

Friends

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President's Message

Have you noticed the significant construction activity within Cheyenne Mountain State Park's borders? What you are witnessing the first phase of our Park's construction plan. Rich Dudley, our Park Manager, and his staff are beyond busy bringing the Park Opening ever closer. Rich explains what is happening in his update on this same page.

For the Friends Of Cheyenne Mountain State Park...we continue to meet, plan and anticipate. The park development plan is going strong and that long anticipated "opening day" just keeps creeping-up on us. As Friends Of Cheyenne Mountain State Park we continue to look for ways to support the park and manager, Rich Dudley, so that when that big day arrives EVERYBODY will feel proud of what's been accomplished. As a "friends group" we have always placed a high value on ensuring that "outdoor education" will always be offered to school groups, as well as to adults and families. In fact, we are currently looking into printing a "newspaper" that will include park history, land and people history, as well as wildlife and geology facts. In order to take on such a huge task...we want to make more friends!! The best way to make friends is by having our current friends introduce their friends to the park and the Friends Of Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Please take the time to talk to those you know and give them a membership application...it's a great way to support the park and our educational mission!!!

Thank-you
Jerry O'Hare/President.

Construction Has Begun!

By Rich Dudley, Park Manager

Even though the majority of the Park's trails are completed, it is very exciting to see the beginning of Park infrastructure work. Construction of the roads and utilities at Cheyenne Mountain State Park is proceeding well. We are mid-way through our contract for phase one development and the work remains on schedule. Phase one includes construction of all roads, the trailhead parking area, as well as installation of utilities. Completion of this work will allow the park to be open for trail use sometime in late summer or early fall. There is, however, work to be done by the adjacent landowner that is necessary for visitors to have access to the park from Hwy 115. It appears at this time that this work is on a complementary schedule with our plans.

Staff is preparing to bid out construction of the next phase of development, which will include building the park visitor center, fee station, and trailhead restroom. We have funding for these buildings and they are an integral part of providing our first levels of service to our customers. An 8-10 month timeline is projected to construct these buildings once a contract has been awarded and the notice to proceed given.

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado will again be building trail on the June 4th and 5th, which is the National Trails Day weekend. VOC has been incredible to work with the past few years. They do high quality work, and if this group of people can't get you excited about getting out and making Colorado a better place, you had better check your pulse! This year's project will construct a trail linking last year's project with the Group Picnic Area, Event Center, Campground, and on to the Blackmer

Trail. It will be a memorable project. To get involved or for more information, go to VOC's website at: www.voc.org.



Potential Link Between Mountain Post and CMSP

By Rich Dudley

Recently, an exciting opportunity presented itself at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Park Manager Rich Dudley was invited to join the Mountain Post Historical Center Board (MPHC), a non-profit entity working to bring a military museum to Fort Carson.

The Board recognized the significance of having a state park directly across the street as well as the fact that State Parks was well ahead of them in terms of timelines to complete planning and begin construction. The MPHC Board envisions building the largest military museum outside of Washington DC, and this vision has the endorsement of retired General Norman Swartzkopf. The museum will celebrate the commitment, strength and steadfastness of soldiers from the Mountain Post, both past and present. Additionally, the museum will communicate the ongoing mission of Fort Carson and create a sense of identity and pride for soldiers and the community alike. It is anticipated that the groundbreaking for the museum will take place in spring 2006.

A Highway 115 overpass from the park to Fort Carson has long been discussed in the context of regional trail linkages. Now this connection is viewed in a whole different light. Future CMSP visitors will be able to witness a significant part of our nation's history at Fort Carson. Likewise, visitors to Fort Carson's historical museum will be able to camp, hike or simply relax in the Park's beauty and serenity. Future opportunities will abound for cross-promotion and marketing; however, issues such as park user fees, etc., will also need to be resolved. The joint attraction of the park and the museum will have regional significance, attracting soldiers and family from around the country.

