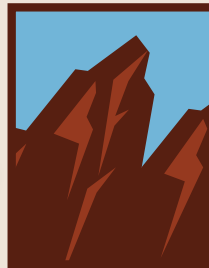


the **RED ROCK RAG**



FRIENDS OF
**RED ROCK
CANYON**

New Trails at Red Rock Canyon

Volume 17#2
Fall, 2015



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<https://twitter.com/redrockcanyonCO>

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Lots has happened this summer in Red Rock Canyon. The City not only has repaired much of the damage created by this spring's rain and floods, it has made significant progress finishing new trails that are on the Master Plan. It is exciting that we have six new trails to hike and bike. The City deserves a great shout out for all its work in our Open Space. Sarah Bryarly, Tilah Larson, Scott Abbott, Melissa Mc Cormick, and (our ranger) John Stark, all worked really hard to get these trails finished and repair the old trails by the re-opening of the park. Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates and Manitou Springs Trail Cats also deserve thanks and a lot of credit for the volunteers who built the Upper Codell and the East Fork Trails. Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) has been working with volunteers all summer repairing damage caused by the May rains.

It has been an unique year for Red Rock Canyon. We had some adversity this May with over nine inches of rain. An earthen dam broke, sending debris down into lower Sand Canyon. The City had some very tense times during the heavy rains, making serious (round the clock) effort to keep the upper earthen dam near the dump site from breaching. If that dam had failed it would have ruined the beauty of the main Red Rock Canyon, covering it with rocks and debris. It would have been absolutely life threatening for people and taken out much of the infrastructure in RRCOS. Scott Abbott made the hard call to shut down the park until it was safe and the major problems were fixed or stabilized.

The park remained closed to the public for a few months while the repairs were made, which had an unexpected benefit. The land got a needed rest from human overuse. With all the rain and time to heal many of the social trails of the park have grown over. The vegetation and wildflowers have been spectacular this year thanks to the moisture. The hiatus of human traffic allowed some safe heavy

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www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org

Education in Red Rock Canyon

Geology Talk and Walk Ends Summer Talk and Walks

For our season ending Talk and Walk on September 16th, Mark Izold, a Professor at Pikes Peak Community College, presented the geologic features which indicate the geologic history and formation of Red Rock Canyon. We were thrilled to have Mark Izold present again this year, especially after having to limit the people wanting to do our Geology Talk and Walk during our Education Week in August. Professor Izold started his session at the trail head off 31st Street, walking westward through the many different formations that are exposed in the open space. His animated coverage of geology pointed out many different fossils in the rocks, including clams, shark teeth, fish and dinosaur footprints. Professor Izold also discussed the conservation of these natural resources at Red Rock Canyon.

Though our Educational Summer Talk and Walks

have concluded for this season, education is still a big focus for the Friends of Red Rock Canyon. Many topics about Red Rock Canyon can be found on our web site at redrockcanyonopenspace.org. We encourage all to explore, and comment, on what we have to offer!



Mark Izold giving all a chance to see some fossils up close.



Teresa Valier shares outdoor educational activities with parents and preschoolers.



Amber Shanklin demonstrates the plants and ecology of Red Rock Canyon.

Group attending session on Culturally Modified Trees presented by John Anderson at Ute Valley Park.



Please contact us on presenting, ideas for presenters, or new session formats on education at friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org or give a call to David at 685-4792.

Thanks for your support!

Anthony Maltese (TJ) shares his knowledge about the fossils in the rocks at Red Rock Canyon.



(Continued from front page)

equipment work to be done on the roads and trails. Plus, having both cement dams being at full capacity has been beautiful and is a far cry from a few years ago, when we thought we would have to buy water just to keep one pond partially full.

So when you are hiking, riding or climbing in Red Rock Canyon Open Space, take a good look at all the improvements which have been made this year. Our park is looking good (even the bags of dog waste are being carried away more - Thanks). Now it up to us to keep it beautiful and protected. We are all stewards of this land.

The new trails which have been opened this year are (trail names have not been determined yet):

Upper Codell Extension: A technical bike trail from south end of Codell to the road cut on the Dakota Hogback.

North Rim or Lower Hogback Trail: Near the north rim of the old gravel pit near Highway 24.

New Red Rock Rim Trail: At the south rim of the old gravel pit - east of the picnic parking lot.

The Bock Trail is unique and built by Timberline Landscaping with heavy equipment. Some of the steps are wired together in the same fashion as the steps of the Manitou Incline.

East Fork of the Sand Canyon Trail : Take the up-hill or eastern fork in the Sand Canyon Trail. It will take you to the bench on the Intemann Trail and trails to the east.

New Section 16 Trailhead and Trail: The parking area of Gold Camp Road has been paved and there is also a new trail to connect to the Intemann Trail. This spring Tony Boone and his trusty trail machine built a new beautiful trail with NO STEPS.



Volunteer Efforts Contribute to Repair of RRC

In response to the severe damages to the Open Space in the wake of the heavy May rains, environmental stewardship non-profit Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) has been coordinating volunteer workdays to make repairs and improvements to popular trails and drainages. Although the park has been reopened to the public



with the help of heavy machine work, focused repair work requiring hand crews has been ongoing in various critical areas of the open space. RMFI has been contracted by the City of Colorado Springs to address flooding-related damage to the Quarry Pass Trail, Round Up Trail stream-bed, and Sand Canyon breach site. Work objectives have included installing grade-control structures in stream channels, re-surfacing trail tread on the Quarry Pass Trail, and seeding and hillslope stabilization of the Sand Canyon breach site. These projects are a direct response to the historic rainfall that fell in the City this spring, as well as the failure of water diversion structures constructed by the



previous owner of the land. In 2016, RMFI will conduct maintenance of climbing access trails throughout the Canyon, installing stabilizing structures that will preserve the ecological integrity of the area.



