



## Newsletter December, 2017

Visit our Website

### Fall/Winter Happenings

**December 2 - Fairplay Holiday Bazaar**

**December 5 - Colorado Gives Day**

**December 11 - MRHI Board Meeting, Alma Town Hall, 6:30pm**

**January 18, 2018 - MRHI Annual Meeting**

**March 1, 2018 - Peak Bagging in the Colorado Rockies: A Journey of Transformation, Jane Koerner, Alma Town Hall**

**March 10, 2018 - Poker Glide**

Details below or visit our website for more information.

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*"Few people can visit this mountain range without falling in love with it. Indeed, in many ways, it's being loved to death. We all have our reasons. We can all justify our uses. It's how these precious resources can be sustained over the long haul by so many different types of users that is in question. We're determined to try."*

Cara Doyle

MRHI Executive Director

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### Help MRHI and Get Your Shopping Done Too!

Need a small mountain treasure for a stocking stuffer? Have someone outdoorsy on your list? Discover some delightful gifts and help our cause at the same time! Join us for the Annual Fairplay Holiday Bazaar, Sat., Dec. 2nd. Pick up a box of Christmas cards featuring gorgeous local nature photos, a beautiful 2018 calendar, or a tote bag, warm hoody, t-shirt, reusable grocery sack and more!

Place your order for our newest item, ToGo Ware reusable bamboo utensils – perfect environmentally-friendly gift for the camper on your list!

Can't make the Bazaar? Calendars available from some great local stores: Almart, High Alpine Sports, the Forest Service Office and True Value. Or place your order at [www.mrhi.org](http://www.mrhi.org)

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## Colorado Gives Day Makes Your Donation Work Harder

MRHI strives to be open-minded and work with all users in our quest to care for the fragile natural resources of the Mosquito Range. Let's be honest. It's not easy. We need you!

Please consider a gift to MRHI for Colorado Gives Day, Dec. 5th. Your donation funds free environmental children's programs, rare plant monitoring, native habitat restoration, high school STEM programs, trails, land conservation, scholarships and more. If you like, you can specify where you want your money to go!

Colorado Gives Day is a statewide movement to increase online giving. Each organization's online profile is screened by Community First Foundation to ensure specific standards are met before they are added to the program. Every donation made through [ColoradoGives.org](http://ColoradoGives.org) on Colorado Gives Day is boosted by an incentive fund, which increases the value of every dollar thanks to the Community First Foundation and 1ST Bank.

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### Caretaking Precious Resources: Rare Plants, Trails and Habitat Restoration

What is a rare alpine plant worth? What is the value to future generations? We believe it's impossible to put a dollar figure on it. It is priceless.

Our work continued this year to find, document and monitor the unique alpine plants of the Mosquito Range. Hundreds of hours were spent documenting these tiny plants growing in the harsh alpine environment above 12,000 feet. We continue to provide detailed data, status and mapping information to universities, agencies and nonprofits dedicated to preserving these species.

It's not enough to savor the mountain beauty, we love to play in them too! We hosted six free community interpretive hikes to get more folks outside, develop volunteer relationships, make some new friends and further develop recreational awareness.

Biking, skiing, hiking, 4-wheeling, and more bring thousands of folks here annually and the damage can be devastating. That creates a critical need for trail maintenance. MRHI continues to perform maintenance on our adopted Tie Hack Trail and continues work on creating a large, legal recreational trail system.

We also close illegally-created trails to reduce damage to fragile resources and restore alpine tundra damaged by irresponsible recreation. This year, MRHI partnered with Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV) on a project near Trout Creek. Twenty-four volunteers contributed 500 hours toward the project, valued at \$12,070. Volunteers closed and seeded 2400 feet of road, laying 19,200 square feet of seed, 9600 square feet of erosion control matting, benefiting an estimated 100 acres of adjacent habitat.

In total, MRHI habitat and trail projects protected and enhanced more than 2,500 acres of fragile mountain resources in 2017. Special thanks to our amazing volunteers, as well as South Park Ranger District, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, South Park National Heritage Area, Patagonia, and The Summit Foundation for their support.





## Creating Conservation Wonder in a New Generation: Children's Environmental Education

More than 300 children engaged in FREE adventure and science exploration this year thanks to you, our funders, and MRHI! From forests to wetlands, geology to ecology, children (and many parents) had the chance to get dirty, giggle and explore nature while discovering its wonders. Programs included a Nature Science Camp, weekly nature-themed July programs, noxious weed pulls, gardening, an autumn children's hike, and fall preschool field trips to explore our mountain resources. Avalanche education programs are slated yet for this winter!

