



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY SIZZLED



It's official: Summer is here! The field season at the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation kicked off with National Trails Day on June 2. Over 25 volunteers gathered at the Middle Fork of the Flathead from as far as Missoula and Helena to work on clearing trail. In conjunction with the Kalispell Montana Conservation Corps and the Forest Service, crews worked on the Big River

Trail, Edna Creek, Stanton Lake, and Devil Creek trails. Work included sawing out logs, brushing and drainage maintenance.

With temperatures near 90 degrees it was sizzling! But so was the grill. Volunteers enjoyed a BBQ hosted by the BMWF after their day of hard work at Devil Creek Campground. With full bellies and big muscles, it was a great day spent in The Bob. Thanks to all National Trails Day volunteers for your hard work and taking care of our trails!

Photos. Top: Edna Creek crew entering the wilderness. Bottom: BMWF crew leader, Tara LaVelle with Talon Belski (son of Executive Director, Carla Belski).



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FEATURED VOLUNTEER: BILL THOMAS

Introducing Bill Thomas. Volunteer extraordinaire!

► How many times have you worked with BMWF? If you count an annual 1-2 week trail project with the National Smokejumper Association (NSA) plus usually a week long project for the BMWF for the past 6 years, I would say close to 12 times plus a few day projects as well.

► Tell me a little bit about why you volunteer in the backcountry. What do you like? Why do you do it? I enjoy hiking, backpacking and camping in the backcountry so, it's a way to accomplish that plus a desire to help maintain trails, especially, those that regular trail crew don't have time for.

In my 30 seasons of working wildfires for the U.S. Forest Service, I had numerous opportunities to work on trail projects in wilderness settings when fire activity was slow. I've always enjoyed the trail work. There is,

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Thank you to everyone that has signed up for projects this season. The response this season has been overwhelming and we have even closed some projects due to full registrations. If you are thinking about joining us for a trip this summer, I strongly encourage you to sign up soon. On the next page is a list of projects that are still open and those that are full. You can always find more detailed information on our website at www.thebmwf.org or by calling the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation at 863.5411. See ya on the trail!

Shannon Freix
BMWf Program Director

Register online at:
www.thebmwf.org



Volunteer trail projects
in the Bob Marshall Wilderness
& adjacent wild lands.



WISH LIST FOR 2007

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation is growing, but we don't always have the resources to keep up with our growth. Each season we ask supporters to help us gear up for the season with a list of needed items. If you happen to have any gently loved gear or items below, we will happily get them off your hands and to good use. Likewise, you can make financial donations to cover the purchase of these items. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Wanted: Refrigerator/Freezer: We have no place to keep project food for volunteers. If you have a used, working fridge/freezer we could use it in our food cache. We can coordinate pick up.

Wanted: Power Grinder: More trail work means more tool maintenance. We could REALLY use another grinder to help us prepare for projects. New retail approx: \$200.

Wanted: Color Printer: Our color printer recently fizzled out in the office. If you have a laser color printer sitting around, donate it to us and write off the donation. New retail approx: \$300-400.

Wanted: Travel Trailer: We struggle with housing for our West Side crew leader each season. Last season, a Board Member offered a spare room. Good news; the Forest Service has offered us trailer space to accommodate our crew leader on the West Side. We have the space, now we could use a camper trailer. Anyone have one?

