

News From the Hoodoos



Fall 2019

From the President

It's time for the eagles to have left the nest and the 80+ additional acres of Corral Bluffs is open for hikes again. It's been one of the wettest spring/summers out at Corral Bluffs Open Space (CBOS); often causing us to not be able to get groups out due to the fact lots of hikes are in draws and washes. The time to come see the wildflowers that are going crazy is now. The newest addition of CBOS is also available for viewing; this is the area where Lee, Bill and Jackie took hike groups originally to educate them on why this was an area to be protected and safe for the future generations.

Don't forget that the hope of CoBA is to aid in the acquisition and education required to protect Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp Creek. To that end, CoBA has participated in a mini-BioBlitz to assist in the acquisition of more knowledge about the area. And CoBA participated in the T.E.N.S. (a continuing education project for teachers) to get a large group of teachers out to CBOS and show them some of what they could be using as resources in their classrooms and in field trips.

On a sad note, one of the long time advocates for CBOS, Lee Milner, is leaving for a lower altitude. His beloved wife, Jeannie, needs to have a more oxygen rich environment. So join me in wishing them both well. And many thanks for the good that he has done in regards to CBOS.



Inside Story

Corral Bluffs experienced a superbloom this spring! Join us as the season changes to fall hike to see the changing colors.

Native plants in your home garden use less water, are more hail resistant, and provide food and habitat for insects and birds. Try these:

- Colorado Four O'Clock
- Penstemon
- Orange globe mallow
- Blue flax
- Harebells
- Little Sunflowers (*Helianthus pumilis*)

Many plants can be planted in the fall for next year's blooms.



Nature Notes



Watch For



- Pronghorns gathering into their winter herds.
- Red leaves on Mountain Mahogany
- Noisy Sandhill Cranes flying over on their way to their winter habitat.

In June a group of dedicated biologists and naturalists volunteered many hours to document the species on the newest property addition, the center expansion.

Interesting finds include:

- A butterfly that has not been seen in the region since 2012.
- 3 species of lupine
- A rare plant called Rocky Mtn Phacelia
- Fields of multicolored wildflowers
- A spectacular yucca bloom



Stones and Bones

Pebbles in some rocks in Corral Bluffs are composed of a volcanic rock called andesite. These pebbles eroded out of volcanoes to the southwest, and are the only evidence these volcanoes existed. No volcano of the correct age for these pebbles has ever been located. The sand, gravel and pebbles that form the rock in Corral Bluffs was carried by streams that flowed from the southwest to the northeast as mountains in that area were uplifting and eroding.



Upcoming Events

- 1.** Our new website is now online! Sign up for hikes, read past newsletter and brush up on your knowledge.
www.corralbluffs.org
- 2.** Sunflowers and many types of grasses will show their colors through fall!
- 3.** Fall is here! CoBA will be offering guided hikes all season. Gather your group of six or more and request a hike. Check out events on the Corral Bluffs website or
- 4.** We are accepting donations to help cover expenses for insurance and for our new website. Please see our Facebook page to donate:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011>

Days of Yore

Bison were plentiful on the eastern plains of Colorado. The bison skull above was found in Corral Bluffs and is housed at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. Since bison are no longer found wild in Colorado we know these bones are at least several hundred years old.

Often bison bones are found in archaeological sites along with stone tools and other Native American artifacts. The bison in Corral Bluffs provided food, tools, and warmth to the ancient people of the area. These bones are not old enough to be fossilized, and are usually quite deteriorated when found weathering out of the



Visit our new website at www.corralbluffs.org
Sign up for a hike, learn about the history, enjoy
nature and wildlife through our photos.



Contact us at corralbluffs@aol.com
www.corralbluffs.org

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Join us for a guided hike! Go to our Facebook page with the link below. Click on "more," click on "events." Look for a hike to join, or message us to schedule your own.



[Facebook](#)

The following groups and institutions have conducted research and/or spent extended time at Corral Bluffs Open Space/Jimmy Camp Creek Park. Follow the links for more information.

[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](#)

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