

RIVER CURRENTS

20 Years Strong

Rick Lofaro, Executive Director



I have been fishing for as long as I can remember. In my early childhood years, my family owned a small 1-acre lot outside of Bailey, Colorado, where we had access to a small private lake. While I'm sure the lake had a formal name, my family simply called it "Lake Lofaro." We spent every weekend we could at Lake Lofaro, fishing, playing, and learning about nature. Those outings instilled a love for the outdoors that burns as strong as ever inside of me.

Fast forward to the years I spent as a fishing guide on the Swan River in Montana, where I honed my skills as an oarsman, an angler, and most importantly a river enthusiast. I became impassioned with all things river, and took as much delight in sighting an osprey or a towering western white pine as I did landing and releasing a handsome rainbow trout. With each passing week, an outing on the river was less about catching fish, and more about reveling in the magic and wonder of that magnificent river.

While I was pursuing my love affair with the Swan River, things were happening back home on the Roaring Fork, and I returned to the Roaring Fork Valley in the fall of 1997 to become a part of it. Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) sprang to life in the midst of a watershed movement in Colorado during the late 1990s. Throughout the state, interested communities and grass roots efforts yielded fledgling watershed groups organized around various local water issues. In 1996, the Roaring Fork Club and the Town of Basalt had the vision to establish a non-profit organization to promote water conservation practices and the protection of the Roaring Fork River, and RFC was born.

Like any new organization, the first steps RFC took were close to home, working with the Roaring Fork Club to create healthier riparian habitat and helping the Town of Basalt develop a plan for the 3 miles of Roaring Fork River that flow through town. However, soon after the creation of the organization, founding board members noted that protecting the Roaring Fork River meant protecting all the water that flows into it, which includes the entire Roaring Fork Watershed. Soon RFC was taking its mission and its message of watershed protection to the far reaches of the watershed. The organization they established was the first group focused solely on river and water issues in the Roaring Fork Watershed.

Over the past 20 years, RFC has grown to be one of the most respected watershed action and education organizations in Colorado. Much of that success has come from the people who have worked alongside RFC



to help make it what it is today. We celebrate our 20th anniversary this year as a strong, solvent and effective watershed organization and we look forward to the next 20 years strong.

Stream Management Planning: A New Era in River Studies

By Heather Lewin, Watershed Action Director

Roaring Fork Conservancy's (RFC) first scientific publication was the Roaring Fork Watershed Year 2000 State of the River Report. This study was typical of river studies at the time, providing a comprehensive overview of RFC's water quality monitoring program: including what parameters were monitored, where and why. The report took a series of data and made it interesting and accessible with photos and graphs. Studies like this one,

and many subsequent studies, show diligent work in collecting and sharing baseline information, but the modern river steward will quickly point out that there is something missing. While the collection, display and sharing of data is important, it leaves out two key elements inherent in today's river



Courtesy of Thompson Divide Coalition

studies: stakeholder

engagement and an action plan. Enter the Stream Management Plan.

Stream Management Planning blends high level river science with stakeholder engagement to create a site specific record of conditions and a plan for management that takes into account the values and needs of the local community. The 2015 Colorado Water Plan, as well as the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) place a high priority on Stream Management Plans (SMP), which the Colorado Water Conservation Board describes as follows:

Well-developed stream management plans should be grounded in the complex interplay of biology, hydrology, channel morphology, and alternative water use and management strategies. They should also consider the flow and other structural or management conditions needed to support both recreational uses and ecosystem function. A stream management plan should: 1) involve stakeholders to ensure their acceptance of the plan; 2) assess existing biological, hydrological, and geomorphological conditions at a reach scale; 3) identify flows and other physical conditions needed to support environmental and recreational

water uses; 4) incorporate environmental and recreational values and goals identified both locally and in a basin roundtable's BIP; and 5) identify and prioritize alternative management actions to achieve measurable progress toward maintaining or improving flow regimes and other physical conditions.

> RFC is currently involved in two local SMPs: the Crystal River Management Plan (CRMP) and the Aspen Stream Management Plan (ASMP).

