

Friends

In This Issue:

- 1 Park Managers Update
- 2 Note from our President
Lifetime Members
Zen and Flowers #3
- 3 National Association of Interpretation
- 4 What's Bloomin' in the Park?
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Membership Renewal
Coming Events
- 5 Board Members
- 6 Membership Application

Park Opening A Moving Target!!

By Rich Dudley, Park Manager

Over the course of the last couple of years, I've made many predictions for when the park might be open for the public to enjoy. You'd think I would learn my lesson because every one of those predictions has been wrong. Obviously, this is the first time that I have had the opportunity to plan and develop a park from the ground up. Taking a blank slate of a property, and having nothing more than a vision, the process has not always followed the path of least resistance.

Currently, we are wrapping up our business with Colorado Springs Utilities. In January, a few more requirements were instituted for new development and we've been working hard with our consultants to overcome these new hurdles. At the same time, I have been working closely with the National Park Service (NPS) to resolve our Mexican Spotted Owl issue.

A quick history – the Mexican Spotted Owl is a federally listed endangered species. A documented nest exists just southwest of the park and there is apparently some suitable foraging habitat within the park boundary. Our planning was mostly complete and roughly 14 miles of trail constructed when we received a map from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) delineating critical habitat for the owl. Because we have federal funds from the National Park Service earmarked for development at the park, we've been

required to work through the Endangered Species Act with NPS issuing a letter to USFWS detailing our planning efforts. It appears that we are getting a favorable response from USFWS on this issue. All told, we should have this issue resolved and the Colorado Springs Utilities work done within the month. Once complete, we will be able to bid out the work for constructing our roads and installing our utilities. Typically, our bidding and contracting process takes 60-90 days, so look for us to begin "turning dirt" sometime later this summer. Essentially, this means that we won't have a trailhead in and legal access off the highway before winter, so it seems we'll be open for trail use next spring....there I go predicting again!!

On June 5 & 6, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado will again be on the park to construct another mile or so of trail. The trail in question will lead from the Visitor Center up to the picnic areas, over to the trailhead and then back to the Visitor Center. The trail alignment we've identified is very nice and I anticipate that this trail will lend itself nicely to interpretive activities. It's not too late to sign up for this project. If you are interested, go to www.voc.org/Home.cfm site and look for the Cheyenne Mountain project to register.

As always, thank you all for your continuing support for, and interest in, Cheyenne Mountain State Park. This park is truly a great asset for the Colorado Springs community!

Note From the President

By Jerry O'Hare

The days are getting longer, warmer, and a little more colorful...so it must finally be SPRINGTIME!!! A recent look around Cheyenne Mountain State Park revealed a few more springtime clues; wildflowers in bloom, trees with new buds, critter tracks and scat - all good signs that summer is fast approaching. With the changing of the seasons come more opportunities for hikes, tours, park updates, and clean-up events with Friends at the park. Please pay attention to your newsletter for events and dates as these are generally "friends only". While I'm on that topic...we are "kid friendly" as well as "friend friendly"; so don't hesitate to bring your kids to these events. It's a great time to hike and spend time with your kids, as well as introduce them to nature and a "life outside". If you want them to be good stewards of our parks and open space, Friends sponsored events are a safe, easy place to start.

Hope to see ya on the trail.



New Lifetime Members!

Please join us in welcoming **Dan and Pam Scott** as the newest, Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park lifetime members.



Zen and the Art of Flower Identification

by Dick Taylor

The third in a series

I was going to get into how plants use the principles of economics in their making a living, but the title of these essays is plant identification. We haven't identified one plant and I indicated we probably wouldn't. The closest we have come is to say that flower color isn't always the best identification and in the plant kingdom there are the flowering plants, the angiosperms and the cone bearing plants, the gymnosperms. This division eliminates many species in the plant kingdom that are not flowers. We can however make another gigantic cut to narrow our choice as to what flower we may be so bold as to try to name.

The monocots are flowering plants that have a single seed leaf as they grow from the seed.