Colorado State Parks Director Lyle Laverty, Region Manager Mike French, and Park Manager Dudley will soon meet with Fort Carson's Commanding General, Major General Robert Mixon, to discuss formalizing the partnership between Fort Carson and Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Stay tuned for what promises to be a very interesting ride!

Park Volunteer Opportunities

By Jack Case

2005 will undoubtedly be the most important year for the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park to date. In anticipation of the Park opening for hiking and other activities there are many volunteer opportunities to help the Park Manager ramp up for the first official visitors.

Are you new to the Friends of CMSP and looking for a way to get involved? Are you an "old" Friend who would like to increase your level of involvement with the Park? Or are you simply interested in helping any way you can to make CMSP a great place to experience Colorado? Here are some suggestions for linking your skills, interests and/or desires with the needs of the Park.

First, register online with Colorado State Parks as a willing volunteer! You will be asked to identify your experience, skills, areas of interest, and availability in a database that can be utilized by the Park staff to match desires and expertise with the needs of the Park. You can register at www.parks.state.co.us. Click on "Volunteer Program" on the left side toolbar. Then enter the "Volunteer Registration" worksheet. Be sure to indicate that you would like to volunteer at the Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

Are you interested in becoming an active member of the FCMSP Board of Directors? The Board currently meets monthly with the purpose of assisting the Park Manager and staff in making the experience at CMSP the best possible for visitors. To date the Board has organized or assisted with fund raising, public relations, trail building, Friends events (picnics, park clean-ups, hikes and bikes), newsletters, etc. As the Park nears its opening day, the list of opportunities grows exponentially. Contact Jerry O'Hare or Rick Upton (contact information is on the Board Members chart on page 5).

Finally, help us increase our resource pool by asking your friends, neighbors, fellow workers and other acquaintances to become members of Friends of CMSP. Together we will make Cheyenne Mountain State Park the finest state park in the nation.



(4th Annual FCMSP Picnic Hikers)

CMSP Resource Summary: Wildlife

This is the third excerpt from the CMSP Stewardship Plan, printed with permission. This issue focuses on birds of prey.

Cheyenne Mountain provides potentially important habitat and nesting grounds for peregrine falcons (*Falcon peregrinus anatum*). Historic peregrine falcon nesting sites are known to occur nearby in the cliffs above Rock Creek and Bear Creek. As of August 20, 1999, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) de-listed the peregrine falcon as an endangered species. The State of Colorado currently classifies the peregrine as “recovered” and as a “species of



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special concern”. The peregrine population will be monitored for 13 years, a time period that covers at least two breeding generations, to determine the

ability of the population to be self-sustaining (CMAFB 2000). The Colorado Division of Wildlife documented a peregrine nesting site in the cliffs on the extreme southwestern corner of the park and a potential nesting area in the cliffs along the western edge of the park. Additional fieldwork is required to verify current nesting sites and explore the possibility of peregrine nesting sites existing in the cliffs above Limekiln Creek on the western edge of the park. A prairie falcon nest has been observed there.

Other rare raptor species that nest, or forage, on the site include:

ferruginous hawks (*Buteo regalis*), which primarily use the site to forage for prairie dogs (Peterson Air Force Base, Florissant National Monument & direct observation onsite); **prairie falcons (*Falcon mexicanus*),** which forage in the grasslands and nest in the cliffs on the western edge of the park (NORAD Air Force Facility, Florissant

National Monument & direct observation onsite); **and federally-threatened bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*),** which primarily use the site to forage on prairie dogs during the winter months (Fort Carson). Prairie falcon numbers have declined in Colorado due to urbanization and human disturbance (Andrews and Righter 1992) and large parts of their range continue to be threatened by these factors. **Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are known to nest in the steep cliffs throughout the area and nesting sites may also be present within park boundaries** (NORAD Air Force Facility, Florissant National Monument, Peterson Air Force Base & direct observation onsite). Mexican spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), a federally-threatened species, require forested, steep-walled, moist canyon bottoms for nesting sites and humid, old-growth, mixed conifer forests for foraging sites, and are often associated with mesa topography in Colorado (Johnson 1997). **Potentially suitable foraging and nesting habitat for the federally threatened Mexican spotted owls exists within the upper reaches of the Limekiln drainage. Suitable habitat for state-threatened burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) can be found in the grasslands near the known prairie dog colonies** (Fort Carson). The presence of either of these owls at Cheyenne Mountain is yet to be confirmed.

