

# THE NORTH FORK

LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

## The North Fork Landowners Association is for YOU! Join TODAY!

Hello North Fork Landowner!

This newsletter comes to you courtesy of the North Fork Landowners Association (NFLA). Just because you receive this newsletter does not mean that you are an NFLA member because we send this newsletter to all North Fork Landowners. We invite you to join us! **Membership dues are only \$10 a year per person.** Your dues are important to us. They help us maintain the Community Hall and organize lots of exciting activities that bring the community together. We have activities for everyone, whether you are interested in reading, gardening, hiking, biking, dancing, birding, eradicating noxious weeds, or floating the river. [See the calendar events included in this newsletter.] We hope to see you at NFLA activities and meetings this summer/fall. To learn more about the NFLA, please see our informative website at <http://www.nflandowners.com>

Warm Regards,

Debo Powers, NFLA President

Dues for calendar year are good from Sept. 1, Aug. 31st, every year!

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**COMMUNITY POTLUCK  
AT BOWMAN LAKE!**

***Bring a side dish to share,  
hotdogs and burgers provided  
hot off the grill!***

**10 am 'til your tired  
at the Day Use Area**

**(bug spray, sunscreen and swimsuits recommended)**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!


#### MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> HALL CLEAN UP

 VOLUNTEERS *NEEDED!* LUNCH AND DRINKS PROVIDED, BRING CLEANING SUPPLIES


#### NFLA MEETINGS AT THE HALL

 JOIN US AS WE DISCUSS A VARIETY OF TOPICS CONCERNING OUR COMMUNITY. 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAYS, 8 PM MAY - OCTOBER.

#### JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> NF INTERLOCAL

 HEAR FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNING PROJECTS/WORK IN YOUR BACKYARD

#### PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

 TRY YOUR HAND AT CHURNING AND TASTE THE REWARD! BRINGING A PIE OR TWO IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. **JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30PM**, DANCING WILL FOLLOW

#### HOLIDAY DINNERS AT HALL

 STICK AROUND FOR THE MAIN COURSES SERVED ON THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

*See enclosed 2013 NFLA Calendar  
for more events and details*

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**JOIN THE NFLA FOR FUN, ADVENTURE, AND EXERCISE!** There are many outdoor activities that are more successful and enjoyable if they are scheduled on a day with good weather. Rather than schedule hiking and biking activities a half a year in advance and putting them on our NFLA calendar, we are going to try something different this year. The following contact people will schedule activities throughout the summer. If you would like to be informed by e-mail when an activity is scheduled, please contact the following people. For those without e-mail, activity dates will also be posted on the new bulletin board on the porch of the Community Hall and in Polebridge on the bulletin board between the Merc and the Saloon.

**HIKING GROUP**— These are strenuous, day-long, high-mountain hikes on designated North Fork trails usually 10-14 miles long for those in excellent physical condition. You will need hiking boots, water, lunch, and bear spray. If you would like to receive e-mails announcing upcoming hikes, contact Debo at [debopowers@gmail.com](mailto:debopowers@gmail.com). Interested in the flora and fauna of our area? Visit the NFLA website, [www.nflandowners.org](http://www.nflandowners.org), for books and resources provided by the Trails Committee.

**BIKING GROUP**— These are moderate to strenuous bike rides on Forest Service roads usually 10-20 miles long. You will need a mountain bike, water, lunch, and bear spray. If you would like to receive e-mails announcing upcoming bike rides, contact Val at [valeriekcox@yahoo.com](mailto:valeriekcox@yahoo.com)

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**OUR BLESSING, OUR CURSE: THE ROAD.**

The narrowing of the North Fork road will continue this summer, at least through June, slowing town trips on occasion. Current progress is delayed just south of Big Creek due to weather constraints but will continue north. Camas to Polebridge will be treated with magnesium chloride once again thanks to RAC funds. Dust cost-shares for landowners are available each year. Applications are available online on the Flathead County Roads website and are due by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**THE NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT**

The NFLA History Committee continues to capture recorded oral history of the North Fork. At this point, fifteen people have been interviewed by various members of the committee in order to preserve our history for future generations. If you would like to listen to the interviews, they can be downloaded from the History Page on the NFLA website ([www.nflandowners.com](http://www.nflandowners.com)). We will also have recordings of the interviews on CDs that can be checked out at NFLA meetings for those without internet access.

