



Front Range Back Country Horsemen (est. 1996)  
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*Working to keep trails open to saddle and pack stock today and for future generations through education, service and voice.*

*Without trails, where would we ride?*

## May 2023 Newsletter



**SAVE THE DATE**, FRBCH is requesting early access to the equine camping loop at Indian Creek Equestrian campground for late afternoon Friday May 19, Saturday May 20 and Sunday May 21. We will be camping overnight in trailers and tents at the campground, and taking a recreational ride on the Indian Creek trail loop on Saturday. Saws will be on hand to clear the trail if needed, and we may return to them on Sunday to further clear the trail.

Dependent on weather, as this is a soggy season.

Hope to see you there!

### Pres Sez

We're planning our first outing at Indian Creek on May 19-21, weather dependent, so let's all hope for good weather for that camp trip!

Now's the time to get out on the nice days and start to condition your mounts to get them ready for the higher elevations and longer trips starting in June. Also remember your spring vaccinations and Coggins test for the year, so you'll be all ready to ride!

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**Deadline for articles  
10<sup>th</sup> of each month!**

Don't miss the next meeting of FRBCH on Tuesday, May 23, will meet in-person at the Golden Library, 1019 10th Street in Golden. We will start the Membership meeting promptly at 6:00. That allows us to finish by 8 PM when the library closes. We expect there will be a speaker for this meeting, but that is not yet determined.

See you at these events and on the trail!

--John Chase by pjd



It was the perfect day for the 18 riders who participated in the [Mike Brashear Horsemanship](#) Trail Riding Clinic! This clinic was a success based on the many positive comments that were heard throughout the day by those that participated! The idea for this clinic came in as a mere suggestion of "wouldn't it be great if we could have Mike Brashear do a clinic for FRBCH?" That suggestion got the ball rolling last fall!! This clinic would not have been put together without excellent organizational skills of Karen Chaney. Several others pitched in to secure the venue, Courtney Cowgill, Karen Chaney and Donna Fleischer. The preselected trail was ridden and obstacles marked by Karen Chaney, Sandra Bankhead and Kim Berg. Joan Wealing was relied upon to ensure fees were reasonable and handled the "legalese" to make sure all "i's" were dotted and "t's" were crossed on waivers required by Happy Dog Ranch, Mike Brashear Horsemanship and FRBCH.

Mike regaled us with tips, jokes, Bible quotes and tales all mixed together with his insightful horse training. Everyone started with on the ground training which Mike equates with a pilot's preflight checklist. There were lots of questions and everyone had the opportunity to practice each step, work with Mike and correct, as necessary.

At lunch everyone sat together with Mike for more fun. John Spillane, owner of [Happy Dog Ranch Foundation](#) (HDR), gave us a short history and description of HDR's mission. (Please see their website for more information and to make a donation to their worthwhile cause.) After lunch everyone mounted up for more training with Mike.

Several riders had specific problems which Mike was able to address; such as the buddy sour horse, horses that don't want to stand still, training your horse to come to and stand at the mounting block and much more. In late afternoon, 13 riders participated in a 2-hour trail ride which included several water crossings, riding in sand bars, stepping over logs, ditches, hills, three bridges and a train. Some riders spent extra time with Mike while the trail riders were out and one horse and owner got one on one trailer loading training from Mike! We are looking forward to having Mike back in the future for more specific training related to FRBCH mission! Mike Brashear Horsemanship is available to do private training sessions at his place in Ft. Lupton. He quoted \$75 per hour to FRBCH members.

--Karen Chaney & Kim Berg

## **\*\*PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS\*\***



[American Horse Council Annual Conference Denver June 4-6, 2023](#)

Held at Le Meridien Hotel, 1465 California Street, Denver, Colorado.

The American Horse Council Annual Meeting at the Le Meridian Hotel (<https://horsecouncil.org/annual-meeting/american-horse-council-2023-conference/>). They have committee meetings and related discussions on Sunday and Tuesday, with Monday being the main conference event, there will be some very interesting topics being discussed. There are fees to attend this conference, but it seems a good opportunity to meet some interesting people and to get a broader perspective on the horse community in the country.

