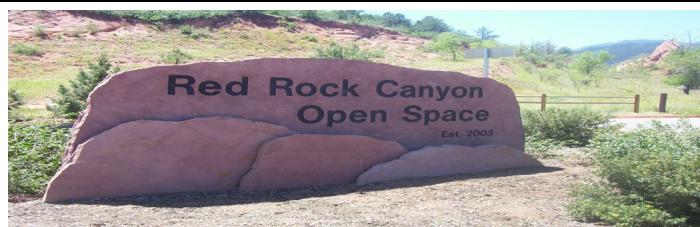


# The Red Rock Rag

Volume 12, Number 3

Fall 2011



## FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON

### *The President's Report —Fall 2011*

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#### Events Calendar

FoRRC Board Meeting	11/14, 1/9
Meet the Rep	11/19, 12/3, 12/10

#### What is the difference between a city park and open space? Why does it matter?

Folks – our open space at Red Rock Canyon (RRC) in comparison to Garden of the Gods (GOG) is different in rules and regulations, but the rock formations, flora, and fauna is about the same. So why do many people refer to RRC as a park?

Perhaps it is easier to say and relate to the other parks within the city's area of responsibility. Some folks get upset if RRC is referred to as a 'park.' Seems like a silly thing to ruin your day about, but let's take a look at the comparisons of Red Rock Canyon Open Space and its Northerly brother – Garden of the Gods.

Garden of the Gods is a city park with a very large Visitor's Center, paved roads that traverse throughout the park, paved hiking trails in some areas, lots of picnic areas and pull off vistas for the vehicular visitor.

Rampart Range Road starts its Northern direction

from within the GOG Park. There is a private well stocked Trading Post on the edge of the park.

Red Rock Canyon Open Space has no visitor center, has dirt roads within the space – which are now classified as trails, no paved trails or roads throughout, and connects with other parcels of land and trails. Red Rock Canyon has two off leash dog parks and a free ride bike corral.

Both park and open space are not fee based entry, cater to the outdoor enthusiast, and allow for climbing, biking, hiking and equestrian rides. They provide the citizen free reign in areas for bird watching, pets on leash accompaniment, solo personal wanderings, picnicking, and observing everything the land can offer. Both places are being 'loved to death' by the citizens due to overuse.

These places of great value and enlightenment offer the visitor a place of refuge from the perils of work and everyday living. Though

each place is mired in rules and regulations, the average person tends to follow the basic model of conduct during their visits. Be nice to the land and each other, don't litter, stay on the trail, don't take souvenirs, use some trail manners and be respectful of everyone's experience.

Soon, RRC will be expanded to a larger 'Open Space' with the inclusion of the White Acres parcel and the Section 16 acreage. The inclusion will be huge with more outdoor opportunities for the adventurous.

However one refers to Red Rock Canyon – it is a place of true value and historical significance. It is land for all people to enjoy a bit differently than a park, but sometimes more restrictive in its public venues. Park – Open Space, five canyons, quarry, the old landfill, hogback heaven – this land is enchanting and plain fun to visit. Call it what you want.

Bob Johnson  
President  
Friends of Red Rock Canyon

## FoRRC Photo Contest 2011

Thank you to all who participated in our 2011 *Friends of Red Rock Canyon Photo Contest*. With such a beautiful and diverse Open Space, we had some really great entries and a tough time picking the winners. The photos were entered in three categories, Botany, Nature and Scenery. Overall, we had 26 photographs submitted for consideration. Please keep those great photographs coming for the next contest. You can see all entered photos on our web site.

**Botany Category:** It was a sweep for Rhonda Van Pelt in this category for her brilliant blue flower, sunlit oak leaf, and oak leaf on the trail pictures. Congratulations Rhonda!

