

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs & Associates

Establish in 1932 for the Mutual Service and for the Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Recreation Resources

President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

For the last 84 years, members of FWOC have used their collective influence to accomplish marvelous strides in making this country a much healthier place to live. There have been so many organizations and individuals that have volunteered thousands of hours to promote effective conservation and environmental policies, not only in the West, but throughout the entire country.

I did not discover FWOC until the mid-1980s and was still in school when the Wilderness Act was approved in 1965. I took for granted that all the lands, protected by legislation, would remain protected forever. Unfortunately, there are many others who enjoy the outdoors which share that same opinion.

Only after meeting up with knowledgeable members of FWOC, did I realize my naiveté about how fragile laws can be, especially left unmonitored. Participating in FWOC provides organizations and individuals the tools needed to gain support for dealing with issues and concerns in their area. This year alone, several organizations and individuals have referenced and/or attached FWOC resolutions to their letters and presentations regarding efforts to address conservation and environmental policies. Legislators have advised us that FWOC does effectively influence decision making.

Shelley Spalding, Pacific Northwest Climate Action Liaison for the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, is diligently planning a dynamic program of speakers and subjects to build upon the success of last year's innovative convention at the Menucha Conference Center on the Columbia River. Great Old Broads for Wilderness – Northwest, will host this year's convention on Bainbridge Island in Washington State at the IslandWood Educational Learning Center. Tucked into a backdrop of lush evergreens, this model of sustainable development utilizes 255 acres of natural grounds to provide educational programs about sustainable conservation and environmental practices for young and old. Check out links from our website home page to learn more about IslandWood endeavors and view the latest issue of Outdoors West.

This coming year, your Executive Committee is preparing to launch a new Email Alert System, to advise those wishing to participate in discussions that impact western states and issues nationwide. A letter received in March is a great example of what good communication can accomplish. Though FWOC did not draft this letter, 116 organizations whole heartedly agreed with the contents and signed on to object to suggested changes in the Wilderness Act.

Returning this dues notice will align you with the rich history of the Federation's efforts to unite member organizations behind shared agendas of conservation and environmental goals.

Sincerely,

George Milne
President



*George Milne,
FWOC President
&
Past President,
Trails Club of
Oregon*