RFC partnered with Public Counsel of the Rockies and Lotic Hydrological, LLC to produce the recently released CRMP. Focused on the Crystal River



Mount Sopris Spring by Steve Wiggins

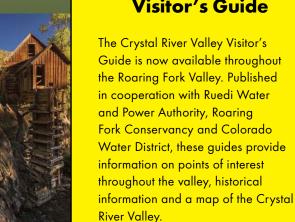
and its stakeholders, the CRMP effort used historic data combined with state-of-the art modeling in a process that began by answering stakeholder questions, and continued with input from Crystal River Valley irrigators and water rights holders, the Town of Carbondale, the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Colorado Water Trust and many others. The end result documents not only the state of the Crystal River, but also provides an evaluation of existing water uses, an Ecological Functional Assessment that incorporates past and current conditions, an assessment of a variety of management strategies, and the identification of management priorities for the river. Because stakeholders have been involved from the conception of the project, an ongoing dialogue has already been

established on how to enhance the ecological integrity of the river while at the same time honoring agricultural productivity and preserving existing water uses. This innovative document is one of the first of its kind in the State of Colorado, and has the potential to be used as a model for other stream reaches in the Roaring Fork Valley, as well as in other watersheds throughout the state.

The ASMP is in its infancy, with plans to begin engaging stakeholders and performing instream evaluations in the Upper Roaring Fork Valley this summer. The goal is to enhance the health of the Roaring Fork River from its headwaters through just below the confluence with Maroon Creek. With a dewatered stream reach running through Aspen, a Section 303(d) listing based on aquatic life, and a wide variety of stakeholders, the ASMP will be an exciting and very challenging process. RFC is acting in an advisory role to the City of Aspen as well as a stakeholder in the ASMP process.

The future of river studies must begin with stakeholder collaboration. It is no longer enough to simply collect and share data. At a time when water demand in Colorado and throughout the west exceeds supply, concerted action is required to ensure the ecological health of our rivers and streams. However, the work done in the past was not time wasted. Past studies and data provide valuable baseline information and a foundation on which to build future Stream Management Plans. RFC's longevity and reputation for comprehensive scientific and defensible river studies, as well as the relationships it has built with local communities and local, state and federal entities better positions RFC to engage stakeholders and solicit their input. RFC is well poised to undertake future Stream Management Plans, and to be a steward of healthy rivers and riverine communities into the future.

Crystal River Valley Visitor's Guide



It can also be downloaded at www.roaringfork.org/news.





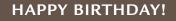
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We're celebrating with a special 20th anniversary membership w w w

\$20 special membership pricing plus receive a free RFC Sun Gaiter

all us at 970-927-1290 c it ROARINGFORK.ORC MEMBER today



River Stewards: Then and Now

by Nick Kilbourn, River Stewards Chair & Rick Lofaro, Executive Director

Late in the winter of 2007, RFC board members Jim Light and Larry Yaw had an idea to start a younger leadership group for the organization. The idea was to add another layer of interesting and young river enthusiasts to the organization. Hence, the River Stewards were born in 2008. In their infancy, the River Stewards formed a steering committee and an identity.



The River Stewards is an outreach group of RFC with a mission to inspire young river enthusiasts ages 24-40 to explore, value and protect the Roaring Fork Watershed. The first two years revealed some growing pains and uncertainty about the direction and purpose of the group. Soon after some thoughtful strategic planning, the Stewards came up with the following objective: Protect the Roaring Fork Watershed by focusing on water quantity, water quality and riverfront/riparian habitat protection. The River Stewards work to educate young river enthusiasts on the aspects of the Roaring Fork Watershed and encourage them to get involved.

Over the past 8 years, the Stewards have hosted many fun and educational outreach events. From film festivals such as 5-Point and the F3T (Flyfishing Film Tour) to Watershed Jeopardy and participating in Cruise-A-Thong, to our signature River Float event hosted by the River Stewards, the group has made great strides. To date, three past River Stewards steering committee members have moved on to the board of directors, furthering their involvement in the organization and bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to the board.

