

the **RED ROCK RAG**

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Spring, 2014



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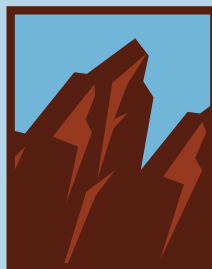
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FRIENDS OF

RED ROCK CANYON

Message From the President

Governmental agencies recognize that stronger trail constructions and tighter trail standards are necessary for urban parks and open spaces. They have to re-look at how they are using volunteers. What is the most efficient and cost effective way to build and maintain trails? What is the best way to use volunteer skills and capabilities? Are the wider trails built by machines (30 inches to 48 inches) necessary and desirable?

For whatever reason, more and more trails are going to be built by trail machines. Volunteers will be used for the finish work after the machine is gone (berm removal, back-slope finishing, corridor refinement, and fine rock work or water removal structures). How machines will be used will be determined by the amount of money available for machine work. If money is limited the machines could be use for just ripping the basic trail tread into the land and the volunteers will have a lot of work making the trail. With more time and money the machines can do most of the finish

work and volunteers will not be as necessary.

FoRRC generally supports mechanical trail building where possible. The tread of those trails are more consistent and stronger than ones built by hand. A trail machine can do in one day what 25 to 50 volunteers can do. Since volunteer time and energy are limited, it makes sense to use them to support mechanical construction and/or for trails which are narrow or hard to reach.



(continued from front page)

We understand that the heavy use by bikers, runners, hikers and nature lovers really does stress the natural habitat and creates serious erosion problems on the trails. So using volunteers to maintain trails and close off destructive rogue trails is important. Good trails protect Red Rock Canyon's nature and beauty. We applaud the City for writing and receiving a grant for approximately \$100,000 for mechanical construction/maintenance of trails and roads in Red Rock Canyon.

FoRRC also encourages the City of Colorado Springs to fund personnel to operate the two trail building machines they have, instead of always contracting that work out. All the Open Spaces and Parks could use more mechanical trail maintenance. The new way of thinking about Stewardship of the wildland-urban interface will save tax dollars and habitat in the long run. - Shanti Toll



Shanti Toll, Acting President, FoRRC

Karl Klepfer Retires as President of FORRC

For the last approximately two years Karl Klepfer has lead the Friends of Red Rock Canyon. Under his watch we have accomplished a lot. In January he stepped down as President of Friends of Red Rock Canyon. Karl was a champion for creating our new web site. Using current software the website is not only great looking and dynamic, it is much easier to program. As we move into the future these new features and updates will allow us

to make www.RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org more useful and responsive to the needs of the community.

Karl worked diligently on the Indy Give Campaign to raise money to fix and restore the pond near the pavilion in 2012. Without his support [and of course your support] we would not have raised over \$12,000 for pond restoration. We can't say for sure if it was Karl who brought the rains that filled all the ponds in Red Rock Canyon.

Last year it was Karl who reached out to the Native American community of "One Nation Walking" to invite them to the 10th

Anniversary Celebration of Red Rock Canyon Open Space. The prayer and speech by elder Eddie Three Eagles really made the event special and reminded us why protecting natural land and beauty is so important.

The 2013 rains, which washed out so many of our roads and trails, created some special problems for FoRRC and the City. Karl helped keep the communications open and guided the board during those trying times.

His volunteer energy has been greatly appreciated; his contribution to Red Rock Canyon invaluable.

We wish him well on his future endeavors.

Shanti Toll, FoRRC vice president, is now the acting president until the Annual Meeting on May 12th.



Karl Klepfer, Former President, FoRRC

Hikers, Mountain Bikers, Runners and Lovers of Manitou Springs...

It's Time to Make the Mountain Connection!

We have the fabulous Red Rock Canyon Open Space right next door, but we can't get there from here. Sign up today to be part of a community-based project to build a great sustainable Iron Mountain Trail between Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs.

Volunteer on your own or put together a group of buddies to create your own Trail-Building Team. A trained crew leader and tools will be provided.

It's easy to volunteer just go to

www.ManitouCats.com



Over 330 days of volunteers work and many days of mechanical work will be needed to complete the project. But when it is done it will be one of the premier mountain trails in Colorado.

We will have six volunteer workdays:

- May 18 (Sunday)
- May 31 (Saturday)
- June 8 (Sunday)
- June 22 (Sunday)
- July 13 (Sunday)
- July 27 (Sunday)

Work time: 8 AM to 1:45 PM



Please sign up for all the days you can as soon as possible because we want to get the trail built this year.

