



## OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> SEASON ON THE TRAIL: THE 2007 PROJECTS ARE ONLINE & FILLING UP

We've put together some great projects this year all over the Bob Marshall Wilderness and surrounding areas — now we need you to make them a success!

Can't decide between the Rocky Mountain Front or the Great Bear Wilderness? From day trips, weekend, and week-long trips there's a variety of schedules and locations. If you like to hike and the outdoors, that's enough. For most projects, you need no prior trail work experience, just a great attitude.

Check out the brief descriptions in the newsletter, then head to the nearest computer to sign up. You'll find more details about the projects and how to register online. Contact the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation if you have more specific questions about anything at: 406.863.5411 or [trails@thebmwf.org](mailto:trails@thebmwf.org). See ya on the trail!



Register online at:  
[www.thebmwf.org](http://www.thebmwf.org)



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

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## FEATURED VOLUNTEER: KONA THE LLAMA



Our volunteers are the best and we want everyone to know it so we've added a "Featured Volunteer" section to our newsletter. We'll showcase an individual or group here each issue to thank them for their support and hard work.

This time we'd like you to meet Kona. He's a llama that has packed for the BMWF in the past and has already signed up for two projects!

► **What was your first volunteer project with BMWF?** My first BMWF project was the West Fork of the Sun trip last June when I took two of my cohorts, Bo and Levi out on their first service trip to show them the ropes.

► **How many times have you worked with BMWF?** I've been on two trips with BMWF since I moved to Montana a little over a year ago and I've done several with CDTA in NW Wyoming. My owners have packed in the Bob a lot but that was before I was born.

(more on page 7)



## HERE THEY ARE FOLKS: BMWFW PROJECTS FOR 2007



Day Trip: Participants should bring a daypack with lunch, snacks, water and lightweight rain gear. Sturdy boots, long pants and work gloves are required. Tools and safety gear will be provided.



Front country camping trip and you will be asked to provide your own gear. Sturdy boots, long pants and work gloves are required. Tools, safety gear and food will be provided.



Backcountry camping trip with primitive campsites and you will be asked to provide your own gear. Sturdy boots, long pants and work gloves are required. Tools, safety gear & food will be provided.

## JUNE PROJECTS

**Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**BMWFW #1 - National Trails Day**

**Registration Deadline: May 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting time and location: 8:30 am at the Middle Fork of the Flathead (Big River Trail #155) Trailhead**



Celebrate National Trails Day with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, American Hiking Society, and Montana Conservation Corps. The group will work on a variety of trail projects making this a great volunteer opportunity for all experience levels. We will work to clear these trails of windfall, remove brush from the trail corridor, and provide maintenance and possible installation of drainage structures. After work, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation invites volunteers to a BBQ at Devil Creek campground from 4-6pm. Rating: Easy-Moderate. Total Miles: 2-5 miles. Elevation Gain: 200-1800'.



**Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

**BMWFW #2 - Dearborn #206, Devil's Glen**

**Registration Deadline: June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Meeting time and location: 8:00am Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at Augusta Information Station**



We arrive to our work site via the Dearborn River Canyon; one of the gateways to the Scapegoat Wilderness. The hike in provides views of craggy landscape including Steamboat Mountain (8286'), Twin Buttes (7500') and Monitor Mountain (7739'). As the trail descends towards the National Forest boundary we hike through open meadows alongside the Dearborn River until we arrive to the craggy landscape of Devil's Glen. The crew will camp near the trailhead and day hike 2-3 miles to project work each day. Primary work includes rock removal and retreat as well as water bar maintenance and minor brushing/clearing. Food will be provided. Rating: Moderate. Total Miles: 3.5 miles. Elevation Gain: +870 -589 = +281' overall.



**Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

**BMWFW #3 - Blackleaf #106**

**Registration Deadline: June 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting time and location: 8:00am Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Rocky Mountain Ranger Station in Choteau**



This work area sits on the dramatic Rocky Mountain Front where the flat grasslands give way to the jagged spine of the Rocky Mountains. We will base our kitchen out of the Forest Service cabin that sits at the West Fork of the Teton River, and tent camp around the facility. We will tackle general trail maintenance including spot retreat, drainage maintenance and rock removal. Each subsequent day we will pick up our work where we left off so hikes will gradually increase from 2-6 miles over the weekend. If you live on the East Side and can't make it for all three days, you can still join us for one or two. Total Miles: 7.5 miles (thru hike). Elevation Gain: +1668' -1450 = +219 overall (6998' at pass).







**Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**BMWFW #4 - Ousel Peak #331 (East Side)**  
**Registration Deadline: June 9th**  
**Meeting time and location: 8:00am Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Hungry Horse Ranger Station**



This project is for those weekend warriors looking for a challenge! The route is short but strenuous--gaining 3200' feet from the trailhead to the peak in 2.3 miles. However, the rewards are worth it with views of Pyramid Peak (7399') to the south, spectacular vistas of Glacier National Park to the north and the Flathead Range in the distance. This early season trail maintenance project includes windfall removal, brushing/clearing, and maintenance of drainage structures. Heavy trail clearing and retread is needed near the peak. Don't forget to bring your camera! Rating: Strenuous. Total Miles: 2.3. Elevation Gain: +3690' -70' = +3620' overall.



**Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> to Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**BMWFW #5 - Sunburst Lake**  
**Registration Deadline: June 9th**  
**Meeting time and location: 8:00am Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at Spotted Bear Ranger Station**



This project is based out of a primitive backcountry campsite located 10 miles from the trailhead, and 1 mile from Sunburst Lake. Sunburst Lake is known for its scenery, good fishing and is a popular backpacking and horse-packing destination. Stock users and backpackers are overusing many of the campsites around this wilderness gem, which has caused resource damage and general degradation of the area. Our goal is to rehab impacted campsites and stock use areas as well as possible collection of native plant material for future projects. Project work requires a 2-mile (one-way) daily trip to the work site at Sunburst Lake. Rating: Moderate. Total Miles: 10.6 (one way). Elevation Gain: +2200' -3148' = -1086' overall.



**Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**CDTA #1 - West Fork of Sun River - Campsite Cleanup**  
**Registration Deadline: June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Meeting time and location: 4:30pm Augusta Information Station and hike in on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**



Check out [www.cdtrail.org](http://www.cdtrail.org) for more Continental Divide Trail Alliance projects in "The Bob".



The project is located along the West Fork of the Sun River drainage, up to its headwaters near the Chinese Wall. This will be a roving project where we will move our campsite as we work up the trail throughout the week. This is a backpacking trip and volunteers are expected to be experienced backpackers, need to provide their own gear and share in camp chore responsibilities. You will be expected to carry all of your personal gear and possibly some tools. The BMWFW will coordinate pack support for food and tools. Work will include cleaning up campgrounds, campsite rehabilitation, and annual trail maintenance. We will also focus on cleaning out existing drainage and water-bars on the trail. Food will be provided for the week. Rating: Strenuous. Total Miles: 9 miles to first backcountry camp, 2-8 miles each day after that. Elevation Gain: 1000'.



## JULY PROJECTS

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**Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**BMWFW #6 - Pretty Prairie**  
**Registration Deadline: June 9th**  
**Meeting time and location: 4:30pm Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> in Augusta, hike in Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**



Noxious weeds pose an increasing threat to the integrity of wildland ecosystems, invading the native vegetation and disrupting the natural biological balance of an area. The primary focus of this project is noxious weed eradication (knapweed) around Pretty Prairie Cabin. This will be a roving project where we will move our campsite as we work up the trail throughout the week. Other project goals include trail maintenance including water bar cleaning and spot retread en route and possible facility maintenance. Although our kitchen will be based out of cabin facilities, we will be tenting under the stars. Rating: Moderate. Total Miles: 18.65 miles (thru hike). Elevation Gain: +2006' -2598' = -592' overall.





Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>  
BMWFW #7 – Skiumah #204

Registration Deadline: July 14<sup>th</sup>

Meeting time and location: 8:00am Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at Hungry Horse Ranger Station



This is a terrific day trip with easy access to a short trail that is in 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. Most of the work is the upper section of the trail and our goal is to reach scenic Skiumah Lake. This project is perfect for folks that want to volunteer, but don't have a lot of time or trail experience. It offers wonderful views, easy access from the Flathead Valley, a short hike and not too steep. Rating: Moderate. Total Miles: 1.58 (one way). Elevation Gain: +2017'.



Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> to Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

BWFW #8 – Blackfoot Divide #278

Registration Deadline: July 17<sup>th</sup>

Meeting time and location: 4:30pm Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> in Seeley Lake, hike in Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>



Hiking in from Lodgepole Creek trailhead, our path takes us on a steady climb up to Young's Pass on the Blackfoot Divide Trail. On the ascent, you can observe surrounding areas that were engulfed in a wild land fire back in 2000 as well as the subsequent forest succession of spared old growth invaded by new growth. The crew will make camp near Youngs Creek Pass (6900'). 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. We will be doing major clearing/brushing, drainage work and some minor rerouting and retread. Rating: Moderate. Total Miles: 4 miles to campsite. Elevation Gain: +1979' - 1396' = +583' overall



## AUGUST PROJECTS

Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

AHS #1 – Palisade Creek #25

Registration Deadline: July 21<sup>st</sup>

Meeting time and location: 4:30pm Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at Condon Work Center, hike in August 5<sup>th</sup>



Located near the crest of the Swan Mountain Range, the Palisade Creek Trail starts at the wilderness boundary (Lion Creek Pass) and travels down to the Little Salmon Creek drainage, which eventually flows into the South Fork of the Flathead River. We will be working to clear this hikers-only trail of downed trees and brush throughout the week with daily hikes of 1-4 miles to the worksite. Rating: Strenuous. Total Miles: 12 miles to the backcountry campsite. Elevation Gain: 3840'.

Logon to [www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org) to sign up. Go to the volunteer vacations page and click on projects in Montana. This project is AHS #42. A fee is required to sign up for this project. Please DO NOT register on BMWFW website to avoid double booking.



Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> to Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

BWFW #9 – Indian Meadows #480 & #482

Registration Deadline: July 25<sup>th</sup>

Meeting time and location: 8:00am Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Ranger Station



We start this project with campsite cleanup and restoration at Indian Meadows campground just outside the Scapegoat Wilderness. From the trailhead, the crew will travel up the trail doing minor trail maintenance en route including brushing/clearing, maintenance to drainage structures and spot retread. We will make an overnight stop at Webb Lake Cabin — don't forget your fishing poles! The project will finish up with travel out Arrastra Creek on with minor maintenance where needed. Rating: Moderate-Strenuous. Total Miles: 21.5 (thru hike). Elevation Gain: +2213' - 2236' = -23' overall.







**Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> to Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**BMWFW #10 – Spruce Point #677, Charlie Creek #330**  
**Registration Deadline: August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Meeting time and location: 8:00am Wednesday, August 15th at Hungry Horse Ranger Station**



The lush vegetation of the Middle Fork can impede travel on overgrown trails that don't see much attention. For this project, we hope to brush and clear Spruce Point trail and Charlie Creek to make these trails more accessible to users. We will backpack 6 miles along the Big River Trail and set up base camp at Spruce Park Cabin. This is a great project for volunteers with some or limited experience that want to gain more backcountry and trail work skills. Rating: Easy-Moderate. Total Miles: 6 miles to Spruce Park Cabin. Elevation Gain: +657' -600' = +57' overall (to camp).



**Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**BMWFW #11 – Our Lake #184, Headquarters Pass #165**  
**Registration Deadline: August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Meeting time and location: 8:00am Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at Rocky Mountain Ranger Station in Choteau**



On Our Lake, switchbacks guide you through a spruce-fir forest that eventually opens to jagged rock fields, sloping scree and crystal waterfalls. As you enter the alpine basin, Our Lake sits quietly at the bottom of the rocky bowl. Primary work on this trail includes drainage installation and maintenance, rock removal, switchback maintenance, and spot retread. It is common to spot mountain goats around the steep walls of Our Lake's basin along with marmots sunning themselves on the rocks.



