



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

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear FTBT Supporters and Enthusiasts,

Some time has passed since our last newsletter, but rest assured the Foy's to Blacktail Trails board of directors and staff have been hard at work to achieve our short term and long term objectives. We just drafted our 2015 Annual Report and revisited our Strategic Initiatives, reminding us of all that's been accomplished as well as our remaining goals. Please check out this report on our website for financial, statistical, and anecdotal information about our past year of work.

In 2016, we anticipate yet another increase in visitation to Herron Park as we endeavor to improve the facilities and recreational trails, deliver enjoyable competitive and sporting events, enhance the educational opportunities as well as outreach, improve forest health, and otherwise support Flathead County in taking care of this keystone community asset.

We will continue working collaboratively with the private landowners between Herron Park and the USFS land surrounding Blacktail Mountain to arrive at a mutually accommodating agreement for our namesake recreational corridor. Though much remains to be done, we are closer than ever to attaining our vision.

We will experience change in the team responsible for directing this great organization, as a few directors are reaching the end of their terms, and new directors are joining the effort. On behalf of the departing directors, I can safely assert that we feel fortunate to have been involved in Foy's to Blacktail Trails, are proud of the results of our work, anticipate further accomplishments by our peers, and that we'll most likely see you out on the trails well into the future.

Of course, our achievements are neither the board's, nor the staff's alone. Our community of supporters and advocates has aided the advancement of our vision from the day it was conceived, having grown greater in number and impact with each step forward. A group



Photo by Devvi Morgan



Carol, Danni and Cliff look forward to less time in board meetings and more time on the trails

effort was required to get where we are, and a group effort will carry us forward. You deserve credit, and you certainly have our appreciation.

Your contributions to FTBT are making noticeable, positive impacts for the Flathead Valley. Keep up the good work everyone!

Most Sincerely,

Clifford Kipp
Chairman of the Board, Foy's to Blacktail Trails

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DEVVI MORGAN

BY GRETE GANSAUER

Frequently found on the trails of Herron Park, Devvi has a bright grin, clicking camera and often a stuffed bear peeping out of the top of her pack. "I've hiked with him and taken his picture all over the place!" Devvi says of her trusty hiking partner and muse of her photography, 'Uncle Huckle' the bear.

Devvi's love of photography started when she received her first digital camera as a gift in 2004. As a means of keeping in touch with her aging mother and aunt, and learning the functions of the camera, Devvi began sending them a "POD" (Picture of the Day). Today, her POD email list reaches almost 90 people, many of whom she does not know personally, but all of whom enjoy the daily images she creates of beautiful life in Montana.

"I call myself an accidental photographer," chuckles Devvi, "I just shoot what I see." Devvi loves capturing everything from wildflowers to wildlife, sweeping sunsets to smiling trail users.

She says one of her favorite things about Herron Park is the diversity of ages and recreational users it attracts. As for herself, Devvi enjoys the outdoors by hiking, skiing, or geocaching with friends, and until recently, her late husband, Bill. A skilled navigator and retired Forest Service employee, Devvi once hiked the entire Foy's to Blacktail route with Bill and a friend. "I don't think

Bill realized just how long the hike was!" she jokes, as she reminisces about Bill stopping to clear the trail with some clippers along the way. She and Bill loved to explore places they had never been before. Though very familiar to her now, Herron Park brims with memories - on film and in her heart.

FTBT would like to thank Devvi, along with other fantastic volunteer photographers including Marjory McClaren, Ted & Tonya Van, Liz Seabaugh, Steve Muller and all the others who have shared their photography with FTBT over the years. If YOU have photographs from a lovely day at Herron Park, please feel free to share with us at info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org!



Devvi and Bill Morgan

JOIN FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS TODAY

YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS TRAIL BUILDING, STEWARDSHIP, NATURE EDUCATION, SIGNAGE, MAPS, AND MORE.

Support the place you love.

Become a FTBT Member for as little as \$15 a year (and receive a membership decal).

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

FTBT is a 501(c)3 non profit and donations are tax-deductible. We will not share your personal information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ (Used for infrequent updates)

I use the trails for: _____
 (Hiking, horseback riding, cycling, running, dog walking, skiing, etc.)

- Please do NOT send me a membership decal

Please make checks payable to Foy's to Blacktail Trails and include this form with your donation.

Mail checks to **FTBT, P.O. Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903**, or donate online at FoystoBlacktailTrails.org.

For more information, please call **406.203.3939** or visit info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For More Details and Updates Visit FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

May 14 (Sat): Flathead Cycling's Annual Herron Hammer XC mountain bike race. Contact thomasshelit@gmail.com for more details. Helps benefit Foy's to Blacktail Trails.

May 28 (Sat): Equestrian Mini-Event. Dressage, arena jumping, cross country jumping, and working equitation. Visit FlatheadEventing.org for details.

June 4 (Sat): National Trails Day. Grab your work gloves and join Montana Conservation Corps in helping maintain the park & trails. All volunteers enjoy a free BBQ lunch at Lone Pine State Park courtesy of Kalispell Daybreak Rotary Club. For more details visit FoystoBlacktailTrails.org.

June 5 (Sun): 5th Annual Herron Half Marathon, 10 km & 5km race. Toughest trail race in the region! We've added a 5k run this year. For registration and details visit HerronHalf.org. Benefit for Foy's to Blacktail Trails!

July 9 (Sat): Jumper Derby. Arena jumping in the morning, cross-country in the afternoon. Visit FlatheadEventing.org for more info.

August 7 (Sun): XTerra Triathlon. For details contact krufenach@krmc.org or call Krista at 751-4133.

August 20 & 21 (Sat & Sun): 24 Hours of Flathead bike race. Visit 24hrsoflathead.org for details and registration. Benefits D.R.E.A.M. adaptive recreation program.

September 17 (Sat): Flathead Celtic Festival, a Celtic heritage cultural event. Details at FlatheadCelticFestival.com

September 20 (Tues): Foy's Fest Benefit Brews Night at Kalispell Brewing. Join us from 5-8 PM for a family-friendly evening at Kalispell Brewing, 412 N. Main Street.

September 24 (Sat): National Public Lands Day. Get those work gloves out again and join Montana Conservation Corps in helping maintain the park & trails. All volunteers enjoy a free BBQ lunch at Lone Pine State Park courtesy of Kalispell Daybreak Rotary Club. See FoystoBlacktailTrails.org for details.

September 24 & 25 (Sat & Sun): Mini-Event and Working Equitation (equestrian event). Details at FlatheadEventing.org

October 12 (Wed): Community Pint Night at Tamarack Brewing in Lakeside. Join us from 6-9 PM. Every pint sold benefits FTBT.



When approaching a horse, step off the trail and be sure to speak up. Horses get spooked if you stay silent. Use extra caution on blind curves.



Herron Half, 10km and 5km



**THANK
YOU**
—FOR—
**YOUR
SUPPORT!**



FTBT ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2015 Annual Report is now available at 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, a 24 hour online giving event on **May 3**. Visit 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