PROJECT REGISTRATION UPDATE

Project	Description
BMWF #2 Dearborn River, Devil's Glen Scapegoat Wilderness (SE)	Friday, June 15 th to Sunday, June 17 th Weekend, Easy-Moderate. Work along Dearborn River Canyon; gateway to the Scapegoat Wilderness. Camp near the trailhead and day hike 2-3 miles to project work each day. Open spaces = 4.
BMWF #3 Blackleaf Canyon Bob Marshall Wilderness (East)	Friday, June 22 nd to Sunday, June 24 th Weekend, Easy-Moderate. Work on the dramatic Rocky Mountain Front on the West Fork of the Teton River. Tent camp around FS facility with use of cabin kitchen. Open spaces = 4.
BMWF #4 Ousel Peak Great Bear Wilderness (NW)	Saturday, June 23 rd Day trip, Strenuous. Take the Ousel Peak Challenge! The route is short but strenuous--gaining 3200' feet from the trailhead to the peak in 2.3 miles. Views of Glacier Park and Flathead Range. Open spaces = 7.
BMWF #5 Sunburst Lake Bob Marshall Wilderness (West)	Friday, June 29 th to Monday, July 2 nd Weekend, Moderate. Sunburst Lake is known for its scenery, good fishing and is a popular backpacking and horse-packing destination. Campsite restoration work. Open spaces = CLOSED/FULL.
CDTA #1 West Fork of Sun River Bob Marshall Wilderness (East)	Friday, June 29 th to Saturday, July 7 th The project is located along the West Fork of the Sun River drainage, up to its headwaters near the Chinese Wall. Work includes campsite rehabilitation and annual trail maintenance. Open spaces = 2.
BMWF #6 Pretty Prairie Bob Marshall Wilderness (East)	Tuesday, July 10 th to Sunday, July 15 th Weeklong, Moderate. The primary focus of this project is noxious weed eradication (knapweed) around Pretty Prairie Cabin. Move our campsites as we work up the trail throughout the week. Open spaces = CLOSED/FULL.
BMWF #7 Skiumah Creek Great Bear Wilderness (NW)	Saturday, July 28 th Day trip, Moderate. A short trail that is need of some major clearing and heavy brushing. This trail sees little maintenance and the overgrowth is pushing hikers off the trail, making it unsafe. Open spaces = 7.
BMWF #8 Blackfoot Divide Bob Marshall Wilderness (SW)	Tuesday, July 31 st to Monday, August 6 th Weeklong, Moderate. Our work is focused on an area from Young's Pass to the Dunham Creek area with daily hikes of 1-3 miles to the worksite. Great views. Open spaces = 5.
BMWF #9 Indian Meadows Scapegoat Wilderness	Wednesday, August 8 th to Monday, August 13 th Weeklong, Moderate-Strenuous. Campsite rehabilitation, trail maintenance, long hikes; this trip has it all! In at Indian Meadows out at Arrastra Creek. Llama pack support. Open spaces = 5.
BMWF #10 Spruce Point & Charlie Creek Bob Marshall Wilderness (East)	Wednesday, August 15 th to Monday, August 20 th Week, Easy-Moderate. We will backpack 6 miles and set up base camp at Spruce Park Cabin. This is a great project for volunteers with limited skills that want to gain more backcountry skills. Open spaces = 1.
BMWF #11 Our Lake & Headquarters Pass Bob Marshall Wilderness (East)	Friday, August 17 th to Sunday, August 19 th Weekend, Easy-Moderate. Our Lake is a popular day hike for the locals and a beautiful alpine lake at its terminus. HQs Pass is main gateway to The Bob with great views. Open spaces = 5.
BMWF #12 Blind Creek Bob Marshall Wilderness (East)	Friday, August 24 th to Saturday, September 1 st Weeklong, Strenuous. BMWF crew will partner with a Montana Conservation Corps crew to complete project work on most scenic and dramatic places in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Open spaces = 2.
BMWF #13 Schafer Meadows Seed Collection Bob Marshall Wilderness (West)	Friday, August 31 st to Monday, September 3 rd Collect native plant seeds that will be used for future campsite restoration projects. Participants need no prior experience in seed collection or restoration. Open spaces = 3.
BMWF #14 Middle Fork of Flathead River Bob Marshall Wilderness (West)	Friday, September 7 th to Saturday, September 15 th Weeklong, Strenuous. Campsite rehabilitation project. This is an extremely popular area for hikers and Flathead floaters and the campsites are heavily impacted from extensive use. Open spaces = 7.



First-Ever Mountainfilm Festival Fundraiser a Success!

We had over 400 people attend our fundraising event on April 13, 2007 at the O'Shaughnessy Center in Whitefish. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that we were sold out of tickets at 10AM on the 13th. Both of our ticket outlets, The White Room in Whitefish and Rocky Mountain Outfitter in Kalispell, fielded calls from people inquiring about tickets well after they were sold out.

After all expenses were paid, the event netted the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation a little over \$6,000. In addition to ticket sales income, we also had raffle income, with many prizes from outfitters across the Bob, as well as dessert and beverage sales. We had amazing support from our financial sponsors who helped offset the \$2,000 cost of bringing the festival to Montana.

