



NATIONAL WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE

NWSA NEWSLETTER • FALL 2020

Building a
wilderness
stewardship
community

2020 Memberships end
December 31, 2020.

Remember to renew your
NWSA Membership for 2020
and extend into 2021.
wildernessalliance.org/donate

Join the NWSA!

Membership in the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance comes in two forms: individual or organization memberships.

Individual memberships show your support for the mission and purpose of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and association with the greatest people on earth - wilderness stewards. Any donation over \$25 per year qualifies you as an NWSA member for Workshop and Symposium discounts.

Organization memberships entitle your group to apply for NWSA Grant programs, provide access to toolboxes and educational materials tailored to support wilderness stewardship organizations, and participation in review and comment efforts on industry wide-issues led by NWSA.

All members have access to NWSA services and support, including volunteer workshops, webinars, and Conference/Symposiums, many at no or reduced cost.

A membership in NWSA is a wise investment for the future of wilderness stewardship. Collectively we are stronger than individually.

wildernessalliance.org/donate

NWSA/SWS LAUNCH WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP AWARDS.

The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance in partnership with the Society of Wilderness Stewardship is pleased to announce the creation of the National Wilderness Stewardship Awards.

The wilderness stewardship community is filled with ordinary people doing extraordinary work in some of America's most amazing and remote landscapes. Unfortunately, their work often goes unnoticed, leaving Wilderness to suffer as a result. By showing people their work is important now, we can build a more sustainable wilderness stewardship community for the future.

This awards program will allow organizations and partners to nominate

a steward, organization, or Federal land agency whom they feel has demonstrated outstanding ability in the following categories:

Wilderness Rising Leader

To recognize young wilderness stewards who have demonstrated outstanding potential to lead the stewardship community into the future.

Wilderness Stewardship Champion of the Year Award

To recognize an individual wilderness steward that has demonstrated outstanding ability to steward their wilderness areas.

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FUTURE NWSA WEBINARS: GET YOUR SUGGESTIONS READY

By Dave Cantrell, NWSA Board

It's been a good year for NWSA webinars! Our presenters, usually presenting under COVID conditions, have supported volunteer stewardship across many fronts: updates on useful software, volunteer-agency cooperation, Leave No Trace updates, balancing advocacy and stewardship, innovative approaches to Citizen Science, women-led stewardship and conservation,

cooperative relations between riders and other trail users, public lands and climate change.

2020 presentations to come:

**Ethics and Effects of Wilderness
Digital Media** :Tuesday, October 20
at 1:00 PM Mountain

The narratives crafted by organizations and individuals about wilderness

Continued, Page 6

ALL NWSA WEBINARS, PAST AND FUTURE, ARE
AVAILABLE AT WILDERNESSALLIANCE.ORG/WEBINARS

About NWSA

Our Mission:

The mission of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is to develop a growing network of volunteer-based organizations to provide stewardship for America's enduring resource of wilderness.

Our Vision:

Our vision is to see each wilderness area within the National Wilderness Preservation System adopted by a wilderness stewardship organization dedicated to protecting and nurturing the area's character and values. We envision effective partnerships between community-based, non-profit wilderness stewardship organizations and all government agencies charged with the management of our national wilderness areas.

Our Goal:

Our goal is to improve wilderness stewardship and create an allied constituency for wilderness by connecting stewardship organizations with each other, linking our efforts and experiences, directing groups to resources, and fostering new organizations.

Our Objectives:

- Identify wilderness stewardship groups nationwide in order to determine the present level of support.
- Through our website and other resources, share knowledge, experience and expertise among local, regional and national stewardship organizations.
- Provide new groups with start-up models of different structures, help them anticipate the questions that typically arise as groups form, and connect them with people who have built successful organizations.
- Sponsor national and regional gatherings of stewardship groups.
- Provide grants to help stewardship groups accomplish on-the-ground projects benefiting wilderness
- Help foster a culture within governing agencies that values volunteer-based wilderness stewardship organizations and has the means to give them effective support.

FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Downs



Greetings from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. After 10 years, to look back on NWSA's work is to see the strength of a Nation of Wilderness lovers to come together to cultivate stewardship in every corner of the Wilderness preservation system.