**GARDENING WITH  
NATIVE PLANTS  
WORKSHOP**

HOSTED BY TERRY DIVOKY

***NATIVE NURSERY PLANTS,  
HERBS TO ORNAMENTALS TO FRUIT,  
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!***

JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 10AM  
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL

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## **FIRE MITIGATION COMMITTEE**

### **2013 FIREWISE DAY**

2013 marks the *tenth* anniversary of the Wedge Canyon Fire, which destroyed seven homes and twenty-nine outbuildings in the area between Whale Creek and Trail Creek. 54,400 acres burned. The costs of suppressing the fire and protecting structures exceeded \$50 million.

The NFLA's Fire Mitigation Committee is planning a FireWise Day workshop to recognize the tenth anniversary of the Wedge Canyon Fire as well as the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Red Bench Fire. The workshop will be held on **July 10, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to noon in Sondreson Hall**, immediately preceding the Summer Interlocal meeting.

First, we'll take a look at North Fork fire history, focusing in particular on the Wedge fire. Then we'll examine changes in the North Fork since 2003 that may affect fire behavior. Finally, we'll consider the potential impacts of climate change on wildfire in the North Fork. Tentative presenters at the workshop include Wally Bennett and Steve Frye, who played instrumental roles in efforts to suppress the Wedge fire, as well as our own Allen Chrisman.

### **FIREWISE COMMUNITY STATUS**

The North Fork's FireWise Community status has been renewed for another year, based on our activities in 2012. The North Fork has been a FireWise member for eight years, making us one of the longer-standing programs.

#### **2013 MARKS...**



**10 YEARS SINCE WEDGE CANYON  
25 YEARS SINCE RED BENCH**

### **FUELS MITIGATION GRANT**

In 2012, the DNRC awarded the North Fork community a hazardous fuels reduction grant. It's the third such grant that the community has received; well over 100 North Fork landowners have participated in the program. Monies are distributed on a cost-share basis, with the grant providing 75% of the cost and the landowner providing the remaining 25%. The total value of the grant, with landowners' share, is about \$133,000. Additional information about the program is available on the NFLA website.

### **FEDERAL AND STATE PROJECTS**

The Forest Service has two timber sales underway. The HayMor Stewardship Sale is in its final days. The Red Whale Sale is ongoing. It will resume this Summer and continue into next Winter. Planting projects are scheduled for the Red Dwarf, Red Whale and Werner Peak areas.

The DNRC has an active timber sale on the Coal Creek Forest. Work will resume this Summer. On the Moose sale, the DNRC will conduct a survey to determine the survival rate of the trees planted on the North side of the project. More slashing, piling and burning are anticipated on the South side.

As of March 1, 2013, most of the grant money has been committed to landowner projects. It's possible that we can obtain additional funding, contingent on the resolution of budget issues in Washington, D.C. and a demonstration of continuing landowner interest in the program.

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

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SEE ENCLOSED **2013 NFLA CALENDAR**  
FOR MORE EVENTS AND DETAILS...

*Join Val Cox, John Frederick,  
Tris Hoffman and Dawn LaFluer  
for the*

**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROBIN COX  
WEED ROUNDUP!**

**JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> 10AM-3PM  
MEET AT THE HALL  
(Lunch will be provided)**

**CHURCH SERVICES:** Sundays at 10:30am at the  
Hall July 7<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by Sue and  
Don Sullivan

**AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> AND SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**ASTRONOMY NIGHTS  
8:30PM ON THE PORCH**

**An educational evening presented by  
Mike Hawkulak**

**Porches provided by  
the Kinsolvings and the Harts, respectively**

**DANCE, DANCE DANCE  
at the Hall!**

Square, Line and Sock Hops,  
starting June 22<sup>nd</sup>, potluck 6:30pm,  
square dancing w/ caller 8pm.

