



CMSP Volunteer Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 1 (America's 1st Day Hike)
- Jan. 24th Volunteer Meeting
- Feb. 5th Who's Who in Hooterville Kids program 9:00 am

New! FREE YOGA classes every Saturday (unless the room is booked) at 9:00 am. Instructor accepts donations. Reservations required-call the park office at 576-2016. Max of 8 people.

In This Newsletter:

- Guzzler Filling.....page 2
- Volunteer Banquet.....page 2
- Publicity.....page 2
- Recording Hours.....page 3



Coordinator's Corner

Wow, can you believe we are already looking at 2013? This year has just made true the statement, "time flies when you are having fun!" As we send out this newsletter at this time of year, I would like to thank everyone for making 2012 a great one at CMSP. With this being my first year at the park, I wasn't sure what each season would bring, but you all have made this a great first run for me as the volunteer coordinator. It has been fun meeting everyone, and I have especially enjoyed watching each of you give to the park through activities that you love doing. I am amazed everyday at the dedication that I see each

of you give to the park, its natural resources, and its visitors, not because you have to, but simply because you want to.

Now that I have my first year under my belt, I am excited for 2013 and all the volunteer adventures to come. Some aspects I plan on focusing more on next year are more of these newsletters, more field trips, and more publicity for our programs. As always, please send any ideas you have in these categories, and I look forward to working with you in 2013!

Stacey Lewis, Senior Ranger

Sean (and Crystal!) Say Goodbye, Sam Says Hello

After two years with us here at CMSP, our full-time ranger Sean O'Donnell is going into a hole—Jackson Hole that is. Sean will be a stewardship manager for a non-profit land trust, and he is excited that his position will be directly involved with protecting valuable land around the Jackson and Yellowstone areas. Sean's last day at CMSP is January 5th. Just before sending this newsletter, we have learned that after being with us almost a year, our administrative assistant Crystal will be leaving us as well on January 11th. Crystal is taking her skills to the City of Colorado Springs Public Works Division. Crystal is sad to

leave CMSP and will miss everyone she has worked with.

Yes, we did get to have a fully staffed park for two months. On October 29th, our new park resource technician (full-time maintenance supervisor) Sam Koury came on board.

Sam transferred to us from Colorado's Department of Transportation, where he worked for 7 years. Although he is originally from Las Animas, he and his wife, Megan, moved here from Aguilar (near Trinidad). Sam has already begun making improvements around the park. He is a great asset to our program!



Guzzler Filling (and Watching) Made Easy

Speaking of Sam making improvements to the park, one his major projects involved working with Phillip Nelson and Lydia West in finding an easier way to fill the guzzler. Let me back up a second. For those who don't know what the guzzler is, it is a metal watering tank in the ground on the west side of the park road. Since the park has very little water, the tank was put in to give our wildlife a place to drink. However, it has no natural way to fill with water, so it has to be filled by human means. As many of you may know, Phillip and Lydia filled the guzzler each week this summer and fall by carrying 8 gallon (40 lb) water packs on their back. The guzzler usually needed 40-60 gallons

of water each time, so after doing the math, this adds up to a lot of trips carrying water!

Fortunately, thanks to Sam, Phillip and Lydia, the guzzler now has a pipe that runs from the event center area to the guzzler. The guzzler can now be filled in about 30 minutes by using a hose to connect a water hydrant to the pipe. Since the guzzler is a great watering hole that attracts wildlife, Sean installed a motion detecting camera there this summer. We have seen deer, birds, bobcat, bear, and even a skunk in the pictures. Watch our park website, because we are going to put these pictures on it in the coming year so that the public can see our park's wildlife "up close."



Jack Busher
2012 Volunteer of the Year



Pat Cooper
200+ Volunteer Hours

Recognition Given to Volunteers at Banquet

The end of the year is when we like to stop and say thank you to our volunteers. If you had any hours on the books this year, please contact Stacey to receive a thank you gift for your work in 2012.

For the volunteers who had 10 or more hours on the books this year, the annual recognition banquet was held on November 29th. The festivities moved off the park this year to the Warehouse Restaurant on Cimarron Avenue, and approximately 85 people attended.

