



The Corral Bluffs Chronicle

News from the Hoodoos

September 2010

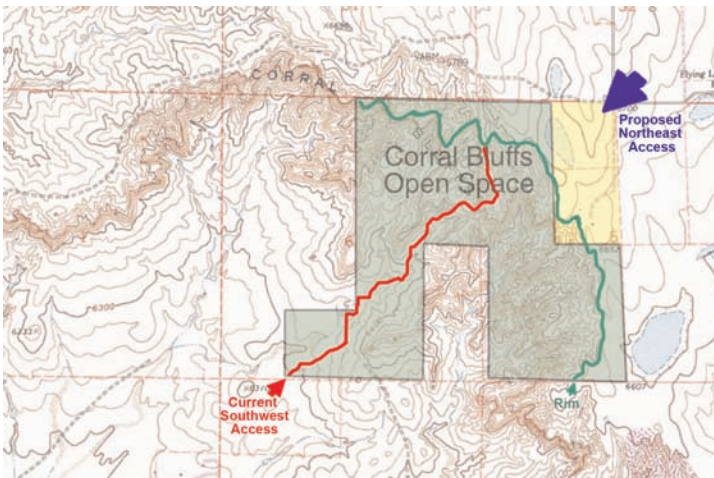
POSSIBLE LAND ADDITION TO CORRAL BLUFFS OPEN SPACE

For many months, Corral Bluffs Alliance (CoBA) has advocated for a new addition to the open space, a 75-acre parcel owned by the Anderson family. This September, our efforts will hopefully be rewarded.

On September 1st, the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Working Committee voted unanimously in favor of the new addition. The Parks Board and City Council still need to approve the purchase. If approved, it would be bought with money from the TOPS Program which can only be used for purchase of new open space.

The Anderson parcel is shown in yellow on the map below. We believe this is a worthwhile parcel for the following reasons:

1. It would allow easier access to impressive rim views. The current southwest access provides only one relatively easy way to the rim via an hour-long hike.



2. Purchase would preserve the opportunity for an alternative northeast access. This new access would be closer for those coming from the north.

3. It would allow for an uninterrupted rim trail. Steep cliffs make it difficult to get to the eastern leg of the open space without this parcel.



View from the Anderson parcel looking west

4. It would preserve the viewscape.

Purchase would prevent housing development or more landfill adjacent to the existing open space.

5. Purchase would add much-needed open space on the east side of Colorado Springs.

Most open space is on the west side of Colorado Springs. See the TOPS Open Space Projects map on the following page. Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp Creek add much-needed open space on the east side for the growing Falcon and Banning Lewis Ranch populations.

(continued on the next page.)

CORRAL BLUFFS QUARTERLY UPDATE

- Corral Bluffs Alliance received its 501(c)3 status on April 30, 2010. This allows us to collect donations which are tax-deductible.

We thank the Trails and Open Space Coalition for allowing us to use their tax exempt status until we attained our own.



(Continued from page one)

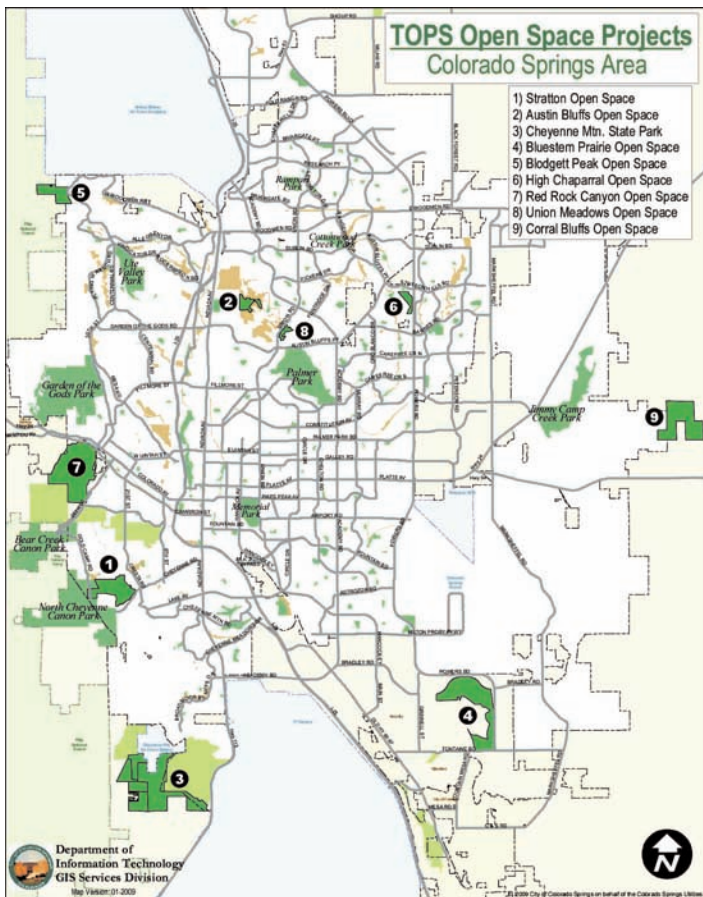
We know that money for maintenance of parks and open spaces is an issue, so CoBA pledges volunteer labor and \$2000 toward maintenance of the Anderson parcel. The Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) pledges an additional \$500.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PURCHASE:

- **Attend the Parks board meeting on Thursday, September 9th at 8:00AM at the Park & Rec building, 1401 Recreation Way.** The Parks board will hear our presentation and vote. If we get a majority vote from the Parks board, it will move on to City Council.
 - **Email a letter of support to the Parks board** at sbryarly@springsgov.com
 - **Attend City Council on Tuesday, September 14th at City Hall Council Chambers, 107 N Nevada Avenue. Meeting begins at 1:00PM.** If our item is approved by the Parks board on Thursday, Sept. 9th, we will email you more details. Though City Council's meeting begins at 1:00, it could be hours until our item is heard. If you'd like to email your phone number to corral-bluffs@aol.com, we can call you when our agenda item is coming up.
- Public support at City Council is very important. We hope you can attend!
- **Donate your time and money toward the maintenance of this new parcel.** See the last page of this newsletter for our donation form.



A northeast access would be about 6 miles closer for residents of Falcon



TOPS Open Space Projects map



View from the Anderson parcel looking south.



STONES AND BONES FOSSIL WOOD OF CORRAL BLUFFS

*By Sharon Milito, Project
Paleontologist*

The only fossil most visitors to Corral Bluffs will see is fossil wood, or commonly called “petrified wood.” Both Corral Bluffs and the Jimmy Camp area host a multitude of fossilized trees. Most of the fossil wood is found as small, white rectangles scattered over the ground. Usually if you follow these pieces uphill you will find the larger portion of the tree from which they came. For the most part these trees were carried down prehistoric rivers, and in some of the ancient riverbed channels (now sandstone deposits) you can see where the trees have stacked up creating dam-like structures.



We have found several fossil tree stumps still in their growth position. From a distance it was actually difficult to tell if this stump was modern or 65 million years old!

Previous microscopic examination of Paleocene fossil trees from other locations in the Denver Basin have determined that angiosperms (flowering plants) were the common tree rather than conifers (cone producing trees). Many were of the Lauraceae, or Laurel, family (Wheeler, 2003). Today Laurels are found in environments vastly different from the dry climate of modern Corral Bluffs. They are typically found in subtropical regions, such as southern Japan and Madagascar.



Fossil palm wood is also common in Corral Bluffs. It can be identified by the large vertical holes or vessels.

We have begun documenting the fossil trees in Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp, and are taking samples to determine the families of trees growing here at the time the sediments of Corral Bluffs were deposited. Examination of the tree types and comparison to modern trees will help determine the ancient climate and environment of the Colorado Springs area 65.5 million years ago.

GUIDED TOURS

CoBA is using a new easier tour route of the Corral Bluffs Open Space for 2010. It includes the western valley and a view from the western ridge.

Tour dates (weather permitting):

October 3rd, Sunday, 10:00AM

November 6th, Saturday 10:00AM

Special tours are available for groups of ten or more. Email corralbluffs@aol.com to reserve your place or to organize special group tours. See corralbluffs.org for more details.

Please remember, Corral Bluffs is not yet open to the public, except through guided tours. There are many months of expert studies and master planning ahead before public access is available.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We'd really welcome help with the following:

- collecting plant specimens
- finding and controlling noxious weeds
- newsletter writing & editing
- trash pickup
- organizing & leading public hikes
- educational presentations
- fundraising & special events
- membership development
- volunteer recruitment, training & recognition

Please write to corralbluffs@aol.com for more information on how you can help.

FARMER'S DUMP CLEANUP TO BEGIN AGAIN

Your help is needed to clean up an old farmer's dump just north of the new Corral Bluffs Open Space.

The cleanup effort will resume again **Sunday, November 7th at 1:00PM**. With your help, we hope to finish it this winter.

The cleanup will continue every Sunday from 1-4PM (except holidays and bad weather days). We'll stop in April when the weather becomes too warm or earlier if we finish the cleanup.

Meet at the corner of Hoofbeat & Davis at 1PM. A map and weather updates are at corralbluffs.com. Wear old clothes, work gloves, sunscreen and tough-soled shoes. Bring water and snacks for yourself.

If you've never seen Corral Bluffs, we'll take you on a short hike before you help with the cleanup.



