

# THE CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

## TRACKER



Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Newsletter Volume 8 Issue 1 March 2008



## Park Manager's Update: Three Steps Forward; One Step Back

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*Winter Finds a Temporary Home at Our Visitors Center*

Hello, Friends! I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and high spirits! After experiencing what I would call a true example of wintertime in Colorado these past few months, it seems that everyone is stir crazy and anxious for spring to arrive. We look forward to the throngs of visitors good weather will bring!

While the weather has slowed down construction quite a bit, there is good news to report on several fronts.

First and foremost, I am pleased to inform you that our full-time staff has grown in size recently. At the end of February, Brian Greenleaf was hired as our new Park Resource Tech. Anyone named Greenleaf can only be a positive addition to Cheyenne Mountain State Park! Brian will work in concert with Bryan Bond to manage our maintenance concerns. (Special note - we currently have four employees named Brian/Bryan: Kerrigan, Bond, Greenleaf, and our seasonal employee, Brian Weissig!). Brian will also be spearheading our GIS program, incorporating all of the data we have amassed over time into ArcView software, which is a great management tool. Please introduce yourself to Brian, as he is a welcome addition to our staff!

In January, we met with Director Dean Winstanley to discuss our funding needs required to construct the Activity Area and 16 new campsites in our Meadow campground. (The Activity Area is where our amphitheater will be located, along with trail connections, and a playground. Construction of this area, as well as our Group Picnic Area, and completion of site work around several Comfort Stations, will allow us to open the entire park for our visitors to enjoy). During our meeting we were able to identify existing funds which would allow us to proceed with this work without going back to GOCO for additional funding. Look for everything, including the additional campsites, to be finished by the end of the summer. Unfortunately, due to contracting problems, as well as the zebra mussel you've heard so much about, we will not be able to have the existing campground open

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for Memorial Day as we had previously hoped. It now appears that the earliest we can have Swift Puma, Raptor Glen, and Gobbler Grove campsites open is July 1<sup>st</sup>. The discovery of the zebra mussel in Lake Pueblo has thrown Colorado State Parks into a frenzy of activity. Unfortunately, because of this very small nuisance species, we have had to give up a significant portion of our budget for hiring seasonal employees. These funds will now be utilized to help the staff at Lake Pueblo monitor boats coming into, and out of the lake, for the presence of these mussels.

On a more positive note, in partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service, we have hired a company to do some fuel mitigation work around the park. This work involves creating fire breaks throughout areas of dense scrub-oak, and will go a long ways to helping us meet our commitments for fire safety at the park.

Many of you may be wondering how the planning process for the top of the mountain will unfold. We have not yet begun to master plan for the newly acquired property on top of Cheyenne Mountain, but are positioning ourselves to do so soon. I am currently in the process of getting the consulting firm of Kezziah-Watkins hired to facilitate the



public portion of this process. Kezziah-Watkins comes highly recommended by the City of Colorado Springs, who has used the firm on a number of park & TOPS related projects. Stay tuned for more to come on this process in the near future.

That's what has been going on for the past few months at CMSP! We look forward to a busy spring and summer, filled with many visitors and Friends enjoying this wonderful state park!

Have you ever wondered how the Friends of CMSP membership fees are utilized? Now in its seventh year of operation, the Friends have already made a significant impact in funding numerous projects, programs, and special needs of the park staff. Just a quick and random list: taxidermy expenses, funding for volunteer programs, support for naturalist activities, education grants for staff and volunteers, as well as support for on-going school out-reach programs. And clearly, this is a very incomplete itemization. For a much more detailed and expansive look at funding, check out the following report from our Programs and Financial Committees.

Rich Dudley

## President's Message: Good-bye, Hello, and Just What's Going on Around Here?

This issue of your newsletter is "chock full" of information and updates on CMSP happenings and changes. First, a Board membership change; Jim Schwerin, a charter member of your Friends Board of Directors, has departed to pursue business ventures. After a comprehensive search, Barb Scott was elected to fill Jim's vacancy, including the Board Treasurer position. Welcome Barb! You can read more about Jim's departure and Barb's arrival in a separate article.

