



TRAIL DOGS BUILDING TRAILS AT ARCHERY RANGE



Park Manager's Corner

by Mitch Martin

Volunteers and Friends,

I would like to take the time to say "Thank You" for such a wonderful and productive 2013. It is awesome to have such talented staff of volunteers to rely on for day to day operations and special projects. I would like to take this time to update you on two major projects identified in the Park Management Plan.

First, the Fuel Mitigation Project is gaining momentum. We will be completing the final training for this project within a few days of this article. These volunteers will now begin to put their training to use in the field and help protect Cheyenne Mountain State Park and our neighbors by providing a safer place to recreate and live.

The other large project that has been consuming much of my time

is the Archery Range. We are close to opening this area to the public. Many volunteers have helped move this project along and a special "Thank You" is deserved. This project is not only important to the community but it is equally important to our agency of Parks and Wildlife. I am proud to be a part of this project. I believe that this park is honored by having the opportunity of taking our combined mission and adding a recreational opportunity that will benefit the park and also benefit the Wildlife side of our agency.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Volunteer Banquet on November 21st.

Stay Safe and Happy Trails,

Mitch Martin

Park Manager



Welcome Jeanette!

Jeanette, wife and mother of a wonderful 4-year old son, Andrew, is our newest addition to the park. She enjoys snowboarding, kayaking and hiking. Jeanette came to us from Big R, and has worked seasonally at Lake Pueblo State Park. Jeanette is blown away by the awesome crew at CMSP!



Welcome Mike!

Mike, father of a 14-year old son and a 9-year old daughter, is currently serving in the Army National Guard. He enjoys hunting and fishing. Mike lived in Steamboat, Colorado for about 15 years, and then worked at Ridgeway State Park before transferring to CMSP. He is happy to be at this beautiful state park with an incredible group of staff and volunteers!



DATES TO REMEMBER:

● October (Every Wed & Sat):

Yoga at the Park
9:00 – 10:00am
CMSP Visitor's Center

● October 5:

Wildlife Discoveries
9:30am – 12:30pm
Limekiln Trailhead

● October 6, 13:

Birds of Prey Series
1:00 – 2:00pm
CMSP Visitor's Center

● October 10, 24:

Preschool Trail Adventures
9:30am – 10:45am
CMSP Visitor's Center

● October 12:

Creatures of the Night
6:00 – 8:00pm
CMSP Visitor's Center

● October 18:

Full Moon Hike
7:00 – 8:30pm
CMSP Visitor's Center

● October 19:

Family Mystery Hike
Visitor's Center

● October 20:

A Walk in the Woods Hike
1:00 – 3:00pm
CMSP Visitor's Center

● October 20:

Full-Day Birds of Prey Workshop 10am-2pm
Camper Services
Call Stacey to RSVP

● October 26:

Creepy, Crawly Critters
1:00 – 2:00pm
CMSP Visitor's Center



Pat & Kris teach the essentials of a Mystery Hike!

● November 21:

Volunteer Banquet

CMSP ON-LINE

The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park website has a new look! Feel free to visit and explore at www.friendsofcmssp.org

Also, don't forget about social media! You can "like" and comment on the beautiful photos and exciting events shared on these Facebook pages:

[The Friends of CMSP](#)

[Cheyenne Mountain State Park](#)