The past year brought about some exciting changes to the River Stewards Steering Committee. Nick Kilbourn has taken the reins from the incomparable Kara Armano as Committee Chair. Nick is a civil engineer by trade, a river enthusiast in his spare time, and has volunteered with the River Stewards for many years. He hopes to bring his professional and personal passion for healthy watersheds to continue to grow the River Stewards program. Additionally, with many previous members adding to their families or moving on to other endeavors, an opportunity was presented to inject new energy into the committee through the addition of several new members. Peter Arlein, Colin Cares, Jordan Curet and Jonathan Forbes all joined the committee in the fall of 2015 bringing with them eagerness and fresh concepts. Lauren Pierce and Meaghan Lynch joined the committee in April of 2016 to continue the momentum of watershed awareness promotion through public outreach and the Steward's signature fun and engaging events.

Some of these events over the past year have included a *Snow2Flow Jeopardy* event, hosting a Reel Paddle Film Festival screening, and bicycle tours of the Jennie Adair wetlands in Aspen. River Steward support was provided to RFC staff at other events such as the Fryingpan River cleanup and annual River Float. The Stewards look forward to their annual float retreat on the Colorado River through Ruby Horsethief Canyon where many of the event concepts and committee direction are formulated over a warm campfire and cold beverages.

Please see our Facebook page www.facebook.com/RFCStewards and website www.roaringfork.org to learn more about the Steering Committee and exciting upcoming events.

Staff & Board Flows

Jeff Conklin



Jeff joined RFC's Board of Directors in November 2015, after serving on the River Stewards Board for several years. Jeff is a Partner/Shareholder at the law firm of Karp Neu Hanlon, P.C., where his practice focuses on water, land use, real estate, municipal law, and litigation. Jeff grew up in

Cincinnati, Ohio, and attended Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Upon graduation, Jeff headed west to attend the University of Denver and received his J.D. and Master's of Public Policy. After law school, Jeff moved to the Roaring Fork Valley to practice law and explore Colorado's mountains and rivers. Jeff is very active in the community, serving on the Pitkin County Planning & Zoning Commission, and takes an active role in water law and policy issues in the Valley and throughout the state. Jeff brings his passion for Colorado's water to RFC.

Dick Kipper



Even before joining RFC's board of directors in February 2016, Dick Kipper was already a longtime supporter of RFC and our rivers. Serving not only on the River Center Finance Committee he is also President of RFC's National Council. Prior to retiring in 1990 Dick was the Chief Executive Officer of AFSA Data Corporation,

a company he co-founded in 1967 which specialized in the servicing of student loans. From 1991 to 1998, Dick was CEO of Major Legal Services headquartered in San Francisco. Currently, Dick serves on the Board of Directors of Guggenheim Capital, LLC where he Chairs the Audit Committee and is a member of the Executive and Compensation Committees. Dick served on the Board of Directors of the National Alzheimer's Association from 1994 to 2002 and was Board Chair in 2001 and 2002. He also served as an advisor to the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Law and Aging and the Borchard Foundation for the ABA Justice and Education Fund. In 2015, Dick joined the Board of Youth Entity. Dick's extensive finance background and impressive business acumen is invaluable to RFC. When at their riverfront home in Woody Creek, Dick and his wife, Marianne, are both heavily involved with supporting the Roaring Fork Valley community and helping ensure that our rivers remain healthy and vibrant for generations to come.



Valerie Yaw Valerie recently retired from the board having served since 2012. Thank you for your contribution to RFC!

Cornelia & Meredith Long Honored as 2016 River Conservators



Roaring Fork Conservancy will honor Cornelia and Meredith Long as the 2016 Robert Billingsley River Conservators at the 17th Annual River Rendezvous on July 13, 2016.

The Long's are definitely not newcomers to our valley. After numerous trips to Aspen, they decided to purchase a home on Red Mountain in 1988. Then, because they loved the rivers and

fly fishing, they purchased land on the Fryingpan River in 1994, and in 2001 they purchased a cabin at the Roaring Fork Club.

