

Cheyenne Mountain State Park

Friends



September 2003
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3rd Annual Friends Picnic

The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Board is hosting our 3rd Annual Friends Picnic in the Park on September 20, 2003. Festivities will begin with organized hikes on our newly completed trail system (starting at 9 AM with a rigorous 5 mile hike for the "hearty" members and 10:30 AM for a shorter (under 2 mile) walk on the Zook Trail). Rich Dudley, Park Manager, and your Board will provide Park and Friends updates and we will "chow down" on burgers and hot dogs around noon. Enter the Park via Pine Oaks Road across from Fort Carson's gate #5 on Highway 115.

Bring a side-dish/desert to share and be prepared if you plan to hike (water, raingear, etc). RSVP to Lori O'Hare at (719) 260-1391 or via email fcmsp@yahoo.com.

Clean Up Day

The first Friends of CMSP Clean Up Day was both enjoyable and environmentally satisfying. About 15 people, including 2 new members and

their families filled over 20 large trash bags! We also disposed of many large items that did not belong in the Park.

Dick Taylor provided geological displays with in-depth insight into the forces of nature that helped sculpt our area. We enjoyed a tasty lunch and several of us took a long, pleasant walk through our Park.

Members for Life!

Please join us in welcoming the newest lifetime members of our Friends of CMSP organization.



- ◆ Fred & Betty Shaulis
- ◆ Dick Taylor
- ◆ Johnny & Marty Walker

Join the fast-growing group of the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Lifetime Members. Besides the obvious benefit of paying dues just once and always being informed about Park progress and happenings, each lifetime member receives a free 1-year pass to all Colorado State Parks! Become a lifetime member of the Friends of CMSP with a one-time \$500 dues payment (payable over 1 year). Just complete the Member Application at the end of this newsletter, attach your check, made out to FCMSP, to the application and drop it in the mail.

Got Progress?

Park Manager's Update
By Rich Dudley

Yes, we have progress! Many of you may have been wondering whether or not any progress has been made at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in the past year or so. Resoundingly, I can tell you YES!

Colorado State Parks has never before undertaken such a detailed planning process for developing a park as has occurred at Cheyenne Mountain. The end result promises to be a flagship park for Colorado State Parks. Here are our planning accomplishments this past year:

--Overall planning has reached a milestone at a 65% completion level. This means that our planning team of Thomas & Thomas has produced a comprehensive set of documents detailing all park designs including: roadway and utility alignments; site specifics such as parking and traffic flows at all amenities; campsite and cabin locations; etc. Many of you know that this body of work represents a tremendous amount of effort as well as quite a bit of discussion, both internal and public. State Parks will make this document available at our 3rd Annual Friends Picnic in September. The next step is to have Thomas & Thomas complete the 100% design on roadways and utilities as these components will be the first to be constructed.

--State Parks has interviewed several architectural firms to design park buildings. We are currently under negotiation with one of these firms and hope to have them under contract shortly.

--We had hoped to have the Park partially open for day use sometime this year. Due to access issues off of Hwy. 115, it now appears we must site our sites for opening the summer of '04. Construction will ensue over the next couple of years as the rest of our park facilities are built.

--Speaking of trails, several important things have happened this summer.

First, the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) constructed approximately 1.25 miles of beautiful trail over National Trails Day weekend (June 7 & 8). This trail promises to be the most popular trail in the park. Medicine Wheel, a local mountain biking club, has also been working on a technical bike trail roughly 1.5 miles in length. Work is ongoing on this trail as dedicated members of the group meet to work on the trail on Thursday evenings. Last but not least, State Parks has contracted with Arrowhead Trails to carve out the remaining portion of the 12-13 mile natural surface trail system. Arrowhead is probably the state's most experienced trail building company and is using mechanical means to create a wonderful 4-foot wide trail. Arrowhead will work through the summer and hopefully finish sometime early this Fall.

--We are having a Noxious Weed Eradication Plan put together by Mindy Wheeler of WP Natural Resources Consulting. A consultant sprayed for uninvited weeds in July and will spray again at the beginning of the growing season next spring.

--Forest management is certainly an important issue for the Park and I am working with Forester, Bjorn Dahl, to have a plan completed to use the best management practices for this important resource into the future. I hope that the plan will be completed early this Fall. Money is available to then begin fuel load mitigation by creating patchwork fuel breaks in areas of the park as identified in the report.

--Discussions between State Parks, NORAD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have begun regarding a significant problem on the north side of the park. Specifically, a very significant drainage comes off of NORAD property onto Park property before heading east onto Denman's lands. This drainage is very channelized and will continue to get worse as time goes on. Measures will need to be put in place by both NORAD and State Parks to slow down the water before it goes onto the Denman property. Due to funding constraints, however, this project might not get underway for sometime.



Trails Progress

The VOC trail building was a resounding success. Nearly 300 volunteers descended upon our Park and completed over a mile of a first class trail loop beginning and ending at the old ranch corral. The VOC volunteers did an incredible job leaving nearly no trace of their arduous efforts except a beautifully designed and enjoyable trail. Thanks to VOC for organizing and managing the CMSP project and to the volunteers for their excellent work!

