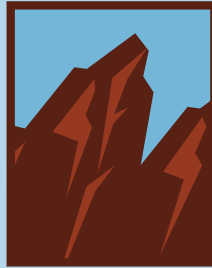


the RED ROCK RAG



FRIENDS OF
RED ROCK CANYON

Volume 19, #1
Spring 2017

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Welcome to a so far uneventful 2017. We're beginning our second year of our board led work evenings in Red Rock Canyon, helping with some small projects that need a bit of attention. Last year over 100 hours of volunteer time was dedicated to projects like corridor clearing, trash pick up and barbed wire removal. This year we hope to increase participation, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details on where and when we're working next.

Speaking of the board, we have all been quite busy with various projects for the coming year. Shanti as usual has been spearheading the trails projects, David the popular educational programs, Joe working on the Colorado Public Lands Day event, Dave with the rangers on so many of the day to day things that constantly happen, Erica in getting us all official as crew leaders and also our fancy new T shirts, and of course Ted providing more adventure than any of us can handle alone.

This summer we're also working on expanding our communication lines with city parks staff. As many

of you have seen, there's a lot of trailbuilding going on since our last newsletter. These trails are part of the Master Plan laid out for Red Rock Canyon years ago, and we are happy to see work getting completed. We've seen reports of issues in the open space as well, and we highly recommend using the GoCoSprings app at <https://coloradosprings.gov/gocosprings> on your mobile devices to report things like drones, homeless encampments, graffiti, tree vandalism or generally sketchy behavior. The app automatically categorizes the issue and reports its location to the city people that can handle it.

I hope many of you can volunteer during Colorado Public Lands Day. It is shaping up to be a fun event with some morning trailwork, and various afternoon activities for participants. I'd like to take a moment to plug my own contribution here of leading a geology and paleontology hike through the Cretaceous seas of Red Rock Canyon (particularly because that's the direction we need to go to get to Fossil Craft Beer) to finish the day. Hope to

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see you there, and if not, pick up some dog poop on your next hike to help make our open space just a little bit better.

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 everyone goes out on a hike led by the presenter, the "Walk".

Talk and Walks last summer

were given in *Leave No Trace, Invasive Weeds and Plants, and a couple on Geology*. 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:

redrockcanyonopenspace.org.
At the bottom of the home page

is the link where you can add your name to 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 formats for presentations on education, at our email friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org or give a call to David at 685-4792.

Thanks for your support!



Spring Volunteer Opportunities in RRC

"I could never resist the call of the trail." – Buffalo Bill

Many locals can't resist the call of the trails in Red Rock Canyon either. This summer we are planning several trail maintenance work days and even building some new trails in the open space. If you are seasoned at trail repair and building or if you've never helped out on a crew – we have volunteer spots open for you! Join us on the following work days in the coming months:

Sunday, May 14 – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Work day!

Join Friends of Red Rock Canyon and Manitou Cats for a fun filled work day. We will be working on the Contemplative Trail in Red Rock Canyon, building new steps, repairing the trail, and corridor clearing. Sign up to volunteer on the Manitou Cats website: <http://www.manitoucats.com/>.

Saturday, May 20 – 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Colorado Public Lands Day!

We have several activities planned on Colorado Public Lands Day and will be joined by other local trail groups including Rocky Mountain Field Institute, UpaDowna, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, and the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department. You can sign up to join us on our Facebook page under "events."

Sunday, June 9 – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Work day!

Join Friends of Red Rock Canyon and Manitou Cats for a fun filled work day as we continue building the new trail in White acres.

Crew Leaders – If you are a VOC or Pikes Peak Regional Certified Crew Leader, please register if you can help with any or most of our workdays. We need 4 or 5 crew leaders per day. Register as a "crew leader" on the days you can work. Then call Shanti Toll at 719-321-5354 to get more specifics.

We will have additional volunteer opportunities to volunteer this summer, so keep up to date on all the activities by following our Friend of Red Rock Canyon Facebook page.

