

The Red Rock Rag



Volume 13, Number 4

November 2012



The President's Letter

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Dear Friends,

What a great time to be involved with FoRRC! We have a lot going on and it is just the start. Indy Give! with the pond reclamation, a new website with future additions, and the 2013 Ten-Year Anniversary planning. I am glad to have such a great group of people to work with and rely on to meet the challenge for all these events. The Open Space will continue to need our help over the next few years - I am personally asking all of you to step up and give us a hand.

There has been talk about a Visitor Center near the Hwy 24 parking area, but details are scarce; we are keeping that in the back of our minds. By the way... we would love to have your feedback on this possibility - for or against!

On the new website, we plan on having a lot of new and exciting areas and are asking for your thoughts and inputs. I will be spending a lot of time working on the HISTORY pages. I love learning about the Canyon's past, from the Ute Indian days to Bock's influence, to changes in its beauty (stone quarrying).

The pond reclamation effort is going to provide the return of our gem! This is too big a project for the Friends alone; it will take the entire community to provide the funds needed to complete this effort. We applaud the City's willingness to help our effort by providing the above letter of intent to restore the Pond. This effort by the Park's Board of Directors is a needed boost for our Board to keep this effort moving forward.

I, and the rest of the Board, wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season, and we hope to see you on the trails!

Karl Klepfer, President

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

November 13, 2012

Karl Klepfer
Friends of Red Rock Canyon
17 Escondido Valley
Manitou Springs, CO 80929

Dear Mr. Klepfer:

Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services is pleased to work in partnership with the Friends of Red Rock Canyon to secure funding and resources necessary to restore water to the pond within the Red Rock Canyon Open Space. The pond has been identified as an important element within the open space and a valued part of the overall user experience. We are delighted that you are committed to sustaining this important community water resource.

Over the past twelve months, the Park Department has been engaged in an extensive master plan process for the Red Rock Canyon Open Space. Throughout the process, there has been significant community support for making the improvements necessary to put water back into the pond. Park staff has prepared detailed plans to address the challenges including resolving water rights issues, dam safety, and infrastructure improvements necessary to efficiently fill the pond.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be formally considering the new Red Rock Canyon Master Plan, including the recommended pond improvements, on January 10, 2013. Implementation of the proposed pond improvements will require creative partnerships and funding beyond the Park Department's current budget. The Board strongly supports the Friends quest to assist in raising the capital and operational funds necessary to make necessary improvements to restore the pond for today and into the future.

Sincerely,



Nancy Hobbs
Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

C: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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Events Calendar	
Indy Give! Campaign	Thru 12/31
KRCC Radio Drive	12/3
Karma Hour	12/18

New RRC Master Plan: A Vision of the Future

The citizen-input phase of the City's Master Plan for the expanded Red Rock Canyon Open Space has been successfully completed. Section 16, White Acres, and Red Rock Canyon have been combined into one Open Space. The Master Plan is a comprehensive set of guidelines for human use and protection of natural habitat. It has been quite an undertaking to consider all the needs and desires of all the user groups. The city should be commended for their effort and outcome. Tapis Associates, the firm hired to oversee the Master Planning Process, should also be recognized for outstanding work. They developed the data and facts necessary to make the hard decisions about land use in the Open Space.

There were many considerations and competing expectations which had to be integrated into one coherent plan for future development and preservation of the land. The new Red Rock Canyon Open Space has more human uses than any other public land in the Pikes Peak region. The user groups include: bikers (many types), hikers, runners, nature seekers, rock climbers, horse riders, family picnics, handicapped users, hang gliders, dog walkers, tourists, neighbors, and people who just want a rest from urban life.

There are over a half million people in our area, so the pressure on our close-in wild places is intense and growing. Without man-

agement, the natural environment will be overwhelmed by human use. The beauty and habitat of our wild lands will not be available to our grandchildren unless we protect it now.

So one of the jobs of our city government is to steward our wild lands and maintain habitat for indigenous animals and plants. Park, Recreation, and Cultural services staff have worked tirelessly to identify those biological, archeological, geological, and esthetically sensitive areas in the new Red rock Canyon Open Space that need to be protected. They have listened to our Friends group and others to find trail solutions that accommodate most user groups. No one got all they desired, but the RRC master Plan is a good compromise.

Now, we need volunteers to do the work of building new trails, maintaining old trails and closing off disruptive social trails. 2013 is the tenth anniversary of Red Rock Canyon. There is a lot that the Master Plan envisions that can only happen if volunteers show up. Our Friends of the RRC needs more help. Please consider joining our board in 2013 and becoming a steward of Red Rock Canyon.

