

Friends of the
MISSOURI BREAKS
MONUMENT

Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument *Newsletter*

Protecting and preserving the UMRBNM through **advocacy, education and stewardship.**
Summer 2022

What's New in 2022: Events, honoring a legacy, a change in leadership

This year reminds us take stock of our roots, to seek new opportunities, and to be thankful

Change brings opportunity. It can be difficult, but it can lead to spectacular new beginnings, and that's what we can look forward to with our upcoming change in leadership.

In August, FMB executive director Mikayla Moss will be stepping down from her position after just over 2.5 years with the Friends. From Big Sky Watershed Corps member, to program manager, to interim executive director and ultimately executive director, Mikayla has worn many hats in the FMB office, and she will surely be missed.

Mikayla will be leaving FMB to pursue new goals and opportunities, and we wish her well on her future endeavors.

FMB is seeking a new, full-time executive director to fill this position beginning in August 2022. If you are interested in learning more or applying for the position, please look over the job description and application process on our website at www.missouribreaks.org/get-involved/employment/.



"I have been so fortunate to work with some wonderful people on some incredible projects during my 2.5 years with the Friends and I will take with me countless amazing memories. I have learned so much in my different positions with this organization and I look forward to taking these new found skills with me in this new chapter. Thank you all who have made my time here special." -Mikayla Moss

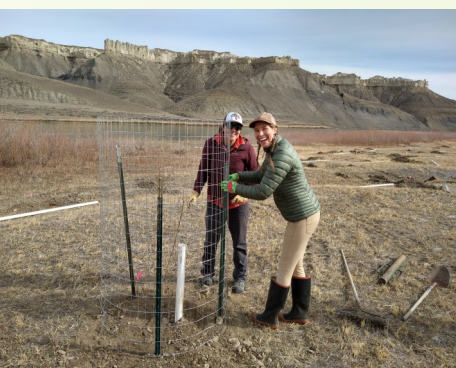


Hole in the Wall geologic feature overlooking this year's planting site.

Photo credit Bob Wick, BLM



FMB Big Sky member Ethan Weisgerber and BLM wildlife biologist Jesse Hankins cut cottonwood poles near Arrow Creek in preparation for the 9th annual Cottonwood Planting.



Two happy volunteers put protective fencing in place around a cottonwood sapling to prevent damage from browsing critters.

9th Annual Cottonwood Planting

March 19th — Hole in the Wall Campground

This year we successfully started off the 2022 field season with our 9th annual Cottonwood Planting. This year's planting took place at Hole in the Wall campground. With a bluebird sky and warm temperatures, the event kicked off with volunteers teaming up in groups of two to take on the planting of locally harvested cottonwood cuttings. Each tree was planted in 5- to 7-foot holes drilled by the Bureau of Land Management using a custom auger attachment. To ensure the health and longevity of the new plantings, individuals were tasked with the fencing of each tree to reduce grazing from wildlife. After being securely placed in their new homes, the trees were given their first watering using a small pump that pulled water directly from the Missouri River.

We had a huge turnout with 38 volunteers, including some hard-working kiddos, who are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. With their help, we were able to successfully plant 76 new cottonwood trees along the banks of the Wild and Scenic Missouri River, which will help boost the riparian health and wildlife diversity in the area. Thanks again to our many sponsors and partners on this project, including American Forests, the Bureau of Land Management, Fort Benton River Market and many more.

Over the course of nine years of planting and with the help of more than **230** volunteers, FMB has planted a total of **956** native cottonwoods

within the boundaries of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

We still need your help ...

While the planting of the trees is done, we still have to keep these young saplings watered throughout the summer months to help them establish strong root systems.

We are in need of volunteers (ideally individuals or groups of two) to join FMB at Hole in the Wall campground to water trees (open weeks are listed below). This is typically an all-day event, and volunteers should be prepared for some walking over uneven terrain. Dates are flexible so if you are interested in volunteering please email Ethan at ethan@missouribreaks.org to find out more.

Weeks of-	8/15-19	9/12-16
7/25-29	8/22-26	9/19-23
8/1-8/5	8/29-2	9/26-30





Volunteers crowd around the FMB banner after a fun day of planting trees at Hole in the Wall.



Hugo Tureck Award

Hugo Tureck, now a board member emeritus for the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument, was one of the driving forces behind the creation of not only this organization but the monument itself. He was instrumental in getting this spectacular landscape designated as a national monument in 2001 and was president of the FMB board for many of the 21 years the organization has been in existence.

