

the RED ROCK RAG



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Letter from the President

Red Rock Canyon has great trails. Unfortunately, some hikers feel they can hike anywhere they wish off the designated trails. Below is a great article written by Bob Johnson, past President of Friends of Red Rock Canyon, on trail conduct.

Conduct for the Outdoors and Trail

Compiled by: Bob Johnson
 Perhaps the most difficult concept to comprehend is the wonder of the great outdoors and how beautifully designed trail systems get the visitor to one point of interest to another.

In doing so, not everyone understands the construction phase of building trails and how much emphasis is placed on the builders to not violate or destroy the wilderness in the process of creating a pathway. Trails need to be constructed as if it were a surgical cut in the woods and everything on either side of this new cut is pristine, not disturbed. Crew Leaders have a responsibility to promote and educate their crew with certain code of ethics and construction concepts. Below is listed some of the Codes of Conduct in the outdoors that apply to trail builders.

Annual Meeting

(continued on back page)

The Friends of Red Rock Canyon will be holding our annual meeting in April and we will be electing new officers for the 2015-2016 year.

Monday, April 13 Westside Community Center

1628 West Bijou Street
 Colorado Springs, CO
 80904

6:30-8:30pm

All are welcome to attend.



www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org

Education in Red Rock Canyon

The educational series of Talk and Walks are being planned again for this summer in Red Rock Canyon. Past years we have offered informative sessions on weekday evenings, usually starting around 5:30 and ending before dark. Presentations are done by volunteers with expertise in their subject area. The presentations are basically informal, letting presenters give information about their subject first, the "Talk", then all go out on a hike led by the presenter, the "Walk".

Talk and Walks last summer, were

given in History, Rock Weathering, Geology, Invasive Weeds and Plants. Each Talk and Walk is generally announced for sign-ups through our Friends of Red Rock Canyon email list and website, though sometimes the word of these events makes it into local newspapers. If you would like to receive the announcements for our Talk and Walks this summer, it is best to be on our email list. If you need to sign up on our email list, simply go to our website:

www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org. At the bottom of the home page

is a link put your name on our email list.

If you are interested in presenting, or know of someone who would be good (and hopefully interested in sharing their knowledge), please let us know. We will be starting to work on a schedule for this coming year. Also, if you have other ideas on how to present educational opportunities in Red Rock Canyon, let us know as well. We love to share education about Red Rock Canyon with as many people as possible.



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



Red Rock Canyon Repairs

The City of Colorado Springs received a grant from FEMA to repair some of the trails that were damaged in last years floods. Some of the work is the hiking/biking roads by machine and some of the work is on the trails by hand. The work will be mostly in the month of March. Some of the repairs are small and short, while others are more extensive and will take some time.

The schedule of work will be set as the projects unfold, so there may be rolling trail closures as they move from project to project all over the open space. Please obey the temporary closure signs so the workers can be efficient and safe. New Trails coming to Red Rock Canyon This Year.

New Trails Coming to Red Rock Canyon

Good News! The City has received a grant from the State to build some new trails and fix some of the roads in RRC this spring. All of the trails being built are on the Master Plan. The work should mostly be done by machine in April and May. The City has put out the RFP (Request For Proposal) and is determining how/when/what work is to be done. One of the projected new trails is an upper Sand Canyon loop to connect directly to trails to the

east. There will also be a short new trail on the north side of the RRC old gravel pit. Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates are working with the City to build a new trail connecting the south end of the Codell Trail to the road cut on the Dakota Hogback (the old dump road which goes into Red Rock Canyon). Come summer we all will have some new trail loops to walk/run/bike.

City, Area Non-Profits to Partner for Crew Leader Training

What: 2015 Pikes Peak Crew Leader Training

Where: Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Rd.

When: April 17-19

Why: This 2.5-day training provides you with the tools you need to become a certified crew leader and give back to the parks and open spaces we love so much.