As an example of their work, American Horse Council did an extensive survey of the economic impact of the horse community, nationwide, in 2017, and they are re-doing that survey this year. **Here is a link to their economic impact study survey**

(<https://horsecouncil.org/economic-impact-study/>). (Taking the survey was eye-opening exercise for yours truly!!) We should all take this survey and promote any others in the horse community to take it too. The survey is open until September 29, 2023. Check out their other offerings at the link above. You can register for the conference there, too.

## **NOXIOUS WEED IN COLORADO**



*Centaurea solstitialis*, the yellow star-thistle, is a species of thorny plant in the genus *Centaurea*, which is part of the family Asteraceae. A winter annual, it is native to the Mediterranean Basin region and invasive in many other places.

<https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds/noxious-weed-species-id/yellow-starthistle>

**Yellow star thistle has been found in our vicinity (Jefferson, Douglas and Arapaho Counties, as well as in other areas of Colorado). See website for more information including map of where reported. Please be on the lookout for this and report it immediately if you see it (see website for how to report).** This is a List A noxious weed in Colorado and a single plant produces 100,000 airborne seeds. **Of particular concern to horse owners is this weed is toxic to horses and other animals.** It causes an irreversible and serious brain lesion. Nigropalladiol-encephalomalacia. This is a long word to describe death of dopamine producing neurons.

## **WILDFIRE SAFETY**

With the warmer months, also comes the threat of wildfire. There are two meetings regarding wildfire issues coming up in the next few weeks that we should all know about and consider attending. These are being put on by Evergreen Fire and Rescue and are open to the public.

The first is a community forum on May 23rd at Evergreen High School. This will primarily be a question-and-answer forum with representatives from local, county, state, federal and utility company representatives present.

# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE FORUM



Local, County, State & Federal Agency wildfire mitigation & preparedness experts invite Evergreen & foothills residents to learn how our efforts tie together to reduce risk in our Wildland Urban Interface home.

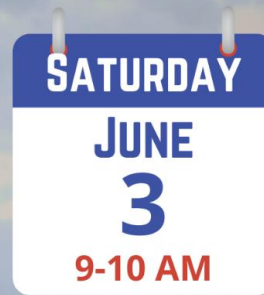
**Location: Evergreen High School Theatre Auditorium  
29300 Buffalo Park Rd, Evergreen, CO**

**TUESDAY  
MAY  
23  
6-8 PM**

The second informational meeting will be on June 3rd at the Evergreen Fire and Rescue admin building in Bergen Park (address on flyer). This is on defensible space and home hardening. It is really valuable information on what to do and how to protect your house in the event of a wildfire.

# DEFENSIBLE SPACE & HOME HARDENING

*How to Improve Your Home's Chances  
of Surviving a Wildfire*



Wildfire experts from EFR invite Evergreen residents to learn how to be your own hero and prepare your home for wildfire.

Location: Evergreen Fire/Rescue-Classroom  
1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen, Colorado



Please put these events on your calendars! Both will be very valuable and informative.

## **Book Corner**

Please share your favorite equine themed book titles. Send your favs to [pdyon54@aol.com](mailto:pdyon54@aol.com) Here are three nonfiction selections for this month.

### ***Lady Long Rider***

by Bernice Ende

Riding 2,000 miles on horseback from Montana to New Mexico sounds like a crazy but thrilling dream or pure hardship and exhaustion. According to Bernice Ende, the trip was all that and more. Since swinging her leg over the saddle for that first long ride in 2005 (at the age of 50), Ende has logged more than 29,000 miles in the saddle, crisscrossing North America on horseback - alone. More than once she has traversed the Great Plains, the Southwest deserts, the Cascade Range, and the Rocky Mountains. Along the way, she discovered a sense of community and love of place that unites people wherever they live.

