

The NFLA Spring newsletter has arrived, a sure sign, along with the rain, mud and murky water, that spring itself has finally arrived.

This year, our spring newsletter will be the only one we publish. The membership voted last October to do away with the autumn newsletter since we have meetings through October and attending meetings is the best way to keep up with what's going on. Plus, it costs a whole lot of money. On the other hand, come spring, several months have slipped by with no NFLA meetings and there's a lot to tell you about!

First and foremost, our social committee did a fantastic job and our calendar for 2011 is packed with fun-filled and informative events. There are hikes, bird walks, bike rides and river floats; there's kayaking, book clubs, game nights, dances, dance classes, and a gardening workshop. Something for everyone. And, back by popular demand are dances with live bands. A big change for this year is that there is going to be a minimal cover charge for these festivities: \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for kids under 18. That way we can make sure we're able to bring these wonderful bands up the road without taking too big a hit in the NFLA pocketbook. Keep your NFLA calendar handy so you don't miss the fun. Also, read about additional activities below that our NFLA weed and history committees are putting on.

Weed wranglin' and river runnin': Combine a float with a weed roundup along the river corridor on July 26 and August 19 to wrangle weeds all the way from the border to Polebridge. Also make sure to attend the Second Annual Robin Cox Weed Roundup. That's on July 15 at Sonderson Hall starting at 10 a.m.

North Fork History Project Gears Up For Summer! The North Fork has a long and rich history of settlers. The first priority of the North Fork History Project is to record the oral histories of our oldest living residents, past and present, to preserve their memories for future generations. Let Debo Powers know if you have any suggestions for interviews: powersd@leonschools.net. We plan to get started this summer. Also, remember that the North Fork History Project will hold an auction on July 23rd to raise money for the project. If you have items to donate, contact Morgan Hart dmhart@cyberneutics.net.



Also in the news. . .

Hall cleanup is May 21. Margaret Heaphy and Lee Secrest are co-hosting this year's hall cleanup. Pitch in for as long as you can, starting at 10:00. Bring a sack lunch and cleaning supplies. Plus, Lee will be kicking off our new hall maintenance program so check with him when you get there for assignments.

Help for landowners! The Natural Resources and Conservation Service has a cost-sharing program called the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to help landowners with certain forest management practices such as pre-commercial thinning, slash treatment, tree planting, and noxious weed control. For more information, contact Angel Rosario: 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, 59901; 406-752-4242 Ext 104; angel.rosario@mt.usda.gov. Deadline for applying is June 1 each year!

Fire Mitigation Committee: The Committee met in early April to plan activities for the 2011 fire season. It expects to sponsor a field trip and workshop on forest insects and disease in late June. This would serve as the North Fork annual Firewise Day and also would consider the relationship between wildfire susceptibility and dead and dying trees. The committee hopes to offer practical training and assessment for landowners to address wildfire risks around their homes. If the opportunity arises, the Committee will apply for another cost-share grant to assist land owners with fuels reduction on their properties.

The Road. . . The big news is that the county received 3 RAC grants for North Fork Road projects. One pays to have the county apply magnesium chloride to previously untreated areas from Camas to Lee Downes' place. Another allows the county to extract more gravel from Demers pit, add bentonite, and lay it down from Polebridge to a point 8 miles north of Polebridge. Magnesium chloride would also be applied on this stretch. The third project involves putting magnesium chloride on Blankenship Road.

The Backwoods Booklovers Book Club returns this year with 4 more books: **The Geography of Bliss: One grump's search for the happiest places in the world** by Eric Weiner takes the reader from America to Iceland to India in search of moments of "un-happiness." The book uses a beguiling mixture of travel, psychology, science and humor to investigate not what happiness is, but where it is--June 21. **True Grizz: Glimpses of Fernie, Stahr, Easy, Dakota, and other real bears in the modern world** by NF author Douglas Chadwick chronicles the lives of these NF bears and shares his insights about free-roaming grizzlies gained through close observation for more than three decades. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Grizzly Bear Manager Tim Manley will discuss bears and answer questions -- July 19. **The First Ranger: The stories of Frank Liebig and Fred Herrig** by C. W. Guthrie. The biographies of two men who were among the first forest rangers in Glacier country are recounted by the men who wrote journals and diaries of their experiences. Montana history and photos of turn-of-the-century rangers at work are detailed in this personal and chatty book -- August 16. **The Bonesetter's Daughter** by Amy Tan is a compulsively readable and beautifully structured story of three generations of women, beginning at the turn of the twentieth century, in a small Chinese village where the bonesetter defies tradition and teaches his daughter everything he knows--Sept. 13. All meetings are at Sondreson Hall at 7:30 and are open to the community. Bring a snack to share.