Our major financial sponsors included Mills Wilderness Adventures from Choteau, First Interstate Bank, Rocky Mountain Outfitter and Dr. Rod Spencer. Spotted Bear Ranch donated our grand prize for the raffle, a \$3,700 guided fly fishing adventure and stay at their lodge. Of course we would like to acknowledge all of our supporters who donated items of our auction, financial contributions and volunteer time.

All of the proceeds from this event will fund volunteer trail maintenance and wilderness restoration projects in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, specifically leadership, training and volunteer expenses. The BMWF sends an experienced trail crew leader out with every volunteer project throughout the summer. In addition to funding three crew leaders, our program director works year round to recruit volunteers and plan the logistics for each project, including food, tools and packing support.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our event and we send out our regrets to people who were not able to get tickets. We were overwhelmed by the interest in our event and we are looking into hosting two nights of films in Whitefish next year to accommodate more people for the festival.

-Carla Belski, Executive Director



Waiting in line for tickets to the Mountainfilm Festival hosted by the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation April 13, 2007.

MountainFilm Festival Sponsors:



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BEST OF THE BOB



From our Board Officers to our volunteers; the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation is looking for the best. If you have a strong interest in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex we could use your help. We are looking for some qualified folks in the following areas to support our efforts. Take a look at the position descriptions and send a letter of interest and resume to Shannon Freix, Program Director at shannon@thebmwf.org or PO Box 903, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Volunteer Part-time Program Assistant

Are you looking to gain some experience in project management or the outdoors? The BMWF is looking for a part-time Program Assistant in Kalispell/Whitefish area to help in the office from June to late August. If you are comfortable with computers and willing to learn, we will teach you the "guts" of project planning, non-profit operations and field work. This is a great way to meet Forest Service folks and other outdoor professionals. When your schedule permits, join us in the field leading crews and honing your outdoor leadership skills.

Volunteer Committee Members

If you are passionate about The Bob, join one of our Board Committees. From the Program Committee (handles volunteer direction and planning), Fundraising Committee (assists projects such as the MountainFilm Festival, raffles, etc). Community leadership is a great resume-builder and we have a diverse group of advisory volunteers. Join us!

Volunteer Packers/Camp Cooks

Let us handle the details while you focus on what you love to do. If you're a horseman or woman that is willing to pack, we will coordinate all the details. If you like spending time in the back-country, but prefer to leave the trail work to others, join a crew as camp cook. We bring the gear, the menu and do the shopping—you do the cooking and get to enjoy The Bob.



Addy Wygmans
East Side Leader



Casey Dunn
Roving Leader



Tara LaVelle
West Side Leader



Nat Phelps
Youth Crew Leader

NEW FACES: 2007 CREW LEADERS IN THE BOB

Addy Wygmans started out her life in the city of Chicago under the foolish impression that the world was nothing but large cities surrounded by cornfields. She was thankfully saved from this thinking when she stumbled upon one of last tall grass prairies outside of the city that just happened to be in desperate need of conservation volunteers. Thus was the beginning of her undying love for conservation and natural resource work. Since those early days she has moved on to build trails and do natural resource conservation work all over the South East, South West, Idaho and Montana. She also has a strong background in wilderness therapy and working with youth. She is passionate about Mt. Biking, her dog "Beast", Spring, Summer, Fall and the occasional Winter.

A week after graduating from college in Columbia, Missouri, **Casey Dunn** drove west to live near the Northern Rockies of Montana. He began backpacking and soon became hooked on the freedom of roaming through wild places, especially the Bob Marshall Wilderness Country. He was an AmeriCorps volunteer for three years, including two years as a crew leader for the Montana Conservation Corps. He also worked for a summer near Denali National Park in Alaska. Since his first backpacking trip six years ago, he has learned to leave the machete and glow sticks at home, but to definitely carry Cheetos and extra pairs of socks.

Born and raised in the Midwest, **Tara LaVelle** hails from Middletown, Ohio, where she graduated with a BS in Dietetics from Ohio University. After pursuing her nutrition degree in South Carolina she fled to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to ski for two winter seasons. In between Tara served as a former Montana Conservation Corps crew member in the Kalispell region and has since moved back to make a new life in Montana! "I've given so much of my time to the community and trails here, I feel connected to the Flathead Valley." An avid runner, you can find her on the pavement or the trails. She has a passion for the outdoors and loves to share her experiences.

