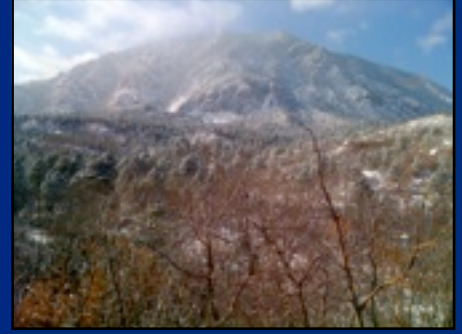


THE CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN

STATE PARK

TRACKER



Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Newsletter

Volume 9

Issue 3

Dec 2009



President's Message: 2009 Overview

Hello Friends. Your Board wishes you all a great Christmas and Holiday period. 2009 was a great year for the Park and the Friends...and going forward into 2010 we anticipate continued opportunities to help Cheyenne Mountain State Park remain the crown jewel of the State Park system. I'd like to briefly highlight just a few key things -

New Board. In October we elected new board members. Here's our Board moving forward:

President – Glen Scott

Vice President – Jack Busher

Secretary – Lori O'Hare

Treasurer – Barb Scott

Members – Jim Purdy, Pam Scott, Janeen Igou, and Jim Hatley

We are very pleased to welcome **Jim Hatley** to the Board. Many of you know Jim...he, along with his wife Darlene, have been the primary Camp Hosts for the Park this year. He brings a tremendous amount of talent and dedication to our Board. We have one open Board member position...so if you are interested in joining the Board please email any of the current Board members.



Jim Hatley

Board Alumni - Recognizing Jerry O'Hare. Jerry O'Hare has departed the Board to focus more on pure Volunteer efforts. Jerry is an original founding member of the Friends Group...and since 2001 has served in multiple Board leadership positions, to include President and Vice President. Jerry brought an incredible level of commitment and caring to every project he touched. He remains a member of the Friends Group so he's not going very far. Thanks for all your support Jerry!



Glen Scott and Rich Dudley
Present Friends Award to
Jerry O'Hare (center)

Junior Ranger Program. Thanks to an El Pomar grant and the hard work of folks like Pat Grove and Janeen Igou, we are on track to support the kickoff of a tremendous Junior Ranger Program at the Park. Beginning next Spring, the program will be run by the Park Staff (and Volunteers)...with the Friends group funding the materials. (Program books, badges, etc). This will be a great

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue

- 1-- President's Message
- 2-- Pres. Message (contd.)
- Website Changes
- 3-- Park Manager's
Update:Adios Amigo
- 4-- Board Bio: Glen Scott
- Tales From the Ranger
Station
- 5-- What's Happening at
the Park?
- 6-- 2009 Volunteer Banquet
- 7-- Junior Ranger Program
- Board Contact List
- 8-- Membership Application
Form

addition to the Park programs, tailored to get children deeply involved in learning about the tremendous natural resources the Park hosts.

2010 Challenges. The State Park budget for 2010 will continue to be a real challenge. The Friends will continue to help wherever possible to keep Park programs intact during the upcoming year. Having a viable and dynamic Park Volunteer program is critical to the success of the Park. Many of the Friends also serve as Volunteers. I encourage you all to contribute to the Park by being a Volunteer. If you do not have the time to be an active Volunteer, then by all means help the Friends help the Volunteers...keep your membership active and donate funds to help. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization, so any donations are tax deductible.

Sincerely, Glen Scott

Friends Website Changes and Email Address Request

In the past *The Tracker*, which is published three to four times a year, has been available to members on the Internet. As of now, we will continue to publish this newsletter as in the past, though we have attempted to re-work our Friends website. Eventually, we may completely eliminate the newsletter, relying instead on the website as a more timely resource for all our Friends. For now, however, we will continue to produce *The Tracker* as in the past.

If you have a preference whether we keep *The Tracker* as our main info source, or switch to the website for that purpose, please let us know by contacting Jack Busher at jbusher@qwest.net.

Amongst other things, we want to keep the website as current as time allows. At that site, the plan is to report on current Friend's activity, as well as keeping you up-to-date regarding all things pertinent to Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

As some of you have already discovered, there has been a change in our website URL. Because of a recent change in management of the website, we had to change the Friend's address. A subtle change, but please note: our former address was "friendscmsp.org." The new address is "friendsofcmstp.org" By including the "of" within our old address, we can assure you that you won't be sent to a site helping teenagers helping each other finding new friends! Again, the new website address is **friendsofcmstp.org**.

Another special request we are asking of all Friends is that you help us keep your email addresses current. Recently, we've had several "mailings" returned to us because addresses are no longer current. Please keep us in mind regarding any further address changes.

