

2018

Annual Report

Rocky Mountain Field Institute



RMFI
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

Letter from the Director

Dear RMFI Supporters,

With each passing year, we find ourselves more excited for the next - excited to tackle new projects, continue legacy projects, engage with new partners, enhance existing partnerships, create greater impact, and make the next year better than the last.

With that said, 2018 was quite a year! From the desert plains of eastern Utah to the high alpine peaks of the Sangre de Cristos, RMFI had a hand in stewarding public landscapes at over two dozen project sites with the help of more than 2,300 volunteers and countless partners - who together make the work we do possible. "Thank you" just doesn't seem sufficient to express our immense gratitude to each of you who believe in our mission, invest in our mission, and cheer us on every step of the way. We are truly grateful to have the opportunity to do what we do and feel more than ever that our work is vital to ensuring our public lands remain accessible, sustainable, and resilient for generations to come.

Some highlights of the year include helping to finish the new Dixon Trail in Cheyenne Mountain State Park (final touches to come in 2019), wrapping up our nearly two-decades of work on Pikes Peak (see pages 12-13 for more info), securing a grant to help facilitate a public planning process for Waldo Canyon, hosting the 10th annual RMFI Fall ShinDIG, being recognized as the Outstanding Community Partner of the Year by Colorado College, among others.

What does 2019 bring? A new website, a new strategic plan, a new 5-year agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to complete watershed health improvement projects on the Pike National Forest, a new 3-year agreement with the Bureau of Land Management - Royal Gorge Field Office to complete stewardship projects at highly visited recreation sites, a new 3-year grant to begin the construction of a more sustainable summit route to Pikes Peak via the Devil's Playground Trail, and so much more.

We invite you to read the following pages for an in-depth look at what we accomplished in 2018 and also ask you to engage with us in 2019 as we embark on yet another year filled with exciting projects and initiatives. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Jennifer Peterson



Photo courtesy of the Catamount Institute



Photo courtesy of Jim Blazek

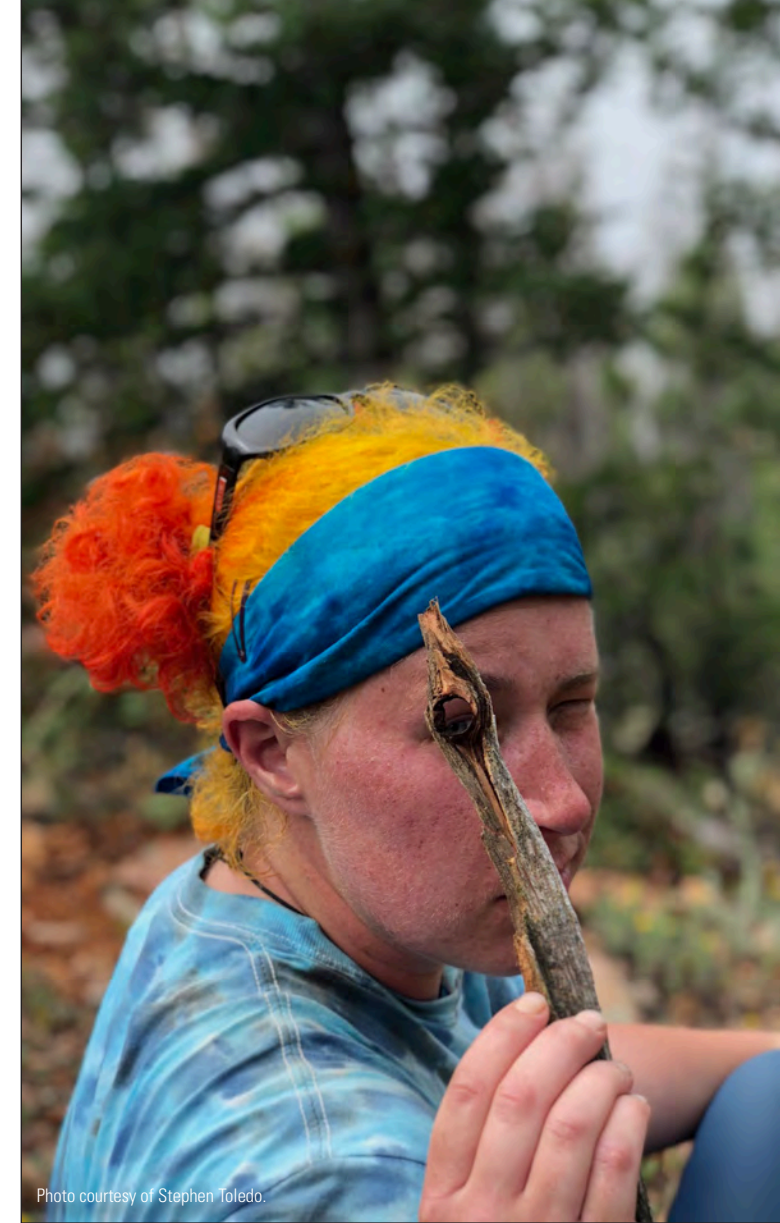


Photo courtesy of Stephen Toledo

Stewardship

RMFI actively engages thousands of community volunteers and youth corps crew members each year in the stewardship of public natural landscapes in Southern Colorado.



Education

Through experiential education opportunities, RMFI is helping foster an ethic of environmental responsibility and training the next generation of conservation leaders.



Mission:

Rocky Mountain Field Institute promotes the conservation and stewardship of public lands in the Southern Rocky Mountain region through volunteer-based trail and restoration projects, environmental education, and restoration research.

Research

RMFI monitors the effectiveness of restoration and erosion control treatments at many project sites to better understand our impacts on ecosystem health.



2018 Project Locations

For the past 36 years, RMFI has accomplished its mission by completing a wide variety of important trail and restoration projects in recreational areas throughout the Southern Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau. RMFI has received national, state, and local recognition for its stewardship work that is widely regarded as some of the finest work of its kind accomplished in the region.

Our stewardship model centers on community engagement as a means of connecting people to the outdoors, providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, and fostering an ethic of environmental responsibility and stewardship. From recreational trail work to watershed protection and fire rehabilitation, our work keeps Colorado's great outdoors great.



High Alpine



Kit Carson/Challenger Point
Devil's Playground Trail
Pikes Peak



Montane



Barr Trail
Bear Creek
Black Forest Regional Park
Cheyenne Mountain State Park
High Drive
Pineries Open Space
Upper Monument Creek
Waldo Canyon



Pinon Juniper/Foothills



Blodgett Peak Open Space
Garden of the Gods
Palmer Park
Red Rock Canyon Open Space
Stratton Open Space
Ute Valley Park



Plains/Desert



Indian Creek, Utah





Before and after photos showing construction of a new rock staircase at RMFI's project location in Indian Creek, Utah. This staircase will help facilitate safer and more sustainable access to popular climbing walls in the area.



Before and after photos showing the process of closing and restoring a redundant social trail in Stratton Open Space.



Before and after photos showing construction of a puncheon structure in the Pineries Open Space located in Black Forest, Colorado. This structure was necessary to keep users out of an ephemeral drainage that became extremely muddy when wet.



A rock staircase constructed on the new summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point in the Sangre de Cristos for the purpose of creating a durable and sustainable route that protects the surrounding fragile tundra and facilitates safer outdoor recreation.



A hybrid timber box step and bike ramp structure constructed in Red Rock Canyon Open Space to facilitate use by multiple groups including bikers, hikers, and runners.