Medicine Wheel continues to work on the Park's first mountain bike trail. This trail is both challenging and pleasing to the outdoors enthusiast. They have covered some difficult terrain, installed drainage pipes and constructed many erosion control systems. Thanks, Medicine Wheel volunteers. Your trail is going to be very, very popular!

As noted in Rich Dudley's Park Manager Update, Arrowhead Trails was awarded the contract to build over 12 miles of trails throughout the Park. Arrowhead is making excellent progress with over 10 miles completed consisting of 5 loops south of the corral.

The quality of each of the trail building efforts in the Park is awesome! Don't miss an opportunity to join one of our Board Members in a "preview" hike or any occasion to try these trails out. You will be impressed!

Zen and the Art of Flower Identification

by Dick Taylor

I am borrowing the title of this essay from the title of a novel written perhaps 40 years ago; a novel titled "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance." You wouldn't have learned much of anything about motorcycle repair from reading it and you will not learn a whole lot about flower identification from this essay either as much of it will be my thoughts and not the identity of any single flower.

The idea for this article came from a friend Jerry, who I met at a rehab gym I attend. He had purchased a digital camera, taken some marvelous 8 X 10 photos of wild flowers and one morning turned up with a bulging album figuring that I might be able to identify the flowers he had photographed. I suppose that he somehow came to this conclusion as I probably had told him I volunteered in a park and called myself a naturalist interpreter. He had arranged the collection by flower color in a large album. Long ago, I had decided that learning what every wild flower species I encountered would be a rather hopeless and time consuming task and identifying flowers by color anyway would not be a very practical way. Some birders had their "life lists" in an attempt to see every bird in the world and many "lep" watchers (lepidoptera = scale wing or a butterfly) seemed to have the same disposition. Some, I expect, know little more than a name! Writers of many flower field guides seem to like to divide their book into sections by different colors. This could be a way to escape writing a key (more about this later) and may work to an extent, but runs into frequent problems. The red section, for example, can contain flowers with colors varying from deep red to rose to violet. Orange and yellow can blend together. The color in photos can vary from what film was used, the camera, the exposure and time of day, the season, the printer and the paper the photograph was printed

on. The flower itself may have variations in color also. Jerry had one flower shown in the red section of his album and also in the white section. This flower happened to be one that opens at night as a white flower to attract night flying moths and fades during the day. Not knowing the size of the flower can impede identification also. I doubt also that any field guide will ever have the capacity to have a photograph of every flower species found on the Eastern Slope of the Rockies. William A. Weber in his field guide "Colorado Flora Eastern Slope" lists approximately 2,260 species. Admittedly, not all of these species are flowering plants, but the numbers are still formidable.

One of the principals of interpretation is provocation. In other words, you want to present to your audience information that may be controversial or require thought in order for them to think things out and observe on their own. Had you ever thought about why flowers are colored in the first place? I mentioned earlier a flower that blooms at night and is white. Why white? You should be able to figure that out. On the other hand what would be the point of a flower closing up at night or on an overcast day? Now, one of my points is why be able to identify 2260 species when there is so much more of interest about any individual flower besides its name? I have only touched on the natural science of flowers and plan to continue this series which I think will give you a whole new outlook the next time you go on a wildflower walk. You may even learn about insects, the color spectrum or animal behavior!

Prefer Email?

Would you prefer receiving your Friends of CMSP 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.

Coming Events

For more information for any of these events, email any one of the Friends Board members.

September 18, 2003

State Parks Board Meeting

7-8:30 PM, Sheraton Hotel on Circle Drive. This is an open forum with the main topic of State Park Fee Schedules.

September 20, 2003

3rd Annual FCMSP Picnic

Hikes on our new trails! Board member nominations. Park update. Great food. 9:00 AM for a rigorous hike, 10:30 AM for a shorter, easy hike and 11:30/12:00 for Park updates and food.

RSVP telephone (719) 260-1391 or email uptonrus@adelphia.net.

Membership Renewal

Are you ready to renew your Friends membership? If you joined our Cheyenne Mountain State Park Friends between April 1 and October 1, 2002 you should renew for the next exciting and eventful year. Already we have all enjoyed 2 CMSP picnics, several guided hikes and been kept abreast of the latest Park progress and issues through our Newsletters.

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 application on page 5, attach your check, send it in and let's get going on a banner year for our newest State Park!

Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Board

President	Glen Scott	glenscott@adelphia.net
Vice President	Jerry O'Hare	Jsolloohare@aol.com
Secretary	Mary Hahn	otter201@adelphia.net
Treasurer	Pam Miller	alemap@prodigy.net
Newsletter	Rick Upton	uptonrus@adelphia.net
Member	Lori O'Hare	jsolloohare@aol.com
Member	Shelly Stellwagen	shelly.stellwagen@northcom.mil
Member	Dick Taylor	DickrT8311@aol.com
Member	Jim Schwerin	jim@windycreek.net
Park Manager	Rich Dudley (non-voting member)	rich.dudley@state.co.us

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
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