Meredith's love of the river began when he was 9 years old, fishing with his father on the White River in Missouri. Then he continued his passion while at The University of Texas, fishing on the rivers around Austin. In the 1970's, some friends introduced Cornelia and Meredith to Sun Valley, Idaho where the fishing was very good but they felt it was just too far from Houston. So, they came to Aspen, fell in love with our beautiful valley, the fantastic rivers, great fly fishing, and have never regretted their decision.

Meredith had the good fortune of spending many days fishing with Chuck Fothergill as he honed his fly fishing skills with one of the "best in the business." Meredith spent hours with Chuck learning about our rivers in the Roaring Fork Valley which really gave him a better realization of the vibrancy of the valley. Interestingly enough Paula Fothergill, Chuck's widow, was RFC's River Conservator in 2004.

Cornelia and Meredith are truly water conservationists and enthusiasts - really understanding the importance of water, the riparian habitat and keeping the fish healthy. They have instilled this in their family as there are now three generations of water supporters. Children Gretchen and Peter Jameson, Cavanaugh and Blanca O'Leary, along with grandchildren Kelley Jameson, Jack Murphy, Laura Murphy, Daniel Zilkha and Cavanaugh O'Leary have really embraced water conservation and the love of fishing.

The Long's have been supporters of Roaring Fork Conservancy since its inception. They have never been afraid to be involved, and Meredith has been on the Executive Committee since 1993. They have been very generous with their time and financial support of RFC and all our projects and programs; always willing to give us advise and council which is greatly appreciated by the staff and our board of directors.

Congratulations, Cornelia and Meredith!

Conservation Easement Profile: Cattle Creek Confluence, Garfield County

By Heather Lewin, Watershed Action Director

The Cattle Creek Confluence Conservation Easement was one of the first conservation easements recorded when RFC began serving as a land trust in the Roaring Fork Valley. Since then, RFC has acquired 16 conservation easements, protecting over 280 acres of riparian habitat in the Roaring Fork Watershed.



Statistics Acres: 53.61 Date Acquired: February 3, 2000 Riverfront Protected: 6,865 feet of Roaring Fork River, 1,350 feet of Cattle Creek Owner: Carbondale Investments, LLC

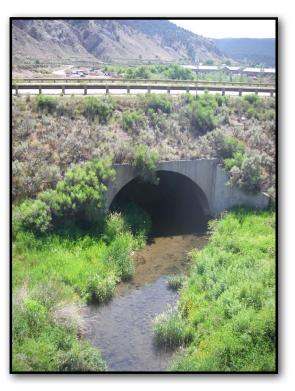
About the Conservation Easement Located on the west side of Highway 82 near Carbondale on the bank of the Roaring Fork River, the Cattle Creek Confluence Conservation Easement is home to an abundance of wildlife and diverse riparian vegetation. With a canopy of narrowleaf cottonwoods and ponderosa pine mixed with an understory of willows

and various shrubs, a variety of birds find Cattle Creek a suitable home. It is a nesting site for Great Blue Heron, but also boasts a variety of other visitors, ranging from Osprey and Bald Eagles, to Kingfishers and Northern Flickers. Mule Deer and Elk frequent the property during migration and the winter months.

Historically known as Sander's Ranch, the property was originally used for agriculture and cattle ranching. Although there has been no grazing on the property since the grant of the conservation easement, the effects of past grazing and

agricultural activities are still present. The adjacent property was cleared and graded in the mid-2000s in anticipation of a golf course development. The development never occurred, leaving the land churned and barren, and ripe for the establishment of a significant number of invasive species. RFC continues to work with the owner of the properties to mitigate weeds on both parcels of land, as well as advocating for responsible development to protect and enhance the natural assets of this unique area.