Ferruginous hawk populations decline as their habitat becomes fragmented, so this species is a good indicator of habitat fragmentation and the general health and stability of an ecosystem (Reynolds et al. 1992). **The population of ferruginous hawks that forage at Cheyenne Mountain currently appears to be healthy and stable, but is dependent on healthy and stable prairie dog populations within the park.** Prairie falcons require cliffs for nesting sites that are located next to the prairies where they feed (Platt and Enderson 1989). In Colorado, this habitat is primarily found in the foothills along the Front Range. Prairie falcon populations are currently stable throughout their range.

However, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program considers this species to be at risk and likely to experience problems in the future as development continues to encroach into the foothills. **Cheyenne Mountain provides nesting sites for prairie falcons and protects important prairie falcon habitat from further human encroachment.** Red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and sharp-shinned hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) are also common in the area. Cheyenne Mountain lies within an important migratory bird route and provides essential habitat for many species of birds as they migrate through the area (per. comm. Debra Pomim, president of the Colorado Springs chapter of the Audubon Society).



Courtesy of The Peregrine Fund

In addition to raptors, the cliffs on the western edge of the park may also house bat colonies. Townsend’s big-eared bats and fringed-tailed bats are found in the foothills and usually nest in cliffs/caves near coniferous forests. The Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine forests beneath the steeper cliffs on the western side of the park provide excellent potential habitat for these species and they are likely to be present.



(4th Annual FCSMP Picnic Cyclist, our own Pam Karr, Board Treasurer)

National Interpreters Workshop 2004

By Dick Taylor

The National Association for Interpretation NAI conducts an extensive workshop in a different city each year in the month of November. I have participated in many of these enlightening events in cities ranging from Anchorage Alaska to Orlando Florida. This last year the workshop was held in Grand Rapids Michigan, a part of the country I was very unfamiliar with.

Before I begin let me tell you a little more about the workshops. Attendance ranges from 800 to 1000 plus. There is nothing stuffy about these attendees. They are all laid back and informality is the rule. Occupations of participants include interpreters and personnel from national to local parks, zoos, aquaria, volunteers, students, academics, environmental education teachers, and people in allied fields such as illustrators, planners and authors. If you don't know anyone when you arrive you soon will. You may even run into people from the US Geological Survey, the Army Corps of Engineers and various conservation groups.

The hotel for the NIW is on the banks of the Grand River. The Grand Hotel is not quite the Broadmoor, but close enough; at least four stars. The Grand River is just that, Grand. So wide and deep you could float a steamer or barge down it. Far different from our Colorado creeks, streams and snow fed rivers.

Workshop registration was equally as simple, professional and fast. In the registration packet was a preprinted name tag, a clipboard with yellow pad and miscellaneous other items. Also there was a pair of fleece mittens. I wondered about them. They seemed at the time to be a rather strange item to include. If you are from Michigan you no doubt know the answer. I'll tell you later.

The first evening was an opening reception at the Van Andel Museum

Center just across the river. I had a preconceived notion that it would be just an art museum. It was far from it. Entrance that evening was restricted to just workshop participants.

I'll continue in the next issue to describe the wonderful museum and its exhibits and more of what goes on at the workshop receptions!



Skunk Remedies

Provided by the Hughes family

Spring is upon us and the wildlife, as well as our own pets are on the move. Surely your pets like ours, are itching to get outdoors and are suffering from cabin fever. Well, there may be times when your pets, or even you, come closer to a skunk than you wish. Here are a few suggestions for preventing and getting rid of the dreaded skunk smell.