Park Manager's Update: Adios, Amigos

The Park Manager's Update below is written by Senior Park Ranger, Monique Mullis:

The end of this summer and fall brought the completion of our first full year with all facilities, particularly the campgrounds, open. It's so exciting to see the years of planning and building come to fruition... and in such a spectacular way! There's no better way to know if the hard work paid off than to listen to what people think. Of course, no one has to tell us how great our park is, but visitors from throughout the country finally got in on our little secret this year. It seems they liked it! Here are just a few direct quotes from internet reviews the park received over the past year:

"Cheyenne Mountain State Park is the example all other states should follow. All of the Colorado State Parks are well done, but Cheyenne Mountain tops them all."

"Simply wonderful. One of the best parks we have ever been in!"

"This is by far the NICEST campground we have ever visited – bar none!! If you want me to be picky, the water spigot dripped. Other than that, this park is about as perfect as they come."

"If this is the campsite to compare all others too then everyone else will lose. Imagine eating dinner after sunset from your table by the bay window overlooking the Fort Carson and Southern Colorado Springs area."

"The only way to describe this campground: "If this isn't paradise it's close enough for me." Large, private spaces so far from your neighbor that you think the place is yours alone. This is indeed the "Crown Jewel" of the Colorado State Park system."

Now if that isn't validation; I don't know what is! A big hats off to all the friends, volunteers and staff who have dedicated years of service to the park. We can now take a few minutes to relish our success, but only a few minutes! There's not too much time to rest on our laurels. We must keep up the hard work and find ways to improve upon the strong foundation we have built at the park.

Speaking of a strong foundation, there would be none without Rich Dudley. Rich became the Park Manager of Cheyenne Mountain when it was just a recent property acquisition and a dream. For years, he worked endlessly to develop park plans, foster community partnerships, oversee the massive construction process, gather friends, volunteers and staff and finally, open one of Colorado's most spectacular parks. It is truly a "crown jewel," not only within the state park system, but in Colorado's outdoor offerings as a whole.



Rich contemplates his very own Vision Quest

From my perspective, it's cool enough to be a ranger in Colorado, but to be the one who builds a park there! WOW! There aren't words to explain what an amazing opportunity and accomplishment that is for a ranger and lover of the outdoors! Rich has every reason to be very proud of his work at Cheyenne Mountain.

It's obvious to everyone involved in the park that Rich is the heart and soul of the operation, which makes it hard to imagine the place without him. So, it is with a bittersweet note that I

proudly announce Rich's recent promotion to Assistant Southeast Region Manger of Colorado State Parks. This is well-deserved position for Rich. While it is our loss, it is the region's gain as he can now use his knowledge, years of experience (here, as well as at Lake Pueblo and Eleven Mile) and especially his passion for parks to guide and direct all of the parks in southern Colorado. Fortunately, we are in that region and Rich will still have a significant amount of oversight for the park!

I know that we all will miss Rich deeply, but also wish him nothing but the best in his new position. We won't even make fun of him about leaving a corner office with two windows and a view of the mountain for a city office with no windows.

So, as we look toward a "new" phase in Cheyenne Mountain's history, we must all continue to work hard to earn and keep those amazing visitor reviews, and especially continue cultivating Rich's powerful vision for the park. One important *leave-no-trace* ethic is to leave a place better than you found it. There's no doubt about the state of this place after Rich's stewardship! He set the foundation for Cheyenne Mountain and it is now up to us to watch it grow and thrive. As Walter Lippmann said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other [people] the conviction and the will to carry on." We will carry on Rich's passion for Cheyenne Mountain and leave it better than we found it too.



In uniform and on duty



Just checking the crops!



At the Fire Academy

Board Bio: Dr. Glen Scott



Board President Dr. Glen Scott was a founding member of the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park and served as its first President beginning in 2001. Since then he has served as Vice President and as a General Board Member. Glen is a retired Army Officer, now working as a Vice President for TechWise (a local defense contracting firm in Colorado Springs).

Glen and Barb (his “better half” and also a current Board member, serving as Treasurer) first came to Colorado Springs in 1999 when he was assigned as the Chief of Staff at Fort Carson. They quickly determined that Colorado Springs would be their permanent home...and sought to get involved in meaningful ways to contribute to the community. This desire to be a “community trustee,” combined with their love of the outdoors (camping, hiking, etc) found a great opportunity for expression when the new State Park started holding public information meetings in late 2001. Glen decided that helping the Park become a world-class recreation, education, and environmental resource for Colorado in general, and for the Front Range Community in particular, was a great way to make a difference.

Since that time Glen has been continuously involved with the Friends’

Group...and had the tremendous satisfaction of being involved in the growth of the Park from a dirt road and a set of blueprints to becoming the superb resource it is today.