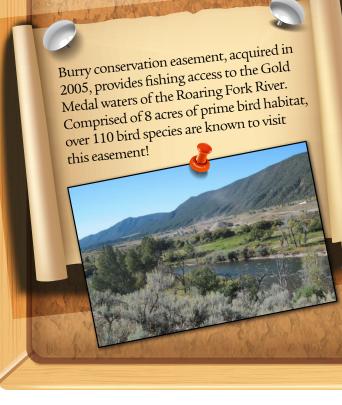
RFC is engaged in a multi-year Stream Health Evaluation of Cattle Creek. Water quality data from previous studies has revealed high water quality near the headwaters, but impaired water quality on the lower portion of Cattle Creek. With this information in hand, RFC has been able to work with landowners to establish multiple water quality sampling sites on private property along Cattle Creek. Chemical and biological water quality data has been assessed at 7 sites and land uses analyzed throughout the watershed in an effort to understand what is happening between the upper and lower stream reaches that is causing a degradation in water quality. Based on this data, RFC will make recommendations on best management practices, and continue to work with landowners and other stakeholders to improve the stream's health.





Located on the banks of the Roaring Fork River near the Catherine Store Bridge, the 21 acre Blue Creek easement was acquired in 2002. A popular spot for fishing or a relaxing stroll along the river, RFC educators also use this as a field site for education programs.

A Peek at Other RFC Conservation Easements



WATERSHED ACTION

Emma Open Space, acquired in 2000, includes 73.4 acres along the Roaring Fork River. A portion of the property, maintained as open space, is owned by the Town of Basalt. The remainder is owned by Pitkin County Open Space & Trails, who helps maintain preserved areas and leases out several portions of the property for

Grange Loadout, a historic agricultural property, was agriculturar property, was acquired in 2008. It is 9.33

acquireu in 2000, ressources along the Crystal River.

Open Space & Trails.

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20 YEARS OF BRINGING PEOPLE **TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR RIVERS**



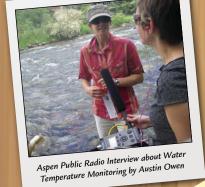
2005 North Star Restoration Project by Jason Himick



professional organization that is dedicated to the health and vitality of our watersheds and the education of the people who live here. I thank you.

- Lesley Morse, Stream Team Volunteer, Roaring Fork Conservancy

Captain Cutthroat meets Smokey the Bear in 2013 by Liz Munn



Trout Stocking During 2015

River Ren

2008 River Rende









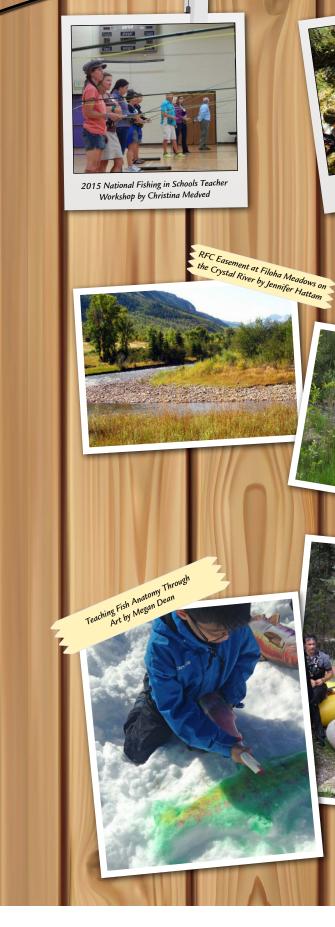
2015 River Float





2006 River Rei

- Mark Fuller, Executive Director, Ruedi Water and Power Authority







Watching us grow...

In honor of Roaring Fork Conservancy's 20th Anniversary, we asked some long time partners about their experiences working with us over the years. Here are their responses:



zanne Wheeler-Del Piccolo Principal Basalt Elementary School

When Suzanne first came to Basalt Elementary School (BES), RFC was just initiating a teaching program incorporating general environmental education as well as river and water education with BES students.

What is your motivation for working with RFC?

To ensure that our students have a quality education with local experts in the field of environmental education as a part of the BES educational experience.

What RFC contribution to the Roaring Fork Valley do you value the most?

