

News from the Hoodoos



Fall 2021

From the President

CoBA was founded to preserve and protect Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp Creek area. As your hike leaders have been explaining, preservation has been accomplished thru a funding means called TOPS (1 cent tax per \$10 spent in COS). Almost all the land saved has been bought because of TOPS. The TOPS ordinance is going to a citizen vote for renewal and the new wording includes upping the tax to 2 cents on \$10; so, the pool of funds for future preservation will be increased if this passes! Since it's important that the city parks dept. has enough funds to be able to continue the preservation, CoBA urges you to seriously consider this initiative. The other aspect of TOPS ordinance is it is so strict that a state program called Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) has used TOPS ordinance as an acceptable management plan for protection of CBOS and has provided the original part of CBOS as a Colorado Natural Area! In fact, much like a conservation easement, the CNAP board will be visiting CBOS again to visit the same locations they use to take pictures and ensure that the land hasn't changed in any way that would affect its CNAP designation. Having just walked those sites, my expectation is that CNAP will be happy with the city's efforts.

Continued on page 4

News Flash

Corral Bluffs CNAP designation reaches five year anniversary.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife established the Colorado Natural Area Program in 1977. According to the Colorado Natural Area Program (CNAP) webpage, CNAP is “a statewide program focused on the recognition and protection of areas that contain at least one unique or high-quality natural feature of statewide significance.” In 2016 Corral Bluffs received the honor of becoming a Colorado Natural Area because of its rich fossil record. Check out the CNAP website for more information. Click on the interactive map for details about Corral Bluffs.

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/CNAP.aspx>





Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp are now eBird Hotspots!

Currently there are 103 bird species documented at Corral Bluffs and 148 at Jimmy Camp. You can explore our Hotspots (no account needed) by clicking on the “Explore” button on the eBird homepage and then “Hotspots.” At the top of the page type in the name of the hotspot from which you’d like to get information.

- The Jimmy Camp Hotspot is listed as: “Jimmy Camp (Currently guided hikes only)”
- The Corral Bluffs Hotspot is listed as: “Corral Bluffs (Limited Access)”

Check out all 200 Hotspots in El Paso County! If you are interested in keeping a personal bird list from our Hotspots, you’ll need a free eBird account.

<https://ebird.org/home>

eBird also offers an easy-to-use app for your mobile phone!

Join us for a Hike

So far, in 2021, CoBA hike leaders have shared scenic Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp with over 350 hikers, despite temporary closures due to COVID and excessive heat. We offer public hikes on the first Saturday of each month, as well as specially arranged hikes for groups of 6 or more.

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

- Wear long pants (no exposed ankles) and closed, sturdy 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 on corralbluffs.org/take-a-hike



Stones and Bones

Two new species discovered at Corral Bluffs

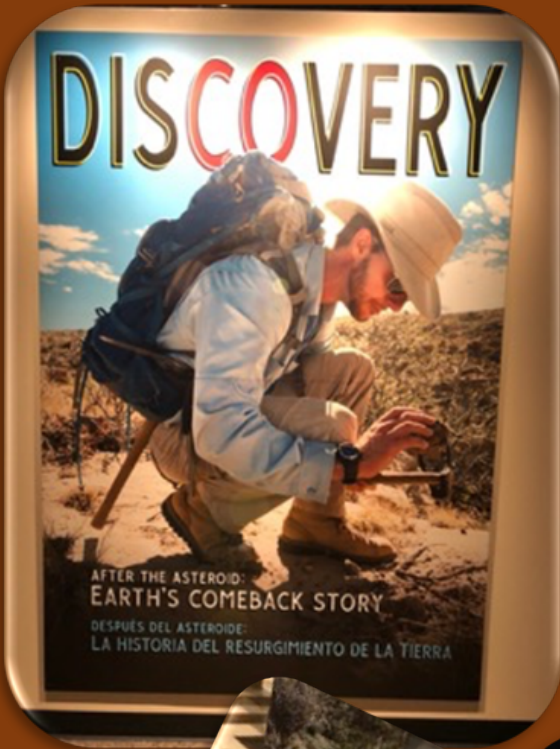
Dr. Tyler Lyson, paleontologist from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, has recently had two papers published describing new turtle species at Corral Bluffs.

The first is *Plastomenus joycei*, a soft-shelled turtle that swam through the ancient rivers and streams of Corral Bluffs 65 million years ago.

The second new discovery is *Palatobaena knellerorum*. This turtle dwelled on the bottom of freshwater ponds and rivers. The unusual feature on this turtle is its moveable proboscis, similar to an elephant’s trunk. *Palatobaena knellerorum* used its elongated nose to search for mollusks and invertebrates.

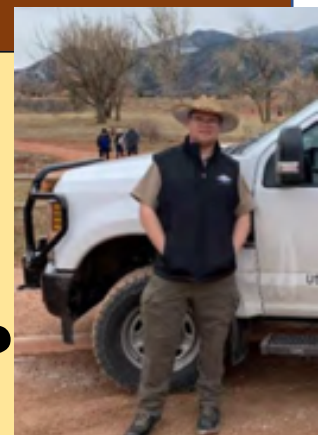
Watch the NEWS page on our website for updates as the research continues. Links to the papers describing these turtles can be found on that page.

It's not too late to see the Corral Bluffs exhibit, *After the Asteroid*, at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science



Ramblings from the Ranger

Join us in welcoming Mike Bowman, who has been assigned as the ranger for Corral Bluffs. He maintains the roads, mows the weeds, helps with hikes and chases off trespassers, among other duties. You may see him along the trail one day and if you do give him a big hello and a thank you!