First let's try and keep the skunks at a distance: Skunk repellent: Mix together one chopped yellow onion, one chopped jalapeno pepper and one tablespoon of cayenne pepper. Boil ingredients for 20 mins. in two quarts of water. Let cool, strain the mixture through cheesecloth. Apply with pesticide sprayer or spray bottle.

To remove skunk odor from furniture or clothing: Use Neutroleum Alpha, available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Or place peppermint or spearmint oil on cotton balls or mix with water in a bottle and spray.

And how about you and those "smelly" pets? Bathe animal or yourself in a mixture of one quart of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda and a teaspoon of liquid detergent. After five minutes, rinse. Repeat if necessary. Vinegar and water rinse will also work.

Renew Your Membership Now

If you joined our Cheyenne Mountain State Park Friends before April 2004 you should renew for the next eventful year (the Park should be opening to hiking/biking in 2005!). Already we have all enjoyed 4 Friends of CMSP picnics, a magnificent members only moonlight hike, along with many guided daytime hikes and been kept abreast of the latest Park progress and issues through our Newsletters and Community and Board meetings.

Take this opportunity to stay involved, help your community and preserve this "near pristine" parcel of land for all time. Consider making the one-time tax-deductible donation of \$500 to become a lifetime member.

Complete the membership renewal application on page 6, attach your check, send it in and let's get going on a banner year for our newest State Park!

Coming Events

For more information email a Friends Board Member or call Jerry O'Hare (260-1391) or Rick Upton (576-9141).

First Friends Hike of the Year!
May 21, 2005 – 9:00 AM. Enter through the Pine Oaks Road gate. RSVP to Lori 260-1391.

VOC Trail Building
June 4-5. Register at www.voc.org

Friends only Moonlight Hikes
July 22, 2005 – Friday Evening, 7:30 PM.
August 20, 2005 – Saturday Evening, 7:30 PM

Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Board

President	Jerry O'Hare	lajohare@gbronline.com
Vice Pres	Rick Upton	uptonrus@adelphia.net
Secretary	Lori O'Hare	lajohare@gbronline.com
Treasurer	Pam Miller	mjkarr@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Rick Upton	uptonrus@adelphia.net
Member	Glen Scott	glenscott@adelphia.net
Member	Dick Taylor	DickrT8311@aol.com
Member	Jim Schwerin	jim@windycreek.net
Member	Jack Case	
Member	Vacant	
Park Manager	Rich Dudley (Non-voting member)	rich.dudley@state.co.us

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Here

Postage
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Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park
P.O Box 51453
Colorado Springs, CO 80949-1453



Join the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park

(New/Renewal)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Annual Membership Dues

Individual	\$ 25.00
Family	\$ 35.00
Supporting	\$ 50.00
Contributing	\$100.00
Small Business	\$100.00
Corporate	\$500.00
Lifetime	\$500.00

Make check payable to:
 Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park
 P.O. Box 51453
 Colorado Springs, CO 80949-1453

Become a member of the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park!

Help to ensure that your State Park provides the best possible environment for you, your family, your friends and all people to learn and enjoy.

Complete the application to the left, detach this page from the newsletter, fold this page in half so that our address (page 5) is visible and mail the application, along with your check.

Contact a Board member and find out how you can provide time and talent in support of your newest State Park.

This newsletter represents the opinions and views of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Except as specifically identified in an article, the views and opinions do not necessarily reflect official policy or endorsement by the State of Colorado or the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Friends of
 Cheyenne Mountain State Park
 P.O. Box 51453
 Colorado Springs, CO 80949-1453

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Friends Members Listing

Please Help!

Help us to keep our records correct and up to date. Please check the listing below for your name and joined/renewed date. Let us know of any changes (dates, names, spelling, etc) via email (uptonrus@adelphia.net), phone (719) 576-9141, or by completing a renewal application on page 6 and sending it to our P.O. Box. Also, if you have been receiving our newsletter, via the US Postal Service and you would like it sent via email let us know. We are about to install a program to assist us in reminding you when your annual renewal is due and we want to begin with good information. Remember the Friends of CMSP is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization and your annual or lifetime dues are tax deductible. Thanks so much for your help.

