

News from the Hoodoos

CoBA teams up with DMNS

This summer members of Corral Bluffs Alliance had the opportunity to become volunteers for the Denver Museum of Nature & Science paleontology department. The task for the team of seven people was to release tiny mammal teeth trapped within rock and sand collected from localities within Corral Bluffs. The goal of this microfossil project is to better understand the entire ecosystem of the area's recovery after the asteroid. Small mammals can be identified by the shape of and the bumps on their teeth. Crocodile teeth are common but mammal teeth are rare!



Figure 1 Meet the bubbler team: Paula, Rose, Jax, David, Jenn, Sharon, and not pictured, Mike. Top photo, Mama turkey and poults



Winter 2024

News Flash!

The Corral Bluffs Research Center

Several years ago a reservoir was planned to be put in at Jimmy Camp as part of the Southern Delivery System. Colorado Springs Utilities purchased properties, including houses, that would be within the reservoir boundaries. But it was later determined that for various reasons (paleontology, archaeology, biology, etc.) Jimmy Camp would not be a good place for a reservoir after all. Three years ago, Utilities decided they no longer needed to hold onto the properties, so Trails, Open Spaces and Parks (TOPS) department purchased them and the properties became part of Corral Bluffs. One of the houses is now The Corral Bluffs Research Center/Maintenance Center and another house is for an onsite ranger. The Denver Museum of Nature & Science uses the Research Center as their headquarters while doing fieldwork. An archaeology team has also used the facility.



Above. Bags of sand, dirt and rock collected by DMNS paleontology crew, to be screenwashed for microfossils.

Right. Salvador Bastien, DMNS Preparator, instructs CoBA volunteers on use of the bubbler.





Above left and right. Collected sand and rock in giant trash bags is put into screens in a water-filled trough aka, "The Bubbler" that is attached to an air compressor. The concoction bubbles for about 12 hours, loosening the sand particles and microscopic fossils.

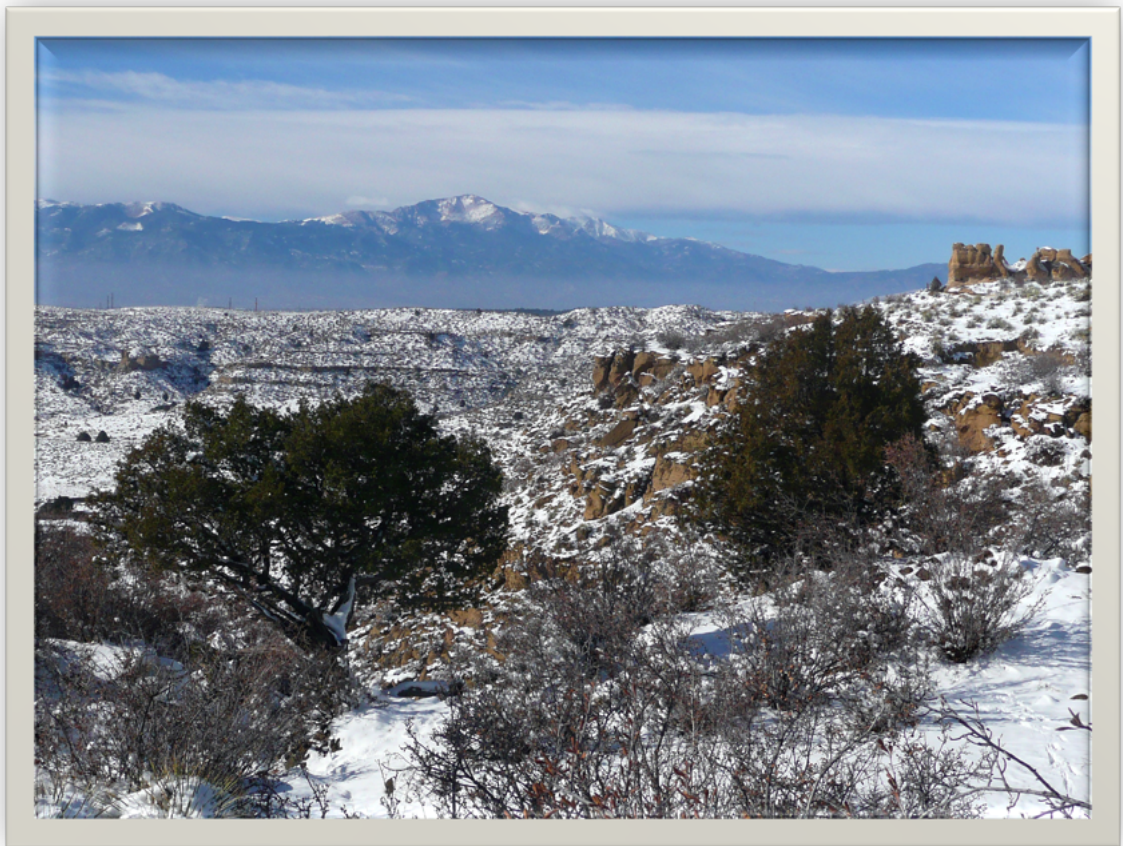


Above: Screens are removed from bubbler and placed to dry in the sun and breeze. Right: Dry sand particles are then collected in seven-gallon buckets to get ready for the next team.