Shanti Toll
Vice-President

Drink Beer for a Good Cause!



Our great friends at Bristol Brewery, 1647 South Tejon, will be hosting another Karma Hour for the Friends of Red Rock Canyon. On **Tuesday, December 18th** from 5-9PM, Bristol will donate one dollar per pint sold to the FoRRC. Bristol does this to help the community, instead of a traditional happy hour. The FoRRC Board and other invited guests will be on hand to informally talk about our efforts to "Save the Red Rock Canyon Pond" and other issues affecting Red Rock Canyon Open Space. We hope you can come in and share a beer for a good cause with us during the holidays.

New Board Members

SUMMER '12



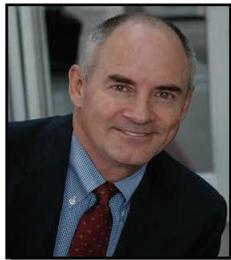
Ted Smith is a local Westside resident. Ted represents the local paraglider community on the Board and is an avid hiker of the Section 16 area of the open space. Paragliders fly off the Eastern point of the mountain overlooking Section 16 and Bear Creek Park. Ted is interested in helping to maintain and preserve our beautiful park for everyone to enjoy our natural surroundings for generations to come.

FALL '12



Courtney Hopkins is our newest member on the Board of Directors. Her greatest passions include hiking, camping, softball, volunteering, and experiencing new places. Her favorite place to hike is Section 16, which is now a part of RRCOS. She is an active member of the Colorado Mountain Club and the National Parks Conservation Association. Courtney brings new energy and a different perspective and is very excited about the opportunity to help the Friends with their social networking and to help get the word out about saving our pond!

SUMMER '12



Mark Owen is a Colorado Springs native, Mark brings his passion for outdoor recreation particularly in the Pikes Peak region and couples with it a strong commitment to the preservation of our unique natural resources and accessibility to our Rocky Mountains. When not working yet sometimes while parenting his two children, you can find Mark and his wife hiking our many trails, camping, fishing, riding mountain bikes and (kind of) running the local paths.

2012— A Busy Year for CATS



The Colorado Addicted Trail-builders Society (CATS) team had a very busy and productive year in 2012! We completed 12,775 feet of trails, had 1156 volunteer hours, and have five more projects scheduled through mid-December. We have completed 44 projects so far at Red Rock Canyon, Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Garden of the Gods, Glen Eyrie, and Eagle Lake.

Since the Waldo Canyon fire, we have been involved with flood mitigation at Glen Eyrie, Flying W Ranch, Blodgett Open Space, and Northfield, by Rampart Reservoir. We are getting training from Volunteers Outdoor

Colorado (VOC), Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP), Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), all organizations that are knowledgeable on flood mitigation. This training is invaluable going into the future with all the work to be done in the Waldo Canyon Fire burn areas.

We have 42 trail workers on our email list and hope to continue growing. Our goal is grow our membership so we can help other parks & trail groups with our expertise. Our group expertise consists of VOC crew leaders, Certified City (Colorado Springs) crew leaders, and Technical Advisors, along with experienced trail builders. To become a volunteer go to:

www.RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org/Volunteer.

New FoRRC Website Launches

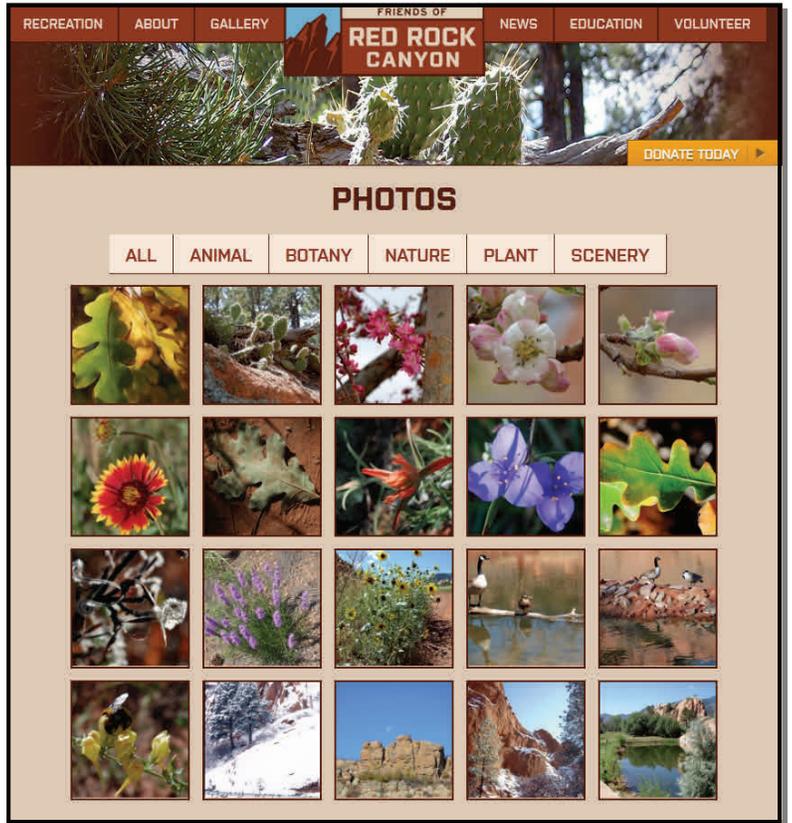
This past summer, the Friends of Red Rock Canyon Board of Directors commissioned a website development firm to re-design our website. The goals of the Board members were to streamline navigation, utilize current technology, and ease content and design maintenance.