In the article on the 2008 Plan for Programs and Funding, learn how your Friends Board of Directors intends to approach our funding and support efforts. Discover how you can get involved and help the Park become the number one destination for locals and El Paso County's visitors.

When will the Park campgrounds open, you ask? Well that question is answered in the Park Manager's Update. This has been a gratifying, but long, road for Rich Dudley and his Park staff. The coordination to accomplish anything in a public area that involves the state, the county, the city and many special interest groups is astounding. Rest assured that as Park amenities are opened to the public, they will be completely ready for our use and simply the best there is available.

Park staff and the best volunteer group in the state (my personal opinion) continue to provide interesting and exciting opportunities to enjoy the Park and learn about (and respect) wildlife, flora and

fauna, the environment and our varied ecosystems. You are the reason that CMSP's volunteer program is so successful. Your financial contributions and efforts provide the "fuel" required for any non-profit organization to operate.

Thank each and every one of you for what you do for our Park.



Please, encourage your friends and family to become Friends of CMSP. Take them out to the Park for a guided hike, to enjoy one of the many programs, or just to walk a few of the 20+ miles of trails; and they, too, will be hooked.

Rick Upton

## Your Friends Board Makes Personnel Changes

Recently the board lost a hard-working and dedicated member. Jim Schwerin, both treasurer and head of the Financial Committee, has stepped away from the Board due to changes in his professional commitments. Jim came to the group several years ago as a liaison between the board and Medicine Wheel Mountain Bike Club. Jim is also a member of the very pro-active IMBA group, that works nationally to support mountain bike advocacy. Besides his duties on the board, Jim also put in much time as a volunteer trail builder, helping to bring both Medicine Wheel and Cougar's Shadow Trails to fruition. Thank you, Jim. You will be missed!

Fortunately for the entire organization, the Board was extremely fortunate to find a replacement for these two critical board functions. We welcome Barbara Scott to the board. Barb has spent a great deal of her time volunteering for the park, with particular attention to the herbarium project, as well as spearheading the planting and care of our xeriscape garden. Welcome to the ranch, Barb.

## TALES FROM THE RANGER STATION:



Hello Friends, I just wanted to let you know that we now have a golf cart for the volunteer camp hosts! Thank you for your generous donation (big shout out to Jerry and the DA office!). Better yet, Ben talked the guy into throwing the truck bed into the deal, so it didn't cost the park a thing!

I appreciate your support of the park and the volunteer program. This golf cart is an important

addition to our campground operations. (I swear we will get to use it someday!!)

Senior Ranger, Monique Mullis



## Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Board

Have questions or want to find out how you can help support Cheyenne Mountain State Park? Contact a Board Member for more information.

### Officers:

President	Rick Upton	uptonrus@comcast.net
Vice Pres.	Glen Scott	gscott06@gmail.com
Secretary	Lori O'Hare	lajohare@msn.com
Treasurer	Barb Scott	bscott03@gmail.com

Programs:	Jerry O'Hare	lajohare@msn.com
Finance:	Barb Scott	bscott03@gmail.com

<b>Members:</b>	Jane Dillon	TEXASNY@aol.com
	Nan Scranton	NanScranton@elpasoco.com
	Jim Purdy	jpurdy@aol.com

### Committee Chairs:

Communications	Jack Busher	jbusher@qwest.net
Membership	Lori O'Hare	lajohare@msn.com

<b>Non-Voting Members:</b>		
Park Manager	Rich Dudley	rich.dudley@state.co.us
Park Ranger	Monique Mullis	monique.mullis@state.co.us