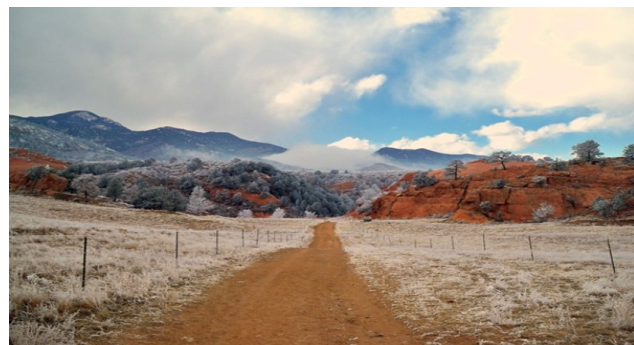


**Nature Category:** Both the winning and runner up photograph go to Rhonda Van Pelt for her pictures of a bumblebee hard at work and for

the goose and duck perched on a stick in the pond.



**Scenery Category:** Congratulations to Stephanie Beardslee for her winning "Take A Hike" photograph. Runners up go to Dave Dombach for his "Contemplative Trail" and to Rhonda Van Pelt for her photograph along the Ptarmigan Trail.



### Honor Awarded to OCCHS and Friends of Red Rock Canyon

The Colorado Historical Society of Denver has awarded the Caroline Bancroft History Award for 2011 to the Old Colorado City Historical Society and Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

The award is given annually to an organization that promotes Colorado History and public interest and involvement in history.

"Geologic Folio, Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Colorado Springs, Colorado", written by Ken Weissenburger, Sharon Milito and Don El-

lis was selected along with the OCCHS for publishing the book and promoting education regarding Red Rock Canyon's history.

When the authors wrote the book, it was a work of love for Colorado, history and our open spaces. All profits from this book have gone to the OCCHS and FoRRC.

This award is well deserved for all the interest the book has generated in Red Rock Canyon. Congrats to Ken, Sharon and Don.

Note: information for the article was obtained from West Word, OCCHS, dated November 2011.

## Meet the Board of Directors

### President—Robert Johnson

Bob was born and raised in Northern Virginia. He earned Boy Scouts highest rank of Eagle Scout in 1970. He served in and retired from the U.S. Navy after 28 years (active and reserves). Bob worked for Washington Gas Light Company, in Springfield, Virginia for 24 years as a Engineering Design Specialist.

He has numerous collecting hobbies and some of his other interests are backpacking, Civil War Living History Specialist since 1975, jogging, travel, rock hounding and nu-

merous activities in Boy Scouts of America including instructing, teaching and counseling adult leaders.

Bob earned his Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management – Human Resource, Alpha Sigma Lambda, *Sigma Nu* in 2007 from Colorado Christian University.

Bob and his wife, Connie, left Virginia July of 2000 and embarked on a twenty-one week road tour of the United States. The Johnson's now reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado since December of 2000.

Bob is very active with several non-profit trail building organizations here in Colorado. He leads crews to construct or repair Colorado trails. He is a trained OSI/VOC trail crew leader and trail building instructor and has been teaching Coloradoans how to build and repair trails for the past six years. He can be found most summer evenings and weekends repairing, re-routing, and maintaining trails in Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

Email your comments to Bob at [friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org](mailto:friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org) with his name in the Subject line.



### BOTANY

### Western Yellow Salsify (*tragopogon dubius*)



asparagus. Natives of British Columbia chewed the coagulated milk from yellow salsify stems like gum.

Yellow salsify grows as an annual, biennial per-

This versatile plant is currently showing up in RRCOS. Not a native, it is believed to be introduced from Europe for its medicinal properties. It is edible and has been used to treat dog or coyote bites, boils, sore throats, and internal injuries of horses. The roots were once eaten as carrots and the stalks served like

ennial growing between 12 to 39 inches tall. Found in the plains to the foothills, it provides forage for mule deer, goats and sheep, small mammals, birds, and livestock. It may also be consumed by bears. Seeds, flowers, foliage, and roots are eaten.

It has a beautiful dandelion-like flower followed by a large puff-ball seed-head. Due to the seed head it is sometimes referred to as Goat's Beard. The flowers are hermaphrodite (have both male and female organs) and are pollinated by Insects. Its leaves resemble a grass. Although they can remain vegetative for up to 10 years the plant dies after flowering. A sun lover, it can grow in almost any soil.

Coreen Toll  
Colorado Master Gardener

Email your comments to Coreen at [friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org](mailto:friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org) with her name in the Subject line.