Headquarters Pass is a main gateway to the Wilderness for pack strings and a popular choice for day hikers. Rocky Mountain, the highest peak in the Bob Marshall Wilderness at 9392', towers above you as you work your way up the switchbacks. The views are worth it however with vistas looking straight down the drainage of the South Fork and into the grasslands. Work will be focused on rock removal, with water bar maintenance and spot retread where needed. Camp will be near the trailhead. Rating: Moderate. Total Miles: Our Lake = 2.5 miles, Headquarters Pass = 3 miles (one-way travel). Elevation Gain: Our Lake = 1500', Headquarters Pass = 1950'.



**Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**BMWFW #12 – Blind Creek #171**  
**Registration Deadline: August 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting time and location: 4:30pm Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at Rocky Mountain Ranger Station in Choteau**



The twisted rock strata and jagged reefs of the Rocky Mountain Front make it one of the most scenic and dramatic places in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. On this project, a BMWFW crew will partner with a Montana Conservation Corps crew to complete project work on Blind Tommie Creek near Tubby Creek, part of the Birch Creek loop. Work will consist of clearing windfall, spot tread work, brushing, rocking and drainage maintenance and possible installation. Day hikes to work sites will be between 1-2 miles. Rating: Strenuous. Total Miles: 6.8 (to campsite). Elevation Gain: +2327' -710' = +1617' overall.



## SEPTEMBER PROJECTS

**Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup> to Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**BMWFW #13 – Schafer Meadows Seed Collection and Restoration**  
**Registration Deadline: August 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting time and location: 8:00am Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at Morrison Creek trailhead**



This project will involve collecting native plant seeds that will be used for future campsite restoration projects. Participants need no prior experience in seed collection or restoration. Seed collection is not strenuous, but restoration work may involve lifting, bending, and possibly carrying or moving heavy objects such as rocks or logs. Use of the Schafer Work Station will be available for cooking during the trip. Rating: Moderate. Total Miles: 14 to Schafer Work Station. Elevation Gain: +1417' -2305' = -888' overall.





Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>  
BMWFW #14 – Middle Fork Flathead River, Big River Trail #155  
Registration Deadline: August 24<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting time and location: 4:30pm Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at Hungry Horse Ranger Station



The project is located along the Middle Fork of the Flathead drainage, with Granite Creek campground as a rehab project on the way. This will be a roving project where we will move our campsite as we work up the trail throughout the week. This is an extremely popular area for hikers and Flathead floaters and the campsites are heavily impacted from extensive use. The goal of our work is to clean up restore and rehabilitate campsites. Rating: Strenuous.. Total Miles: 17.5 (thru hike). Elevation Gain: +3738' -3218' = +520' overall.



## HOW TO REGISTER

1

Go to [www.thebmwf.org](http://www.thebmwf.org) & download the online registration packet.

2

Fill out registration packet, make deposit online or mail a check to us\*.

3

Send us your packet via email, snail mail or fax.

\*Day trips do not require a deposit. Only overnight camping trips are subject to deposit.

## BMWFW BOARD CHANGES: SAYING GOODBYE AND HELLO

As we enter into the new 2007 season, there have been some recent changes in the leadership of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation (BMWFW) that we would like to highlight. Pete Seigmund is stepping down as Board President and Board Member Kurt Kress also moves on to pursue other interests.

Pete has been involved with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation since 1999 as a member and has been in the role of Board President since Spring 2003. As a Forester for the Department of Natural Resources, Pete has made significant contributions to the BMWFW. His motivating and upbeat attitude will be missed, but we wish him well as he and his wife expect another new arrival to the family.

Our Board is also losing another valuable member, Kurt Kress. Kurt's history with Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation goes back to the beginnings. He holds the title of First Wilderness Crew Leader for the BMWFW in 1999. He helped guide some of the major changes the organization has seen over the last year and, most notably, he offered housing to one of BMWFW's crew leaders last season--free of charge.

Looking forward, there have also been some additions and new roles assumed on the BMWFW Board. Chany Ockert is a new Board Member that we would like to introduce to our supporters. Chany comes to us with six years of experience in media relations, grant writing and fundraising. Our former Vice President, Fred Flint, will be taking over as Board President and John Phelps, an attorney for the City of Whitefish, will be filling the role of Vice President.