### ***In Ethiopia with a Mule***

by Dervla Murphy

Dervla Murphy set out with her pack-mule Jock on a hazardous trek through Ethiopia's remote and hostile regions. Inspired by stories of Prester John and the Queen of Sheba,

she hoped to find beauty, danger, solitude, and mystery. Instead, she encountered rough terrain, exhaustion, illness, and the disorder of the Ethiopians' domestic affairs - all of which she conquered with endurance and good humor. Despite being robbed three times, Murphy found the Ethiopian highlanders were unusually hospitable. Out of her dependence on them and her increasing familiarity with their way of life grew a close and warm understanding. On reaching Addis Ababa, she concluded that affection for Ethiopia's people was the richest reward of her journey.

### ***On the Trail of Genghis Khan***

by Tim Cope

The relationship between man and horse on the Eurasian steppe gave rise to a succession of rich nomadic cultures. Among them were the Mongols of the thirteenth century - a small tribe, which, under the charismatic leadership of Genghis Khan, created the largest contiguous land empire in history. Inspired by the extraordinary life nomads lead, Tim Cope embarked on a journey that hadn't been successfully completed since those times: to travel on horseback across the entire length of the Eurasian steppe, from Karakorum, the ancient capital of Mongolia, through Kazakhstan, Russia, Crimea and the Ukraine to the Danube River in Hungary. A journey of adventure, endurance and eventual triumph, *On the Trail of Genghis Khan* is at once a celebration of and an elegy for an ancient way of life.



### [History Colorado - Lost Highways Podcasts](#)

History Colorado's critically acclaimed podcast, *Lost Highways: Dispatches from the Shadows of the Rocky Mountains*, expands the history of the American West by exploring how overlooked stories from the past have shaped current world events and continue to impact our lives today. A friend shared this information with me and I thought you'd find the source an interesting one; for your listening pleasure. There is even a horse related podcast, "A Wild Horse Isn't Just a Horse, Of Course."

## BCH National Newsletter

As a member of the FRBCH, you should or will be receiving your copy of the BCH Newsletter. If for some reason you do not, please follow the link below:

To catch up on historical newsletters or to read the upcoming newsletters please go to <https://www.bcha.org/blog/newsletter/> There's great info here!



### Upcoming FRBCH Chapter Events

Date	Task	Needed	Time	Filled	Open
Fri, May 19-21, 2023	Indian Creek Camp Trip and Rec Ride	No Limit	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	0	
Tue, May 23, 2023	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4	
Sat, Jun 3, 2023	Recreational Ride - Wealing Ranch	No Limit	9:30 am - 3:00 pm	8	
Wed, Jun 7, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	7	3
Mon, Jun 12, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	1	9



Date	Task	Needed	Time	Filled	Open
Tue, Jun 20, 2023	Sandstone Rec Ride & Chapter Meeting	No Limit	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	1	
Sat, Jul 8, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	1	9
Wed, Jul 12, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	0	10
Fri, Jul 14-16, 2023	Camping Trip and Recreational Ride	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	6	
Tue, Jul 18, 2023	Monthly Meeting	No Limit	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	2	
Thu, Jul 27, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	2	8
Wed, Aug 2, 2023	Trail Clearing Ride	10	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	0	10
Fri, Aug 11-13, 2023	BCHCO Rendezvous (tentative)	No Limit	8:00 am - 8:00 pm	1	

Use this link to view the complete detailed list and for sign-up. <https://signup.com/go/seVyPnj>



## Special Thanks to our Sponsoring Members!




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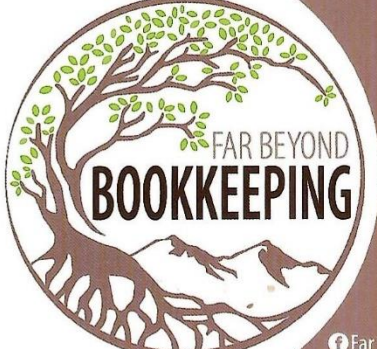
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 Far Beyond Bookkeeping Tools and Tips

Thank you for your patience and persistence for reading all the way to the end of this newsletter.

Your feedback is appreciated. Paulette PJ Dyon



Thanks, Aunt Florabelle! You taught me so much.