New Trails in Red Rock Canyon

Colorado Springs Parks Department is adding roughly 5 miles of new trails in Red Rocks Open Space that are very mountain bike friendly. Built by Singletrack trails, while they are all multi use, they are designed to be fun on bikes. Located mostly in the South East corner of the park, they connect Intemann trail through the dump and on to the pavilion on the east side. There are several different trails that interconnect and create various new routes and possible loops. Names for the new trails are yet to be announced. Intemann trail itself is being rerouted in places to eliminate the worst of the non sustainable sections. Construction is going on now and will be for another month or so.

Please respect any social trail closures and be careful around the trail crews.



Colorado's First Ever Public Lands Day to be Celebrated

In May 2016, Colorado became the first state in the nation to establish a holiday recognizing the value of public lands within the state. From now on, the third Saturday in May will be known as Colorado Public Lands Day celebrating the significant contributions these lands have to our state. The bill passed with bipartisan support and was signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper.

Locally, the inaugural holiday will be recognized with a day of service, recreation, and celebration at Red Rock Canyon Open Space. The plan is for a day of fun with a morning spent working on a trail improvement project within the open space followed by a variety of recreational opportunities to choose from and an after party hosted by Fossil Craft Beer Company! The service project will be finishing work on the newly constructed

White Acres Trail (expected to be completed in the coming weeks), as well as restoration projects designed to protect our treasured Open Space. Recreation activities are expected to include hiking, mountain biking, climbing, and an educational geology walk led by FoRRC.

The following groups are coordinating efforts for the event: City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Services Department, UpaDowna, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, Rocky Mountain Field Institute, and Friends of Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

For more details and to register for the event, contact the Rocky Mountain Field Institute or visit www.rmfi.org.

Joining Scenic Colorado Cleaning Highway 24

On Saturday morning, March 18th, a band of volunteers helped to clean up Highway 24, running by Red Rock Canyon. Larry Barrett, with Scenic Colorado, has been working a number of years taking care to beautify the road from about Ridge Road to the Manitou Avenue exit. Much of the work is clean up, that is picking up the trash along the highway. A group of Air Force Academy Cadets joined us today for the segment from Ridge Road to 31st. The Cadets are from the 38th Squadron, also known as the "Almighty All Stars." Along with the Cadets today were a couple of Board members from the Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

The mission of Scenic Colorado is to preserve and enhance the visual environment and aesthetic character of the communities and country sides of Colorado. Clean up days are typically scheduled for Saturday mornings several times a

year depending how much litter there is along the road. Volunteers usually start around 9am and, depending on how many people show up to help, ending between eleven and noon. If you can help, please watch for emails from the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, or let Larry with Scenic Colorado know. You can email him at barrettlarry@comcast.net, or call him at 719-964-0825. The next cleanup is scheduled for May 6th and will meet at Ridge Road at 9 am.



JOIN US FOR A DAY OF STEWARDSHIP AND FUN
IN CELEBRATION OF THE INAUGURAL

COLORADO PUBLIC LANDS DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017

MORNING TRAIL
WORK PROJECT
8AM-12PM
FOLLOWED BY
LUNCH AND...

AFTERNOON
RECREATION
OPPORTUNITIES
INCLUDING
GUIDED HIKES,
GROUP RIDES,
CLIMBING, AND
MORE!

AFTER PARTY
HOSTED BY
FOSSIL CRAFT
BEER COMPANY

RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE

Learn more and sign up at
www.RMFI.org

Brought to you in partnership by:



Trails, Trails, Trails

Colorado Springs has been a busy beaver building and improving trails all over Red Rock Canyon Open Space and they are still at it. All trails are multi-use. Some trails are further out, so are used by mountain bikers, while others are closer to the parking lots for walkers.. This year and last year new trails along the east side of the Open Space allow for trail loops of all different lengths. It is great to see so many of us and visitors getting out to enjoy nature. The ponds are full and the reflection of Pikes Peak in the water still makes RRC one of the best places to take an iconic picture of our mountain. If you haven't been out lately to see your RRC, you have a treat in store.

There is a lot new to explore. Here are some of my new favorite trails (many are so new they are not on the maps and do not have names I know).