2018 Project Highlight

DIXON TRAIL - CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

After years of anticipation, the long-awaited Dixon Trail finally opened to the public in the fall of 2018. This 5.2 mile trail connects the bottom of Cheyenne Mountain State Park to the Top of the Mountain (TOM) Trail, a 3.6 mile trail circuit completed by RMFI in 2015.

RMFI has been working since 2013 to design and construct the TOM and Dixon Trails in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, REI, and others.

Since that time, RMFI has actively engaged 211 volunteers and 53 youth conservation corps members who, along with RMFI field staff, have contributed nearly 12,000 hours of on-the-ground work over the course of 206 workdays.

On October 26, 2018, a grand opening celebration was held at Cheyenne Mountain State Park to recognize the completion of the project and the hard work of many who made the project possible. This was an especially meaningful project for RMFI as it was the last trail designed by RMFI's founder, Mark Hesse, before his untimely passing in January 2014.

RMFI will be continuing work on the Dixon and TOM Trails in 2019 in an effort to refine the trail corridor and shore up some stabilizing structures built in previous seasons.



Photo courtesy of Tim Bergsten.



Before and after photos showing construction of the Dixon Trail in Cheyenne Mountain State Park.



Before and after photos showing construction of the Dixon Trail in Cheyenne Mountain State Park.



Photo courtesy of Colorado Springs Independent



2018 Project Highlight

PIKES PEAK WATERSHED

Pikes Peak, renowned as ‘America’s Mountain,’ hovers over the City of Colorado Springs and reaches a height of 14,115 feet. The mountain provides critical habitat for a wide range of native flora and fauna and is also of significant local importance as a principal water source for the communities of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs.

In 1998, the Sierra Club filed suit in U.S. District Court against the City of Colorado Springs and the U.S. Forest Service alleging violations of the Clean Water Act in the management of the Pikes Peak Highway. In 2000, the Court ruled in favor of the Sierra Club and instructed the City of Colorado Springs and the U.S. Forest Service to address the erosion and sedimentation problems of the highway and to bring the road into compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act. The court set a timeline of 10 years for these improvements to be made. Under the settlement, \$600,000 dollars was also awarded to the Sierra Club for remediation and restoration work outside the highway corridor. These monies were placed into a fund (the Pikes Peak Fund), with the Sierra Club, the City of Colorado Springs, and the U.S. Forest Service acting as partners to ensure the best use of these monies for erosion control and restoration work.

In 2003, RMFI was contracted by the Pikes Peak Fund to assess the environmental damage outside the highway corridor and begin prioritizing basins within the watershed for erosion control and restoration projects. Four basins - North Crystal Creek, Severy Creek, Ski Creek, and the East Fork of Beaver Creek - were identified as high priorities, and for the past 16 years, RMFI has been working closely with all project partners to remediate and restore impacted areas within the watershed.

In 2018, RMFI completed all projects associated with the legal settlement and closed out the Pikes Peak Fund. In celebration of nearly two decades of work, a Pikes Peak Celebration was held on September 8, 2018 to tour key restoration sites and celebrate the many successes and partnerships that made the work possible.



Photo courtesy of Dean Waits.



Environmental Education

EARTH CORPS FIELD STUDIES COURSE: RMFI's signature field studies course completed its 17th year in 2018. Eight students from across the country lived, worked, learned, and played in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness helping to construct the new summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point.

DIRT CAMP WITH CATAMOUNT INSTITUTE: For the 4th consecutive year, RMFI partnered with Catamount Institute to provide a weeklong educational and stewardship summer camp. "Dirt Camp" is designed to engage 10-12 year olds in a variety of hands-on science and outdoor lessons with a goal to develop ecological stewards through education and adventure.

PIKES PEAK REGIONAL CREW LEADER TRAINING: For the 7th consecutive year, RMFI partnered with the City of Colorado Springs, Friends of the Peak, and the Trails and Open Space Coalition to lead the annual Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training. This program is designed to empower motivated community members with the skills and opportunities to lead safe and effective volunteer projects within our region's parks and open spaces.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS: For the past decade, RMFI has been partnering with AmeriCorps-affiliated organizations to provide service opportunities, education, and job training to young adults aged 16 to 24. This mutually-beneficial relationship enables RMFI to accomplish impressive on-the-ground work with help from the dedicated work crews while also providing the opportunity for RMFI staff to mentor the young participants. In addition, RMFI staff incorporate valuable educational lessons into each work week to give crew members additional skills and experience.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID TRAINING: RMFI partnered with MEDIC SOLO for the first time in 2018 to bring a Wilderness First Aid course to Colorado Springs. The training was held at the RMFI office and a number of volunteer crew leaders and other outdoor enthusiasts attended the training. In 2019, RMFI will partner again with MEDIC SOLO to bring the training back to Colorado Springs.

INTERNSHIPS: RMFI provides several opportunities to train and educate students from Colorado College, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs, and other educational institutions through internships. Interns work with RMFI on a variety of different projects throughout the semester including data entry, marketing and outreach, events management, and environmental leadership.



Earth Corps students on a summit excursion during the field studies program, which took place in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Wilderness located in Southern Colorado.



Participants simulate treatment protocols during the Wilderness First Aid training held at the RMFI office in 2018 in partnership with MEDIC SOLO. Photo courtesy of Dallas Branum.



Dirt Camp participants take an afternoon break after completing one of many critical restoration projects in Garden of the Gods Park. Photo courtesy of Catamount Institute.



Participants pause for a break during the 2018 Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training. Photo courtesy of George Lee.