The goals established for website visitors included creating intuitive navigation menus, informing site visitors of current events, engaging visitors with opportunities to get involved in volunteer activities within the Open Space, and to inspire and encourage visitors to experience this wonderful resource that has been preserved through previous Board Members efforts.

Top level pages have overview information and icons, making pages easy to scan to quickly find key information. The new, filtered photo gallery allows viewers to find and view photos that interest them. Our new look and feel carries the colors of the Open Space, displaying consistency throughout the site. The color palette chosen allows for contrast and natural definition of photos.

The new site will also display properly on mobile devices, allowing users to find information on-the-go. Take a look and let us know what you think! All comments are welcome; a feedback form can be found on the "contact us" page.

www.RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org



The Friends Give Back to the Community



On December 3rd, as part of an effort to raise community awareness of the Friends of Red Rock Canyon and to help our Public Radio station, members of Friends will be manning the phones in the opening hours or KRCC's Winter Membership Drive. Susan Davies of Trails and Open Space Coalition will also be joining us at KRCC. This is a great opportunity to further contribute to our community, and to grant exposure for the Open Space, FoRRC, and TOSC to the entire KRCC listener base, many of whom may not be aware of the park, nor our efforts to save the pond. Call in your pledge to support public radio between 3-7pm on Monday, December 3rd, and don't forget to donate to Friends of Red Rock Canyon through the Indy Give!

Save the Red Rock Canyon Pond Indy Give Campaign

As we published in our last *Red Rock Rag* (Sept 2012), the Friends of Red Rock Canyon kicked off a campaign on November 1st to *Save the Red Rock Canyon Pond* as part of the 2012 Indy Give Campaign.

The screenshot shows the Indy Give website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: "make a DONATION", "get cool REWARDS", "participating NONPROFITS", and "we are ABOUT". Below this is a search bar and social media icons. The main content area features a list of participating nonprofits, with "Friends of Red Rock Canyon: Save the Red Rock Canyon Pond!" highlighted. A "DONATE" button is visible next to the listing. Below the listing, there is a "What We Do" section with a small image of the pond. A "Matching Grant!" banner shows a \$1000 contribution from Mountain Chalet. At the bottom, there is a "Make A Donation!" button and social media sharing options.

As you all know and love our Open Space as the primary recreational attraction on our City's Westside, encompassing plentiful wildlife, historical sites, unique geological formations, and paleontological sites. The Friends are working to restore the upper pond near the Open Air Pavilion to a level which will supply the needs of the plants and animals, improve the local health and ecology, make an aesthetically pleasing and uniquely tranquil environment for those enjoying the open space, provide a source of water to help with fire mitigation and control, and properly reflect the history

of the property.



The Upper Pond in Former Days

Indy Give is well under way and the donations are starting to come in. The Friends were fortunate to receive a challenge grant from our long-time supporter Mountain Chalet (www.mtnchalet.com): If we raise \$10,000 they will contribute an additional \$1,000 to the pond restoration project!



The Give has offered up lots of cool prizes and gifts for its donors again this year, with the top attractions being a 2013 Subaru Impreza or solar panels for you home! As in former years, Give encourages young philanthropy, and there are special perks to younger givers.

As an incentive, the Friends of Red Rock Canyon will be including a free one-year membership to the Friends with every donation. Please contribute to this year's Indy Give, and to the FoRRC project as well, at www.IndyGive.com/forrc.



