



The MRHI Brief

Our Mission: "The Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative, through cooperative efforts, seeks to conserve unique natural areas, preserve historic & cultural sites, promote diverse recreation and develop community business opportunities."

September 2016

MRHI UPCOMING EVENTS

Selkirk Habitat Restoration Project

In a project sponsored by Wild Connections, MRHI worked to protect fragile wetlands of the North Tarryall Creek in Selkirk Basin. This four day project under the direction of the South



Park Ranger District included installation of post and cable fencing along the main road near Selkirk Campground, scarifying, seeding and placing bush and logs on some illegal OHV tracks, and preparation of

two seasonal gates to protect wintering and calving areas surrounding the campground and wetlands area.

The post and cable is not meant to deter dispersed camping, however it is meant to stop vehicles from pulling more than one vehicle length off of the road to reach campsites. The illegal roads created by cars driving off the road to reach dispersed camping sites affect the headwaters of the North Tarryall Creek

adjacent to the Selkirk Campground causing increased sedimentation, significant erosion and damaging impacts to the flora and fauna of this area. By reducing our impact on this fragile ecosystem we hope to enjoy the wetlands for many years to come.

MRHI was happy to see youth representatives from the Boys and Girls Club of South Park come out on Friday August 19th to volunteer. Ginni Greer, project coordinator and former board president of MRHI, organized the restoration project. MRHI also supplied its team Lara Getz, Callie Edwards, Jan McCabe, Karah Frizzell, and Erica Henderson to volunteer for the project. Other partner organizations for the restoration project include: Park County Land and Water Trust Fund, South Park National Heritage Area, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte and the South Park Ranger District.

Moon Walk, September 17th

MRHI's Annual Moon Walk will take place at the Alma Cemetery off of Buckskin Rd (CR 8). Take a

guided tour of the cemetery and listen to stories of the cemetery's residents. Family tours will go from 6:30-7:30 pm. Adult tours will run from 7:30-9:30 pm. The tour is free, but donations are encouraged! Contact vista@mrhi.org for more information. Contact pinkbike101@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer. information. Contact pinkbike101@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer.



MRHI Hosts Noxious Weed Pulls in Fairplay and Placer Valley

Thanks to Callie Edwards for contributing this article

Saturday, August 13 Fairplay had its 1st Annual Community Weed Pull led by the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative and sponsored by MRHI and the Town of Fairplay. Organized and hosted by Fairplay local Callie Edwards, the event was inspired by the success of Wendy’s Wildflowers in reducing the noxious weed population in Alma. MRHI representatives Ginni Greer and Callie Edwards taught the team of 8 community volunteers to identify noxious weeds and the most effective ways to remove each of them. Community member Barb King reported, “This has been a lot of fun!” as she ate the free lunch following the volunteer event. 35 bags of scentless chamomile and sweet clover were pulled from the Town Hall property. “This has been very informative and I hope to see this event continue,” said Linda Twehaus. MRHI agrees and we would like to support the Fairplay and Placer Valley Weed Pulls as annual events. Look out for Fairplay’s Annual Community Weed Pull next summer!



Town Hall Before



Town Hall After



Sponsored by the Summit Foundation, Pike & San Isabel Resource Advisory Committee (PSI-RAC), Bridge Network, and South Park National Heritage Area

MRHI Secures Grant from the Wells Fargo Community Assistance Fund Grant Program

MRHI is delighted to announce the acceptance of an environmental education grant for \$1,000 from The Wells Fargo Community Assistance Fund Grant Program. The funds will support MRHI’s free environmental education opportunities for youth and adults alike. These programs include the Adventure Series speakers, youth outdoor environmental education, high school phenology program, and high school hiking program.

High School Phenology Students Present their Research



After working hard all summer to collect phenology data about *Eutrema penlandii*, 11 South Park High School AP Biology students presented their research to the community. These students tracked the growth of the endemic and federally listed as rare *Eutrema penlandii* in three different locations in the Mosquito Range. Each team of four students returned to the same site each week to follow the rare alpine mustard from sprouting, to flowering, to seeding. They created plots, collected data. A representative from each of the three phenology groups explained their study and findings in front of MRHI staff and board members, community partners, and parents. This fall the students will be using their data to write an official report for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. For more information please contact vista@mrhi.org.



Sponsored by the Anschutz Family Foundation, Bridge Network, South Park National Heritage Area, and New Belgium Brewing

Support MRHI, become a Member!

To become a MRHI member, you can either visit our website at 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.

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