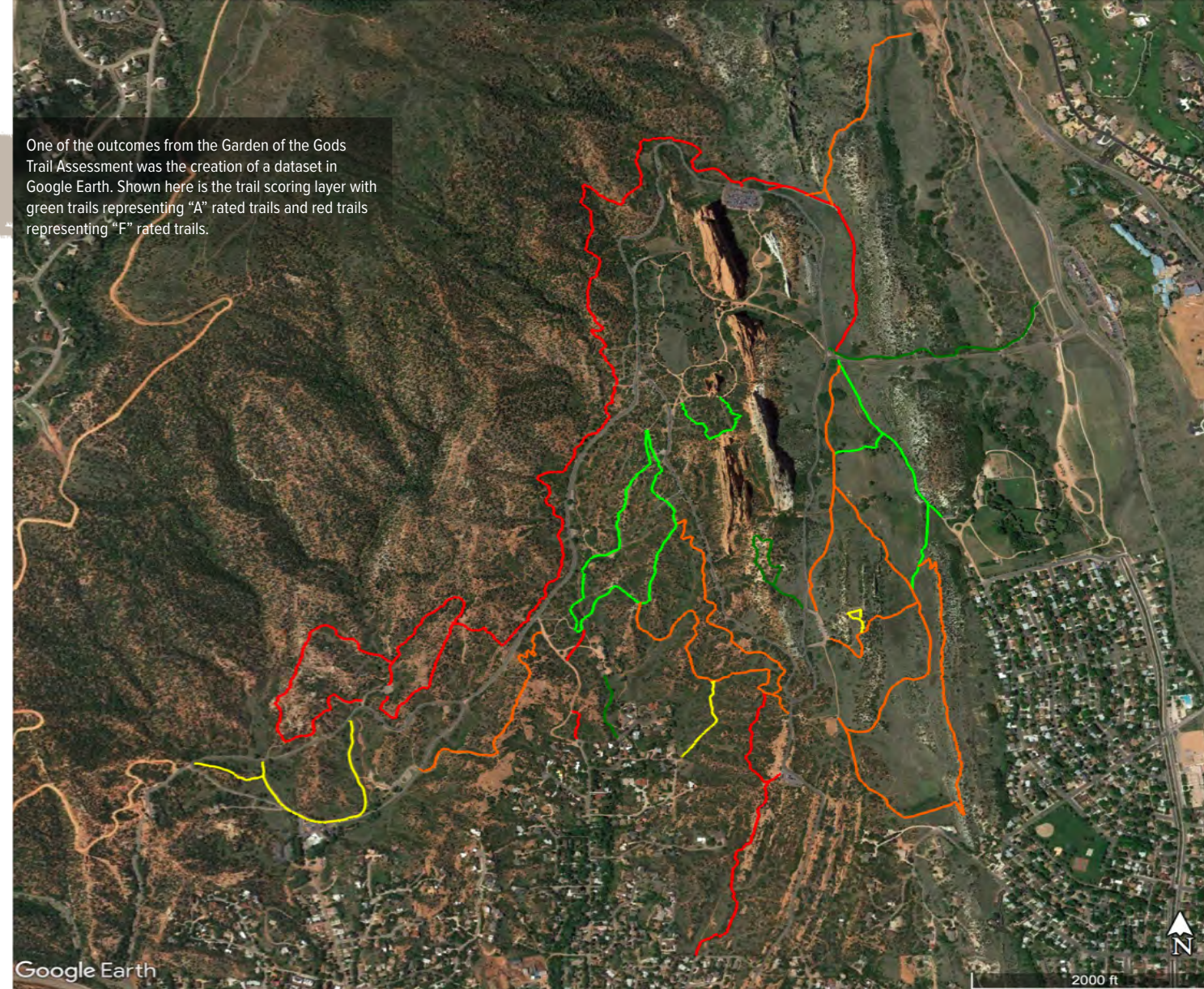
Research & Monitoring

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM: RMFI continued its Citizen Science Program in the Garden of the Gods in 2018. The program provides a sustainable system for monitoring RMFI's land stewardship and restoration activities by engaging adult volunteers and college students in the measurement of ecological parameters in RMFI project sites over time. A total of 31 individuals participated in the program in 2018, with plans to expand the program to additional monitoring locations in Garden of the Gods Park in 2019.

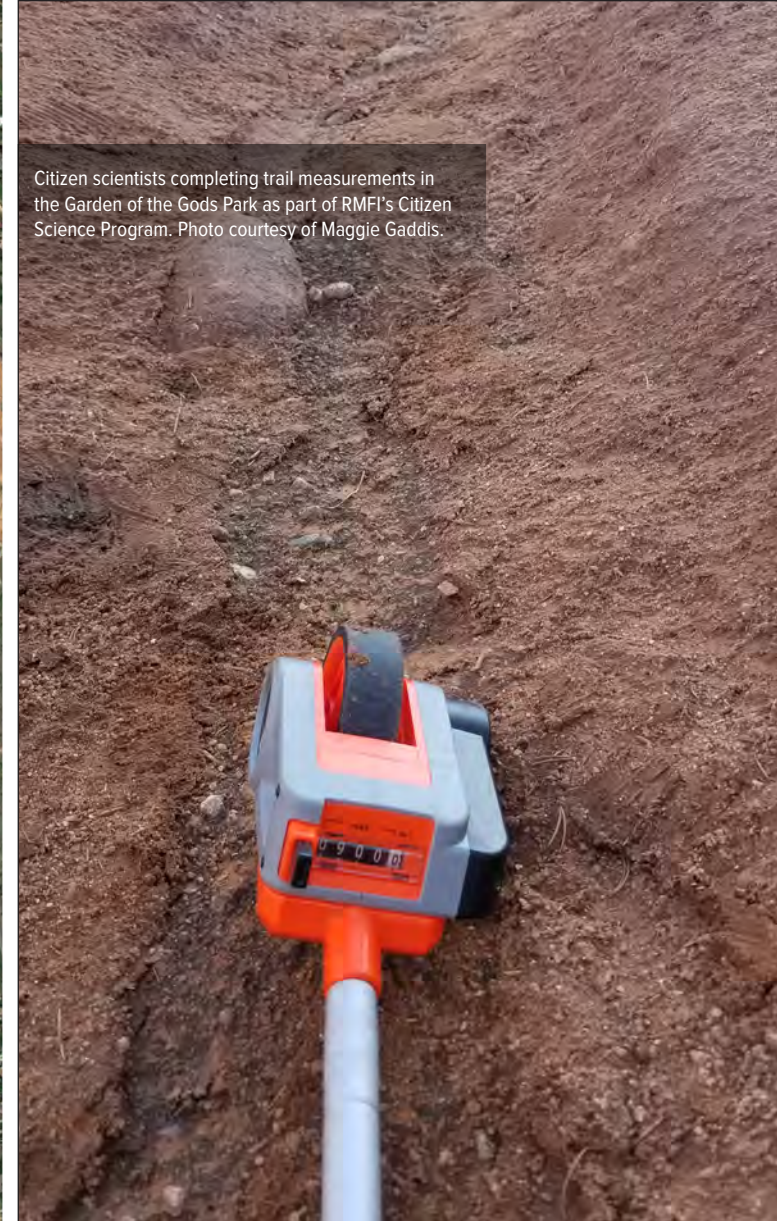
GARDEN OF THE GODS TRAIL ASSESSMENT: RMFI completed a trail assessment for the Garden of the Gods Park in 2018. The purpose of the assessment was to inventory the existing designated and social trail network, trail features, and natural resource issues, and to rate the current condition of trails to more effectively determine work objectives and priorities. The assessment was submitted to the City of Colorado Springs in December 2018 and RMFI will be using the results of the assessment to determine work priorities in the Park in 2019.

FRONT RANGE PIKA PROJECT: The Front Range Pika Project (FRPP) is a citizen science program that engages the public in conservation research on the American pika. The project was formed to help address the need for additional research and long-term monitoring to determine what factors currently limit the distribution of American pika in the southern Rocky Mountains, and whether the species can persist in the region as climate change accelerates. For the second year in a row, RMFI participated in the FRPP by monitoring for American pika at its high alpine project site located at the base of Kit Carson Peak in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. For more information, please visit <http://www.pikapartners.org/>.

WILLOW PROPAGATION: Since 2016, RMFI has planted over 4,000 mature willows in several riparian areas that were damaged by the Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012. The goal of the project is to restore these damaged riparian areas so they function properly again to provide habitat, flood mitigation, and streambank stabilization. Each spring, RMFI monitors the plantings by assessing mortality rates and taking repeat photographs. To date, extremely low mortality rates (<1%) have been observed as compared to mortality rates resulting from traditional willow staking methods, which exceeded 50% in many cases. In 2018, RMFI replicated the willow propagation and planting program in the Bear Creek Watershed and the Severy Creek Basin on top of Pikes Peak in efforts to restore wetlands and riparian areas in these locations. These plantings will be monitored in 2019.



One of the outcomes from the Garden of the Gods Trail Assessment was the creation of a dataset in Google Earth. Shown here is the trail scoring layer with green trails representing "A" rated trails and red trails representing "F" rated trails.



Citizen scientists completing trail measurements in the Garden of the Gods Park as part of RMFI's Citizen Science Program. Photo courtesy of Maggie Gaddis.



A photograph of an American pika. Pikas are sensitive to climate and are disappearing from some areas in a pattern that suggests they are succumbing to recent climate change. Photo courtesy of the USGS.



Before and after picture showing willows planted along a degraded stretch of Waldo Creek. Once developed, these willows will help stabilize the streambank, provide habitat, as well as other flood mitigation benefits.