Looking forward, I see an organization well suited to continue to support organizations of all sizes as they take on the ever increasing challenges maintaining healthy and publicly valuable Wilderness areas. I also see an organization, early in its life-span that must ensure that all communities have equal and equitable access to the values of Wilderness so that they might join us in the important work preserving these places. To do so, NWSA will engage new partners, but also look at ourselves and hold ourselves accountable to the expectation that our leadership, our partnerships and our work bring a diversity of voices and communities to bear as we learn what Wilderness means to everyone, not just those within the current network of Wilderness stewards and advocates.

Continued, Page 5

NWSA MEMBER ORGANIZATION PROFILE

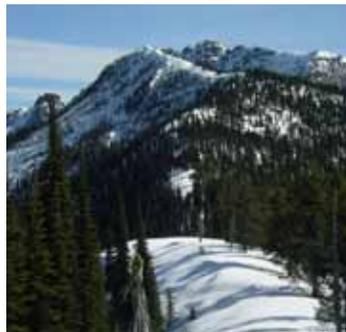
FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS

From the first Wilderness Workshop in Las Vegas in March of 2011, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW) has been part of



NWSA. Executive Director Phil Hough attended the first, and FSPW staff and volunteers have been at each Workshop since.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, formed in 2005, is committed to connecting the people of North Idaho and Northwest Montana with their wild backyard. Situated near the Idaho-Montana border, Scotchman Peak is the highest point in Bonner County, Idaho, at 7,009 feet. The Friends' mission is to make sure this rugged land is saved for our children and grandchildren.



The Scotchman Peaks are in North Idaho and western Montana

That means making the area accessible with well-maintained trails. It means educating the public about what wilderness is and why it matters. And it means advocating for laws and public policy that keeps wild places undeveloped and untamed.

For almost 16 years, Friends of Scotchman Peaks have been focused on saving the wild Scotchman Peaks for future generations.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

RANDY WELSH

Over the last 10 years the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance has grown from the dream of a connected wilderness stewardship community to a reality. As I write this article, the National Wilderness Workshop kicks off with over 400 participants bringing wilderness stewards, volunteers, agency wilderness managers, rangers and academics together to share and discuss the latest issues in wilderness management in a virtual format. The Workshop is but one of many activities sponsored by NWSA which brings the wilderness stewardship community together. Next year we look forward to hosting the Workshop in Roanoke, Virginia.

In any given year there are 50-60 member organizations of NWSA. These local stewardship groups understand the value of connecting to broaden the outreach and the power of wilderness stewardship. They also share in the collective benefits of networking, learning, and sharing resources. This was very evident in the effort to create a unified cross cut saw program for volunteers and working with other national groups to fight misguided legislation to allow mountain bikes in wilderness.

NWSA has been instrumental in developing funding programs that the wilderness and trails communities can participate in. Since 2016 over \$1,000,000 in Wilderness Stewardship Performance funding has been spread around the stewardship community contributing to many more wilderness areas managed to agency standards. And since 2017 the National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partner

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NWSA FUND ESTABLISHED WITH HELP FROM THE DERMODY FAMILY AND DAVID BEROLZHEIMER FOUNDATION

By Randy Welsh

The vision of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is to help support the formation of a wilderness stewardship group for every wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. We are one step closer to that reality thanks to the generosity this summer of long-time wilderness volunteers and supporters Elaine and Win Dermody, from Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

I am pleased to officially announce the formation of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Fund. This fund was established by a generous donation provided by The David Berolzheimer Foundation to honor life-long friend and wilderness champion, Elaine Dermody, who is a Founding Member of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. The proceeds from this endowment will be used to support the creation of wilderness stewardship groups for every wilderness area in the National Wilderness



Left to right are Win Dermody, Kevin Cannon, Dave Cantrell and Elaine Dermody. Chris Brown is in background. Photo was taken about 2010 during the early formation of NWSA.

Preservation System. You will be seeing more about the Fund and opportunities to participate in it this fall.

NWSA has established the Fund at the Oregon Community Foundation where it can grow to support a program of active creation of new stewardship organizations. NWSA will solicit proposals from groups starting to form or in the initial stages of their existence. We hope to be able to help defray some of the start-

up costs and provide mentoring and advice to improve organization success. This is an exciting new offering for NWSA thanks to the foresight of Elaine and Win Dermody, and the generosity of the David Berolzheimer Foundation.

