**
—FOR—
**YOUR
SUPPORT!**



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

To the Flathead County Parks Department for working to continue stewardship of the trails in Herron Park.

To the Flathead National Forest for an enthusiastic partnership to maintain trails on the Island Unit.

To Applied Materials for supporting FTBT's ongoing volunteer development

To Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser and F.H. Stoltze, who have always been professional, honest, generous, and supportive.

To John Chase and his late brother Myron for donating the first trail easement in 2006 and allowing us to enjoy his forest.

@foystoblacktail #herronpark