Volunteer & Work Stats



959 Youth ages 8-24



448 Rock/timber steps built



1.3 Acres of invasive species removed



18 Total project sites

154 Conservation corps members

93 Community and school groups

787 Erosion control structures built/maintained



2018 TOTALS:
 441
 TOTAL WORKDAYS
 2,374
 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
 15,873
 VOLUNTEER HOURS
 \$425,092
 VOLUNTEER VALUE

2.9 Miles of trail built/maintained



163
 Pounds of native seed

2,549
 Trees/saplings planted

3,608
 Native transplants used in restoration

Community Events

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL: Since 2005, Mountain Chalet, a locally owned and operated outdoor equipment store, has been hosting the annual Banff Mountain Film Festival as a fundraiser for RMFI. The event showcases phenomenal short films from exploration of remote landscapes and mountain cultures to adrenaline-fueled action sports. The 2018 event was another sellout for both nights of films. The net proceeds raised from the event support RMFI's mission of conserving and protecting treasured public landscapes in Southern Colorado.

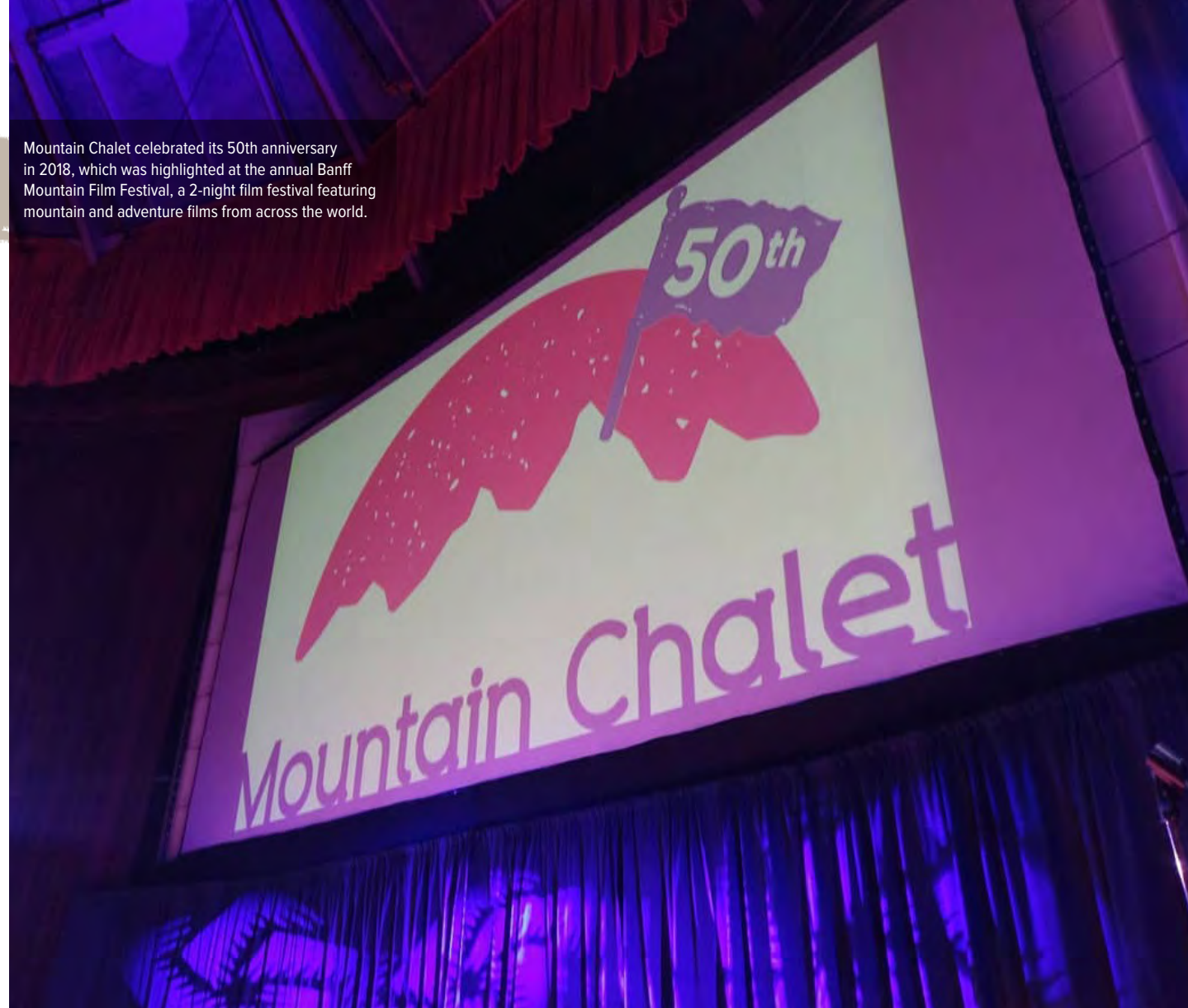
INDY GIVE! 2018: Give! is an annual philanthropic platform that encourages everyone in the Pikes Peak region to give back to local nonprofits, with a particular emphasis on catalyzing philanthropy among those 36 years old and younger. As part of Give! 2018, RMFI participated in a number of fundraising events including Bikes and Brew, Karma Hour, Winter Solstice Trail Social, Ugly Sweater Party, and the Rocky Mountain Highway Concert Series.

NATURE! PHOTO CONTEST: This annual photo contest returned for its 6th year in 2018 and showcases powerful images that capture Colorado's dynamic, awe-inspiring, and invigorating natural beauty. The categories included Restoration, Mountains, Flora/Fauna, and Interaction. We had the highest number of entries in 2018 and the selection process to choose finalists and the grand prize winners was an arduous task. See all of the finalists on the RMFI website at www.rmfi.org.

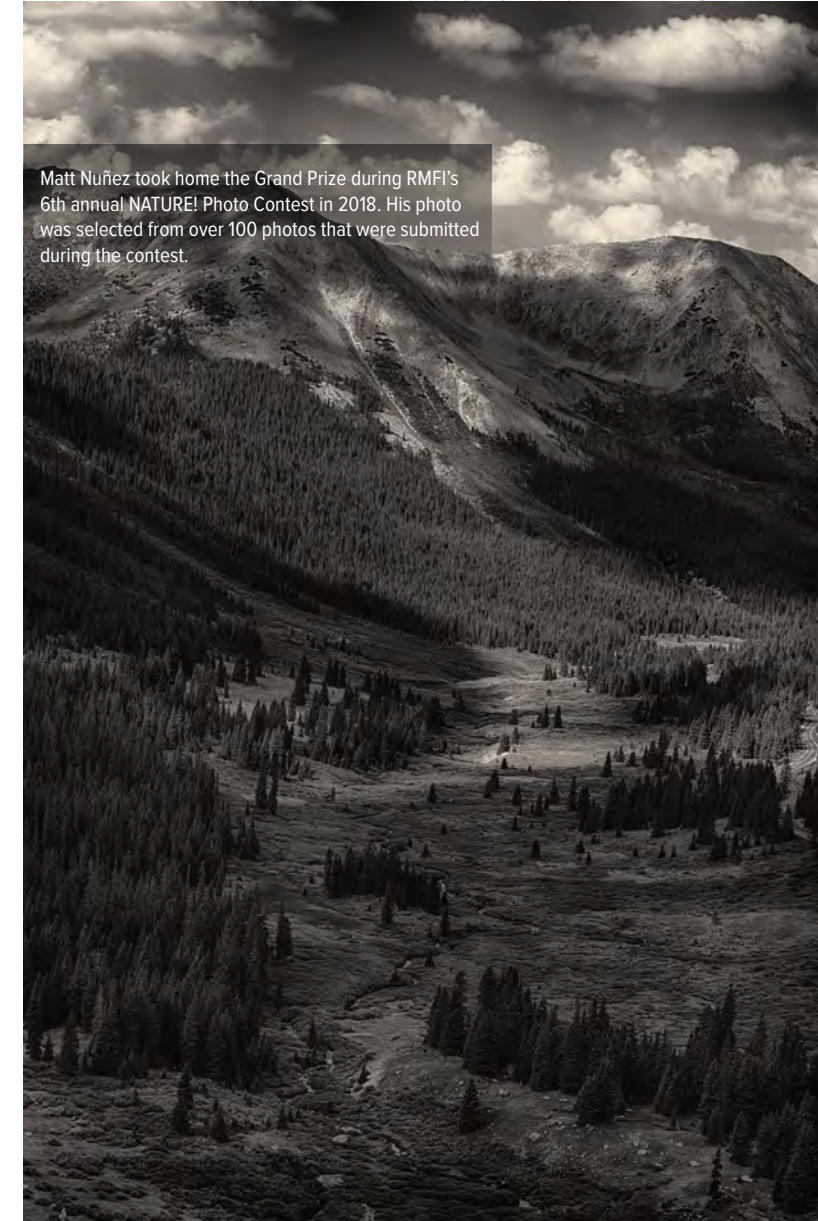
SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE: RMFI was a participating Hometown Charity in partnership with Heuberger Subaru and the Share the Love event where \$250 from every new car sold or leased was donated to the purchaser's charity of choice. In all, RMFI and Heuberger raised close to \$32,000 in support of our trail and restoration projects in Southern Colorado!