The response of the community to the rain-caused damages has been a key contributor in the re-opening of the open space. RMFI, in partnership with the Friends, has supervised 11 volunteer workdays in the Canyon. More than 170 volunteers have contributed over 1,000 hours to the project.



RMFI has a few volunteer days remaining in Red Rocks this season.

Wednesday, October 21
Saturday, October 24
Sunday, November 1

Contact: Molly Mazel, Volunteer Coordinator,
(719) 471-7736 ext. 4# or molly@rmfi.org

Codell Trail Work

Work on the new Codell extension trail in Red Rock Canyon Open Space started this spring and is nearly complete with some finish work and alternate lines yet to be completed. This trail was entirely designed, paid for and built by Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates. The trail on the East side of the hogback is complete and the upper section was difficult with hand building and rock work on

the technical sections. The upper trail is a steep, rocky area featuring numerous jumps with a challenging A line. An even more difficult B line will follow. If you would like to lend a hand, check our FaceBook page for event details. The more help we have, the more fun we can add!! See www.facebook.com/groups/medwheel/.

Fossil Brewing Company Supports the Friends

Fossil Brewing Company's Evolution Ale Series is one of the ways that they give back and get the community involved in the brewery. For each generation, ballots are given to everyone that comes in and gets a beer. The ballots include 4 ingredients to pick from to add to the current beer as well as a choice of a local charity to donate part of the profits to. After 2 generations the ingredient will be retired from the beer. The Friends of Red Rock Canyon were chosen to benefit from the sales of their Evolution Ale: Generation 3. Each beer sold will have 25% of the profits going to the Friends. The base recipe for Evolution Ale: Generation 3 features toasted malt and caramel character. The third generation features vanilla beans and cherries with an ABV:5.6 % and an IBU:23.

Fossil Brewery has worked with Rocky Mountain Field Institute and Medicine Wheel to arrange for some free/reduced beer for volunteers that have helped in the Red Rock Canyon. Once a month (usually the third Thursday) they have an event called Talk Nerdy to Me. Each talk is given by a local expert and the topics can vary from fossils to brewing microbiology to ancient cultures. The talks

are around 30 minutes. They recommend getting to the tasting room early because it quickly fills up to standing room only.

Fossil Brewery has 8 taps – one is a non-alcoholic ginger ale made from scratch and the rest are beer. Their flagship beers are: Megalodon Blonde, Mammoth IPA, Evolution Ale and Stone Age Stout. Other smaller batch beers are rotated on the other taps, usually tapping those small batches on Thursdays.

They are currently open: Wednesday-Friday from 2:00-10:00, Saturdays from 12:00-10:00 and Sundays from 11:00-7:00. If people want to know what they're tapping or upcoming talks/events, they can visit www.fossilbrewing.com.

They are also on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and have a monthly newsletter that they send out as well.

Fossil Brewery can be found near Red Rock Canyon, just south of Highway 24 by 31st Street, just east of Rudy's Restaurant (2845 Ore Mill Road, Unit 1).



We appreciate Fossil Brewery supporting the Friends of Red Rock Canyon!!!

Membership Form for Friends of Red Rock Canyon

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Newsletter Delivery Preference: Via email (full-color, recommended) ☐ Via postal mail ☐

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

☐ Individual/Family membership (\$15) ☐ Organization / Business membership (\$30)

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

☐ I would like to be involved in volunteer efforts Please describe your interest:

Please mail this membership for
with your check to:

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

PO Box 6754

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-6754

Note: Should you want to pay by credit card, go to
our website:

www.RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org

(Friends of Red Rock Canyon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
organization. Contributions are tax deductible.)

Are you interested in preserving our Open Space? Are you a biker, hiker, climber, interested in plants, flowers or animals, or a per-son 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.

The Cheyenne Mountain Run

Cheyenne Mountain State Park

Proceeds will
Help build the new Dixon Trail to
the summit of Cheyenne Mountain

10 a.m. October 24th
8 mile/5K

Race Information and online registration at:
friendsofcmosp.org

2015 Turnaround

SPONSORED BY:

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The Red Rock Rag

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

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Vote YES for Trails!!

Vote YES on 2D!!!

Ballot issue 2D will allow the City of Colorado Springs to retain \$2.1 million to spend on eight critical trail project, including portions of the Homestead, Palmer-Mesa, Pikes Peak Greenway, Rock Island, Sand Creek, Shooks Run, Sinton and Skyline Trails. These projects made the cut because they're heavily used, in bad shape and no other source of funds is available to make repairs. Some of the projects will improve accessibility to neighborhoods and make the trails ADA compliant. The ballot language will contain the eight listed projects. The money cannot be spent for anything else besides repair, renovation and improvement to

existing trails. This will not begin to address the long list of maintenance needs and capital projects outlined in the recent master plan (\$180M), but if passed it will improve key system trails.

YES on 2D



\$2.1M for 8 trails, or \$11 back to you?

www.yesfortrails.com



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