They typically have leaves with parallel veins (they are entire meaning no indentations) and flower parts in threes

or multiples of three. The monocots include grasses, palms, lilies, tulips, onions, orchids, irises and plants that have bulbs, corms or tubers. The dicots would be everything else (two seed leaves). Nature didn't decide on these divisions to help us out and we must be cautious. There are always exceptions and one learns to avoid such words as always or never. Nice to have an out if you're wrong! It is probably better to use words such as usually or generally when describing some characteristic found in nature. We also run into a problem with common names of flowers. Many flowers may have several common names depending on geographic location, or just because it has over time acquired several names. This of course can lead to confusion so in the scientific world species are given a two part name which unfortunately don't usually roll off the tongue.

The first part is the genus in which many species may belong and the second the species name itself. I have to admit that probably for at least ten years I never noticed that these names were always written in italics, the genus name being capitalized and the species in lower case. If the species name is to be used repeatedly you may see just the capital letter of the genus followed by the species name. T-rex is common for tyrannosaurus rex. Even this system has difficulty, especially if two different people describe the species, each giving it a different name. Convention dictates that the first person to describe a species gets naming rights, also that it is in extremely bad taste to name a species after oneself. The US Postal Service actually issued a series of stamps picturing dinosaurs that had the wrong name for one due to this rule.

A second problem is defining what is a species. A simple definition is a group of organisms which have certain characteristics in common and which, if

they reproduce sexually, are able to interbreed freely in nature and produce fully fertile off spring. Even this definition is fraught with problems. Suppose a flower is separated from its neighbor by a river or mountain range and one of its pollinators, say a particular butterfly has become extinct and no longer inhabits the area. Can these two flowers “interbreed freely”? Taxonomists are the people who try to keep tract of species. On occasion one will decide that a species really belongs in a different genus or family (a family is composed of genera and is the next level up). In the taxonomist game there are those known as splitters who want to separate everything by characteristics and lumpers who prefer to not go over board by finding something in common in the characteristics. If you want to be a taxonomist, by all means spend your time trying to name things. There are much more interesting things which we will cover in the future in these pages.

When I was a kid we got by with three kingdoms of life: animal, plant and fungus. I think for a time the latter was considered in the plant kingdom. Funguses actually have little in common with plants. Everything else like bacteria and microscopic organisms were just shoehorned into the “established kingdoms.” Modern biology today usually considers that there are five kingdoms and some researches concede that there are more than five. That’s another story, however, but needless to say we have a much better understanding of life. Lichens, that stuff we find growing on rocks, for example, are no longer considered to be plants or fungi, but a symbiotic relationship (prolonged association of different species) of a algae (prokaryotic or eucaryotic kingdom) and fungi.



FCMSP Joins NAI

By Dick Taylor

The board members of the Friends though have recognized that there is much more to a park than outdoor adventure, recreation, camping or just toasting marshmallows. Our Park, can provide in many cases, regardless as to why the visitor chose to visit, environmental and outdoor education without the visitor perhaps even being aware of it. For example, bird and wildlife viewing opportunities come immediately to mind. The foundation to lead visitors to a greater understanding and awareness of the natural sciences in everything from ants to zircon minerals is present.

Because of our belief that this is among the important functions of the Friends and that environmental education can provide additional membership benefit, we have joined the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). We believe that our NAI membership can provide many benefits to Friends members and we encourage our members, especially those that may wish to become volunteer naturalists, to join NAI. The NAI web site states the following: “NAI is a professional association dedicated to the advancement of the profession of interpretation (on-site informal education programs at parks, zoos, nature centers, historic sites, museums, and aquaria), with an emphasis on professional development and

certification. Our mission is inspiring leadership and excellence to advance natural, cultural, and heritage interpretation as a profession.” NAI is a non-profit organization, of over 5000 members, and is governed by its members.

What Is Interpretation? In the modern context, interpretation is the term used to describe communication activities (such as environmental education) designed to improve understanding at parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, historic sites, cruise companies, tour companies and aquariums.