# A Look at Budgeting: How Your Favorite Local Non-profit Acquires and Spends Its Money

By Glen Scott

The Friends 2008 plan for Programs and Funding

Our approach to programs and budgeting for 2008 divides our efforts into three main programmatic areas or Parts:

**Part I: Board Internal Governance and Friends Group Support Related.** Included in this category are the functions and costs of running and financing our operation as a non-profit organization. Sub-areas include conduct and support of Board Meetings, Communications (such as our newsletter), sponsoring the Friends Annual Gala, Membership Management, Organization Records Management, Financial Management, Grant submissions, and Fund Raising Activities. This is the smallest outlay area of our three program areas. We have no paid staff, so we are very lean in terms of what our "organizational overhead" costs are each year.

**Part II: Park Support Programs.** The core focus of our efforts. This area includes where and how the Friends provide direct support to the State Park. Sub-areas include Volunteer Program Support (for example, we often provide the drinks and munchies during Park Volunteer activities and training sessions), support of the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony (we typically co-sponsor this with the Park Staff), Park Staff Training (normally a cost-sharing approach with the State), purchase of Park Equipment (for example trail building/maintenance equipment, etc), Park Promotional Support (helping to get the word out on Park Programs and Activities), support of Special Events at the Park (such as the upcoming Geo-caching event in April), and Park Educational Programs (support Interpretation and Environmental Education initiatives, for example, funding the purchase of "skins and skulls," etc). This area constitutes the single largest budget area during the year...as it should!

**Part III: Special Programs.** This area includes a number of activities that do not fit under Parts I and II. Included here are our special programs related to Endowment Grants or Special Grants (some funding comes with strings for how it will be spent...that is what this sub-area covers), Park Advocacy (as an independent non-profit, the Friends Group can advocate positions supporting our goals in public fo-

runs. An example has been our support of acquiring the top of Cheyenne Mountain), Community Partnerships (solid partnerships with other groups promoting goals similar to ours results in effective teamwork when it comes to things such as efforts to improve or expand the Park), efforts to expand the Park, and special projects such as our plan to publish a Trails Guide for Cheyenne Mountain State Park this year.

How do these Parts all fit together? Part I covers what we do internally as an organization. Part II focuses on direct support of Park Programs...and is closely coordinated with the Park Staff. Part III are those things that don't fall in I and II but which support our goals and objectives as a Friends Group.

Want to help in any of these program areas? Want to know more about what we are looking at for 2008 and beyond?

Just email any of the Board members. Our standing committees (Finance, Communications, Membership, and Programs) are always on lookout for folks who want to get involved and make a difference.



***A Walk in the 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 Colorado State Parks.

## Naturalist Activities Keep Things Humming



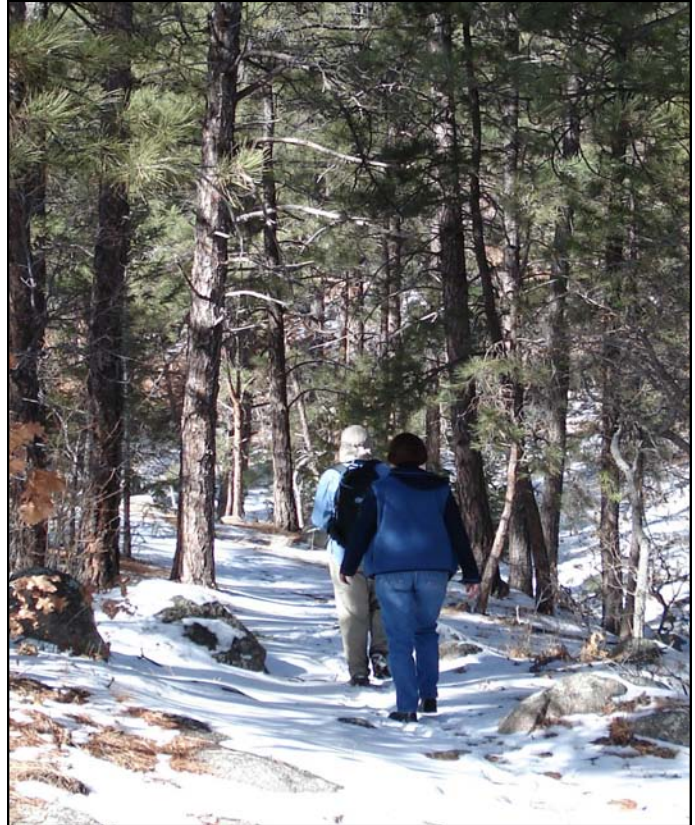
### ***Entertaining the troops isn't hard for an old hand like park naturalist Pat Grove***