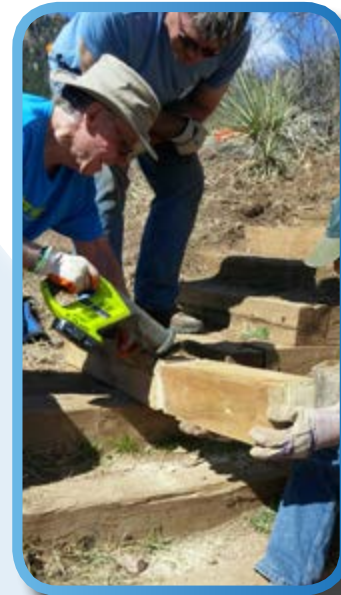


The new trail that goes east from the Bock Pavilion is short, steep and looks like the Manitou Incline because the wooden steps are wired together with cable. I call it the bomb shelter trail because it goes above where the 1960s nuclear bomb shelter used to be (It is too bad the city took it out, we could use a little shelter these days).

The re-made trail along the eastern rim of lower Red Rock Canyon is well done with beautiful views. The bomb shelter trail takes you there.

There is a great new trail at the south end of the dump that was built by VOC volunteers and a trail machine. It runs east-west and accesses a new meadow and rocks formations that I had never seen before. It makes a wonderful walking/running/biking loop from Section 16 trail-head using part of the White Acres trail and the Intemann trail.

There is a brand new section of the Intemann trail near the Crystal Hills connection. Check it out. It is beautiful and much easier for mountain bikes. By May 20th there will be a brand new trail on the east side. It will start at the White Acres picnic pavilion and go up to the top of the Dakota Hogback to the west. From there you can



use the White Acres trail to go left to Section 16 trail-head or back north to the Hogback trail and the other parking lots.

By now all you adventurous souls have hopefully walked/biked/ran the "East Fork OF The Sand Canyon Trail" (Maybe they can come up with a better name than "EFOTSC" trail). It is a gorgeous trail that takes you through picturesque landscape from Sand Canyon up to the Lori Cohen bench on the Intemann Trail. (If you are a biker, watch out for the turn some call the abyss).

It is spring and there are lots of good people enjoying Red Rock Canyon. Try to stay on the trails to protect the natural habitat all around. Please make sure you and your dog leave no trace for other to see. Thanks.

Manitou Trail CATS 2017 Volunteer Work Schedule

2nd Sunday of the month usually (city park or smaller work projects will be inserted as the needs arises)

April 9	Manitou Springs	Intemann Trail maintenance and wooden steps installation at Wildcat Gulch.
May 14	Red Rock Canyon	Contemplative Trail maintenance and corridor clearing. We will also be building new wooden steps on the trail.
May 20 (Sat)	Red Rock Canyon	Finishing a new trail from White Acres pavilion up to the Dakota Hogback.
June 11	Red Rock Canyon	Build New Trail in White Acres and close off a renegade trail.
June 18	Soda Springs Park	Making a flag stone path and improving the pavilion and landscaping at the park.
July 9	Red Rock Canyon	Build New Trail in White Acres and close off a renegade trail.
August 13	Manitou Springs	General trail maintenance, repair and corridor clearing on Intemann Trail and Iron Mountain Trail).
September 10	El Paso County	Ute Indian Trail - General trail maintenance, repair and corridor clearing.
October 8	????	????

We meet at **8 a.m.** at a pre-determined site where we will sign waivers, assign crews and do the safety talk. We will car pool to the work sight. We work until 1 p.m and then go back to Manitou for a complimentary beer or beverage at a local tavern.

Please register at www.ManitouCats.com if you want to volunteer, so we know how many tools and crew leaders we need. The work is mild to moderately difficult with a 1/3 to 2/3 mile hike to get to most worksites. Workdays are open to people 16 years and up.

Bring a friend, be safe, give back to the land and enjoy the day with good people.



...More Flies with Honey

The old adage of attracting more flies with honey than vinegar seems to have a new iteration: you attract more volunteers with cold beverages.

Last year, the Board of Friends of Red Rock Canyon (FORRC) decided to revive an old tradition of meeting once a month to do trail work in the evening during the week. This is in part, an effort to keep in touch with our roots as an organization; people committed to trail building, service, and conservation (specifically at Red Rock Canyon).