So what are some of the benefits that FCMSP receive by our membership? Legacy Magazine, 50 pages printed in color, six issues a year. InterpNews newsletter, four issues a year. National Interpretation Workshop held in a different NAI region and city every year. Membership in one of ten regions and with each region providing four newsletters and a regional workshop (we are in the Rocky Mountain Region extending from the prairie provinces of Canada to Utah and New Mexico). Six certification categories available with ten certification-training courses provided. These include Certified Interpretive Planner, Heritage Interpretation, Interpretive Manager, Interpretive Guide, and Interpretive Trainer. They provide student scholarships and certification training scholarships, BI weekly jobs newsletters, Association store and publications.

Our membership in NAI also allows any two of our Friends’ members to attend, at NAI member rates, any given NAI workshop or program. We hope to be able to alert FCMSP members by e-mail or our web site of NAI programs.

For more information on NAI go to their web site www.interpnet.org.



What's Bloomin' in Our Park?

By Rick Upton

As you can see by the photos in this issue (especially in our color version) of our Friends newsletter, "spring has sprung" in Cheyenne Mountain State Park. A recent trail maintenance excursion yielded splashes of brilliant color all over the Park as provided by a host of Colorado wildflowers.

To name but a few: Small fields of white Wild Onions, Daisies and Pussy Toes break up the green backdrop of prairie grasses and scrub oak. Golden Banner and the bright yellow Western Wallflower are plentiful as you stroll along the Park's well-designed trails. Small groups of Mountain Bluebells can be found just about everywhere. The distinctive and striking Rocky Mountain Iris gets more popular as you gain just a bit of elevation in the Park. And the hard to miss bright orange Paintbrush can be seen near our Prairie Dog colonies. Last to mention, among our shrubs currently flowering in the Park, are the popular Chokeberry and what many believe to be the Thimbleberry.

I believe it would be fair to say that spring will be a very popular time for a wildflower filled hike in Cheyenne Mountain State Park!

Gather up your wildflower loving, hiking group and call Rick Upton (576-9141 or Rich Dudley (227-5256) to get the best taste of Colorado wildflowers without leaving the city limits!

Pikes Peak Community Foundation

We wish to thank very much the Pikes Peak Community Foundation for their kind invitation to their annual celebration held last February at the World Arena. Many leaders of the community, representatives of non profits, city council and county commissioners as well as city and county department heads enjoyed drinks, a suburb buffet and a Colorado College hockey team win over the University of Alaska Anchorage.

President Jerry O'Hare and board member Dick Taylor represented FCMSF. They both had a chance to tell many people about the new state park and make new contacts.

The foundation provides a conduit for donations and bequests to many community organizations by providing investment advice and the pooling and management of investment funds and in some cases even office space and clerical help

Renew Your Membership Now

Have you already renewed your Friends membership? If you joined our Cheyenne Mountain State Park Friends before May 2003 you should renew for the next eventful year (the Park should be opening to hiking in 2005!). Already we have all enjoyed 3 CMSF picnics, many guided 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 5, 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).

Meet the Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park

May 22 - 10 AM to 1 PM
Meet at the Park, Pine Oaks Rd. gate.

VOC Trail Building/National Trails Day

June 5-6 - details at www.voc.org/Home.cfm.

Friends Park Clean-up

June 19 - 9 AM to 12 Noon
Meet at the Park, Pine Oaks Rd. gate.

Members Only Hike/Bike

July 23 - (tentative) 9 AM

4th Annual Friends Picnic

TBD

Prefer Email?

Would you prefer receiving your Friends of CMSF newsletter via email? You would be saving the Friends group the cost of postage and receiving your newsletter in a timelier manner. Email your preference to Rick at uptonrus@adelphia.net.

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	Mary Hahn	otter201@adelphia.net
Member	Glen Scott	glenscott@adelphia.net
Member	Dick Taylor	DickrT8311@aol.com
Member	Jim Schwerin	jim@windycreek.net
Park Manager	Rich Dudley (Non-voting member)	rich.dudley@state.co.us

Return Address
Here

Postage
Here

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

Postage
 Here

Address Label
 Here