Join Corral Bluffs Alliance at these upcoming City-Wide events:

National Fossil Day 2021

at Garden of the Gods Visitor's Center
Saturday October 16 from 10:00-3:00.



LEAVE no TRACE **HOT SPOT WEEK**
October 14-17, 2021

thursday
OCT 14
Leave No Trace Outreach Evening - Fossil Craft Beer Company

friday
OCT 15
Beginner Birding Workshop and Hike
Community Workday at Palmer Park
Leave No Trace Outreach Evening - Red Leg Brewing Company
Leave No Trace Outreach Evening - Manitou Brewing

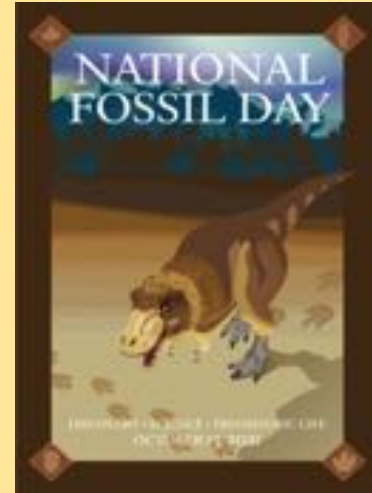
saturday
OCT 16
Nature Photography Hike
Community Workday at Stratton Open Space
Cool Science: Park Protectors: From Palmer to Pikes Peak
Cool Science: Leave No Trace; Bigfoot Hike
"Get Outdoors" Evening - Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop

sunday
OCT 17
Leave No Trace Mountain Bike Ride
GoPP Trail Project at Palmer Park
Leave No Trace Outreach Evening - Storybook Brewing

WHAT'S A HOT SPOT?
The Leave No Trace Hot Spot Program identifies areas suffering from severe human-related impacts that can thrive again with Leave No Trace solutions. Each location receives a unique, site-specific blend of programs aimed at a healthy and sustainable recovery. This year, the City of Colorado Springs Regional Parks system was nominated as a Hot Spot!

Scan QR code to learn more and register for programs.

Leave No Trace
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO



Leave No Trace Hot Spot Week

For explanation and details scan the QR code to the left.

Cheers for Two New Hike Leaders!!

CoBA is happy to welcome Sue Laabs and Jennifer Heiny to the CoBA Hike Leader Team!

Days of Yore: Some modern history

The land that surrounds Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp has a long and varied history of ownership. Following is a summary of the major property owners since 1897. Information is from The Gazette.

1897 William Banning establishes Banning Lewis Ranch

1927 Banning's daughter Ruth and her husband, Pinky Lewis, sell the original ranch and buy land to create a 38,000-acre ranch spanning north to Falcon from Widefield

1963 24,000 acres of the ranch are sold to Lawrence & Stegall Properties

1965 Lawrence & Stegall default on the loan, and the ranch is deeded to a New York-based company

1981 Mobil Corp buys the ranch

1983-84 Mobil sells 1500 acres to three groups of buyers

1985 Developer Frank Aries buys 20,000 acres from Mobil

1986 Aries buys additional 26,000 surrounding acres

1988 Colorado Springs annexes 24,000 acres of Aries' property, including Banning Lewis Ranch

1989 Aries deeds the property to Western Savings in lieu of foreclosure on his loan

1993 A company owned by Saudi billionaires buy the ranch

1993 The al-Ibrahim family of Saudi Arabia deed 694 acres to the City to create Jimmy Camp Creek Park and to build a reservoir as a part of the Southern Delivery System

2001 Capital Pacific Holdings purchase the property

2004 After restructuring a newly created holding company, Banning Lewis Ranch Co, LLC buys the ranch

2008, October City drops plan for reservoir at Jimmy Camp

2008, November, City of Colorado Springs purchases 523 acres of land from the Case family to create Corral Bluffs Open Space

2010 Banning Lewis Ranch goes into bankruptcy with \$240 million in debt

2011 Two buyers become owners after auction: Ultra Petroleum 18,000 acres and Keybank 2,600 acres. Ultra plans to drill for oil

2012 Oakwood Homes purchases Keybank property

2013 Ultra abandons plans to drill and sells property

2014 Norwood Development Group of Colorado Springs, contracts to buy the Ultra Petroleum property

The Gazette June 10, 2014

The Pueblo Chieftain, July 7, 2008

Continued from page 1, From the President

As a fundraiser, CoBA is selling stickers that commemorate the first million years of Earth's recovery after the K-Pg extinction event. The cost is \$3. See a CoBA board member or a hike leader to get your sticker. Did you know that M̄ is the Roman Numeral for Million?



Fall is a fantastic time to visit CBOS. The grasses are changing color. The temperatures are lower. The wildlife is active and now the smoke from the fires west has lessened. The lighting for pictures is slightly better for photos. Every day is a different view at this open space. Consider another visit to CBOS and bring friends and family. CoBA welcomes hiking groups, family reunions, out of town visitors, school classes (with adequate adult supervision), or the monthly schedule hike -- contact us for details. The landscape at CBOS is in a state of natural transition constantly. So, if you have visited before, consider another visit!

-Jax Hilaire



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

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



Corral Bluffs Alliance Board of Directors

Jackie Hilaire: President, Hike Leader

Bill Koerner: Vice President

Paula Watkins: Treasurer, Fund Raising, Hike Leader

Rose DiCenso: Fund Raising, Hike Leader

Sharon Milito: Newsletter, Website, Hike Leader

David Lumb

Ellie Rosenberg