The Conservation Lands Foundation had this to say about Hugo when he was named CLF Advocate of the Year in 2012.

"During the deliberation period of monument designation, Hugo was appointed as chairman of the Central Montana Resource Advisory Council. He worked with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Molly McUsic and the Department of the Interior, floating the river and conducting the hearings that led to the proclamation creating the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

"In his role as Chairman of the RAC, he was instrumental in fighting back the first threat to the new monument – an attempt by the newly elected governor of Montana and Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to 'undo' the Monument. Since then, he has fought back every threat to the area and embraced every opportunity to ensure its protection.

"Hugo spent more than 12 years guiding the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Missouri Breaks, working to protect the Monument from a seemingly endless array of threats. He has driven thousands of miles across Montana through all kinds of weather, talking to editorial boards, reporters, elected officials and key constituents. He has lobbied in Washington and has twice testified before Congress to oppose a bill to weaken the Monument and the Conservation System. Hugo has logged more hours defending and advocating on behalf of the Missouri Breaks National Monument than any other person on the planet. And all these things he has done while also running his ranch with his wife Judy in Coffee Creek, MT.

"Hugo was instrumental in the creation of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and has been a fierce, untiring and inspirational advocate for the Breaks and for the National Conservation Lands."

Dave Mari, who was head of the BLM's Lewistown field office when the monument was created, said this during one of FMB's Tune in Tuesday online educational events: "I really believe that we might not have a monument were it not for the work and efforts of Hugo Tureck."

In honor of the heroic work that Hugo has done to protect the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument has created the Hugo Tureck Award.



The Hugo Tureck Award

The Hugo Tureck Award recognizes individuals or organizations that provide outstanding service to the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument or the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument through advocacy, stewardship or education.

- Nominations may be submitted to the Friends Board of Directors by members of the public or by members, staff or board members of the Friends using the nomination form available at our website.
- Nominations may be submitted during the month of October.
- Nominations will be reviewed by the Friends Nomination Committee and forwarded with a recommendation to the Board of Directors for a vote at the November quarterly meeting.
- The award need not be given annually, but no more than one recipient can be approved by the board in any calendar year.
- The award will be announced on Jan. 17 of the following year in celebration of the monument designation anniversary.



Interview with Hugo Tureck March, 2022

FMB: You had quite a life even before you became a rancher and got involved with the Friends and the Breaks. Can you give us a brief history?

Hugo: Yep, I was born in Montana and raised in Montana, basically in the Gallatin Valley. I graduated from college, and I went back to Penn State. I came back and taught at MSU in Bozeman at that time, and I taught sociology. Then I transferred to Missoula at the University of Montana. Then I ended up marrying the farmer's daughter, and we ended up on this ranch. I still maintain a lot of ties with the university system, but that's the history briefly.

FMB: When did you and Judy come back to the ranch and the farm at Coffee Creek? How did that come about?

Hugo: It was in 1982 when we finally came out. It was going to be sold. Judy was the only living heir left. And if we didn't come, it would be sold. So I figured she lived in my world long enough, maybe I should live in hers because she was still a little farm girl. She never left the farm.

FMB: Tell me what compelled you to become an advocate for the creation of the monument. And how did you help that effort?

Hugo: When we came back to the ranch, I got involved. We have some [leased] BLM land. [Then-Interior Secretary Bruce] Babbitt had set up some groups. He was having ranchers who had BLM leases, if we were interested, to serve on committees. And I thought, yeah, I'll do that. So I signed up to represent us here in central Montana.

[Babbitt] came to Montana and floated the Missouri River, and it was when he was considering nominating that for a monument. And being that I was the chairman of the RAC in [central] Montana, the Resource Advisory

Council, I floated with him. And that was the beginning of my involvement.

... He nominated this as a monument, and being that I was a RAC member, I got involved and from that point I stayed involved.

After the monument was created, we knew that there were a number of people who really didn't want to see it created. So some of us got together and set up an organization called Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument to protect it from being unmonumented, I guess you could refer to it as.

There were a handful of us that created the Friends, and we did so with the idea that we were going to create it to protect it. So we set up a small organization and we grew from there.

FMB: You had several interesting exchanges with Bruce Babbitt during that time when the monument was being created. Wasn't there something that he said to you during the float trip about why he wanted to create the monument?