With the promise of free cold libations at Fossil Brewery after work, a crew of about 20 volunteers and FORRC board members gathered on October 20, 2016 at the 30th Street Parking Lot of Red Rock Canyon. This was the largest turnout for one of our monthly work parties. I concluded the turnout was due to the promise of cold beverage, hence the adage about attracting more volunteers with cold beverages. Regardless of their motives, it was a great turn-out, and we managed to remove about 100 yards of derelict barb-wire fence, fence post, and other miscellaneous

detritus along 30th Street between the parking lot and Highway 24. (We also probably managed to drink about 5 gallons of beverage afterwards). Thank you to everyone who came out, it was a great time!

We've decided to continue the monthly work parties again this year. These parties are a great way to get involved with the hands-on experience of volunteering at the open space, getting out in nature in the middle of the week, and meeting some great folks as part of the process. I can't make any promises for other party leaders, but any work party that I lead this year will include 1 free beverage at Fossil Brewery afterwards for every volunteer that shows up.

The party times and locations will be advertised in the Red Rock Rag, on the FORRC Facebook page, and on the FORRC website so keep an eye out for information regarding these upcoming events! As always, please clean up and carry out your dog's poop, and I hope to see you out in the Openspace.

Meet the Rangers

You may or may not have seen these guys in our open spaces but they are an invaluable asset to Red Rock Canyon and the other open spaces they manage.

We thought you might like a little background on our hard working Rangers Dan Allen and John Stark.

Dan earned a BS in Biology from St. Lawrence University. Following graduation he worked as an AmeriCorps member mapping invasive plants with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. He then worked on an AmeriCorps crew that conducted trail work and maintained streamside plantings along tributaries of the Columbia River. Dan moved to Colorado to work as Field Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Field Institute for two years. With RMFI he coordinated and supervised trail management and wildfire restoration projects. Following work with RMFI, he

worked as a Natural Resource Technician with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte conducting forest health and wildfire restoration projects in the South Platte River watershed. Dan started with the Department in December 2014. He worked as a maintenance technician in Palmer Park for one year and as park ranger in the Garden of the Gods for another year. Dan transitioned over to the TOPS Stewardship program in November 2016 where he serves currently as a park ranger.

John attended the University of Denver where he earned a Master's degree in Natural Resources Law & Policy. John has worked in many different areas of the conservation field including historic preservation, environmental planning and serving as a park ranger for the National Park Service at parks in Alaska, California and New Mexico. John has been working for the City of Colorado Springs for 3 1/2 years and serves now as Park

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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

Board Meetings are held at the Westside Community Center, at 1628 West Bijou Street, on the second Monday of each month beginning at 6:30pm.

Recent Supporters

Lexus of Colorado Springs recently sent us a donation out of the blue. They have a casual Friday and staff will donate two dollars to wear jeans that day. For the month of January they chose to contribute the \$110 raised to the Friends of Red Rock Canyon. Thank you for making a difference in the community!

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Ranger Supervisor. In this role he administers the TOPS Stewardship Program which involves land management, education and outreach and supervising seasonal employees.

The TOPS Stewardship Program is composed of two permanent and six seasonal employees. Seasonal employees include conservation technicians and park rangers. Seasonal TOPS employees have science and humanities educational backgrounds and experience working in a variety of roles in the conservation field. Our program is geared towards providing opportunities for our seasonal employees to gain a wide variety of experiences working in the conservation career field.

Whereas, a shout out to City Rock, downtown Colorado Springs. They again chose to continue their support of the Friends renewing their membership with an extra contribution to the Friends. We appreciate their Support!

We work on a wide variety of conservation projects throughout TOPS properties in Colorado Springs. This includes park maintenance, trail work, natural resource management, GIS mapping, interpretation and soft enforcement of park rules and regulations. Parks, trails and open spaces where we work include Red Rock Canyon, Austin Bluffs, Stratton, Blodgett Peak, Bluestem Prairie, Ute Valley, Corral Bluffs, High Chaparral, Manitou Incline and the Midland Trail.

The TOPS Stewardship program is full of employees with great passion for caring for our public lands and cultural and natural resources.

The Red Rock Rag

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RENEWAL DATE**

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If you would like to support the Friends of Red Rock Canyon using AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com and add us by our founding name: **Red Rock Canyon Foundation** (not the Friends).

We appreciate your support!



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