To Register: If you are interested in representing FoRRC please contact friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org. General public registration will begin on Monday, March 16 at www.coloradosprings.gov/volunteer.

The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department is in the midst of planning the 4th installment of the Pikes Peak Region Crew Leader Training (PPRCLT), April 17-19. The training, produced in partnership with Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), Friends of the Peak (FOTP), and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), is the capstone program of the Volunteer Stewardship Project and openspacevolunteers.org.

In 2010, the Volunteer Stewardship Project was created after severe cuts to City budgets and the Parks Department in particular. In response to these budget cuts, TOSC created the website openspacevolunteers.org with the purpose of supporting area Friends Groups and increasing volunteerism in regional parks and open spaces. The Friends Groups were willing to increase the number and scope of trail maintenance projects,

but were met by a challenge of a shortage of skilled crew leaders to lead the projects. Fast forward to 2012, when the City Parks Department, TOSC, VOC, FoRRC, and RMFI created the Pikes Peak Region Crew Leader Training Program. The program was created with an intention to develop a skilled volunteer crew leader pool that would provide supervision on trail and restoration projects. Crew Leaders work in cooperation with Parks Department staff to implement critical stewardship projects that over tasked park rangers cannot commit to. The program encourages motivated individuals to engage in a leadership role when participating in stewardship projects throughout the region's parks and open spaces.

In 2013 (the most recent year in which volunteer data is available), almost 3,000 volunteers donated more than 15,000 hours to the betterment of City parks, trails, and open spaces.



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This generosity of time and labor has reiterated the need for trained crew leaders who can help provide a safe, fun, and effective experience for every volunteer.

Over 2.5 days in April, the PPRCLT provides both classroom and hands-on instruction, divided into three major components: soft skills/leadership,

trail maintenance, and restoration. Each area Friends Group is allotted one slot for a member to participate in the training. There are a select number of slots reserved for the general public. If you are interested in representing FoRRC at this year's training, or for more information please contact us at friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org.

Red Rock Canyon Geologic Walk



One of the spectacular features of our Open Space are the extensive geological formations, spanning nearly a quarter billion years of uplift, erosion, tectonics and the greatest mass extinction the planet has ever seen. This spring, FORRC will be partnering with several local and regional geologists to develop interpretative signage to highlight some of the geologic wonders in the park. The signs will point out features such as rock unit names and ages, faults, mass extinctions, ancient oceans,

History in Stone: The Story of Red Rock Canyon

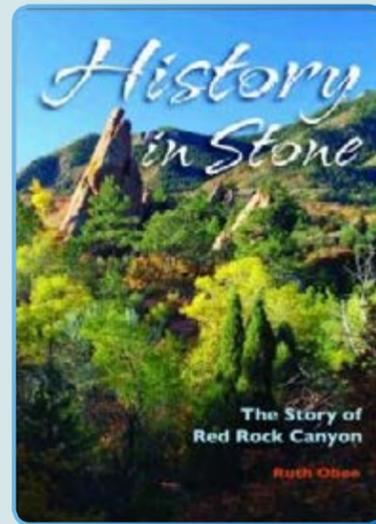
Ruth Obee will present an hour-long lecture on the History of Red Rock Canyon drawing on her book **History in Stone**. Described as a "biography of place," the book tells the story of one of the Pike Peak region's most stunning sites, beginning, chapter by chapter, with the area's geological origins, its recently discovered dinosaur tracks, marine fossils, its diverse ecology, the archeological evidence of early humans, and its more contemporary history with the arrival of the white man, including the colorful story of the Bock family, who owned the land for 80 years. It concludes with a detailed description of its final preservation as public open space by a group of brave and dedicated volunteers who pitted their wits against powerful development interests in order to save the land for the benefit of all.

The event is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2015, at the Pioneers Museum.

Reservations are required by calling 719.385.5990 or visiting www.cspm.org.