## TRAILBUILDING

## Urban Trail Building Design Editorial

It is time for a review of Urban Trail Building design. The way in which open space is being used by city dwellers is changing. The Friends of Red Rock Canyon have built and maintained trails for over six years in Red Rock Canyon Open Space. We have done surveys of parking, time use and activity use for the open space. Our information is only anecdotal but does have some insight worth considering.

My first observation is that the most common usage of our open space is for visitors to spend around two hours of strolling through Red Rock Canyon enjoying the beauty of nature, the sensations of a pleasant sunny day and to experience a change of pace from their work and daily life. Perhaps, the most common groupings are families with young children and often grandparents. Another common group is those who just want to get away from people and explore /connect with nature. People just want to have a good time in nature with friends and family.

Second observation is that runners, hikers, bikers and rock climbers, in urban open space, vary widely in their skill level and conditioning compared to open space users far from cities. Urban users need more groomed trails to allow for better safety for the inexperienced athletes.

Third observation is that trails and land close to parking lots (within 3/4 mile) get a huge amount of traffic compared to land and trails a mile or more

away. Very heavy traffic encourages users to get off the designated trails to find a sense of freedom and nature. The closer the trails are to parking lots, the more renegade paths are created.

Fourth observation is that there are conflicting needs and wishes for trail design between the user groups. Steps are more difficult for bikers but they are better for trail preservation and safer for hikers. Speed and banked turns are more fun for bikers but fast bikes are unsettling and dangerous for walkers. The extra wide trail corridors and wide trail tread required for horses can be boring and less intimate for some users.

Fifth observation is that volunteers do not have the time, numbers and motivation to really maintain all of the urban open space trails at their optimum level. The job is just too big. The different user groups put different amounts of pressure and deterioration on both trails and habitat. Part of the purpose of the open space is to protect natural environments. Citizens can help park and recreation departments but cannot be primarily responsible for the maintenance of the open spaces???. Open space planning must be realistic when considering the sustainability of urban wild habitat .

I know that the City wants to have all trails in Open Space be multi use, however one size does not always fit all and that is not even the reality. We can better accommodate the needs of habi-

tat and all the user groups by having slight differences in trails. Sure trails can be defined as legal for all users [enforcement is impossible anyway] but some trails can be constructed to be enticing for one user group or another. Close to parking lots there should be many more short loops hiking trails???. Some trails close-in should be wide thoroughfares encouraging bikers to safely and quickly reach the challenging biking trails further in. Some trails may have steps and smoother tread for runners and walkers. Other trails may have banked turns and longer views that bikers like. Horse people can have wider trails with taller corridors.

To make this all happen, the City will have to shepherd its volunteer energy wisely. Trail-building machines should be used where they have access and can safely work without destroying the environment. User groups can help fund the machines for the trails that are important to save the human volunteers for where the trail machine can't go.

All user groups of the open spaces need to work together to adapt our trail maps and designs to accommodate all the different types of urban uses.

Written by: Shanti Toll

Emails your comments to Shanti at [friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org](mailto:friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org) with his name in the Subject line.

## TRAILBUILDING

## TOOLS FOR THE TRAIL — Part 2 — “Pulaski”

*Note: This is Part 2 of a series of articles providing a brief history of the tools used today on the trail.*

Pulaski - the trail tool of many trail builders has a history. What makes this tool so popular, yet so dangerous? Perhaps a quick look at the origins of this tool and then a comparison of its application may be enlightening.

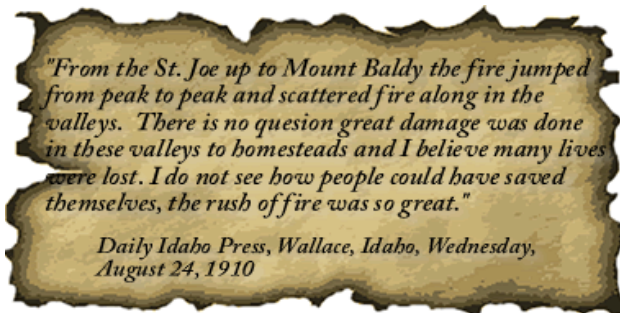


Ed Pulaski was born in 1868 in Ohio. There is some debate that he was the great-grandnephew of the Revolutionary War hero – Kazimierz Pulaski. By the time he was 40 years of age, he moved

west and worked as a miner, railroad worker and even tried his hand as a ranch foreman. In 1908, Ed joined the US Forest Service as a Forest Ranger on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest. Two years later, Idaho and the Montana area suffered the driest weather conditions to date – thus sparking thousands of small brush fires throughout the state of Idaho. A run away fire soon blossomed into the “Great Idaho Fire” [Big Blow Up]

and on August 20<sup>th</sup> all Forest Service rangers were called into action to battle this fire which threatened several towns.