If you'd like to contribute to the Fund you can do so on the NWSA website starting in November. A new webpage and payment processing for the Fund is in the works. All contributions to the Fund will be deposited in the Oregon Community Foundation for the Fund to increase the endowment and to allow NWSA to help more stewardship groups form.

I'm personally grateful to the Elaine and Win for the trust they have placed in NWSA and for their vision of wilderness stewardship for all areas of the Wilderness Preservation System.

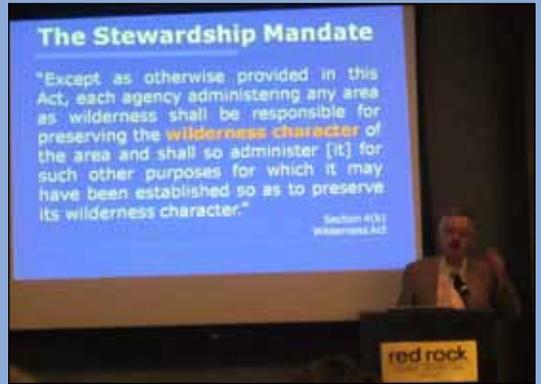
Thank you Elaine and Win!

Read more about the grant on Page 5.



Pioneers of NWSA at the formative meeting in 2010

**NWSA:
CELEBRATING
A DECADE OF
DEDICATED
WILDERNESS
LOVERS MEETING
FOR THE
COMMON GOOD**



Doug Scott takes us through the Wilderness Act, Las Vegas, 2011



SAWS Field Trip, Tellico Wilderness, 2012 Inset: SAWS fringe benefits



Bob Hazelton welcomes the conference to Big Bear, 2013



Connie Myers instructs at the 2014 Workshop in Albuquerque



Arkansas Wilderness field trip in 2017



Jimmy Gaudrey and Hawk Methery at the 2015 Workshop in Missoula



Andrew Schurr weighs in on the cross-cut competition at the Wilderness Olympics in Missoula, 2016



Opening Session, Gunnison, 2018



Bill Hodge on Wilderness, Bend, 2019

The Director, from page 3

Funding, which NWSA manages through a partnership with the Forest Service and national trail groups, has given \$900,000 to support over 100 different trail projects. Our outreach has grown and our impact on wilderness stewardship has been tremendous, all while strengthening local wilderness stewardship groups.

And let's not forget the value of NWSA webinars which for the last three years have brought the wilderness community together for learning and educational sessions that advance wilderness stewardship. These thoughtful and provocative sessions have built a steady audience and are retained for future learning opportunities on our website.

One final and most important thing to share about NWSA's growth is the creation of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Fund. This fund was established by a generous donation provided by The David Berolzheimer

Foundation to honor life-long friend and wilderness champion, Elaine Dermody, who is a Founding Member of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. The proceeds from this endowment will be used to support the creation of wilderness stewardship groups for every wilderness area in the National Wilderness Preservation System. You will be seeing more about the Fund and opportunities to participate in it this fall.

NWSA has a bright future because of the dedication of wilderness stewardship groups and the importance of our mission protecting wilderness areas. If you have an interest in expanding your participation in wilderness stewardship consider serving on the NWSA Board or volunteering for a committee assignment. It's only through the commitment of dedicated volunteers like yourself that we can achieve great things for wilderness.

For Wilderness Stewardship
Randy Welsh, Executive Director

Awards, from page 1

Wilderness Stewardship

Organization of the Year Award

To recognize a wilderness stewardship organization that has demonstrated outstanding ability to steward their wilderness areas.

Wilderness Agency

Partner of the Year Award

To recognize an agency employee or unit which has demonstrated outstanding ability to work with wilderness stewardship organizations to improve the stewardship of their wilderness areas.

Nominations for the 2020 awards were accepted through September 30th, with the awards being presented after the National Wilderness Workshop.

Additional information about these awards, including application materials, may be found on the NWSA website at <http://www.wildernessalliance.org/awards>.

Questions about the awards program may be addressed to Randy Welsh, Executive Director, NWSA at randy@wildernessalliance.org or by calling 801-808-2167.

From the Chair, from page 2

The National Wilderness Workshop will play a particularly important role in our future as we continue to broaden and strengthen the partnership. I will miss seeing everyone in person this year and can't help but reflect how important it will be to reconnect, share stories by the campfire, and

invite new partners to sit down and tell us their thoughts on the future of Wilderness stewardship.