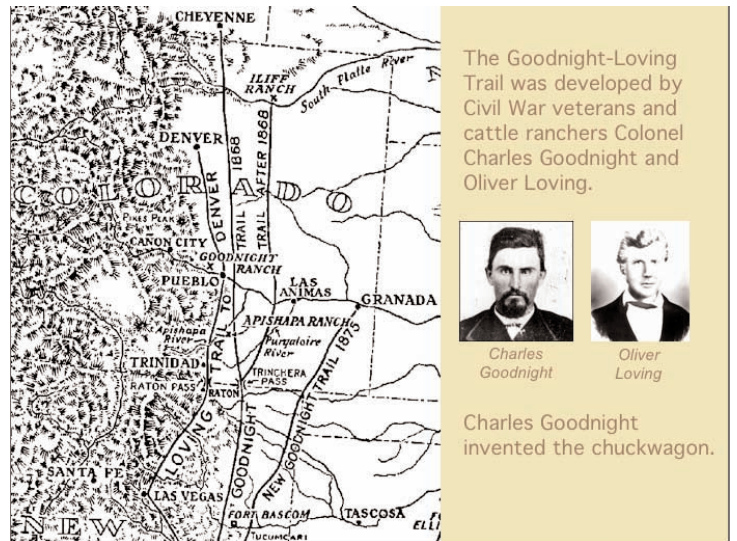
April 24, 2010 photo by Dave Dombach



Farmer's dump May 2010 after 8 months of cleanup

POWER POINT PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

CoBA has developed a PowerPoint presentation full of beautiful photographs and interesting facts about Corral Bluffs' history, geology, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and plants, as well as the vision for preserving more of the Bluffs. If you know of a group who'd enjoy this presentation, please contact Jackie Hilaire, CoBA President, at corralbluffs@aol.com to schedule a time.



One slide from our PowerPoint presentation

MAY 23rd BIOBLITZ AT CORRAL BLUFFS

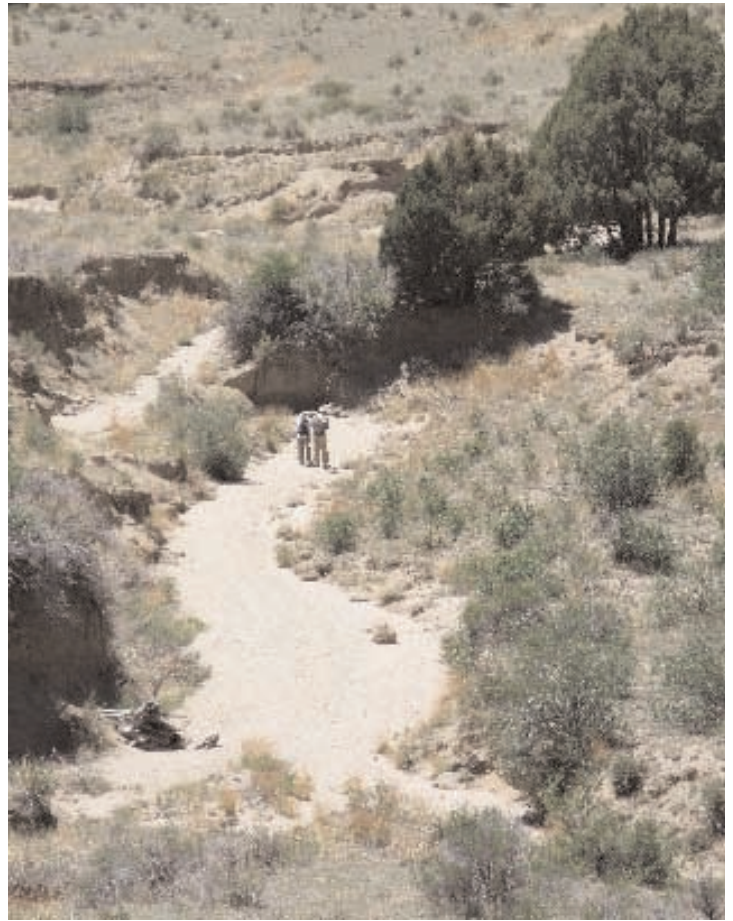
The 23rd of May turned out to be a picture perfect day at Corral Bluffs – sunny with little wind. Thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of all participants, a lot was accomplished. Steve Olson was our leader and there were several others with lots of experience in this process.

Our plan of attack was to survey possible plants for collection as we worked our way across in a transect of the terrain to the highest point and then collect on the way down based on our “wish list.” This approach worked well. It meant a minimum of lugging around specimens as well as fresher plants to press once we got to that end activity. Ultimately the team pressed about 20 plants. Judy von Ahlefeldt is assembling a typed list of the plants identified.

The knowledge of all was quite impressive, most notably Steve Olson, George Cameron and Judy von Ahlefeldt. It was a learning experience for several of us and even those who had to leave early had a good time.



May 23rd Bioblitz



Two of the participants in the May 23rd Bioblitz

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

If it's been a year or more since you've become a member of Corral Bluffs Alliance, please renew your membership now by filling out the form below. We put your money to good use and appreciate your continued support!

Please send newsletter corrections or submissions to corralbluffs@aol.com.

I'D LIKE TO JOIN CORRAL BLUFFS ALLIANCE.

(Please check one level.)

Supporter - \$25. You'll receive email updates on how you can help.

Contributor - \$100. Same as above, plus you'll receive a free bumper/window sticker

Conservationist - \$500. Same as Contributor above, plus the knowledge that you're contributing toward land acquisition, expert research, required technical studies, educational materials, postage, printing and advertising.

Make your check out to: Corral Bluffs Alliance. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Mail to: Corral Bluffs Alliance, P.O. Box 81, Peyton, CO 80831

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Cell phone (_____) _____

Email _____

I'm enclosing \$_____ toward maintenance of new open space at Corral Bluffs.

I'd like to volunteer time to help.