Many Ponds Over Many Years

We all know that the pond near the pavilion in Red Rock Canyon which many treasure and hope to restore is man-made. It is far from being the first man-made pond in Red Rock Canyon. In fact, the first man-made pond was not intended to be a pond at all. It was simply the lowest level in one of the quarries, an enclosed rectangular area which filled with water and looked much like a swimming pool. Once the quarry had shut down, this pool came to be used as a swimming hole by some of the kids from Colorado City. One of those kids, 13 year old Harrell Ross, drowned in that pool in 1904. The pool was still there when I visited Red Rock Canyon with my parents in the early 1950s. By then, it had become home to quite a few mud-puppies, large and memorably strange looking with their prominent external gills. They might have been perfectly content to share their pool with me, but I had little inclination to swim with them!

In his book, In Red Rock Canyon Land, John G. Bock quotes a newspaper story which mentions this quarry hole:

His [John G. Bock's] first improvement project when he bought the property was to build a four-hundred foot wide earth dam across Red Rock Canyon in back of his home, which is on the south side of Fountain Creek. That dam directed run-off water coming down the canyon into one of the largest quarry holes. From the spill-

way it goes down a ditch and into Fountain Creek.

This description could only fit the Snyder Quarry. You would find part of the now filled "quarry hole" buried under today's picnic area parking lot.

The same story goes on to say:

During the past eighteen years he has built seven other dams in Red Rock and Greenlee Canyons. They range in size from twenty to four hundred feet wide. Bock says they are small dams, but are essential

to maintaining the beauty of the land. They have proved practical and have stood the test of time, Bock said. He added that he has never had one of his dams wash away.

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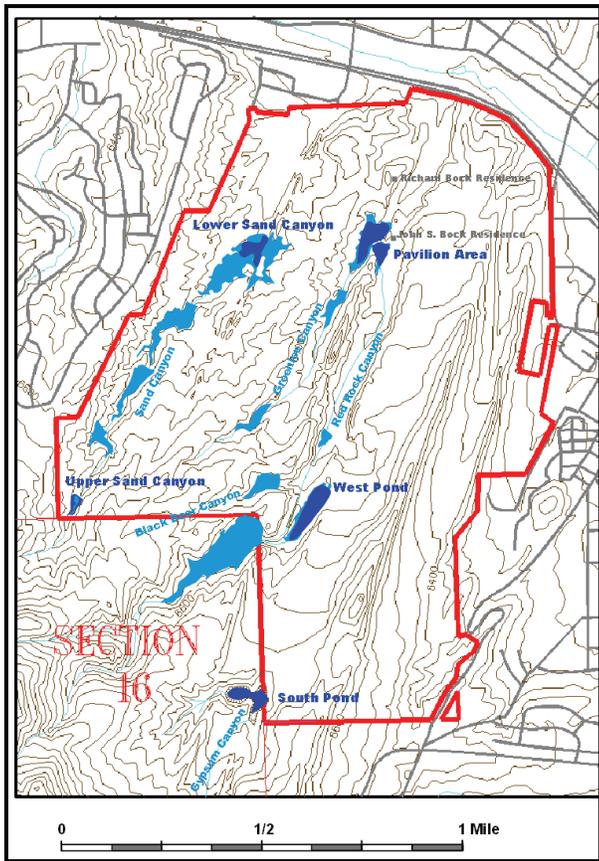
Bock explains his theory behind building the dams is to let

the area behind them fill up with earth over the years and then cover that area, that was once a washout, with trees and shrubbery.

So, John G. Bock built eight dams. Except for the "quarry hole", these probably impounded only shallow ponds which filled after a storm and soon dried out again. A low dam in Red Rock Canyon between today's pavilion and the Quarry Pass Trail may have been one of these. When the Red Rock Canyon property passed to Mr. Bock's sons, John S. and Richard, they had more expansive visions. The brothers Bock developed a grandiose plan for their "Red Rock



Canyon Project” development. Their development plan included 13 perennial lakes and ponds, five in Sand Canyon, three in Greenlee Canyon, four in Red Rock Canyon, and one in Black Bear (or Wild Bear) Canyon (the side canyon off of Red Rock Canyon south of the large Kenmuir (Greenlee) quarries).



The largest of these proposed lakes would have been impounded by a dam spanning Red Rock Canyon approximately where the canyon passes through the lower Lyons formation ridge a ways below where today's Roundup Trail starts up from the Red Rock Canyon Trail. The lake behind this dam would have extended more than a quarter mile into Section 16. Fortunately, that dam was never built. Apparently, dams for five of the other ponds were built and remain today. In addition to these five dams laid out in the “Red Rock Canyon Project” plan, the former landfill acts as a dam which

sometimes impounds a pond, called the “South Pond,” which extends up Gypsum Canyon into Section 16.