Thank you, Pete and Kurt, for all the insight and fun you have brought to the BMWFW and welcome Chany! Each of our Board Members offers their guidance as volunteers and we would like to thank you for your time, expertise and energy that make the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation successful and a great place to work.

-Carla Belski, Executive Director



Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation  
Board of Directors. Board members  
volunteer their brain skills and trail skills.



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► **Tell me a little bit about why you volunteer in the backcountry. What do you like? Why do you do it?** My owners, Dick & Jeanne Williams, got me involved volunteering on trail projects several years ago. They told me that it was my responsibility to help maintain areas that we enjoy. I've gotten quite a bit of satisfaction out of it and it's been a lot of fun!

► **Do you have any favorite spots in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex?** My favorite spot in the Bob so far is the place where we camped on the South Fork of the Sun last August. Good grass, pretty spot, shade when I wanted it and some mule deer came down every night and shared my dinner. My owners say that there are a lot of neat places that I haven't been yet.

► **When you're not working with BMWF, what do you do at home?** During the winter I mostly hang out in my field, eat hay and keep an eye on the other llamas who live in the next field. By March I start getting shed fever and tell Dick & Jeanne that I need to start going on short hikes to get in shape for the summer. When this start warming up there are pack trips to go on. I also help out with our 4H llama club and tell the kids at the grade school about all the neat things I get to do with my friends.

► **What's your favorite backcountry meal?** One of my favorite parts of backcountry trips is the food! I sample lots of different plants that I usually don't get at home and I love old dried pine needles (they taste like chicken). I must confess that I always get Dick to put a bag of small packer pellets in my pack for snacks!

*TCR Kona is an eleven year old male llama who lives in Plains, MT with nine other llamas, three dogs and BMWF volunteers Dick & Dr. Jeanne Williams. He's been hauling stuff around in the woods for them for 7 years in Wyoming, Utah and Montana.*

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the folks that have supported the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation by purchasing our cool license plates. With artwork created by artist Andrea Brew, the Bob Marshall Wilderness plates look great on your car and better yet, the proceeds help sustain our volunteer program on the trails and in the backcountry. If you haven't already purchased your plate, they only cost \$35 initially and then \$20 each year to renew. Contact the MT County Title and Registration Bureau in your area to get one.



## THE BMWF GETS A FACE LIFT

**Name Change:** We are now the Bob Marshall WILDERNESS Foundation (BMWF). Many of you know about our recent name change, but be sure to check out our new website address, also. You can find us at [www.thebmwf.org](http://www.thebmwf.org) on the Internet. The new change only seemed fitting to reflect where we do our work. Be sure to update your bookmarks in your browser and also your email information for BMWF staff. Carla Cline Belski, Executive Director: [carla@thebmwf.org](mailto:carla@thebmwf.org) and Shannon Freix, Program Director: [shannon@thebmwf.org](mailto:shannon@thebmwf.org).

**"Trails" e-Newsletter:** We are going hi-tech with an e-Newsletter. That means we'll send you our "Trails" newsletter direct to your email IN-box! This will help us be more effective with our communication and best of all we will save the paper, energy and costs involved with printing. Of course, if you don't have email, we will keep you on the snail mail-ing list same as always. To request the e-newsletter go to [www.thebmwf.org](http://www.thebmwf.org) and sign up. Thanks!

**Registration and Deposit change:** You can complete your registration 100% online now! Download the BMWF registration forms, fill them out on your computer and email them right back to us. Easy! (You must have the latest Adobe Acrobat version—free link on our website.) We've added a \$50 deposit for each trip this year; refundable or donate-able at the end of your project. This is to confirm your spot (trips can fill up early) and to help us avoid last minute cancellations. You can pay online through our secure PayPal account or mail a check to us. Check out the website or give us a call with any questions: 406.863.5411.



## BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

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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.



**BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS FOUNDATION**

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Membership Levels:**

- \$25 Trail Crew Member
- \$50 Family Crew
- \$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.thebmwf.org](http://www.thebmwf.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