WALDO WALDO 5K GRAND FINALE: The Waldo Waldo 5K was created as a response to the Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012. The 5K raises money for The Waldo Waldo Fund, a fund of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, which supports natural disaster and fire recovery efforts as well as trails and open space maintenance in Colorado Springs and the surrounding community. Money is granted from this fund to the primary event beneficiaries, which include RMFI and the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC). This year marked the 7th and final year of the event, which has now raised over \$200,000 for TOSC and RMFI.

Mountain Chalet celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018, which was highlighted at the annual Banff Mountain Film Festival, a 2-night film festival featuring mountain and adventure films from across the world.



Matt Nuñez took home the Grand Prize during RMFI's 6th annual NATURE! Photo Contest in 2018. His photo was selected from over 100 photos that were submitted during the contest.



The Waldo Waldo 5K Grand Finale took place in 2018 after a successful 7 year run. Proceeds from the annual event have helped RMFI complete critical restoration work in the Waldo Canyon burn scar.



RMFI staff and board members attend the annual Indy Give! check ceremony at the Penrose House. This event brings together all participating nonprofits in celebration of a successful fundraising campaign.



The RMFI Crew

STAFF



Name: Jennifer Peterson
Title: Executive Director



Name: Joe Lavorini
Title: Program Director



Name: Jay Minton
Title: Program Manager



Name: Andy Riter
Title: Program Manager



Name: Molly Mazel
Title: Volunteer & Partnership Coordinator



Name: Liz Nichol
Title: Office Manager



Name: Alex Hladkyj
Title: Field Coordinator



Name: Kelly Kaufmann
Title: Field Coordinator



Name: Josh Cohn
Title: Field Instructor



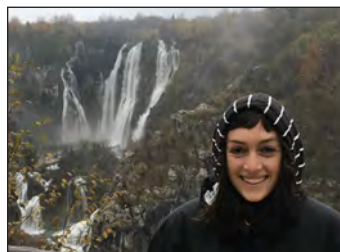
Name: Jamie Goins
Title: High Alpine Field Instructor



Name: Jarrod Gaut
Title: High Alpine Field Instructor



Name: Samuel Landsberg
Title: Field Instructor



Name: Siena Mann
Title: Field Instructor



Name: Hannah Millsap
Title: Field Instructor



Name: Madison Peddy
Title: Field Instructor



Name: Jeronimo Sexton
Title: Field Instructor



Name: Jacob Twersky
Title: Field Instructor



Name: Chris Ullom
Title: Field Instructor



Name: Lindsay Williams
Title: Field Instructor



Name: Lucky
Title: Office Dog



OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Katie George
Lori Lilly
Bethany Kelsey
Darcy Mazel
Amy Sullivan

INTERNS

Bryson Camp
Asa "Ace" Hussain
Jasmine Linder
Tim Little
Peter Mow
Madeleine Tucker

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lori Nicholson, *President*
Lee Derr, *Vice President*
Jim Smith, *Treasurer*
Jeff Mohrmann, *Secretary*
Hillary Hienton, *Member*
Chris Lieber, *Member*
Emily Mooney, *Member*
Gurney Sloan, *Member*
Mike Smith, *Member*
Lily Weissgold, *Member*

RMFI Board of Directors. Front row from left to right: Chris Lieber, Gurney Sloan, Jim Smith. Back row from left to right: Lori Nicholson, Jeff Mohrmann, Lee Derr, Mike Smith, Hillary Hienton. Missing: Lily Weissgold, Emily Mooney



RMFI Fall ShinDIG

Each year, the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center hosts RMFI's annual Fall ShinDIG, which recognizes RMFI's many volunteers, funders, supporters, and other folks who make our work possible.

FALL SHINDIG SPONSORS:

Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center
Garden of the Gods Foundation
The Mitguards
Ian and Carrie Kalmanowitz
Picnic Basket Catering

Mountain Chalet
Pocket Pals Trail Maps
Justin Peterson Photography
Rick and Cheryl Walker

AWARD WINNERS:

Robert Weggel Funder of the Year: *Pikes Peak Chapter of the Sierra Club/Pikes Peak Fund*
Mark Hesse Stewardship Partner of the Year: *Southwest Conservation Corps - Los Valles*
Land Management Partner of the Year: *El Paso County Parks*
Volunteer Group of the Year: *Griffith Centers for Children*
Volunteer of the Year: *Chris Schwing*
Mountain Chalet Crew Leader of the Year: *Mike Scott*

NATURE! PHOTO CONTEST FINALISTS:

Restoration: *Dean Waits*
Mountains: *Wendy Gedack, Matt Nuñez*
Flora: *Bob Falcone, Wendy Gedack*
Fauna: *Sheri Kerley, Kathy Moore, Tobias Steeves*
Interaction: *Shane Morrison*
Staff Pick: *Wendy Gedack*
Grand Prize Winner: *Matt Nuñez*



Wendy Gedack, Staff Pick, Mount Sneffels.



Rock Star Volunteers being recognized at RMFI's 10th Annual Fall ShinDIG in November 2018. Photo courtesy of Justin Peterson.

RMFI Rock Star Volunteers

RMFI's volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization. Rock Star Volunteers represent those who have volunteered with RMFI 5 or more days throughout the year, and are listed below. Thank you, rock stars!