Thanks to the hard work of our two most recent GOCO naturalists, Cheryl Holling and Pat Grove, the park has been swinging regardless of foul weather and the occasional snow fall. Here is a brief run-down of what they've accomplished recently, as well as plans for the future:

**Children's Public Programs:** We continue to have reasonable success with these programs. Saturday, Feb. 16th, we had 8 children and 8 adults attend the *Read the Map. Find the Treasure* program. Much thanks to Dan and Pam Scott and Lynda Grove for their assistance. The weather was great and the participants seemed to enjoy learning to read a map and, then, employing their skills to find *caches* of hidden "treasures" in and around the trail-head parking area. Dan and Pam will be utilizing parts of this program for the upcoming geocache event in April. If you would like to help with that event please let me know.

**Sneak Peek at Campgrounds:** Sunday, 17 people attended Monique Mullis's informative program about camping in the park. Anticipating a possibly hostile crowd, Monique was quite pleased that everyone responded very well to her answers to the many questions that were asked. After about an hour in the visitor center classroom, the participants were taken for a tour of the camper services building and some of the nearby campsites. Monique plans to do this again, sometime in the near future.

**Guided Hikes:** At the beginning of the month, attendance for our Cookie Burner and Winter Discovery walks was very good. This program ran from mid-Jan through mid-March and proved rather popular. Thanks to Jack Busher, Jim Purdy, Cheryl Holling and Lee Tatum these hikes have been well covered for the past few months. As spring approaches, hopefully, we can anticipate renewed interest in hiking but, as you well know, March weather can vary considerably.



### ***Late Winter Winner: Saturday Morning Cookie Burner Hikes Prove Popular***

**School program in April:** Brian Kerrigan and Pat Grove have scheduled a school program for April 25th. Approximately 60 kindergartners will be attending. The plan is to split the group in half and do two separate programs for each group of 30. Janeen Igou and Jerri DeCarolis have agreed to act as program leaders. The two programs that will be presented are: *Investigating Furred and Feather Friends* and *Walkin' and Talkin' Turkey*.



### ***Here Grove "talks turkey" on a recent guided hike with plenty of attentive listeners***

# Geo-caching Returns to Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Get Out and Discover What the Fuss is All About

Save the date! If you've wanted to get out and finally understand how to use that GPS your kids/parents/grandkids bought you for your last birthday, this is for you. Just the thing to get you out to the park, have some fun, and learn a valuable skill to boot. Long-time volunteers Dan and Pam Scott head up this fun filled day. Contact Senior Ranger Monique Mullis if you have questions or would like to volunteer to support this program.

**Let's go GEOCACHE** at the **First Ever**

## Cache Bash

*Saturday, April 19*

*Cheyenne Mountain State Park  
Visitor Center*

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is off Highway 115,  
right across from Gate 1 of Fort Carson.