Ed's crew was mobilized from the town of Wallace, ID. He commanded 45 firefighters as they marched into the firefight.



Nobody realized the intensity of this particular fire event as the blazes raced up the mountain. Soon, his crew became trapped in the firestorm and Ed Pulaski had no choice but to order his men into an abandon mine shaft and told them to lie down or otherwise be shot. He was serious and threaten to pistol shoot anyone that tried to leave the mine. The crew endured intense heat and suffocating smoke by lying down prone in the mine where there is no oxygen. Everyone passed out – but in the morning, 40 men were able to make their way back to Wallace and tell the tale of heroism that Pulaski performed.

The Idaho Fire must have had some effect on Ed Pulaski firefighting mentality as the next year he figured out that two tools were cumbersome and he fashioned a new tool that worked as one. “Pulaski, still recovering from his 1910 ordeal, first created the tool in his own blacksmith shop in 1911 and perfected it over the next several years. Similar tools had been in use before for clearing land, but not for firefighting. This new tool was christened the Pulaski right from the beginning.”



## Great Fire of 1910



Little North Fork of the [St. Joe River](#), Idaho

Location	<a href="#">Washington</a> , <a href="#">Idaho</a> , <a href="#">Montana</a>
Date	August 20–21, 1910
Burned area	3,000,000 acres (12,000 km <sup>2</sup> )
Ignition source	not officially determined
Land use	<a href="#">logging</a> , <a href="#">mining</a> , <a href="#">railroads</a>
Fatalities	87

—Continued next page—

## TRAILBUILDING

## TOOLS FOR THE TRAIL — Part 2 — “Pulaski”

—Continued from Page 5—

The strange new tool was obviously named after the after the inventor. “The Pulaski came into wide use by the Forest Service after 1913, and in 1920 the Forest Service began contracting for the tool to be commercially manufactured.”<sup>2</sup>

“Developed to grub and chop duff during forest fires, the Pulaski combines an axe bit with an adz-shaped grub hoe on a 36 inch wood or fiberglass handle and weigh about 5½ pounds. It is preferred by many trail crews for loosening dirt, cutting through roots, or grubbing brush because it is widely available and easier to carry than single-purpose tools. Unlike grub hoes or mattocks the Pulaski is a sharp-edged tool, and should not be used in rocky soil. With the bit and adz keenly honed, a Pulaski is an excellent woodworking tool for shaping the notches and joints of turn-pikes, bridges, and other timber projects. A sharpened Pulaski should be marked to discourage anyone from mistakenly dulling a Pulaski meant for timber work by using it for digging.” “When using the hoe, stand bent at the waist with your back straight and parallel to the ground, knees flexed, and one foot slightly forward. Hold the handle with both hands so the head is at an angle to your body, and use short, smooth, shallow swings. Let the hoe hit the ground on its corner. Use the ax end to chop large roots after the dirt has been cleared by the

hoe. Always wear safety goggles while grubbing to guard against flying chips of rock and dirt. “

“Carry the Pulaski at your side. Grip the handle firmly near the head and point the ax end away from your body and down. Sharpen the cutting edge like an ax. When sharpen- ing the hoe, maintain the existing inside edge bevel. Never sharpen the top of the hoe.”

The Pulaski is still used by forest firefighters as a tool of choice. For trail builders, there is a less strenuous demand on the tool as its application is used for popping out roots to chopping on stumps. This tool can be a very dangerous tool if misused. Youth seem to gravitate to this tools ability to send chips a flying. More importantly, the Pulaski is not a ‘Paul Bunyan’ logging tool. It should very rarely be used in overhead swings – rather a grubbing stance is recommended for clearing trail. Every tool in a trail builder’s inventory has a particular usage. The Pulaski should be used as the last effort to clear tree roots, stumps and other vegetation in the trail.