I look forward to the next ten years of work with the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and encourage you to hit the trails this fall, find some quiet place, and as the old saying goes: "Don't just do something, sit there".

BOARD AND STAFF OF NWSA

Andrew Downs, Chair

andrewdowns@wildernessalliance.org

Katie Currier, Vice-chair

katie@wildernessalliance.org

Dave Cantrell, Programs

dave@wildernessalliance.org

Anne Sentz, Secretary

anne@wildernessalliance.org

Ann Baker-Easley

ann@wildernessalliance.org

Zack Bumgarner

zack@wildernessalliance.org

Sandy Compton

sandy@wildernessalliance.org

David Kallenbach

david@wildernessalliance.org

Ian Nelson

ian@wildernessalliance.org

Chelsea Phillippe

chelsea@wildernessalliance.org

Randy Rasmussen

randyrasmussen@wildernessalliance.org

Randy Welsh

Executive Director

randy@wildernessalliance.org

801.808.2167

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 752

Bend, OR • 97709

www.wildernessalliance.org

THE EVOLUTION OF THE DERMODY/BEROLZHEIMER GRANT

By Elaine Dermody

Win Dermody first met David Berolzheimer at an army reserve meeting in Clearwater Florida in 1958. There, a friendship began that would span 61 years and soon include Elaine Dermody and the Dermody children. David and Bonnie Starr, his sweetheart of 45 years, became part of the Dermody family and had a close relationship with their children and grandchildren which continues now with Bonnie.

After the Dermody's retired to Steamboat Springs, David and Bonnie bought a condo there as well, and enjoyed spending part of their time in Colorado. They participated fully in community life during part of every season.

Fast forward to March of 2020. After David's untimely passing in the spring of 2019, Bonnie came to Steamboat and visited with us. Before leaving she handed Win an

envelope and said, "This is something David wanted you and Elaine to have." Upon opening it we were shocked to learn that David had established the David Berolzheimer Foundation and left \$500,000 to donate to five local non-profit organizations of our choosing!

What an incredible gift! We were so honored. With so many incredible non—profits in Steamboat, we immediately realized it was going to be a difficult choice. As it was, it turned out to be a very challenging and time consuming experience, but definitely a labor of love.

We first discussed which non—profits David had been involved with and which he would feel good about. Then we each made a list of non—profits to consider. Fortunately, we listed the same non—profits, but narrowing the list down to

Continued, Page 7

Webinars, from page 1

issues and experiences have great power to influence public opinion as well as wilderness stewardship. However, technologies, like cell phones, that are increasingly used to craft these wilderness narratives also affect the wilderness experience itself.

Shared Stewardship — Building Wilderness Partnerships Through Empathy:

Tuesday, November 10 at
1:00 PM Mountain

Shared goals and understanding will help us successfully steward wild lands into the future and build strong and empathetic connections. Data collected during a session on shared stewardship and empathy at the 2019 National Wilderness Workshop will deepen our understanding of the challenges and potential solutions to build strong, empathetic alliances.

National Trails: A look at Trail Designations within the National Trail System:

Tuesday, December 8
at 1:00 PM Mountain

The National Trail System Act established three categories of National

Trails: National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails and National Recreation Trails. A panel will discuss the attributes of each designation including the purpose of the designation, the designation process, protections afforded thru designation and opportunities for volunteer stewards and advocates.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021, WE PLAN TO FOCUS MOST OF OUR WEBINARS ON ONE QUESTION: **WHAT ARE THE GREATEST CHALLENGES TO VOLUNTEER-BASED WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP TODAY?**

From your perspective, as you look at your organization in the coming years, what worries you most? What's going to be most difficult to deal with? How can NWSA help you meet that challenge?

How do we do our work within the pandemic environment? That tough question jumps to the front for immediacy, and NWSA is working hard to help us all think about how we do our work in a dramatically different environment. But other long-noticed matters become more and more criti-

cal to address (and often interact with the pandemic environment): overuse, diversity, climate change's impact, wildfire impacts and on and on.

A personal example: The Cameron Peak fire has burned out much of the area where my home organization patrols. We don't know how much, and it will be a long time before teams can get in to evaluate the level of destruction.