The original grand vision for all of the lakes and ponds in the “Red Rock Canyon Project” might have failed to take account of the fact that flow from Red Rock Canyon’s intermittent streams was not sufficient to keep the lakes and ponds full. In 1976 Richard Bock sought and obtained Council approval for the Colorado Springs Department of Public Utilities to sell him 32 to 35 acre feet of water to augment the pond near his house. Mayor Ochs described the sale as a “one shot” deal.

It is not clear now when the “West Pond” was created. It was probably created by John S. Bock a few years after 1976. And, Mr. Bock apparently designed it as a reservoir to hold water which could be released to maintain the water level in the pond near his house, rather than as an aesthetic feature. The “West Pond” is located near where today’s Red Rock Canyon Trail intersects the Red Rock Rim Trail or Lion Trail. It is a deep depression with significant capacity. Near its low point is a drain pipe. We have been told that flow through the drain is controlled by a valve which is located in a man-hole-like shaft northeast of the pond and that John S. Bock used this valve to control the release of water down toward the pond by his home.

1976, when Richard Bock purchased water for his pond, was a prelude to the situation we face today. The decade 2000-2010 was the second driest decade on record, behind only the dust bowl decade of the 1930s; and the drought has continued since 2010. The ponds near the pavilion have shrunk to mere puddles; and the other ponds have long been dry. So, we are now faced with the challenge of again bringing water from a Utilities' water main to



Many Ponds...concluded

the pond by the pavilion, just as Richard Bock once did. Since the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services decided to abandon John S. Bock's water tap and the water line which had previously served his house, the cost will be high.

While the immediate problem is to fill this one pond, we might also recognize that the entire array of dams is a system which catches storm water and reduces storm water run-off into Fountain Creek. Thus, Red Rock Canyon's dams help the city meet its obligation to avoid downstream flooding. The South Pond provides an example of the value of these dams in reducing storm water runoff. Its 185 acre drainage basin is less than 16% of the entire Red Rock Canyon drainage basin, yet in the very wet spring of 1999 the South Pond was close to 30 feet deep and retained nearly 25 acre feet of water.

Thank you to Don Ellis for contributing this article

Celebrate Red Rock Canyon Day! a Huge Success

The Friends hosted Celebrate Red Rock Canyon Day on Saturday, October 20th from 9am to 3pm. This was a day to celebrate, enjoy and become involved with Red Rock Canyon. We offered opportunities to learn about the various organizations and groups supporting and using Red Rock Canyon,



worked on our trails and facilities, took tours of the Open Space, and showed ways to personally get involved. The weather cooperated and made the day even greater.

We want to thank these organizations which joined us: The **Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo** which offered a presentation with their birds, The **Colorado Bounce**

House which supplied a kids bouncer for the day, The **Palmer Land Trust**, Don Ellis and Sharon Milito signing copies of their book *Geologic Folio Red Rock Canyon Open Space*, Ruth Obee signing copies of her book *History in Stone* (joining Ruth were Leigh and Scott who performed their music throughout the day), paragliding information and demonstrations by Ted Smith, **Mountain Chalet**, **City Rock**, **CATS** (Trail Builders), and the **Colorado Springs Park & Recreation Department**. **La Casita** provided a lunch of burritos and tacos for all



the volunteers. Stewardship of the open space was accomplished by the work of over 20 volunteers. Three social trails close to the main parking lot were closed and restored. The Friends led informative hikes, including one to share information on upcoming fundraising with Indy Give. In many respects, this day was our kickoff, letting the community know, the Friends are working to save the pond.

Give to a Great Cause!

Dear Friends,

As mentioned earlier in this issue, we are in the midst of the 2012 Indy Give campaign to help “Save the Red Rock Canyon Pond”. Because we have a formal \$10,000 fund-raising goal (with a \$1,000 match), and another informal challenge grant of \$500, we are urging you to donate via the Indy Give campaign (www.IndyGive.com/forrc) for all contributions to the Friends of Red Rock Canyon now through 31 Dec 2012.



If you check your membership on the back of this issue, then you can see whether you are due for a renewal. Because the Friends are including a one-year membership (individual) for each Indy Give donation, this can serve as your renewal.



Indy Give (FoRRC)



Our website

If you prefer to donate or renew your membership by mail directly to the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, then please use our website at www.RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org. Finally, if you prefer to renew by mail and send a check, please send a check to:

**Friends of Red Rock Canyon
PO Box 6754
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-6754**

Whatever your preferred method, thank you for your generous donation and support for this important restoration project!

Friends of Red Rock Canyon is a 503 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

Contributions are tax deductible.



FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON

The Red Rock Rag

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

P.O. Box 6754

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-6754

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 **MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL DATE**



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Indy Give (FoRRC)



Our website