Buckets of sand are passed on to the microscope team who will examine each grain to separate microfossils from the sand particles.



Join us for a Hike

Winter is a great time for a hike at Corral Bluffs! We offer public hikes on the first Saturday of each month, as well as specially arranged hikes for groups of 6 or more. Our typical hike takes visitors two miles up a picturesque canyon to learn about the newest discoveries by the Denver Museum of Nature & Science paleontologists.

In 2023, CoBA hike leaders shared scenic Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp with over 470 hikers on 39 hikes, as well as presentations to 500 students.

Please remember the following if you attend a hike with us.

- Wear long pants (no exposed ankles) and closed-toe shoes
- Bring at least 1 liter of water.
- Make sure you are physically able to complete the hike. Our most popular hike is 4 miles and 4 hours long. There are no trails and the ground is uneven and rocky.
- Sign up for a hike at corralbluffs.org/take-a-hike



Ramblings from Ranger Mike

2023 Year at Corral Bluffs.

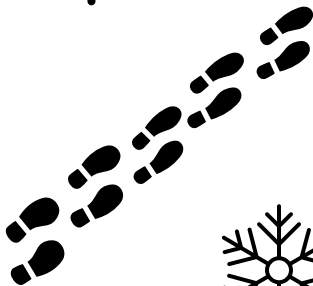
In 2023 Corral Bluffs Open Space saw an increase in research projects, both in sheer volume and in the variety of projects and participants. In the past the Denver Museum of Nature and Science has completed a large bulk of the research occurring at Corral Bluffs, and while that remains to be the case, now Corral Bluffs has attracted other teams from different Universities around Colorado as well as Alpine Archaeology out of Montrose.

Regarding how the scope of research is starting to evolve (pun intended) the Denver Museum along with CoBA and the City of Colorado Springs have put into play a “bubbler system” for the first time on the Corral Bluffs Property. Long story short, the bubbler system is simply a way of finding microfossils such as teeth, scales, and scutes by removing the concealment such as sediment.

Still another expanse to the research at Corral Bluffs Open Space and Jimmy Camp Creek Park is the addition of Wild Horse Ranch, a large 1100 acre parcel just south of Corral Bluffs. Wild Horse Ranch was purchased in Spring of 2023 and is currently being brought into the research fold of Corral Bluffs with some artifacts already being found on the parcel.

As the onsite Ranger of Corral Bluffs Open Space, Jimmy Camp Creek Park, and Wild Horse Ranch I have to say that 2023 was a real adventure and I can't wait to see what it holds in the future. Hope to see everyone in 2024.

Mike Bowman



**See it while you can!
The Corral Bluffs
exhibit, “After the
Asteroid” at the Denver
Museum of Nature &
Science is still on
display!**



**JOIN CORRAL BLUFFS ALLIANCE
(CoBA)**

*“Corral Bluffs is the center of the
Paleontological Universe.”*

*George Sparks, President
Denver Museum of Nature & Science*



By joining CoBA you will be supporting:

- Preservation of world-class fossil sites
- Preservation of sites telling the stories of ancient Native Americans, Trappers, Pioneers, and Cattle drives
- Conservation of ecosystems unique in the Colorado Springs area
- Protection of native prairie plants and animals
- Opportunities for spectacular views spanning from the Spanish Peaks to the Rampart Range
- Guided, interpretive hikes



I’D LIKE TO JOIN CORRAL BLUFFS ALLIANCE

Check One:

- Individual membership \$25 for one year
- Family membership \$30 for one year
(Membership renewal date is July 1 each year)

What you get for your membership:

- Volunteer opportunities
- Once per year members-only hike, with snacks and a free CoBA sticker
- Newsletter emailed directly to you

Send this form and your check to:

**Corral Bluffs Alliance
12721 Corral Bluffs View
Falcon, CO 80831**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Primary phone _____

JOIN CoBA! Please print and mail the above membership form, along with a check, to become a part of preserving this world-class site. New memberships are good through July 1, 2025. To get the most of your membership, join soon!

Corral Bluffs Alliance Board of Directors

Jax Hilaire: President, Hike Leader

Paula Watkins: Vice President,
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Jennifer Heiny, Hike Leader

David Lumb

Ellie Rosenberg



Contact Us: www.corralbluffs.org

info@corralbluffs.org

The following groups and organizations have spent extended time at Corral Bluffs

[Denver Museum of Nature & Science](#)

[Smithsonian Institution](#)

[Colorado College](#)

[Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#)

[Colorado Natural Areas Program](#)

[US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

[Aiken Audubon Society](#)

[Mile High Bug Club](#)

[Colorado Native Plant Society](#)

[Colorado Mycological Society](#)

[University of New Hampshire Earth Sciences](#)

Corral Bluffs is a [Leave No Trace](#) site. CoBA supports the seven stewardship principals of Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Travel on Durable Surfaces.
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others