It's one thing to say "that beetle kill was going to burn, and at least now it's gone." But where will we patrol next year? What trails are left? How do we talk to the public about our ravaged landscapes? How do we keep our organization vital with perhaps a majority of our trails unavailable? That's the kind of question I'd like to see webinar panels address.

We plan to approach each topic with a spotlight directed at the impact for wilderness volunteer stewards — and how we can meet the challenge in our individual settings. Rather than one person delivering expert knowledge, we look to form panels to bring a range of perspectives, but always with strong volunteer voices.

Please send your thoughts to dave@wildernessalliance.org.

Dermody, from page 6

an appropriate number was difficult. We eventually settled on the final six. We decided to have our chosen organizations apply for a grant from David's Foundation as they would any other grant. Their executive directors and staff pitched in, worked together and created impressive grant application packages.

Our last requirement was that each organization have an existing Endowment Fund so that David's gifts would grow over time and contribute to the stability of the organization. We worked with the Yampa Valley Community Foundation which man-

ages all but one of the endowment funds. The helpfulness and professionalism of their staff along with that of David's Foundation during this process was above and beyond.

The David Berolzheimer Foundation Grants to honor Elaine and Win Dermody are as follows:

The Steamboat Art Museum — added to their Endowment Fund.

Steamboat Creates (Arts Council) — an additional Endowment Fund.

Court Sports 4 Life — to build a new multi-use Pickleball Center.

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) — added to a previously established Endowment Fund in honor of

Elaine and Win Dermody recognizing their many years of volunteering with the US Forest Service. These funds are to be used primarily to enable future joint projects with the RMYC and Friends of Wilderness.

Friends of Wilderness* — to be added to their Endowment Fund.

National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA)* — an Endowment Fund to help establish new wilderness volunteer organizations throughout the US.

*Elaine is the founder of FOW and one of the founders of NWSA. David Berolzheimer was one of the early contributors to both organizations.

**THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS
STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE
EXISTS FOR ITS MEMBERS
AND THROUGH THEIR
SUPPORT. NWSA
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THESE GROUPS, WHO HAVE
SUPPORTED US SINCE 2016.**

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation
AIM for Wilderness Stewardship
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Ascend Wilderness Experience
BCHA National
BCHA-California Motherlode Chapter
BCHA-Colorado Pagosa Springs
BCHA-Oregon High Desert Trail Riders
BCHA-Washington
Bend Park and Recreation, Bend OR
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
Colorado Mountain Club
Common Ground
Condor Trail Association
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Cottonwood Canyons Foundation
Del Norte Trails
Discovery Southeast
Friends of Boundary Waters
Friends of Central Cascades Wilderness
Friends of Kings Peak
Friends of Mt Evans and Lost Creek
Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests
Friends of Panthertown
Friends of Plumas Wilderness
Friends of Scotchman Peaks
Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness
Friends of the Dillon Ranger District
Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of Wilderness, Routt NF
Gila Trout Unlimited
Grand County Wilderness Group
Great Basin Institute
Great Old Broads - Bitterbrush Chapter
Great Old Broads - National (all Chapters)
Great Old Broads - Volcano Chapter
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Trails Association
Idaho Youth Employment - Salmon
Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance
Kaiser Wilderness Foundation
LaVeta Trails
Los Padres Forest Association
Los Padres Forest Watch
Mammoth Lakes Recreation
Mountain Bike Missoula
National Smokejumper Association
New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Northwoods Volunteer Connection
Okefenokee Wildlife
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Partners of Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock
Phoenix School
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
Rocky Mountain Field Institute
Save Our Canyons

Sawtooth Society
Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
Siskiyou Mountain Club
Sitka Conservation Society
Sky Island Alliance
Southeast Alaska Conservation
Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers
Student Conservation Association
Superior Hiking Club
The Conservation Center
The Wilderness Land Trust
Truckee Trails
Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Upper Gila Wilderness Coalition
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Verde Valley Cyclist Coalition
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Alliance
West Slope Conservation Center
Wild Places - Monarch Wilderness
Wild South
Wilderness Corps
Wilderness Institute
Wilderness Next Corp
Wilderness Workshop
Wyoming Wilderness Association
Yavapai Trails

**NWSA has also re-
ceived donations from
60-plus individuals.
We are grateful to all.**