**PRESENTED BY:**



**FUN**

**Activities for all ages and geocaching skills!**

**1:00—4:00: Challenge Cache**  
Meet at the Visitor Center for instructions, prizes will be awarded at 4:00.

**1:00—4:00: Kids Letterbox Challenge**  
Kids of all ages can learn to letterbox, find the treasure, and win a prize!

**1:30: Geocaching 101** (Visitor Center Classroom)  
Learn the basics of Geocaching and go find a cache!

**3:00: Kids Wildlife Program** (Visitor Center Classroom)  
Kids can learn about one of the park's critters at this hands-on activity

**4:00: Challenge Cache Awards at Visitor Center**

[www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us)

**First 100 Military get in park free**

The first 100 people to show their military ID will get into the park free on April 19. Military appreciation sponsored by the Office of the District Attorney, Fourth Judicial District!

## Spring is Just Around the Corner; Volunteers Continue to Bloom!

Under the tutelage of Ranger Brian Kerrigan, the Cheyenne Mountain State Park's Volunteer program keeps on truckin'. On March 19th, the volunteers will have their next monthly gathering in the meeting room at the Visitors Center at 6:30. Besides the normal business portion of the meeting, Kerrigan has arranged to have Jeremy and Sylvia Agnew present a slide show of their recent trip to Africa. Knowing the Agnew's and their interest in wildlife, we can expect a fascinating program.

As the weather warms and improves, the volunteers will also bring back one of their more popular programs from last summer. That's right, Trail Work Days are on the horizon. The first opportunity, weather permitting, will be Saturday, April 26. May's date is Saturday, the 31st. Then in June we'll add a new twist: on Wednesday, June 4 and 25, we'll have After-Work Trail Days, running from 5:00-8:00 PM, with food to follow! Saturday, June 21, we'll greet summer with another Trail Work Day from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Dig up those work boots, gloves, and a hardy lunch and join us as we make a visual impact at the park.



**Trail Crew Heads Out  
in Search of Work**

## Trail Host Program Begins: Show Off Your Knowledge of the Park



**CMSP Trail Host Looking  
for Customers**

Senior Ranger Monique Mullis announced that all those interested in participating in the park's Trail Host Program should attend a meeting at the park Visitor Center on Wednesday, March 19th. Because this 5:30 meeting immediately precedes the March volunteer meeting, Mullis hopes to make things as convenient as possible for those who will to attend. She plans to cover the parameters of the program, which is designed to put knowledgeable volunteers on the trails.

In case you are wondering, Trail Hosts are volunteers who make themselves visible throughout the park by doing just what so many of us enjoy best: walking the trails of CMSP! Generally, there are no specific assignments for these hosts. Pick a day, time, and trail, then sign in at the Visitor Center. Mullis hopes the hosts will make park visitors feel both comfortable and safe as they roam the twenty miles or so of park trails.

## Membership Report:

We have one new member, MaryAnn Hartman. No new lifetime members. Total membership is 50 plus 21 lifetime members. Encourage your friends to become *Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park!*

Lori O'Hare

## Adopt-A-Trail Plan Launches

Thanks to the encouragement of Ranger Brian Kerrigan, the park will introduce an Adopt-A-Trail program. Already signed on are two local companies, the Cheyenne Mountain Resort

and the Bechtel Corporation. Each of these groups has volunteered a group of their employees for a minimum of two days each year to help maintain a designated trail, as well as inspecting that trail twice a year to determine its needs. CMR will be responsible for the Zook Loop, while Bechtel plans to take on Talon Trail.

Both groups will send their teams for a two-day course in trail maintenance at Cheyenne Mountain State Park on April 5 and 6. This course will be taught by the park's volunteer trail crew leaders. Good luck, and thanks to both these organizations for their support

# Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Membership Application

**I / We wish to join the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park**

**New / Renewal** (circle one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$25 Annual Individual Membership**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$35 Annual Family Membership**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$50 Annual Supporting Membership**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$100 Annual Contributing Membership**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$100 Annual Small Business Membership**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$500 Annual Corporate Membership**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$500 LIFETIME MEMBER: Never pay dues again!**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

Help us save postage! Please check here to receive "The Tracker" newsletter via e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Make your check payable and please mail your application to:**

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

**Thank you for your support of Cheyenne Mountain State Park!**