Nat Phelps prefers to work and have fun simultaneously. Perhaps this is why he's chosen trail work as an occupation. Also, treading trails for much of his life imprinted a lifelong interest in nature and a will to protect it. As a result, Nat has found that maintaining trail is a way of protecting the environment. With the freedom of graduating college in 2005, he quickly signed up for the Montana Conservation Corps in Missoula. He has since led conservation crews in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona and Grand Teton National Park of Wyoming. Along the way Nat has met many wonderful people while living outdoors!

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also, the camaraderie and teambuilding experience when you go out with a new group of people each time. It's always amazing how a diverse group can come together and accomplish so much work in a week's time. It's also about getting back to the basic elements of life. All of this done with the magnificent backcountry as your workplace.

► Do you have any favorite spots in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex? I like the fact that nearly whole river systems are intact. It's great to be able to hike a trail along such beautiful stretches of water as the Middle and South Forks of the Flathead, the Spotted Bear River, and the forks of the Teton and Sun Rivers to name some. I enjoy the panorama of the whole scene from the valley bottom up to the high peaks.

► When you're not working with BMWF, what do you do at home? I enjoy a wide variety of activities including more hiking and backpacking, hunting, fishing, skiing, river floating and traveling. I am also involved in the care and maintenance of my girl friend's 20 forested acres near Bigfork, MT where we garden, thin and plant trees, burn brush and gather firewood.

► What's your favorite backcountry meal? We usually start with some kind of a packaged rice, pasta or bean dinner and then add veggies we've dried from the garden such as tomatoes, peppers, beans, peas and onions. We may add a little sharp cheese or canned meat such as salmon, turkey or chicken.

► What piece of camping gear is essential for you in the woods? It's difficult to narrow it down to one thing but I suppose it is a pair of good well-fitting hiking boots. Since your feet are your mode of transport in the backcountry, it is essential that they are well supported, comfortable and in good condition.

The Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation coordinates trail projects for individuals as well as groups such as the National Smokejumper Association. If you have a group of co-workers, outdoor friends or club that is interested, please contact Shannon Freix at shannon@thebmwf.org or 863.5411 to design a project.



Bill Thomas (left) and Daniel Skaggs worked on a BMWF volunteer project and replaced failing culverts on Bruce Creek on the east side of The Bob, 2006.



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MISSION STATEMENT

THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION ASSISTS IN MAINTAINING AND RESTORING THE TRAIL SYSTEM OF THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX WITH NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, YOUTH GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS. WE FOSTER WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP SKILLS AND EDUCATION THROUGH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTANA'S PREMIER WILDERNESS AREA AND SURROUNDING WILD LANDS.

WILDERNESS FASHION CORNER

Well, not exactly from the runways of Paris, but from our offices of Whitefish come the newly designed Bob Marshall Wilderness t-shirt! With the man himself, Bob Marshall takes center stage on our new olive green t-shirts. Now you can take Bob with you wherever you go. I'm with Bob!

You can order yours on the BMWF website: www.thebmwf.org under the Merchandise link. Men's sizes M, L, L and XXL are available and more-tailored women's shirts are available in S, M, and L. For \$20 you're supporting our trails program and improving your wardrobe.

Old t-shirt designs will be given with donations over \$100 or can be ordered at the collector's edition price of \$10 each. You can also check those out online at www.thebmwf.org.





BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

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I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION!

All members will be entitled to all issues of the BMWF newsletter, will receive email updates regarding BMWF events and projects and will be invited to attend the BMWF Annual Members Meeting. All donations over \$100 will receive a short-sleeved t-shirt. Please make checks out to Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and send to PO Box 903, Whitefish, MT 59937. Thank you for your support!

Name: _____

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Membership Levels:

- \$25 Trail Crew Member
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- \$100 Trail Foreman*
- \$250 Trail Boss*
- \$500 Trail Sponsor*
- \$1000+ Wilderness Partner*
- \$_____ Other Amount

You can also make a donation to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation online with your credit card or debit card at www.thebmf.org. Go to the "Support the BMWF" link and use our secure PayPal account.

*Please indicate your t-shirt size: S M L XL XXL
Color (circle one): Blue or Green