



# North Fork Landowners' Association Fall Newsletter 2023

Dear Fellow Landowners,

A busy summer has given way to a quieter fall. The last membership meeting was just held, and we all appreciated the heat from the new wood stove that warmed the hall to a comfortable temperature. As I contemplated my role in the fall newsletter, which consists of writing this intro, I enjoyed reading some of the old ones. Much has changed since my grandfather, Dr. John McFarland (aka "Doc McFarland") served as the first President of the NFLA. Each decade has come with new challenges, new members and losses in our community family. The one enduring value which survives to this day is the dedication of our volunteers. Our community at its core is a "volunteer" community and all the progress made over all the decades has occurred only through their efforts. Everywhere you look there are visible and not so visible signs of the impact of current and past volunteers. When called upon to serve our community volunteers have delivered, generation after generation. I want to thank our current NFLA board, the leadership of past boards and every past and present volunteer member for all they have done and continue to do to make this place we call home a Community. We all benefit from their contributions.

The Board and its committee leaders are already working on community events for this winter and next summer. Improvements to Sondreson Hall both small and large are actively being worked on including the long-planned ceiling project.

It is that time of the year when we ask our current members to renew their membership once again. We ask every landowner who is not currently a member to please join to support the efforts of the NFLA. We ask the same of our associate members. A small donation, when supported by the entire community, helps to fund all the activities and improvement projects we undertake. These funds along with our army of community volunteers make possible all the activities, events and projects which help to strengthen our community. Thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes for a snowy winter and joyous holidays as we prepare for the summer of 2024.

Jack McFarland, NFLA President

## North Fork Landowners' Association Membership Sign-up/Renewal Form



Please check **ALL** that apply:

- I would like to receive NFLA Newsletters via **mail** (hardcopy)
- I would like to receive NFLA Newsletters via **email** (electronically)
- I would like to receive NFLA Newsletters via **mail and email** (both electronically and hard copy)

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 \$20 per person; dues for Associate Members are \$15 per person. Dues may be paid by mail or in person at any NFLA meeting. **Additional contributions are welcome.**

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) \_\_\_\_\_

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 (\$15 per person)	
Associate Members (\$10 per person)	
Member's additional donation	
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>	
*** (New) Online donate Button! (dues and/or donations) <a href="https://nflandowners.org">https://nflandowners.org</a>	If you prefer to to pay your dues and/or donate online, please go to our home page. The Donate Button will be prominently displayed.



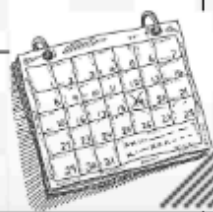
## NFLA 2023 Fall and 2024 Winter Calendar

**Printed Calendars** will be available in NFLA mailbox attached to the Rittenburg mail post at the top of Vance Hill. Any changes or updates to this calendar will be updated on the NFLA website and the North Fork Facebook page.

Beginning January 1st, 2024 **Thursday** afternoon **Ski and Tea** will be back by popular demand. Text Karin Colby @ 406 212 4776 to be placed on the text thread for times, meeting places, and routes.

**Dancing with Debo** January through March, text Zoe @ 731 695 4528 to be placed on the text thread. **Beginners welcome** includes dance class, line, swing and square dancing depending on interest.