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**THE BACKWOODS BOOKLOVERS** have prepared us for another summer of stimulation with four books. The first, **“The Best of Montana’s Short Fiction,”** by William Kittredge, is a collection of 21 short stories by great Montana writers. From saloons of the frontier to contemporary western women, this book offers thought provoking, diverse tales from across our treasure state. In the book **“The Wolverine Way”**, by North Fork author Doug Chadwick, we are taken on an adventure following the lives of a few “badass” wolverines. Their ability to maneuver and simply survive the challenging terrain and conditions in which they live, combined with a general lack of information about wolverines in this area, leave the reader intrigued to learn

more. In the third book Ted Gup, author of **“A Secret Gift: How One Man’s Kindness- and a Trove of Letters- Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression,”** shares the stories of 8 generations of Americans whose existence and continuation were influenced and altered thanks to small gifts given by his grandfather one bleak Christmas in 1933. **“Blink”** by Malcolm Gladwell explores many examples of the power of thinking, without thinking. Snap-decision making and the psychology behind it will make the reader think twice, or not at all, about future decisions.

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## **New Outhouse for Community Hall**

We have a new outhouse at the Hall! Actually, the house isn’t new, but the tank is. You should have seen Richard out there on his new tractor digging the hole on a cold fall day (actually, it took three days!) Once the tank was in place, Lee and Nat moved the old building onto the new tank.

The NFLA Board would like to thank the following people who volunteered their time and energy to make this happen: Lee Secrest (project chair, design specialist, building mover); Matt Nurdick (permits, engineering); Tom Edwards (research); Richard Hildner (excavation); Nat Johnson (building mover).

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## **LANDOWNER RESOURCES!**

**-FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS.** According to the FWP website, “Nine times out of ten, bears that repeatedly get into attractants around our homes are eventually euthanized.” Visit [www.fwp.mt.gov](http://www.fwp.mt.gov) to learn tips on living with bears and making your residence “bear friendly.” Contact Tim Manley, Region 1 Wildlife Management Specialist, at (406) 751-4584 to report bears frequenting your area.

**-DNRC** will spray weed patches on state lands if reported. Keep a look out and help eradicate weeds in our valley. See [www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov) for more details.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>**

## **NORTH FORK GARDEN TOUR**

**Carpools will leave from the Hall  
and the Merc at 8:30am**

**Tour begins at 9am  
at Debo Power’s cabin**

***Snacks provided at each stop!***

# North Fork Landowners' Association

## Membership Sign-up/Renewal Form

The North Fork Landowners' Association was founded in 1947. The Association owns Sondreson Hall at Whale Creek that serves as a center for business and social functions on the North Fork.

**Only property owners of record, their spouses and adult members of their immediate families are eligible to vote.**

Associate Members (non-property owners) may not vote. Annual dues for Active Members are \$10 per person; dues for Associate Members are \$5 per person. Dues may be paid by mail or in person at any NFLA meeting.

**Additional contributions are welcome.**

To join the association or renew your membership, complete the form and mail it with your check to the secretary-treasurer at the address below. If you are unsure when your dues expire, contact the secretary-treasurer.

Name(s) of applicant(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(must be property owner(s) shown on deed, spouse, and/or adult member of immediate family)

Name(s) of non-voting associate members \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if new, or write "same") \_\_\_\_\_

North Fork property address (if new, or write "same") \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I will access the newsletter and schedule electronically from the website. Please don't mail it.

*Even 50% of the members getting their newsletter from the website will result in a significant savings for the association.*

Please make your check(s) payable to the North Fork Landowners Association and mail to:

**NFLA Secretary-Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1603  
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912**

Voting members (\$10 per person)	
Associate Members (\$5 per person)	
Members additional contribution	
Patrol (\$10) *** and sign up below ***	
Patrol additional contribution	
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>	

### \*\*\* North Fork Patrol Sign-up Form \*\*\*

We of the North Fork Patrol hope you return to the North Fork to find your place intact. If you find a problem with criminal mischief, theft or burglary, report it immediately to the Flathead County Sheriff's office at (406) 758-5585 and to North Fork Patrol Chairman Mark Heaphy. In addition to patrolling properties, the North Fork Patrol pays a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any wrongdoers on the North Fork.

\*\*\* The North Fork Patrol is asking for donations of \$10 or more to provide funds for rewards and to compensate patrollers for gasoline and other expenses. To participate in the North Fork Patrol, **complete the entire form below and indicate amount contributed in the box above.**

\*\*\*I, \_\_\_\_\_, give the North Fork Patrol complete permission to enter my property to inspect the **exterior** of all buildings to detect evidence of a break-in or other crime and to report suspicious activity to proper authorities.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Property address and directions to property \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_