Hugo: He said that the BLM has been basically nothing but a development organization. And he said there's another role that it really needed to play that it had never played, and that was the preservation of landscapes. And so he wanted to get BLM involved in preserving landscapes, not just developing it.

We visited various sites, including down in the monument and in Lewistown. He wanted to have a big meeting in Great Falls. So we set that up and I was, I guess, the emcee of it. We had approximately 500 people there. It's a really large meeting, and I can assure you, the room was full of anti-monument people and pro-monument people.

[At the start of the meeting, Hugo remembers, he read a quote from A.B. Guthrie, who had told an interviewer late in life, "The best thing about living to be 90, young man, is you get to see a lot of sons of bitches bite the dust." The room was quiet at first. Then everyone broke into laughter, lightening the mood as Hugo had intended.]

I introduced [Babbitt], and he took over the meeting. And he was a master. The local BLM was going to run the meeting for him. He said, "No, I'll take care of this," and he took the microphone and went up to the front and stood on the stage, and I sat there on the stage with him. And he went around the room and asked people questions and had them speak in this audience. He was a master at what he did.

FMB: You were a co-founder of the Friends, and you were the president for many years. You worked to protect the monument during all of that time. Tell us about some of the highlights of that effort.

Hugo: The big highlight is it's still here and it's protected. And I think we as the Friends do deserve a lot of that credit. We worked tirelessly to make sure that it would never be undone.

I think the monument has come to be more and more accepted. There's still a significant number of people who would like to see it undone. But then there's just a lot of people who would love to see the BLM no longer in existence. It would not be a small number of people that would cheer if the BLM was going to divest itself of its lands. There are those who would just love to see the land privatized. I don't happen to be one of those.

I think we're always going to have to stay aware, because there are groups that would just as soon see most of this land in private hands.

I just think we still need to be very vigilant in protecting our public landscapes. We need the public involved. Especially that public that wants to keep them public because there still are attempts to privatize.

I [also] would like to stress the importance of keeping our wildlands wild. As we age as a nation, more and more people are discovering the lure of wild places. However, we must be vigilant in keeping them as wild as possible, not loading them with off-road motor toys.



Above: National Trails Day float crew after three days in the White Cliffs in early June.

Right: Volunteers at the annual Confluence Campout in mid-June. Volunteers heard presentations about the Lewis and Clark expedition and about native plants, and helped clean a pickup load of weeds and trash from Decision Point and Wood Bottom.



Some of the participants at our Barrels for the Breaks rain barrel workshop show off their newly painted creations.



FMB Mid-year Events Update

As usual, the year is flying by and we wanted to make sure we took the time to give you all a quick recap about the awesome events and projects that we have hosted so far.

Beginning with our biggest stewardship project of the year, our annual cottonwood planting (featured in the article on page 2), FMB has had volunteers out on the landscape month after month.

Following our cottonwood planting, FMB hosted our first-ever Barrels for the Breaks rain barrel workshop in Fort Benton. Participants came out to learn about the water conservation and watershed health benefits of using a rain barrel while creating their very own to take home. This was a great event put on in partnership with the River Network and Coca-Cola and one that we hope to bring back next year.

June is always one of the best and busiest months on the monument for the Friends, and 2022 kept that tradition alive. Five volunteers

joined FMB and BLM staff on a National Trails Day float in early June to help maintain cottonwood planting sites, water newly planted trees and clean up campsites through the busy White Cliffs stretch of the monument. They stuck it out through some pretty wet and muddy conditions – true stewards of the land.

Our Confluence Campout rounded out our June events on June 18 when 16 volunteers helped FMB clean up trash and weeds at Decision Point and Wood Bottom Recreation Area. They were rewarded with some amazing presentations by Larry Epstein and Ellen Anderson about, respectively, the Corps of Discovery and native plants and restoration work.

Didn't get a chance to join in on the fun? Don't worry. There are still plenty of ways to help left this year. Check out page 5 to see our upcoming events and page 2 to learn more about how to volunteer to water cottonwoods.



A large crew of volunteers gather to hear planting instructions at Hole in the Wall, located in the White Cliffs section of the monument.

Thirty-eight individuals helped plant 76 native cottonwoods on the banks of the Missouri River in mid-March to help restore riparian areas.

Welcoming our newest board member,

Steve Olson

We are thrilled to announce our newest addition to the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument's board of directors, Steve Olson. Steve is originally from Belt, Montana, and is a high school orchestra teacher in Great Falls. His commitment to his students and to the Great Falls community has made him a standout educator, and we look forward to having his unique perspective on our board.