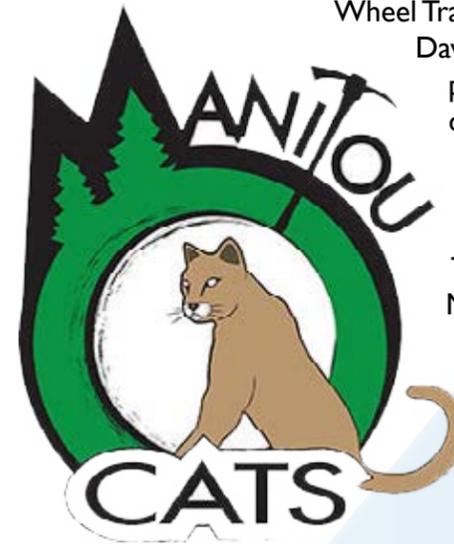
There is a \$5 suggested donation and is free for members of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

– Ruth Obee has been a teacher, editor, writer and poet who accompanied her husband, a senior diplomat, to countries abroad, including India, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, and South African where they lived for more than two decades.



News from Manitou CATS

2014 was such a collaborative year with trail building groups and volunteers working together to build the Iron Mountain Trail by early August. Over 350 volunteer days were volunteered and Tony Boone did 14 days of mechanical trail building (thanks to financial support of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, FOTP and the city of Manitou Springs).



Dave Domach deserves a lot of credit for his commitment to the project. He managed the tool logistic and lead crews on six workdays. More importantly, he removed a piece of the mountain by hand [and rock bar] that was too tough for Tony's trail excavator machine. It allowed the Iron Mountain Trail to be completed. Thanks Dave!

The collaboration of the community was also outstanding. Six Manitou Springs taverns sponsored after work parties with a free beer for the thirsty volunteers. Jenny at FoRRC set up the ManitouCats.com web site and Eileen at TOSC helped Shanti set up the site's volunteer registration process. TOSC also helped promote the workdays. RMFI, Friends of the Peak, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, Friends of Red Rock Canyon and Manitou Springs Trail Cats all took responsibility for managing at least one volunteer workday. There was not a significant in-

jury during the whole Iron Mountain Trail project. Manitou Springs and all trail users are thankful to the volunteers for building such good trail!

This year Manitou Cats are planning monthly trail workdays starting in April. We will be working on Manitou trails and other nearby trails. As always we will stop about 1:00 pm and then go to a Manitou tavern for a party and a free beer or beverage of your choice. The workdays will be the second Sunday of the month (except Saturday, June 13 is our workday to avoid the Garden of the Gods 10 k run). Please go to www.ManitouCats.com to get all the information and register to volunteer. We'll see you on the trail!

New Weather Station Proposed for top of Section 16

The paragliding community has been active flying from the lookout atop the Section 16 mountain. To aid in their weather watching endeavors and as a contribution to the larger community of people who recreate in Red Rock Canyon Open Space, the paragliding community is proposing to donate, build, install, and maintain a remote weather station on the Section 16 mountain.

The proposed weather station would be small enough to fit into a large shoebox. It would also require a pole, which would just clear tree height and would hold a small solar panel array and a cup style wind meter. A 2-way radio in the sta-

tion would broadcast data to repeater stations that could upload the data to internet websites, and the National Weather Service would have access to that data. The Friends website could potentially have a small weather widget embedded on it, which would display current weather conditions on the mountain.

A finalized location has not been determined yet, as final approval still needs to be granted by the city. Currently, the paragliders are working on building a working model that could be presented and displayed to interested parties.

We will keep you posted as this story develops.