First	Last	Renewed	First	Last	Renewed
ANN	BROWN	Mar '03	LISA AND TRENT	HOVENGA	Mar '04
ANN	YOUNG	Sep	LISA	SINKE	May
BARBARA	ROGERS	July	LIZ	NICHOL	Aug
BETH ANN DAGOSTINO	& PETE DOHNER	Jul '03	LYNETTE	REAGAN	Oct '04
BETTE LARGE & BOB	BUNCH	Jun	MARIE	CORREIA	Aug
BILL AND BOBBIE	ZANCA	Apr '03	MARK	POTTER	LIFE
BOB AND DARLA	MITCHELL	LIFE	JOHNNY AND MARTY	WALKER	LIFE
BOB AND LINDA	STACK	LIFE	MARY	HAHN	Apr
BRIAN AND DOROTHY	KERN	LIFE	MECKY	SCHULER	LIFE
BURL AND NONA	STRUTTON	Nov	MICHAEL	BAUM	May '04
CARL AND SHARON	TRACER	Apr '03	MIKE AND TRACY	HEMANN	Dec '03
CHARLIE AND TERRI	MARTIN	May	MINETTE	CHURCH	Sep '03
DARREL AND CHRIS	NILY	May	MONA	CONOVER	Oct '04
DAVE	JEWETT	Mar '03	P.J.	ANDERSON	Mar '03
DAVID AND JANE ARD	SMITH	Oct '03	PAM AND DAN	SCOTT	LIFE
DICK	TAYLOR	LIFE	PAM AND KEN	JONES	Nov '03
DON	FORTENBERRY	Dec '03	PAM AND MARK	CARR	Oct '04
ETHEL	EVEN (and Jim Schwengler)	Mar '03	PAT AND CB	WILSON	Mar '04
FRED AND BETTY	SHAULIS	LIFE	PAT AND SHARON	NOLAN	Jan '03
GLEN AND BARBARA	SCOTT	LIFE	PAUL	SMITH	May '03
GREG AND JEN	FOURNIER	Sep '03	PAULETA	TERVEN	July
JACK	CASE		PETE AND MARCELLA	RUCH	Aug
JAMIE AND JAN	MCMILLIN	May	PHILLIP AND PENNY J	LOVING	May
JAN	MCBRIDE	Aug	RALPH AND KATHRYN	CADWALLADER	Sep '04
JANE C	DILLON	Nov '03	RICH AND THERESA	DUDLEY	LIFE
JERRY AND JANET	HURST	Oct '03	RICHARD	ROEDER	Apr '04
JERRY AND LORI	O'HARE	Oct '04	RICK AND SANDY	UPTON	LIFE
JIM AND CAMILLE	SCHWERIN	LIFE	ROBERT AND MARGARET	MCKINNEY	Aug '04
JIM AND DONNA	PURDY	May	RUSS AND BETH	NILY	June
JO AND VINCE	STEELE	April	S.H.	ROSE	Oct
JOHN AND LORALEE	HETTINGER	Apr '04	STAN	METSKER	June
JOHN AND SHARON	WALLACE	LIFE	THOMAS AND KAREN	HATHAWAY	Sep
JOHN AND SUSAN	ROWLEY	Nov '03	THOMAS AND SHELLY	STELLWAGEN	April '03
KATHRYN	KING	Oct '04	TIM AND JANET	OLIVER	Sep '03
KENNETH	JEWETT	Jul '04	TIM	WOLKEN	Oct '04
LARRY AND EVE	BARRETT	Oct '03	ANTHONY AND PATTI	MACCAGNAN	Jul '04
LEE	MILNER	Oct '04	VALERIE AND GREG	SPRENGER	Aug '04
LEE AND MARGE	BURROWS	Jun	WAYNE AND CAROL	HUGHES	Apr '04
LINDA KILIS AND STEVE	LOCKE	July			