I value the contribution to the environmental education of thousands of students over the past 20 years in the Basalt schools. I do believe that RFC has had a positive impact

on the youth of the past, present, and future in the Basalt community. It has been a valuable partnership that has enriched the overall programming at Basalt Elementary School.

How have you seen RFC change over the past 20 years?

I believe that the programming RFC offered over the past 20 years has improved the education of our students. Many years ago it was a much broader curriculum and now it is focused on water and the watershed for our older students. The program of today has aligned well with the environmental education of our 4th grade students as a part of an overall "capstone" learning project for these students.



BES students study land-use impacts on rivers

Volunteers collect water quality samples



Leslev Morse Stream Team Volunteer Roaring Fork Conservancy

Lesley has worked with RFC since 1999 as a Stream Team Volunteer conducting water quality monitoring.

What is your motivation for working with RFC? Scientific data is the foundation in the decision making process for our (water) future in the arid west.

What RFC contribution to the Roaring Fork Valley do you value the most?

I place great value on RFC's public education and community outreach programming.

How have you seen RFC change over the past 20 years?

I've watched their vision for a public education facility develop and witnessed the dedication of the employees to make that vision a reality. I've also seen an increase in their efforts to influence state-wide policy decisions that will help keep our watersheds healthy.



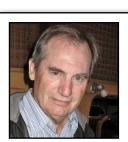
students.

What is your motivation for working with RFC? My students always look forward to working with the Roaring Fork Conservancy staff - the teachers are patient, knowledgeable, have GREAT hands-on activities, and way cool (and expensive) equipment that our school can't afford to purchase.

What RFC contribution to the Roaring Fork Valley do you value the most? Roaring Fork Conservancy is constantly educating the community about the importance of our Roaring Fork Ríver and watershed.

How have you seen RFC change over the past 20 years?

Over the recent past I've noticed Roaring Fork Conservancy offering many fun outings, classes, and workshops for the community in order to keep educating us about the Roaring Fork River, its watershed, and how we as a community need to protect, clean, and manage our watershed.



Mark Fuller Executive Director Ruedi Water and Power Authority (RWAPA)

Ruedi Water and Power Authority (RWAPA) is an intergovernmental agency whose mission is to coordinate water policy among the Roaring Fork Valley's various government jurisdictions and sponsor projects aimed at managing the valley's water resources wisely. As RWAPA's Executive Director, Mark began working with RFC as it was first getting started in 1996.

What is your motivation for working with RFC? It was clear from those very first days that the missions of RFC and RWAPA were complementary and that we both had much to gain by working together. By bringing together scientific, technical and educational elements with political and intergovernmental policy issues, we were able to make all aspects of water resource

management more credible and effective.

What RFC contribution to the Roaring Fork Valley do you value the most?

RWAPA has worked with RFC over the years on a number of projects. The most important and far-reaching of those is the two-phased Roaring Fork Watershed Plan consisting of the State of the Watershed Report, a comprehensive catalog of local water resources and threats to those resources, and the Watershed Plan, a set Mark Fuller leading tour at Ruedi Reserv of broad recommendations intended to guide future water management activities. While RWAPA provided broad oversight and support, both financial and political, RFC provided the technical expertise to bring together, analyze and organize the vast amount of data that contributed to the Plan. The result was a model of its kind which will provide a strong long-term foundation for future water policies and projects.

How have you seen RFC change over the past 20 years?

I have been consistently impressed with the professionalism and dedication of RFC staff, their ability to work effectively within the often-controversial water realm, and their enthusiasm for innovation and creativity. RWAPA owes much of its productivity over the last 20 years to its partnership with the Conservancy and we look forward to future collaborations.