<b>CANCELLED</b> Oct 15th, Sunday Sondreson Hall at 5pm	<b>Nature's Scavenger Hunt</b> followed by Potluck at the Community Hall	Text Lorna @ 267 992 0881 or Beth @ 860 960 6103 if you plan to attend
<b>***Oct 18, Wednesday</b> 4pm - 6pm (just added on 10/13)	<b>Justine and Erik, from FWP</b> , will give an update and answer questions on all recent bear events	Mark Hephy
<b>Note Change</b> Oct 20th Friday Observatory at 6pm	<b>Star Gazing</b> @ the Observatory, 197 W Thunderbird Rd. Bring snacks to share and binocs	If cloudy text Jim @ 215 796 1592
Oct 21th Saturday Sonderson Hall at 6pm	<b>Line &amp; Square Dancing</b> with Debo Beginners welcome of course	FMI text Zoe @ 731 695 4528
Nov 23 Thursday Sonderson Hall at 3pm	<b>Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner</b> . Doors open at 3pm for social hour & PotLuck dinner served at 4pm. Turkey & Ham provided. Bring a side dish and your own place setting.	FMI & to offer help contact Zoe @ 731 695 4528
Nov 24th Friday Sonderson Hall at 6pm	<b>Line &amp; Square Dancing</b> with Debo Beginners welcome of course	FMI text Zoe @ 731 695 4528
<b>*** New addition</b> Dec 8th 5:30	<b>Movie Night at the Hall</b> , Christmas movies and potluck! Be sure to wear an ugly Christmas sweater! Come join the fun!	Dawn Jacobson 1-406-261-9527
<b>***New addition</b> Dec 15th 6:00	<b>Christmas Caroling</b> . come share your voice and help spread holiday joy to the community! More info to follow with details on the starting place...	Karina Pettey 406-890-5655
Dec 25th Monday Sonderson Hall at 3pm	<b>Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner</b> . Doors open at 3pm for social hour & PotLuck dinner served at 4pm. Turkey & Ham provided. Bring a side dish and your own place setting.	Mark Heaphy 406 890 5043 Margaret Heaphy 406 890 4666 Tami Stone 206 200 1614
Dec 31st Sunday Sonderson Hall at 8pm	<b>New Years Eve Party</b> . Dancing and music! Bring finger foods, desserts, and whatever you wish to drink! Come enjoy conversation with friends, music by Debo, dancing and... FIREWORKS at 10:00! Ring in the New Year at midnight with toasts and hugs!	<b>Hosts John and Zoe Zardis</b> FMI text Zoe @ 731 695 4528
Jan 15, Monday Sonderson Hall at 6pm	<b>BINGO!</b> Come join in on the fun and play Bingo using the vintage Bingo cage dispenser! Fun for all ages!	Kevin and Beth Ulrichsen 860-960-6103
Jan 27th Saturday 1276 Long Bow Trail at 2pm	<b>Snowshoe Softball</b> . Spectators and all abilities welcome. This will be followed by a potluck. Bring any extra snowshoes	Lorna & Jim 267 992 0881
Feb 7th Wednesday Sondreson Hall 6pm	<b>BINGO!</b> Come join in on the fun and play Bingo using the vintage Bingo cage dispenser! Fun and "prizes" for all ages!	Kevin and Beth Ulrichsen 860-960-6103
Feb 14, Wednesday Venue TBD 10am to 1pm	<b>Winter 2024 Interlocal</b> sponsored by Flathead County	FMI Bill Walker wkwalker@nvdi.net
Feb 17th Saturday Sonderson Hall at 6pm	<b>Winter Ball</b> . Put on your finest attire and come. Line dancing, swing dancing and waltzing. All abilities welcome of course. Led by Debo	<b>Host needed for this event to happen</b>
Feb 24th Saturday 1276 Long Bow Trail at 2pm	<b>Snowshoe Softball</b> . Spectators and all abilities welcome. This will be followed by a potluck. Bring any extra snowshoes	Lorna & Jim 267 992 0881
<b>New Date!!</b> <b>*****March 22nd</b> 1276 Long Bow Trail at 6pm	<b>International Potluck Dinner</b> , bring your favorite dish from around the world, bring pictures to share if you have some (10 max), and wear something that compliments your dish's country of origin!	Lorna & Jim 267 992 0881



# \*\*\* 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 Mark Heaphy (406-890-5043 or [m-mheaphy@hotmail.com](mailto:m-mheaphy@hotmail.com)).

In addition to checking on properties, the North Fork Patrol also pays a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any wrongdoers on the North Fork. The Patrol is not a law enforcement authority nor is it a full-time security provider; it is a neighborhood service of volunteers helping to keep an eye on their neighbors' properties as best as they can. For additional information regarding the patrol, please see the [NFLA](http://www.nflandowners.org) website at [www.nflandowners.org](http://www.nflandowners.org).

\*\*\* An annual donation of \$10 or more will help provide funds for rewards and to compensate patrollers for gasoline and other expenses. To participate in the North Fork Patrol, please complete the **entire** form below:

**North Fork Patrol  
c/o Mark and Margaret Heaphy  
11530 North Fork Road  
Polebridge, MT 59928**

*(Please do not send the form and check to the [NFLA Secretary/Treasurer](#))*

-----

\*\*\*I, \_\_\_\_\_, give the North Fork Patrol permission to enter my property to inspect the **exterior** of all buildings for evidence of physical damage or criminal activity. If any such damage is detected, it will be reported to the landowner. In cases of criminal activity where the landowner cannot be contacted, the proper authorities will be notified.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the following **IF NEW INFORMATION**, otherwise write "same":



Property address and directions to property :

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Contributed** (please make check payable to "North Fork Patrol") \_\_\_\_\_







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



## **NFLA Community Hall Ceiling Project!**

The Ceiling Committee is excited to share that the Hall Ceiling Project is moving forward! Several suppliers have provided us with generous discounts. In addition, we have identified some potentially free and used (think distressed and "aged to perfection") boards which may work out very well. Also, the committee has received several bids from contractors and is waiting on one or two additional submissions. Consideration is also being given to a mostly volunteer approach to the project. After all input is received, your NFLA board will discuss further and select a path forward. Our goal is to have this completed before our first membership meeting of 2024. Please consider donating to this, long awaited, exciting project!