Steve has attended several of FMB's volunteer events but initially fell in love with the monument while on a guided float trip through the White Cliffs. The landscape, cultural significance and historic tapestry that make up the Breaks motivated Steve, an avid amateur historian, to become more active in its protection.

Steve looks forward to "helping out in any way I can to keep the Missouri Breaks Monument preserved for countless future generations to come."

Please join us in welcoming Steve to the board!



Join the FMB Board

The Friends are looking for more new board members. Wondering what a board member does in our organization? Check out some of the duties below:

- Long-term planning and policies
- Working with staff to implement programs
- Financial management
- Making decisions to add new staff positions and other major long-term financial commitments
- Legal direction
- Fundraising
- Helping recruit new board members and electing officers
- Participating in monthly conference calls and quarterly meetings
- Serving as an "ambassador" for the Friends.

If you are interested in applying to become a member of our board of directors or would like more information about the role of a board member, please email info@missouribreaks.org to inquire.

Newly Updated...



2022 VOLUNTEER EVENTS

9th Annual Cottonwood Planting Event

Saturday, March 19th

Hole in the Wall Campground - @ 8:30am - 4:30pm

Barrels for the Breaks - Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, May 14th

Fort Benton Interpretive Center - @ 10:00am - 1:00pm

**Space is limited - Registration required - \$35 fee per group*

National Trails Day Clean-up Float

Fri-Sun, June 3-5th

Coalbanks Landing to Judith Landing

**Space is limited - Registration required*

Confluence Campout

Saturday, June 18th

Wood Bottom Recreation Site - @ 10:00am - 6:30pm

Bashin' Trash Missouri River Cleanup

Saturday, August 20th

Fort Benton Interpretive Center - @ 9:00am

National Public Lands Day - WSA Monitoring

Saturday, September 24th

Time and location - TBD

*To learn more about these and
other events check out our website,
follow us on social media or email us
at info@missouribreaks.org*



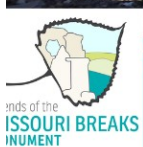
<https://missouribreaks.org>



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THANK YOU

Donors and bidders!

OUR ONLINE FUNDRAISING AUCTION WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

Over \$10,700 raised!

With the generous help of our auction item donors, bidders, and cash donations, we were able to raise just over \$10,700 during our Online Fundraising Auction. This total more than doubled our auction goal!

The funds raised during this event will help support our summer stewardship work this year including watering our cottonwoods from 2021 and 2022, hosting our Confluence Campout cleanup and cookout, supporting our WSA and maintenance floats and more.

From the staff and board at FMB, we want to truly thank you all for the remarkable turnout for this event, our success is thanks to you!

Thank you donors!

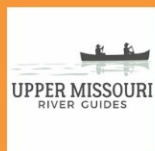
This auction wouldn't have been possible without the amazing items and experiences donated to us by some spectacular businesses, organizations, artists and individuals. Thank you for your support of the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument!

A very special thank you to Abel, Len Kopec, and their entire family. We were honored to help celebrate Abel's love for the Breaks and we hope that many more find the joy that he found out on the Wild and Scenic Missouri River.



Donors:

- Len Kopec
- Deva McKnight
- Clint Loomis
- Tom Corbett
- Karen Datko
- Upper Missouri River Guides
- American Prairie
- Missoula Fly Fishing Outfitters
- Montana Pilots Association
- Showdown Montana
- Montana Wildlife Federation
- Wild Montana
- Kevin League Photography
- Goodson Designs



And thanks to Lewis and Clark Taproom for displaying our beautiful canoe!

Become a member today!



FMB relies on our membership to keep our critical work going. By becoming a member or renewing your membership today, your \$35 membership fee will go toward helping the Friends support the monument.

Our mission to preserve and protect the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument through stewardship, education and advocacy is the guiding force behind everything that we do here at the Friends, and our work makes a difference.

By engaging people from all over the state and the country, we are helping to build a stronger, healthier and better monument for all to enjoy.

To join or renew today, visit our website at

www.missouribreaks.org/get-involved/membership/

Thank you for your support!

Join the Friends

Twenty years are officially in the books, and we are already halfway through another great year here at the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument!

Please consider becoming a member today and help us continue our work on and for the monument by visiting our website at

missouribreaks.org/get-involved/membership/

Protecting and preserving the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument through advocacy, education and stewardship.