Sue started working with RFC around 2004 to provide watershed education to her



banks of the Crystal River





GOLD MEDAL PARTNERS

Carter & Dane Brooksher Randy & Ken Kendrick Barb & Pat McMahon Roaring Fork Club Partners Town of Basalt

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THE RIVER CENTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



WATERSHED EXPLORATIONS

2016 Summer & Fall Events Calendar

MAY

18 Ruedi Reservoir Tour: Storing West Slope Water

JUNE

- Birding Maroon Creek Wetlands
- 12th Annual River Float
- North Star Preserve Roaring Fork River Float
- North Star Preserve Roaring Fork River Float 16
- 21 North Star Preserve Roaring Fork River Float
- Wetland Walk in Rio Grande Park 23
- 24-26 Crooked Creek Wetland Planting
- Deer Hill Early Season Wildflower Walk 28
- Family Night at Filoha Meadows: Fireflies, 29 Bats, and Bugs
- Filoha Meadows: Firefly & Rare Orchid Walk 30

JULY

- Filoha Meadows: Firefly & Rare Orchid Walk 6
- Family Night at Filoha Meadows: Fireflies, Bats, and Bugs
- Filoha Meadows: Firefly & Rare Orchid Walk 11
- Family Night at Filoha Meadows: Fireflies, 18 Bats, and Bugs
- Filoha Meadows: Firefly & Rare Orchid Walk 19
- Family Night at Filoha Meadows: Fireflies, 21 Bats, and Bugs
- Water in the Age of Silver: Touring Aspen's 27 "Holden Works"
- Twin Lakes Tunnel & Diversion Tour 29

AUGUST

- Woody Creek: Farm & Distillery Tour
- Family Exploration at Filoha Meadows 13
- 14 Busy Beavers if the Upper Crystal River
- Family Exploration at Filoha Meadows 18

SEPTEMBER

- Family Exploration at Filoha Meadows 10
- Aspen Tap: Drinking Water Tour 15
- Carbondale Bicycle Ditch Tour 22



For program information and to register visit: www.roaringfork.org/events

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME TO THE 18TH ANNUAL **FRYINGPAN CLEANUP**

APRIL 23, 2016

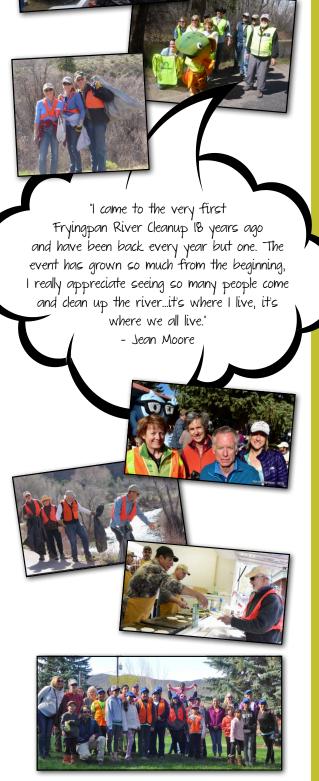


Photo credits: Rachel Mayoral, Christina Medved, Liza Mitchell

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River Protector (\$10,000 - \$14,999) Carter & Dane Brooksher Patsy & George Conrades Barb & Pat McMahon Pitkin County RCG Fund William & Marie Wise

River Benefactor

(\$25,000 or more)

Randv & Ken Kendrick

River Conservationist

(\$15,000 - 24,999)

Janice & Philip Beck

Rich & Nancy Kinder

Melissa & David Hotchkin

Cornelia & Meredith Long

John Denver Aspenglow Fund

River Guardian

(\$6,000,9999) ludv & David Baum Louise & Clay Bennett Gary Blackie Mary & Jim Griffith Marianne & Dick Kipper Bonnie & Harold Kloosterman Ianis Merrill Maren & Don Schuster Wendy & John W. Seiple

Family Foundation

River Monitor (\$3,000 - 5,999) Currie & Thomas Barron Charlotte & Dan Blanks Sandy & David Burden Barbara & Franklin Carson Eleanor & Hal Davis Karen & Robert Davis Muffy & Andy DiSabatino Mary & Neil Dorflinger **Ruthie & Dave Hoff** Kav & Ned Holmes ludith & Nick Huston Hyde Family Foundation Nancy & Don Kempf Wendy & Bill Kortepeter Ann McAlpin Laurie & John McBride Clarisa & Tom McMahon Pat & Jane Bolin

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