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Carol Beckman | 20. Alyssa Karpa | 39. Andrew Rippe | 46. Stephen Toledo |
| 2. Larry Bogue | 21. Shannon Katsos | 40. Glenn Scadden | 47. Madeleine Tucker |
| 3. Elliott Briggs | 22. Matthew Knox | 41. Chris Schwing | 48. Dean Waits |
| 4. William Brown | 23. George Lee | 42. Mike Scott | 49. Tom Zimmerman |
| 5. Lori Byrd | 24. Lori Lilly | 43. Patrica Stewart | |
| 6. Bryson Camp | 25. Jasmine Linder | 44. James Strickland | |
| 7. Dabreon Darby | 26. Tim Little | 45. Amy Sullivan | |
| 8. Daniel Downs | 27. Joel Marx | | |
| 9. Denise Downs | 28. Darcy Mazel | | |
| 10. Angela Edwards | 29. Taylor Metzger | | |
| 11. Toni Gacek | 30. Peter Mow | | |
| 12. Matthew Gilbert | 31. Daniel Nielsen | | |
| 13. Nicole Goodman | 32. Blake Nemechek | | |
| 14. Liz Hallman | 33. Daniel O'Connor | | |
| 15. Corinne Hara | 34. Telisha Parker | | |
| 16. Stephen Henderson | 35. Eugenia Phan | | |
| 17. Lexi Hudson | 36. Kara Ramsey | | |
| 18. Asa Hussain | 37. Becca Reberry | | |
| 19. Isabella James | 38. James Reed | | |



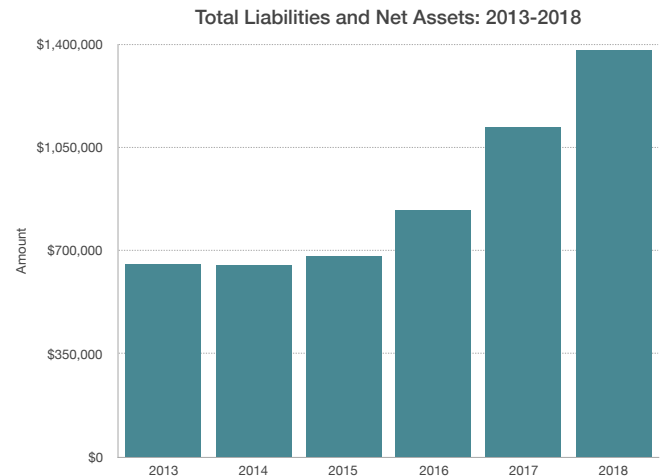
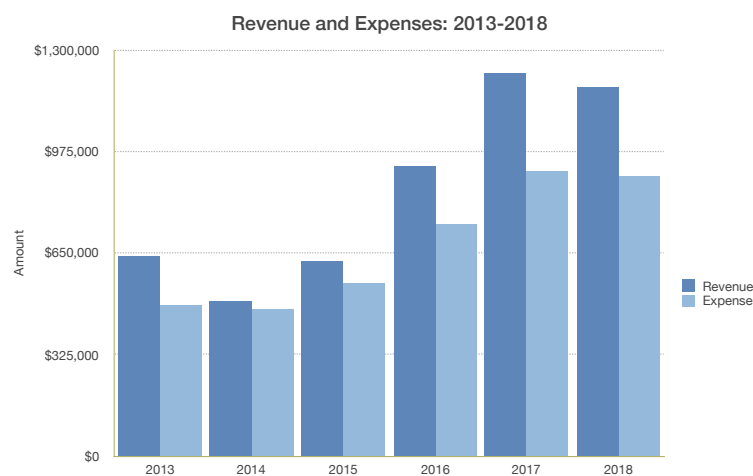
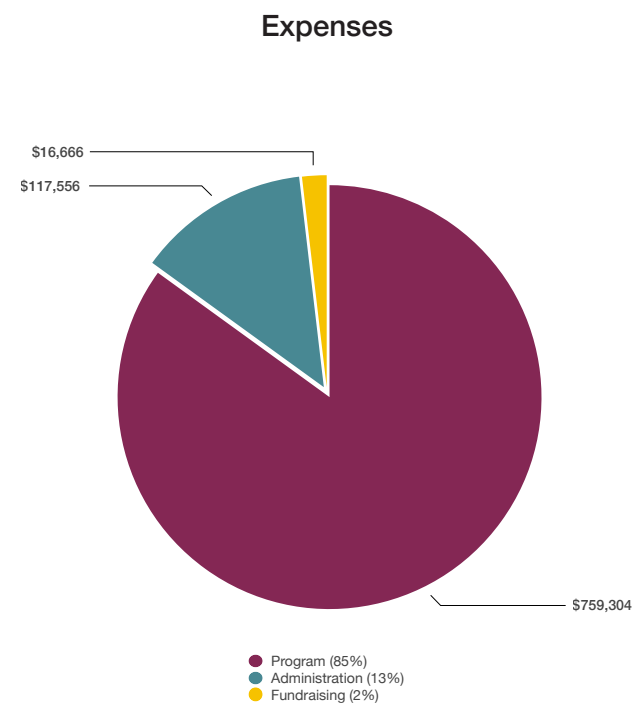
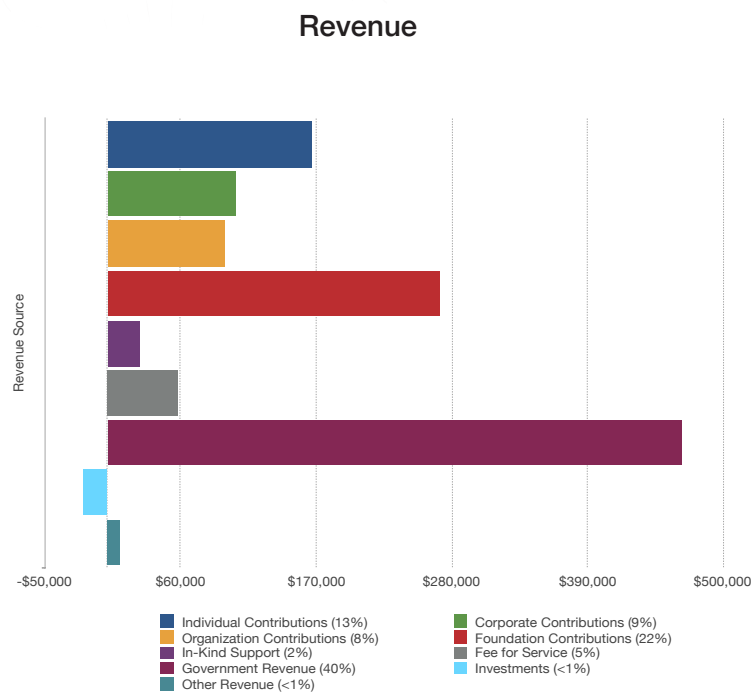
RMFI supporters packed the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center for the 10th Annual RMFI Fall ShinDIG. Guests were treated to live music from The Mitguards and a catered meal by the Picnic Basket. Photo courtesy of Justin Peterson.



RMFI Executive Director, Jennifer Peterson (left), poses with Tim Wolken and Brian Bobeck with El Paso County Parks, award winners at the 10th annual RMFI Fall ShinDIG. Photo courtesy of Justin Peterson.

Financial Overview

RMFI finished 2018 with a strong financial performance throughout the year. Both revenue and expenses were on par with what they were in 2017, which were the highest in the organization's history. We are well-positioned for another busy field season in 2019, which will be supported through a combination of grants, government agreements, and individual donations.



RMFI Board and staff accept the Colorado College Outstanding Community Partner Award at the awards ceremony in May 2018.



Loretta McElhiney poses during the filming of the award video for the Palmer Land Trust Environmental Stewardship Award. Loretta is the Fourteener Program Manager with the U.S. Forest Service.