A party will follow each workday.

It is a big project that will benefit everybody and help protect our natural environment.



Karma Hour at Bristol Brewery

Bristol Brewery, at Ivywild, hosted a Karma Hour for the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, on Tuesday, April 22nd. During Karma Hour Bristol donates one dollar per pint sold to the Friends. They do this helping the community, instead of doing the traditional happy hour specials. The Friends of Red Rock Canyon Board and other guests enjoyed the time informally talking about our summer activities and other issues affecting Red Rock Canyon Open Space.



*FoRRC Board Members:
David Schell, Shanti Toll, Dave Dombach,
Jenny Montague, Dave Valier*

Phantom Canyon to help the Friends

Phantom Canyon has chosen the Friends of Red Rock Canyon to be awarded some of the proceeds of their summer edition beer, CONTINUUM, a Belgian-Style White Ale. Twenty five percent of the sales from Memorial Day to Labor Day will be split between the Friends of Red Rock Canyon and Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation.

The beer, "CONTINUUM Belgian-Style Ale" is a Belgian-style white or Wit beer (pronounced "fvit" in Flemish or called "Bière Blanche" in France) that is brewed with unmalted wheat and 2-row malt. This traditionally cloudy beer has a citrus-like flavor from spicing with coriander, lemon peel and both bitter and sweet orange peel. This beer is light and refreshing with a distinctive taste. Some like it with a slice of orange.

Alan Stiles, the Head Brewer with Phantom Canyon shared these details for the Beer Geeks out there. The beer will have: IBU's- 15, Hops- Palisade, Malts- 50% Rahr two-row, 36%

Unmalted wheat, 7% Malted wheat, and 7% Oats, Spices – Coriander, lemon zest and orange zest in the brewkettle. Water- No treatment with Original Gravity-1.050, Original Plato-12.5, ABV-5.0%, Color 3.0° SR, along with 223 calories per pint-223. Yeast used are from the Hoegaarden Brewery, Hoegaarden, Belgium and Brouwerij Riva, Dentergem, Belgium.

After Memorial Day, Phantom Canyon will host an opening event for the "CONTINUUM Belgian-Style White Ale". The Friends of Red Rock Canyon will be there along with representatives from the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation. with possibly a wolf or wolf dog too. We will let you know the date on our website and by email when it becomes available.



Alternative Route to Section 16 Trail

The City of Colorado Springs will be building an alternative route to the Section 16 Trail, beginning on Tuesday, April 8th. This new trail will run parallel to the Section 16 Trail, providing an alternative way to get into Red Rock Canyon/Section 16. The City of Colorado Springs has worked with Medicine Wheel and the Friends of Red Rock Canyon on the alignment, which was vetted during the Red Rock Canyon Master Plan Process. In addition to the new trail alignment the existing old road will be closed. The current Section 16 Trail will remain open during construction. With construction comes some inconveniences. Portions of the Section 16 Trailhead will be blocked to allow the contractor (Tony Boone Trails LLC) room to work and park his equipment. Please respect any coned off areas and give him plenty of room to work. Construction is anticipated to last about 1 ½ weeks.



Fire Mitigation in Red Rock Canyon Open Space

Successful Completion of MHYC's First Winter Crew

The Colorado Springs Winter Fire Mitigation Crew began 35 weeks of work this winter which will span three seasons as part of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Risk Reduction Program whose purpose is to protect property in the wildland-urban interface. Mile High Youth Corps Colorado Springs has been contracted to work in three areas for this project: Red Rock Canyon, Section 16 and Ute Valley Park.

The season came to an end last week and the project sponsor is thrilled with the progress the crew has made.

"Mile High Youth Corps has done an excellent job following the forest prescription for this area and I'm excited to get them back on this project in the spring."-Dennis Will, Staff Forester, City of Colorado Springs.

This is the first winter crew for MHYC and as far as we are aware the only winter crew in the state. This winter the crew worked through cold weather, rain and snow and according to crew leader Daniel Neiman all the while maintained a positive attitude. They completed fire mitigation on Section 16, a popular hiking destination in the Colorado Springs area, and removed all Siberian Elm from the treatment area in Red Rock Open Space. 700 cubic yards of Siberian Elm was chipped after removal and transported to Colorado Springs Utilities to be used to produce bio fuel. The crew also removed oak stand clusters, took out dead and downed trees and removed tangled barbed wire fencing. Our Corps members are excited to have made history as MHYC's first ever winter crew!