Tales From the Ranger Station



One of the more unfortunate results of the budget shortfall to hit Cheyenne Mountain State Park was the loss of Park Resource Technician Brian Greenleaf. It was obvious there were plenty of people at the park who will miss Brian’s ever-ready smile and his willingness to take on whatever challenge arose around the park.

On October 24 the park, staff, Friends and volunteers threw Brian a “graduation party” as a send-off to his next life adventure. The party was put together as a way to show Brian our appreciation for his many contributions to the development of CMSP. Thank you, Brian!



Rangers Brian Kerrigan and Monique Mullis present Brian Greenleaf with a memento.



The Greenleafs say good-bye.



Brian becomes the second recipient of the Friends “Flying Pig Award” presented by Jack Busher, Lori O’Hare and Joy Hellman.

What's Happening at the Park This Winter? . . . Plenty!

Just because the weather has cooled doesn't mean you can't enjoy CMSP. Remember, the park offers year-long programs and opportunities. So, what has been going on lately? Thanks to the combined efforts of park staff and volunteers there has been plenty to keep all of us entertained.

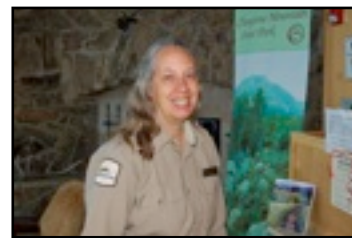
Park Naturalist Kris Baril has taken the lead on several interesting activities. On October 30 and 31 we were treated to the Park's third annual **Creatures of the Night Program**. There was a wide variety of events visitors could choose from: bat and owl presentations, story-telling, owl-pellet activities, and even a moonlight hike were offered and enjoyed.



Raptor attack?



Bare-Bones Library Owl display



Kris takes a moment to think.

On Saturday, December 5, Bernie Klatiewicz and her cohorts lit up the Visitor Center with CMSP's annual **Holiday Open House**. The theme for this year was geology and they certainly "rocked the house" with plenty of "rocky" activities. Need proof? Check out the photos below:



Ken and Bernie, our very own Rock Elves



Kris Baril and her crystal chart



Jim and Darlene, our resident gemologists.

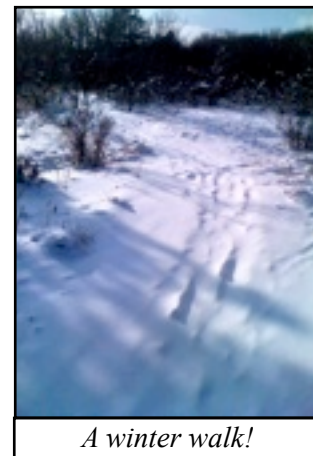


CMSP Rock Buddies



Elvish entertainment!

And whatever the date, one of the best of all park winter activities;
get out and hit the trail:



A winter walk!

2009 Volunteer Banquet: Honoring the Best!

Fourth Annual Volunteer Banquet Another Huge Success

On Friday evening, December 4, the park staff, in conjunction with the Friends of CMSP, honored the park's hard-working volunteer crew. For the first time the event was held at Venue 515 in the Business of Arts Center in Manitou Springs. Ranger Brian Kerrigan, the volunteer coordinator at the park and the MC for the previous dinners, was unable to attend due to a stomach flu, but his wife Amanda and Senior Park Ranger Monique Mullis stepped in admirably to fill his shoes.

Before dinner, catered by local favorite, La Casita, Mullis spoke of the importance of the Volunteer contributions at the park. From a mere handful of volunteers in 2001, we now have 192 volunteers active. Their roles: naturalists, interpreters, trail hosts, trail maintenance, gardeners, camp hosts, Visitor Center hosts, Camper Services hosts and just about anything else that turns up at any given time.

Amazingly, the volunteers have almost doubled the hours contributed to the park over a four-year span. In 2006 they totaled 3937 hours; in 2009 that number jumped to **7,551.89 hours!** Based on seasonal rates for the types of work accomplished, those hours, figured in wage equivalency, came out to: **\$73,170.42.** All volunteers were rewarded with a 2009 State Park Volunteer pin and a handy CMSP calendar. (Handy, that is, to keep track of all those hours!)



Though in no way making up for that \$73,000 figure, volunteers who contribute over 48 hours in a given year were then awarded Park Passes for 2010. Good at any state park, they are a nice reward for those who push the limits. This year forty volunteers earned passes. One of those was the recipient of the **Rookie of the Year Award** for 2009. **Susan Simmons** arrived on the scene this past spring, and hit the trail running. She showed tremendous dedication to the development of the Junior Ranger Program, as well as many interpretive programs, and quickly garnered 68.75 hours.