Other Organizational Highlights

COLORADO COLLEGE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD: In May 2018, RMFI was awarded the Outstanding Community Partner Award by Colorado College. The award honors community organizations, associations, or members who collaborate with Colorado College in partnerships that impact the common good as well as supports collaborative initiatives to positively impact social change, improve the quality of life of the community, and/or invest in shared, democratic futures.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS CONSERVATION PANEL: In August 2018, RMFI participated in a panel discussion about environmental conservation with the Argentina Delegation of the American Council of Young Political Leaders and the El Pomar Foundation. Other panelists included representatives from Great Outdoors Colorado - GOCO, Palmer Land Trust, and the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust.

OUTDOOR RETAILER: In 2018, the Outdoor Retailer show moved to Denver, Colorado after 22 years in Salt Lake City, Utah. RMFI applied for and received approval to host a nonprofit table at the annual tradeshow in an effort to connect with like-minded nonprofits and outdoor gear companies.

PALMER LAND TRUST SOUTHERN COLORADO CONSERVATION AWARDS: In partnership with the National Forest Foundation, RMFI nominated Loretta McElhiney, Fourteener Program Manager with the U.S. Forest Service, for the Palmer Land Trust Environmental Stewardship Award. Loretta won the nomination and was recognized at PLT's annual Southern Colorado Conservation Awards banquet in October 2018.

WALDO CANYON PLANNING GRANT: In March 2018, RMFI was awarded a \$45,000 planning grant to help facilitate a public process to re-imagine Waldo Canyon and the surrounding corridor for trails, connectivity and outdoor recreation. The public planning process will go through June 2020.

Grantors, Contributors, and Sponsors

GOVERNMENT

City of Colorado Springs
 City of Manitou Springs
 Colorado Water Conservation Board
 Colorado Parks & Wildlife
 El Paso County Parks
 U.S. Forest Service

ORGANIZATIONS

Aspen Valley High School
 Barr Trail Mountain Race
 Broadmoor Garden Club
 Colorado College
 Combined Federal Campaign
 Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park
 Friends of Garden of the Gods
 Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
 Great Outdoors Colorado
 Incline Friends
 Indy Give
 Justin Peterson Photography
 Montrose High School
 Mountain Ridge Middle School
 Pikes Peak Fund
 Pikes Peak Marathon, Inc.

Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning
 RMFI Board of Directors
 Shift Thrift Store
 Texas Tech University
 The Access Fund
 The Mitguards
 Tim Davis Art Images

FOUNDATIONS

AmazonSmile Foundation
 American Express Foundation
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 Bloom Foundation
 CCS Charitable Foundation
 Clif Bar Family Foundation
 Community First Foundation
 El Pomar Foundation
 Garden of the Gods Foundation
 Gates Family Foundation
 George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
 Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation
 Kirkpatrick Family Fund
 Louise Arnold Maddux Foundation
 Margaret and Al Hill Family Foundation

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 National Forest Foundation
 Petzl Foundation
 Pikes Peak Community Foundation
 T. Rowe Price Foundation

BUSINESSES

4imprint
 Academy Riding Stables
 Accolade Fitness
 Adventure Miniature Golf & Batting Cages
 Adventures Out West
 American Adventure Expeditions
 Benevity
 Blue Star Group
 Bristol Brewing Company
 Browns Canyon Rafting
 Buffalo Lodge Bicycle Resort
 Challenge Unlimited
 CityROCK Climbing Center
 Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
 Conoco Phillips
 Crossroads Animal Hospital
 Deep State Apparel
 Destination Services Corporation



Sangre de Cristos, Joe Lavorini

Deuter
 Dunagan Childs
 Dutch Brothers
 FedEx
 Fossil Brewing Company
 Front Range Barbecue
 Front Range Climbing Company
 Garden of the Gods Trading Post
 Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center
 GE Johnson Construction Company
 Giving Assistant
 Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park
 Goat Patch Brewing Company
 Iron Springs Chateau
 Kinder Morgan
 Kirkpatrick Bank
 LexisNexis
 Manitou Auto Service
 Manitou Brewing Company
 Mason Smith LLC
 Microsoft
 Mike's Camera
 Mount Princeton Hot Springs
 Mountain Chalet
 Mountain Equipment Recyclers
 New Belgium Brewing Company
 Old Town Bike Shop
 Osprey Packs, Inc.
 Oxbow Labs
 Patagonia
 Patsy's Original
 Paypal Giving Fund
 Phantom Canyon Brewery

Pikes Peak Brewing
 Pikes Peak-America's Mountain
 Pizzeria Rustica
 Pocket Pals Trail Maps
 Premiere Copier Inc.
 Proper Wines
 Pure Boulderling
 Raymond James and Associates, Inc.
 REI, Inc.
 REST
 Rocky Mountain Restaurant Group
 Royal Gorge Rafting
 RTA Architects
 Sky Zone Trampoline Park
 Sportsman's Warehouse
 Starbucks Coffee Company
 Subaru of America, Inc
 Trails End Taproom
 Urban Steam
 Ute & Yeti
 Veda Salon & Spa
 VMware
 Wag N' Wash
 Waldo Waldo, Inc.
 Walmart
 WebriQ Goes Mad
 Western Digital Corporation
 Western Museum of Mining & Industry
 Whole Foods - Pikes Peak
 Yarid's Shoes

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
 Chris Aaby

Douglas Abernethy
 David Adair
 Angie Adams
 Summer Adelbush
 Ruth Adele
 Ramon Aguirre
 Gayle Allen
 Taylor Allen
 Jes Amschl-Meirish
 Ardell Anderson
 Michael Anderson
 Denise Avitabile
 Nancy Babbs
 Amanda Baida
 Lydia Ballantine
 David Barcus
 Barbara Barnhart
 Groucho Beckenhaupt
 Brian Becker
 Donna Becker
 Carol Beckman
 Penny Bergsten
 Jolene Berlin
 Jan Berry
 Lynn Bevington
 Brigitte Bickford
 Jeff Bieri
 Tim Black
 Donna Blackburn
 Wayne Bland
 John Bobbitt
 Jodie Boedigheimer
 Larry Bogue
 Lisa Bonwell



Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Dean Waits

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 Julie Brady
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 Andrew Brinkman
 Mike & Tanja Britton
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 Teri Buchanan
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 Mary Butler
 Daniel Byrd
 Diane Cahalan
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 Michael Carrico
 Linda Carter
 John Cavanaugh
 Jennifer Cawley
 Meredith Childs
 Nancy Ching
 Jacob Christensen
 Julie Christopher
 Joy Cipoletti
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 Samuel Clark
 Todd Clayton
 Elliot Cohn
 Josh Cohn
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Barry Cooper
 Mavamarie Cooper
 Stuart Coppedge
 Paul Cording
 Eric Corwin
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 Miles Cottom
 John Cvetic
 Jim Davies
 Susan Davies
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 Jessica Davis
 Tim Davis
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 Mara Del Margo
 Gina Dellinger
 John Demmon
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 Paul Derbique
 Lee Derr
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 Scott Dorff
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 Dean Goodwell
 Timothy Gore
 Sean Gray
 Catherine Grossman
 Kyle Gruenhagen
 Dave Guhl
 Edward Guignon
 Jay Gust
 Tim Haas
 Melissa Hafter



Looking toward Cheyenne Mountain, Justin Peterson

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 Patricia Hall
 Liz Hallman
 Corrina Hamann
 Matt Hane
 John Hartung
 David Havlick
 John Hawk
 Michael Hayes
 Eileen Healy
 Jontell Heffernan
 Edwin Henderson
 Hillary Hienton
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 Ken Jaray
 Kevin Johnk

Ellen Johnson-Fay
 Ian Kalmanowitz
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 Tom Keating
 David Kennedy
 Michael Kenny
 Sheri Kerley
 Tina Kilgore
 Vicky Kipp
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 Lisa Klages
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 Maxine Lockett