Reprinted with permission: March 7, 2014 by Mile High Youth Corps

New Park Ranger

The City will be hiring a new Red Rock Canyon ranger in early May. We hear there are many good candidates being considered.

Education in Red Rock Canyon

The Friends of Red Rock Canyon were able to start offering (again!) educational Talk and Walks last summer. The three Talk and Walks done last year were in **Geology, History and Invasive Weeds** and were all well attended. So popular at times, that many people interested in attending were turned away because the session was full. Two other Talk and Walks were to be done in the fall but were cancelled because of the weather and flood damage to the trails, caused by the heavy rains.

The Friends of Red Rock Canyon plan to offer a series of Talk and Walks again, starting this coming spring/summer. We will start the Talk and Walks with Don Ellis on Wednesday, May 21, on History, following with Brandon Vogt on Friday, June 6, on Geology/Rock Weathering. We also have confirmed Tina Travis, an Environmental Technician with

El Paso County, doing Invasive Weeds on Thursday, July 17. Other programs being planned are in the works. They include Mile High Youth Corp doing a couple presentations on the forest restoration they have been doing in Red Rock Canyon (and other parks and open spaces in the Springs), Sharon Milito doing geology again, along with an Education Activities to

May 21: History Talk and Walk, with Don Ellis

June 6: Geology/Rock Weathering Talk and Walk, with Brandon Vogt

July 17: Invasive Weed Talk and Walk, with Tina Travis

be used while hiking with young children. We are hoping to add some other topics this year and open to suggestions and offers to present. If interested, contact us at friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org.

[org](http://www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org) or call David at 685-4792.

Sign-ups will be taken before each session.

We will limit the amount of people for the benefit of those who attend and for the presenter as well. Many sessions will be announced by email and will be posted on our website first, before offering these Talk and Walks to the community through local papers (Pikes Peak Bulletin, Cheyenne Edition and the Westside Pioneer – available only on line now). If you wish to know about these events beforehand and presently you are not receiving emails from the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, you can easily sign up to receive emails at our website. You can simply add your email to our list by signing up for our newsletter and other emails at the bottom of our home page. The Friends of Red Rock Canyon email address is: www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org. Hope you can be able to join us for a Talk and Walk this season!

Date: TBD (We'll keep you posted)

Noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Pavilion

Once a year we have a day to honor all our volunteers and supporting organizations/businesses. This is an opportunity to come out and talk with the FoRRC Board of Directors and other users of our Open Space. At the Pavilion we have a number of information tables/tents for you to ask questions or give feedback to groups who have activities in RRC.

Red Rock Canyon Day

From noon to 3:00 PM we will give out lemonade and visit with the public: giving and receiving information and suggestions. The party may be more elaborate with mood music and displays. So come on down and visit as you hike, bike, run, rock climb, walk your dog or wander in nature on a beautiful summer day.

Annual Membership Meeting

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014

Westside Community Center 1628 W. Bijou St
6:30-8:30

You are invited to the Friends of Red Rock Canyon annual meeting to see what we've done, what we have planned and to give your feedback of what we need to do. The strength of our Friends group is only as good as what volunteers are willing to do. Our community uses this Open Space and it is mostly up to us and the City to take care of it.

One of the big challenges of our time is to create and maintain a sustainable urban - wildland interface. If we want to keep our natural environment beautiful for ourselves and future generations, we have to steward the land. Red Rock Canyon needs your help and input. Please come to the meeting.

At the meeting we will also be electing Board of Director members and officers. You can offer to join the Board at that time. Presently we are suggesting a slate of officers:

President: Dave Dombach
Vice President: Dave Schell
Treasurer: David Valier
Secretary: Courtney (Davy) Hopkins

Membership Form for Friends of Red Rock Canyon

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.

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) non-
profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.)

The Red Rock Rag

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

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**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL DATE**

Board of Directors

Acting President: Shanti Toll

Vice President: Dave Schell

Treasurer: David Valier

Secretary: Courtney Hopkins

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster: Jenny Montague

Trails: Dave Dombach

Special Projects: Dave Schell, Ted Smith



**Stayed Tuned for
Red Rock Canyon Day!**
DATE TBD



We're on the Web

www.RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org



friends@RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org



www.facebook.com/redrock.canyon.54



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