The keynote speakers were our new regional manager, Dan Prenzlou and our region volunteer coordinator, Jena Sanchez.

Awards were given out by Mitch Martin, Sean O'Donnell, Crystal Luna, and Pat Grove. Pat Cooper and Steven Johnson were given special awards for having over 200 hours, and Jack Busher, who had the highest number of hours for the year, was also voted volunteer of the year by you, his peers.

New Publicity Avenue for CMSP- E-mail list

At No Child Left Inside this year, attendees added their names to a sign up list if they wanted to get e-mails about the events at our park. From this event alone, we had 25 families sign up to receive our e-mails. One of our newest volunteers, Dawn Ashbridge, has offered to keep this list updated and send out press releases, flyers, etc. We had to come up with a separate e-mail to send our announcements from:

So, for the volunteers who give programs, we would like to ask that you have a sign-up sheet for visitors at your program (Stacey will have these made for you) and encourage folks to sign up. Please do not send anything you want advertised to the events e-mail above. Please send anything you want to get out on the e-mail list to Stacey, and she will get it to Dawn to send out. If you receive any feedback in your programs about how folks heard about us, please let Stacey know!

cheyennemtnstateparkevents@gmail.com.



Steven Johnson
200+ Volunteer Hours-Rookie of the Year

Your CMSP Staff:

Mitchell Martin
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Visit Us on the Web!

The Friends of Website:
www.friendsofcmosp.org

Debbie Barnes's has a great Blog about her birding adventures with Bill Shankster - and their pictures are amazing!

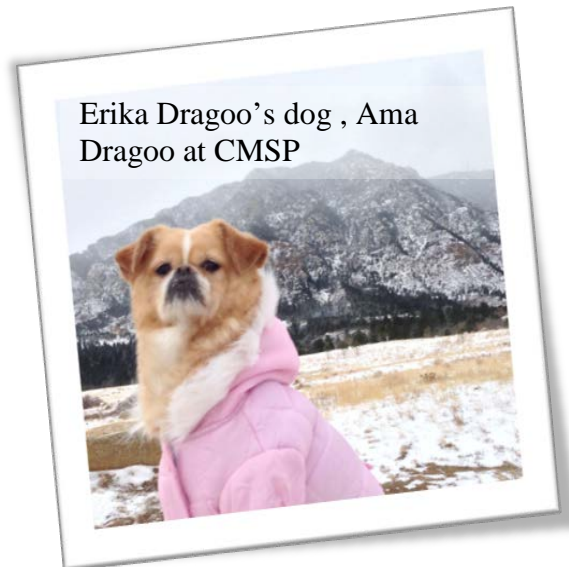
Check out <http://www.chickadeemountainphotography.com/drive-from-laredo-south-with-a-stop-at-san-ignacio-bird-and-butterfly-park/> - and other stories!

Reminder to Record Hours This Coming Year

No newsletter would be complete without a reminder to do something, right? One of the last reasons our volunteers dedicate their time to CMSP is for credit or recognition, and some volunteers are afraid that writing down hours is a way of documenting “credit.” However, writing down your hours on your timesheet is one of the best ways you can help the CMSP volunteer program. Here’s why—one of the only ways our Denver folks can track how well our volunteer program is doing is by looking at how many volunteer hours each park has. So, when they see higher number of hours turned in by CMSP, they know we are doing well and are more likely increase the funding for our program. So, don’t be shy!

A couple of other reminders for recording hours:

1. Unless you are travelling to a location off the park to volunteer (school, another park, etc), **DRIVE TIME DOES NOT COUNT** toward your hours. The mileage column is only on the sheet for your tax deduction purposes.
2. Please turn in your hours at the end of the month you work them. We have to balance hours on two websites each month for accounting purposes, so it’s less change we have to make when hours are turned in later. Remember, if you can’t make it to the park, just e-mail Stacey and she will put them in the book for you!



Special Thanks to Erika Dragoo for putting this newsletter together!

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CMSP Volunteer(s)