Springtime Karma Hour at Bristol Brewery

Bristol Brewery, at Ivywild School – 1604 South Cascade, will be hosting a Karma Hour for the Friends of Red Rock Canyon. On **Tuesday, April 28th** starting at **5pm**, Bristol will donate one dollar per pint sold to the Friends, until 9pm. They do this helping the community, instead of doing the traditional happy hour specials. The Friends of Red Rock Canyon Board and other invited guests will be there to informally talk about our summer planned activities and other issues affecting Red Rock Canyon Open Space. We hope you can come in and enjoy a pint with us during Karma Hour at Bristol Brewery.



Phantom Canyon Helps Out!

Phantom Canyon chose the Friends of Red Rock Canyon to be awarded some of the proceeds of their Summer of 2014, edition beer, CONTINUUM, a Belgian-Style White Ale. Twenty five percent of the summer sales was split between the Friends of Red Rock Canyon and Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation. The Friends of Red Rock Canyon received a check for \$4256.70!!!

We give a big THANK YOU to the people of Phantom Canyon for including us with this special Summer Beer. We hope to work with Phantom Canyon again in the future.

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. Many thanks for all who visited Phantom Canyon during the summer and enjoyed this beer raising money for the Friends!



Thank You to Ascent Cycling



FoRRC gives a special thanks to Ascent Cycling for their generous contribution of \$800.00. We were one of several Friends groups that Ascent donated to.



Left to Right: Patrick Cross, Ascent Cycling, Dave Dombach, President, BOD, Ryan Shuck, Board member.

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 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.

Pikes Peak Adventurers

Pikes Peak Adventures is a group of adults from across the Pikes Peak region who enjoy outdoor recreation such as hiking, biking, snow shoeing, skiing, geocaching, and scavenger hunts, and social activities such as happy hours, dining, and movie nights. Red Rock Canyon Open Space is a particular favorite of our members, given its large size, expansive trail network, varied terrain, and especially for its connections to North Cheyenne Cañon Park and to the Intemann and Ring the Peak trail systems. We frequently host sunrise and sunset/moonrise hikes in Red Rock Canyon, as well as exploratory hikes and geocaching expeditions. It's also our "go-to" spot for weekday after-work hikes during the summer. We're fortunate to have such a gem available for our recreational and social use, and we appreciate all the hard work of the Friends of Red Rock Canyon

who keep it safe and beautiful for everyone to enjoy.
 Dan Ingald,
 Assistant Organizer Pikes Peak Adventurers
 As the Organizer for the Outdoor Club of Colorado Springs, I have come to appreciate all that Red Rock Canyon has to offer. Our members have enjoyed historical and geological walk-and-talks that the Friends of Red Rock Canyon sponsored over the past few years. Our group enjoys the open space for the hiking and biking trails and rock climbing. The newsletter keeps me informed of upcoming events and changes to the trail system so there is always something new happening and new to explore. It's a great space and has some really wonderful, dedicated folks to keep it going strong!
 Laura Janca

The Red Rock Rag

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Trails: Dave Dombach
Special Projects: Dave Schell, Ted Smith,
Shanti Toll
Members at Large: Erica Meyer, Joe Lavorini,
Ryan Shuck



TRAIL CODE OF CONDUCT

- Do not do anything illegal or do anything against park/trail rules.
- Stay on the marked trails at all times. Off-trail wilderness scars easily and can take years to recover.
- Always listen to safety rules and event agendas provided by trip leaders.
- Do not hike alone and generally stay with the group.
- Please drive only on the roads provided; vehicles can damage vegetation.
- Fire can cause devastating losses. Please don't throw cigarette butts down. The lighting of fires is strictly forbidden except in the designated areas at the parks or hiking areas.
- Please do not litter. There is no one to clean up after you.
- To protect our environment we would appreciate if a policy of "whatever you bring in - you take out" was followed.
- It is illegal to pick any plant, or to disturb or kill any animal or to remove or disfigure any biological, archaeological or geological material.
- Hikers taking deliberate and obvious short cuts when hiking could speed up erosion and damage wilderness. This is a punishable offense at many parks and you are asked to remain on the paths.



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