By educating children and their families about the unique natural area of the Mosquito Range, we hope to build a stronger community that is more informed about and involved in preserving and protecting our mountain home. Youth are one of our most valuable investments in caretaking precious resources for future generations.

Strong partnerships are key to this important work! Thanks to Anschutz Family Foundation, Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center, Boys & Girls Club of the High Rockies, Clif Bar Foundation, Park County School District RE-2, South Park National Heritage Area, The Summit Foundation and Wells Fargo.



*"My grandson and I participated in several programs this past summer. Each experience was fun, age-appropriate, professionally led, and perfect for the development of a nature-loving environmentally aware child! Thanks so much!"*

Jan Toyne  
Children's Program Attendee

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## March 1, 2018 - Peak Bagging in the Colorado Rockies: A Journey of Transformation, Jane Koerner, Alma Town Hall

Fairplay resident Jane Koerner, first woman to climb the 100 highest peaks of Colorado, will talk about her memoir, *Off Trail: Finding My Way Home in the Colorado Rockies*, recently published by University of Oklahoma Press. The book recounts her mountaineering adventures and how they helped her heal from trauma.

Jane's articles and essays have appeared in High Country News and Mountain Gazette, among other publications. Her book introduces her new pen name, Jane Parnell.

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## 2017 Events



### Poker Glide

The 10th Annual MRHI Poker Glide took place on March 11th on County Road 8 and the Windy Ridge Road. More than 20 cross country skiers, snowshoers, and walkers attended. Lunch was served after the Glide at the Alma Town Hall.

Many thanks to Jara Johnson for organizing the Poker Glide again this year.

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### Poker Ride

The 2017 Poker Ride was held on September 17. Forty riders rode the trails on the Tie Hack Trail and adjacent trails. A great lunch was enjoyed after the ride at the South Park Brewery. Many thanks to our sponsors who donated door prizes and all of our volunteers!



A special thanks to Jennie and Kelly Gannon for organizing the Poker Ride again this year.

*"I did the 2017 Poker Ride yesterday and it was a ball. Met some fun folks, rode some trails I never knew about and won a new jersey! It doesn't get much better than that!  
I am happy to support this organization that helps preserve our environment and heritage."  
Doug Briggs*

Facebook



### Moonwalk

The Buckskin Cemetery Moonwalk was held on October 7 this year. We had a record number of attendees with over 600 visitors. Volunteers make this event possible. They help to organize and run the event, portray characters from the early mining days in the Alma/Fairplay area, and bake many, many dozen of cookies.

organized this successful event.

Thanks to Sheila Skaggs and Kathy Butler who

*"I have lived in Fairplay for twenty years and just came to experience the Moonwalk for the first time. It was truly magical! I learned an incredible amount of local history and it got our entire family out for an evening together. We are glad to say we will come every year!"*

*Holli Cooper  
Moonwalk Attendee*

## Do you shop online? You can help MRHI - no cost to you! Here's how:

### Amazon Smile:

If you do a lot of shopping through Amazon, consider switching to Amazon Smile; Amazon Smile is a new part of amazon.com that donates 0.5% of purchases to the nonprofit of your choice (hopefully it's us!). Amazon Smile has the same merchandise as amazon.com and it's completely free to sign up - start shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) or learn more at <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

### iGive:

When you shop online at over 1,500 stores, a percentage of your purchase can be donated to MRHI by clicking on the iGive Button. You don't pay more, but still raise money for your cause. You can sign up for free at <http://www.iGive.com/MosquitoRangeHeritageInitiative>.

### Goodshop & Goodsearch:

**Goodsearch:** Search the Internet with the patent-protected, Yahoo!-powered search engine (just like you'd search on any other search engine), and Goodsearch will donate about a penny for nearly all searches to your selected cause.

**Goodshop:** Shop at one of more than 2,800 participating stores (from Amazon to Zazzle) and a percentage of what you spend will be donated to your cause at no cost to you. Oh, and by the way, there's a big added bonus here too. Goodshop lists more than 100,000 coupons and deals so you could save money while doing good! Visit: <http://www.goodsearch.com> to get started.

## Support MRHI, become a Member!

To become a MRHI member, you can either visit our website at [www.mrhi.org](http://www.mrhi.org) or request a membership slip and mail it back to us at PO BOX 375, Alma, CO 80420. *Thank you for your support!*

Membership levels: Basic - \$25; Family - \$60; Youth - \$10; Business - \$100; Corporate - \$250.

**or make a donation by clicking below**

Donate

STAY CONNECTED