Bear Alert: Bears are emerging from their dens, and they're hungry. That means Patti Bear, a young female grizzly that Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) Grizzly Bear Management Specialist Tim Manley has been monitoring for the last two and half years, will be out looking for food. At the winter Interlocal meeting, Manley said that if Patti continues to come too close to cabins, he may have to remove her, meaning she would be sent to a zoo or euthanized. If she breaks into a

building or harms someone, her removal is certain. Last summer, Patti frequented residences where food attractants such as chickens, bird seed, dead squirrels, hummingbird feeders, horse grain and dog food were not secured and she was showing a high level of tolerance for people. However, since Manley captured her last fall at a private residence and released her onsite with rubber bullets and Karelian Bear Dogs, she has not returned and has been more wary. Manley says Patti can still learn to stay out of trouble, but only if she does not get the food rewards that some folks leave unsecured on their property. Hazing Patti out of your yard by yelling or banging pots and pans can also help teach her to stay out of trouble. To report Patti or any other grizzly that is frequenting the area around your home, please call Manley at 250-1265 or 892-0802 .

NFLUAC: Over the winter, the Flathead County Commissioners turned down two text amendments to the North Fork Zoning Regulations that had been proposed by the NFLUAC. One would have limited extractive industries on the North Fork. The other would have made temporary structures subject to current set back requirements of 150' from the North Fork Road and bodies of water and 100' from other public roads. On the other hand, a full liquor license for the Northern Lights Saloon which had been recommended by the NFLUAC was approved by the state and county.

Are you wired?? More and more people up here on the remote North Fork are finding that the internet is a great way to keep an eye on what's going on in the rest of the world and even in our own neighborhood. If you're wired and prefer to receive your NFLA newsletter and calendar on-line, either through email or downloaded from our NFLA webpage, please make sure you tell us! We have a box for you to check on your NFLA sign-up/renewal form on the facing page of this newsletter. The fewer hardcopies we need to mail, the better it is for our pocketbook and the environment.

And from our Fire Chief . . . It's time to talk about the 2011 fire season . We don't have a full time fire department up here on the North Fork of the Flathead and we have only small pieces of fire equipment; but we can respond if notified. Your responsibility is to know what equipment is closest to your place. You have to be able to help us if you have a fire. You MUST know where your closest water supply is and how to get to it. We will be glad to come and help and will do what we can if lives are in danger, but you have to remember that we are volunteers and not trained to do entry into homes or buildings. **DON'T START A FIRE TO BURN YOUR DEBRIS PILE** if you don't have what you need to keep it under control. If you start a fire however big or small and leave it unattended you can be charged with a criminal act. You MUST put out any fire before you abandon the site! **The first line of defense is you!**

North Fork Landowners' Association

Membership Sign-up/Renewal Form

The North Fork Landowners' Association was founded in 1947. The Association owns Sondreson Hall at Whale Creek that serves as a center for business and social functions on the North Fork.

Only property owners of record, their spouses and adult members of their immediate families are eligible to vote.

Associate Members (non-property owners) may not vote. Annual dues for Active Members are \$10 per person; dues for Associate Members are \$5 per person. Dues may be paid by mail or in person at any NFLA meeting.

Additional contributions are welcome.

To join the association or renew your membership, complete the form and mail it with your check to the secretary-treasurer at the address below. If you are unsure when your dues expire, contact the secretary-treasurer.

Name(s) of applicant(s) _____ Date _____
(must be property owner(s) shown on deed, spouse, and/or adult member of immediate family)

Name(s) of non-voting associate members _____

Mailing address (if new, or write "same") _____

North Fork property address (if new, or write "same") _____

E-mail address _____ Telephone(s) _____

☐ I will access the newsletter and schedule electronically from the website. Please don't mail it.

Even 50% of the members getting their newsletter from the website will result in a significant savings for the association.

Please make your check(s) payable to the North Fork
Landowners Association and mail to:
NFLA Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 1603
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

Voting members (\$10 per person)	
Associate Members (\$5 per person)	
Members additional contribution	
Patrol (\$10) *** and sign up below ***	
Patrol additional contribution	
Total Amount Enclosed	

*** North Fork Patrol Sign-up Form ***

We of the North Fork Patrol hope you return to the North Fork to find your place intact. If you find a problem with criminal mischief, theft or burglary, report it immediately to the Flathead County Sheriff's office at (406) 758-5585 and to North Fork Patrol Chairman Lee Downes. In addition to patrolling properties, the North Fork Patrol pays a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any wrongdoers on the North Fork.

*** The North Fork Patrol is asking for donations of \$10 or more to provide funds for rewards and to compensate patrollers for gasoline and other expenses. To participate in the North Fork Patrol, **complete the form below and indicate amount contributed in the box above.**

***I, _____, give the North Fork Patrol complete permission to enter my property to inspect the **exterior** of all buildings to detect evidence of a break-in or other crime and to report suspicious activity to proper authorities.

Signed _____ Date _____ Telephone(s) _____

Description of and directions to property _____

Mailing address _____ E-mail address _____

North Fork Landowners' Association
Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 1603
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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ALERT LANDING SITES

This summer you will see signs being placed along the road that indicate the locations of our eight ALERT LANDING SITES. These locations are wired into the ALERT helicopter GPS system. If you have a medical emergency that requires the ALERT helicopter, you'll need to know which site is closest to you and who your closest neighbor is that has a phone or radio. Then if you need ALERT, call 911 and tell them which site is nearest to you.

USE COMMON SENSE • FOLLOW THE RULES
HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!