Colorado Floods

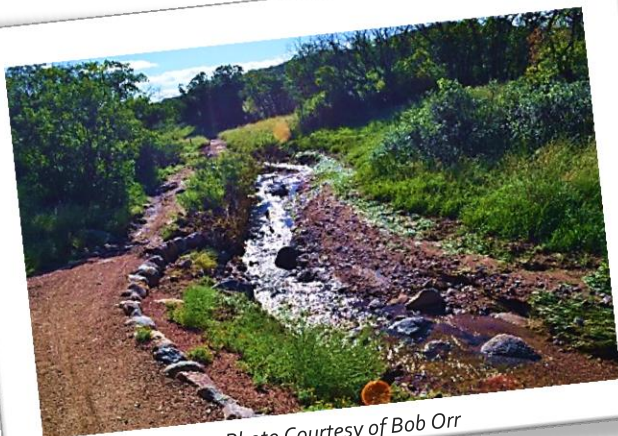


Photo Courtesy of Bob Orr

As many of you know, Colorado experienced some serious flooding last month, which many news sources referred to as "floods of biblical proportions". We are thankful that CMSP did not sustain heavy damage like other parts of the state did. Overall, the trails have been usable, but almost every trail has received some damage from wash-outs and erosion. Blackmer Trail appears to have sustained the worst damage, with reports of waterfalls falling down Blackmer on Friday, September 13th. Blackmer, Zook, and Sundance Trails still have creeks with flowing water. Our trail crew plans to schedule additional workdays in October and November to begin repair work. Some park regulars have also offered to help out our Trail Dogs in this effort.



Scorplings

By: Lydia West

Once mating has been completed they will go their separate ways again. Sometimes the male won't leave soon enough and he will become dinner for the female. If he does get away he will likely go in search of some food. Then he will venture on to find other females he can successfully mate with.

The young will grow inside of the female and be born alive from her body. These young will live on her back for the first several weeks of life.

She will care for them until they go through the first molting period. The number of young – called Scorplings – will depend on the species as well as the environmental factors that surround them.

Sometimes the mothers will consume the young rather than to take care of them.

It isn't fully understood why that happens.

This could be one of the ways that the Scorpion naturally helps to ensure the overall survival of the various species.

Then they will get off her back and go their own way. They will instinctively know how to look for food and they will have to find their own shelter. With some species though, unfertilized eggs are able to create live offspring.

There are some species of Scorpions where the female is able to produce more eggs that turn into young for up to a year. This is due to her having extra sperm in a cavity in her body that is well preserved. However, if the conditions aren't good for her then she will avoid allowing the eggs to be fertilized.

When Lydia West and Phillip Nelson picked up a rock on Raccoon Ridge Trail, they found this mama scorpion carrying her babies on her back. Lydia took a picture and was inspired to research the scorpion reproductive process and has shared the following article:

Scorpions rely on smell and vibrations to find each other for mating purposes. When a pair finds each other they may take part in a very complex dance with each other. Mating can take from 1 hour to 1 day.

CMSP Intern Pursues Career in Ministry

By: Pat Grove

We are pleased to report that Matt Skinner, our summer intern and PPCC College student, has completed his Internship at Cheyenne Mountain and is now attending an out-of-state Bible College. Matt took full advantage of his opportunities at the park by assisting with programs and events, doing trail work, helping with maintenance and assisting other volunteers with special projects. Birds are an area of interest that Matt pursued. He created a Young Birders program to introduce children to the incredible variety of birds that spend time in the park. Matt's compassion for children was quite evident during our Ranch Day event, as he enthusiastically assisted young ones with the branding and horseshoeing activity. It was a pleasure working with Matt and watching him learn and grow. He always maintained a positive attitude, even when he prepared a program and no one attended. As he prepares for a career in the ministry, we wish him the best of luck in combining his love of the outdoors and nature with his passion for helping people. Matt, thanks for sharing a part of your life with us.



Kudos Korner!



Longtime volunteers Debbie Barnes and Bill Shankster were married at a beautiful outdoor ceremony on August 31st at the CMSP Prairie Skipper Pavilion. Congrats to the lovely couple!



*Ft. Carson
Fireworks!
8/31/2013*

Max Samuel Koury was born to our maintenance supervisor, Sam and his wife, Megan, on August 19th! Max weighed in at 7lbs, 12oz, and 21". Welcome baby Max!



No Child Left Inside

The 4th annual NCLI was held on September 21st. This year's No Child Left Inside event was even more successful than last year, with over 200 participants throughout the day. We had some fun activities for those of all ages, to include: archery, wildlife observation, branding, backyard bass practice, horseshoeing, skins & skulls touch table, hummingbirds, build a nest, GPS, plant hikes, and building your own survival kit. In addition to having help from our own amazing CMSP volunteers, we had the help of 60 Air Force Cadet (thanks to Wildlife Volunteer Coordinator Jena Sanchez) and Cheyenne Mountain High School Students also pitched in (thanks to Janeen Igo and Pat Grove). Stacey's 6 year old son was quoted as saying, "This is the best time I've had in my whole life!"