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 Rebecca MacNamee
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 Michael Miller
 Robert Miller
 Jay Minton
 Debra Mitguard
 Richard Mock
 Jeff Mohrmann
 Franklin Moore
 Kathy Moore
 Angus Morrison
 Marcy Morrison
 Shane Morrison



Devil's Playground Trail, Kellen Spencer Photography

Kathleen Morrow
 Pete Morton
 Deborah Muehleisen
 Jennifer Murphy
 Corinne Nelson
 Karl Nelson
 Patrick Nelson
 Silvana Nelson
 Laura Neumann
 Erik Newhouse
 Liz Nichol
 Lori Nicholson
 Daniel Nielsen
 Curtis Nimz
 Aspen Nipp
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 Phillip O'Brien
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 Eric Pedersen
 Kathryn Pedersen
 Carlos Perez
 Bill & Dorothy Peterson

Jean Peterson
 Jennifer Peterson
 Justin & Suzanne Peterson
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 Kevin Porter
 Sarah Powers
 Mike Procell
 Jacquelyn Puett
 Andrew Raaber
 Julie Raber
 Dominique Ramirez
 Hannah Ramsey
 Becca Reberry
 Karen Reinking
 Carrie Renaud
 Emily Reynolds
 Rachel Ribich
 Judith Rice-Jones
 Anthony Ries
 Emeterio Rios
 Gregor Rodriguez
 Martha Rosenau
 Aaron Rosenthal
 Ralph Routon
 Tim Royston
 Catharine Rozema
 Bill Ruskin
 Andrea Rynne
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 Jeff Schaefer
 Kate Scheer
 Helga Schimkat
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 Melanie Schnathorst

Matthew Schniper
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 Deborah Sheinman
 Ann Shikles
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 Evangeline Shnitzer
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 Rebecca Sickbert
 Cheryl Sims
 Manpreet Singh
 Joan Skoog
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 LeRoy Smith
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 Terrence Smith
 Kim Snowdon
 Cherie Snyder
 Erica Socorro
 Lynn Sommers
 Gary Sondermann
 Julie Sprinkle
 Joe Spruiell
 Amy Stancui
 Bill Stanley
 John Stansfield
 Tobias Steeves



Pikes Peak, Justin Peterson

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 Janet Strouss
 Steven Sueppel
 Tony Sullen
 Stephanie Surch
 Julie Sussman
 Scott Suter
 Janet Tanner
 Derek Tatum
 Leland Tatum
 Irene Taylor
 Mike Teter
 Jeffrey Thomas
 Jeremy Thompson
 Michael Toland
 Stephen Toledo
 Coreen & Shanti Toll
 Sarah Troemel
 Timothy Trowbridge
 Graham Ucchino
 Reed Uhlman
 Kim Vadas
 Mike Valorie
 James Van Hoy
 Marjorie Van Hoy
 Stan VanderWerf
 Erica Vandiver
 Mike Vann
 Brian Vitulli
 Linda Wagner
 Bob Wagstaff
 Dean Waits
 Cheryl Walker
 Diane Walker

John Walker
 Melissa Walker
 James Walter
 Brett Warning
 Chris Warning
 David Watson
 Todd Weaver
 Mary Weeks
 Kevin Weese
 Bob Weggel
 John Weiss
 Sara White
 Christie Wiley
 Lindsay Williams
 Leslie Wolken
 Laurie Wood
 Daniel Woods
 Bronwyn Woodward
 Josh Wooten
 Julia Wright
 Hansjoerg Wyss
 Jesse Yandell
 Tim Yeomans
 Ann Young
 Rebecca Young Williams
 Sandi Yukman

VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND SCHOOLS

Apple
 Aspen Valley High School
 Atlas Prep School
 Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy
 Bureau of Jewish Education, Hebrew

High School Care-A-Van
 Catamount Institute Dirt Campers
 CATS Northern Colorado
 Challenger Middle School
 CityServe
 CIVA Charter High School
 Colorado College
 Colorado Springs Early Colleges
 Colorado Springs Fire Department
 Colorado Springs School 8th Grade
 Colorado Young Leaders
 CorePower Yoga
 CSU-Pueblo Outdoor Leadership class
 D20 Homeschool Academy
 Expeditions
 Deerfield Hills Community Center
 Doubletree
 Destination Services Corporation
 Erickson, Brown & Kloster
 eviCore
 FedEx
 Ft. Carson
 GE Johnson
 Girl Scouts of Colorado
 Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
 Griffith Blessing
 Griffith Centers
 HDR Inc.
 Highlands Ranch High School
 Hillside Community Center
 Howbert Elementary
 James Irwin Charter High School
 Kinder Morgan



Black Forest Regional Park

Leadership NOW! class of 2018
 Liberty H.S. Swim/Dive
 Lockheed Martin
 Lowes
 McDermott, Will & Emery
 Meadows Park Community Center
 Montrose High School
 Mortar Board
 Next Step Ministries
 Orthopedic Rehabilitation Associates
 Peterson Air Force Base
 Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning

Renaissance Secondary School
 RTA Architects
 Schriever Air Force Base
 SocialSEO
 Springs Equality
 SSPR
 T-Mobile
 T. Rowe Price
 Texas Tech University
 The Classical Academy
 The Mission Continues
 Training Ground
 University of Colorado - Colorado

Springs
 United States Air Force Academy
 Veda Salon & Spa
 Western Michigan Academy of Environmental Science
 Western Digital
 YMCA
 Zebulon Pike Youth Services Center

THANK YOU TO OUR 2,374 VOLUNTEERS!



Willow Lake, Justin Peterson

In Memorium

Nancy Lewis, a longtime supporter of RMFI, passed away on June 30, 2018. Nancy was the former Director of the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, and was a great advocate of RMFI's, particularly the decades-long stewardship work RMFI has completed in the Garden of the Gods, one of her favorite parks. We are so thankful for her steadfast support and the many years of service she gave to this great city and its park system. She will be missed by many in the community.



Photo courtesy of The Gazette.

The Robert J. Weggel Fund

Robert "Bob" Weggel has long been an avid hiker and backpacker, having trekked two hundred miles to gaze enraptured by Mt. Everest and its vicinity and summited Mt. Whitney and all but nine of Colorado's 14ers—the first in 1970, the most recent at age 73. He's also an avid conservationist and trail builder, specializing in rock steps, stepping stones and soil-retention walls. RMFI's Volunteer Vacation program hosted him in 2006 at South Colony Lakes and subsequently at Como Lake, Kit Carson and Cheyenne Mountain. In gratitude, in March of 2017 he established RMFI's first Endowment Fund to help support its conservation and stewardship work.

Bob earned a B.S. degree in physics from MIT, followed by graduate work at Harvard. For thirty-six years he designed magnets for the National Magnet Laboratory at MIT; 1980s editions of The Guinness Book of World Records cite him as co-designer of a magnet that generated the most intense continuous magnetic field in the world. He now is contributing to expeditiously bringing to our energy-hungry world abundant, economical, environmentally-benign electric power from thermonuclear fusion.

The Robert J. Weggel Fund for the Rocky Mountain Field Institute will help ensure the organization's long-term financial viability and sustainability. If you'd like to learn more about the Fund and how you can contribute to it, please contact RMFI's Executive Director, Jennifer Peterson, at 719-471-7736, ext. 1# or jennifer@rmfi.org.



Robert "Bob" Weggel.



Garden of the Gods, Girl Scouts



MAIN OFFICE
815 South 25th Street
Suite 101
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 471-7736

www.rmfi.org



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