*By: Bob Johnson*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/aug/17/pulaski-legacy-alive-standard-fire-tool/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulaski\\_\(tool\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulaski_(tool))

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulaski\\_\(tool\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulaski_(tool))

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/info/tools5.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/info/tools5.html>



Dear Friends of Red Rock Canyon,

Due to the overwhelming concerns and issues between the user groups in Red Rock Canyon Open Space, the city officials have decided to suspend the open forum Master Planning Process and hire a third party consultant. The bid process to hire such a consultant firm will take up to six months. The current public meetings were not going in the correct direction to resolve the differences in everyone’s passionate design for the open space.

A tactful and cautious deceleration of the Master

Plan Review will allow more interaction between the primary user groups and ‘keepers’ of the properties. The goals and objectives will be reviewed again for Red Rock Canyon and inclusion of the new properties [Section 16 and White Acres].

The end result will not completely satisfy all parties – but the goal will be a supplementary and workable planning process with more groups in agreement than the present situation.

Bob Johnson, President FoRRC





# meet the rep

Manufacturers' representatives from some of our favorite brands will be visiting us this fall! These friendly folks will be able to answer all your questions about their products.

- Giveaways and gifts with purchase!
- Mountain Chalet will donate 20% of all the proceeds from the visiting rep's lines that day to Friends of Red Rock Canyon
- 11am to 3pm

**Friday, Oct. 28**

Owen Dennehy with Patagonia Footwear, Eagle Creek, Mountain Khakis, and Katadyn

**Sat., Nov 5**

Marvin Wedell with Horny Toad, Nau, Ski Logik, Alpina, and Snowpeak

**Sat., Nov. 12**

Tom Gordon with Osprey, Western Mountaineering, and Outdoor Research

**Sat., Nov. 19**

Jay Alter with the North Face

**Sat., Dec. 3**

Eric Miller with Dakine, Ibex and Oboz

**Sat., Dec. 10**

Max Milverstedt with Columbia



Are you interested in preserving our Open Space? Are you a biker, hiker, climber, interested in plants, flowers or animals, or a person that enjoys the beauty of the outdoors? Join Friends of Red Rock Canyon and help us keep our open space beautiful.

**Don't forget to check your renewal date on the back page of the newsletter.**

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

### Friends of Red Rock Canyon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Preference: Delivered via Email ☐ Delivered via Mail ☐

☐ Yes, I want to join Friends of Red Rock Canyon for the coming year

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Member (\$10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$15)

\_\_\_\_\_ Organization / Business membership (\$30)

Other Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to help even more with a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to be involved in volunteer efforts:

\_\_\_\_\_ Trail and stewardship volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Educational Programs \_\_\_\_\_ Serve on Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocacy & Community outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this membership form with your check to:

**Friends of Red Rock Canyon**

P. O. Box 6754

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-6754

Note: should you want to pay by credit card, go to our website: [www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org](http://www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org)

FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON

## FORRC NEWS

### Trash Pickup @ Red Rock

Did you see orange bags along the roadway in front of Red Rock on November 5th? On November 5th, Bob and Connie Johnson assisted Barrett Consulting Associates, Inc. in picking up trash along the road in front of Red Rock Open Space. Barrett Consulting Associates have been assigned the road-

way in front of Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

The group worked along Rt. 24 at the intersection of 31st street to the Manitou Springs exit to the west.

### December Board Meeting

Every December the board seems to have the problem of finding a time for the whole board to meet due to Decem-

ber being a very busy time of year. We have decided to cancel the December board meeting. Our next board meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2012 at the Westside Community Center @ 6:30pm.

### Future Master Plan Meetings

All future Master Plan Meetings have been cancelled at this time.



## The Red Rock Rag

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

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MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL DATE

# *Friends of Red Rock Canyon*

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Treasurer: David Valier

Secretary: Chris Jones

Webmaster:

Newsletter Editor: Connie Johnson

Historian: Don Ellis

## Special Projects:

Dave Schell, Shanti Toll, Karl  
Klepfer, Dave Dombach

We're on the Web

[www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org](http://www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org)

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[friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org](mailto:friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org)