This year's **500 Hour Club Award** went to an incredible volunteer, **Janeen Igou.** As Brian figures it, the 558 hours she claimed is at best a minimum. How does she contribute? It might be better to list what she doesn't do! Here is a partial list: Friends Board Member, coordinator of the year-round Raptor Monitoring Program, program presenter, front desk assistant, unofficial park photographer, and lugger of park supplies to local schools and events. And just because it needed to be done, she almost single-handedly ensured the success of this year's Volunteer Banquet!

Other awardees included **Jim and Darlene Hatley**, Camp Host Award; **Susan Simmons, Lucy Bell, Mary Ann Hartman, Kris Baril, Janeen Igou, Pat Grove, and Natalie Wetzig**, Junior Ranger Award; **Debbie Barnes**, Regal Raptor Award; **Lee Tatum, Lucy Bell, and Pat Looney**, Walking Stick Awards; **Paul Smith, Jim Purdy and Jack Busher**, McLeod Awards; **Kathleen Cook**, Guest Speaker Coordinator Award; **Janeen Igou and Lori O'Hare**, Banquet Planners Award; **Pat Grove and Kris Baril**, Seasonal Naturalist Award; and **Jerry O'Hare**, Friends of CMSP Award. Not to be forgotten, in a classic role-reversal, the Friends of CMSP and volunteers themselves presented **Brian Kerrigan** a gift for his hard work putting up with us over the past four years.

Finally, special thanks go out to the **Friends of CMSP** for their financial backing of this annual dinner.



Debbie Barnes



Jim and Darlene Hatley



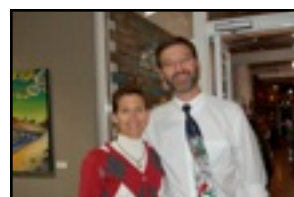
The Groves and Barils



Jack Busher, Jim Purdy



*Lee Tatum, Rick Upton,
Mary Ann Hartman*



Jerri, Tony DeCarolis



*The Connells and D.
Scotts*



The Downings

Junior Ranger Program Takes Flight at CMSP

Exciting news! The Park will start its Junior Ranger program for children this coming Spring, 2010! Naturalist Pat Grove took on the challenge of authoring and coordinating the Junior Ranger booklet for children from ages 7 to 12. Children will learn about the different ecosystems at the park, local plants, wildlife, safety, and much more. The 24 page booklet was beautifully illustrated by volunteer artist, Natalie Wetzig, who included many details in her drawings that make the booklet special to our park. The Friends of CMSP are grateful to Pat Grove, the Rangers, Volunteers and everyone who helped with this wonderful program. It will be enjoyed by children for years to come!



Children will learn about nature and stewardship as they work through the booklet, with the goal of achieving two levels. By completing the booklet, they reach the Badger level and will be awarded a Junior Ranger Badge and Certificate. Completing the booklet and attending a park program or participating in a park project helps them reach the second level of Puma. Junior Rangers reaching Puma status are awarded a badge and patch, as well as the Junior Ranger Certificate. The program is available to all park Visitors and Educators. Due to printing costs, booklets are limited, but Educators can talk to Pat about making copies at their schools.

The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain are happy to fund this program, and many other important stewardship efforts at the park. Total funding for the Junior Ranger program so far is **\$5185**, but we anticipate great interest and will need to replenish the booklets, patches and badges as children participate. Our goal is for all children to have the opportunity to enjoy this program.

If you are interested in joining the Friends or getting more information, please visit our website at www.friendsofcmstp.org. Funds are generated by donations, memberships and grants. Thanks to all who have contributed to the Friends of CMSP. The Junior Ranger Program is one of the many ways your contributions are used at the park.

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 Glen Scott gscott06@gmail.com
 Vice Pres. Jack Busher jbusher@qwest.net
 Secretary Lori O'Hare lajohare@msn.com
 Treasurer Barb Scott bscott03@gmail.com

Programs: Glen Scott gscott06@gmail.com
 Finance: Barb Scott bscott03@gmail.com
 Members: Jim Purdy jpurdy@aol.com
 Jim Hatley
 Janeen Igou jwigou@comcast.net
 Pam Scott pscott1644@cpmcast.net

Committee Chairs:

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

Non-Voting Members:

Park Manager Rich Dudley rich.dudley@state.co.us
 Park Ranger Monique Mullis monique.mullis@state.co.us

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.

Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park Membership Application

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

New / Renewal (circle one)

- _____ \$30 **Annual Individual Membership**
- _____ \$40 **Annual Family Membership**
- _____ \$60 **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!