

News From the Hoodoos



Fall 2020

From the President

Hope this finds you all happy and healthy and COVID-19-free.

It's been a very strange year -- hikes at CBOS/JCC have been limited in size and CoBA can only take out groups when the Parks Dept determines it's within the Governor's guidelines. So at the present time hikes are suspended until the virus is more controlled in CO. The hike up the newly acquired Bishop property "Walk Through Time" has been very popular. Paula and I went out to find another loop route that will give those who have experienced the various "standard" hikes at Corral Bluffs Open Space a new experience. We'll be exploring the use of the old horse trail again -- depends on what the weather has done in reshaping that area whether it will be added as another option in 2021. We are just waiting until restrictions lift and we can take out a group to see if these routes are easy enough for most hikers. We'll take out a hiking group and get their inputs on how many "boots" we should ascribe to each of the routes. Follow us on Facebook and watch for when hikes are available again. It is our hope that we might be able to restart the full moon winter hikes if the virus allows...

We encountered technical issues with our hike reservation system this year -- if you asked for a hike and heard nothing back, please try again, as we have upgraded that portion to ensure the issue is resolved. We have a new email for reservations: info@corralbluffs.org

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NEWS

On November 24 City Council approved the purchase of an additional 40 acres of land for Corral Bluffs. It includes a working house that may be used as a future meeting place, visitors center, meeting place, research station or ranger station. This brings the total acreage of Corral Bluffs to 963.



From the President, con't

The HWY-94 road construction is on-going -- a good use of the lower than ordinary traffic, but what a mess when the wind blows out here! When finished it should make our access for the open space a much safer experience with turn lanes.

One of long sought after parcels has come up for purchase as an inset in CBOS -- with Britt's help this hopefully will be shepherded thru TOPS, Parks Board, and approved by Council; with any luck in 2020.

The homes purchased in the neighborhood that will be used to connect CBOS and JCC have been a challenge as there are folks who think they can move into vacant homes. This has caused some very strange encounters; and hopefully will be resolved by Parks actions to remove some of these structures and perhaps if funds permit allow for a ranger to live in one of these. I exited my driveway and found four patrol cars with all their light on encircling a pickup -- the officer told me they could let me though and not to worry they arrested the squatter (officer said he was a bad guy who had outstanding warrants)...yikes!

For all who know Britt Haley at Parks Dept, please send her a THANKS for all she is doing during this year -- she continues to be a strong advocate for CBOS and works to make the needed additions to the larger CBOS to ensure it will be protected and expanded appropriately. Between Hayley Noneman, Ranger for CBOS, and Britt Hayley, TOPS Manager, our open space is getting more protection and attention to keep it safe and allow for the on-going research, CoBA hikes, and to ensure its a world class asset in the COS Parks Dept for years to come.

-Jax Hilaire (aka Jackie)



Praying Mantis on Grama Grass, the Colorado State Grass.

Nature Notes

Watch For

- Winter birds such as American Tree Sparrows, Juncos and Townsend's Solitaire
- Mule Deer
- Look closely at the many types of grasses. There are actually over 25 different types of grass in Corral Bluffs!

Cancellations and Donations

We are so sad that we had to cancel all upcoming hikes. With the new guidelines from the Governor's office and direction from City of Colorado Springs Parks Dept we felt it best to keep everyone safe. Please visit our website, www.corralbluffs.org and our Facebook page Corral Bluffs, for updates as they become available.

Unfortunately during this time we have been unable to hold any fun fundraising events or accepts hike donations.

We know there are a lot of very worthy causes and many of you may be personally struggling, but if you are able please consider donating. You can visit our website www.corralbluffs.org we have a yellow donate button on the upper left side of the home screen. No amount is too small.

The Corral Bluffs Alliance GREATLY appreciates any assistance you can give.

How many people know that the Goodnight- Loving Cattle Trail came right through Corral Bluffs?

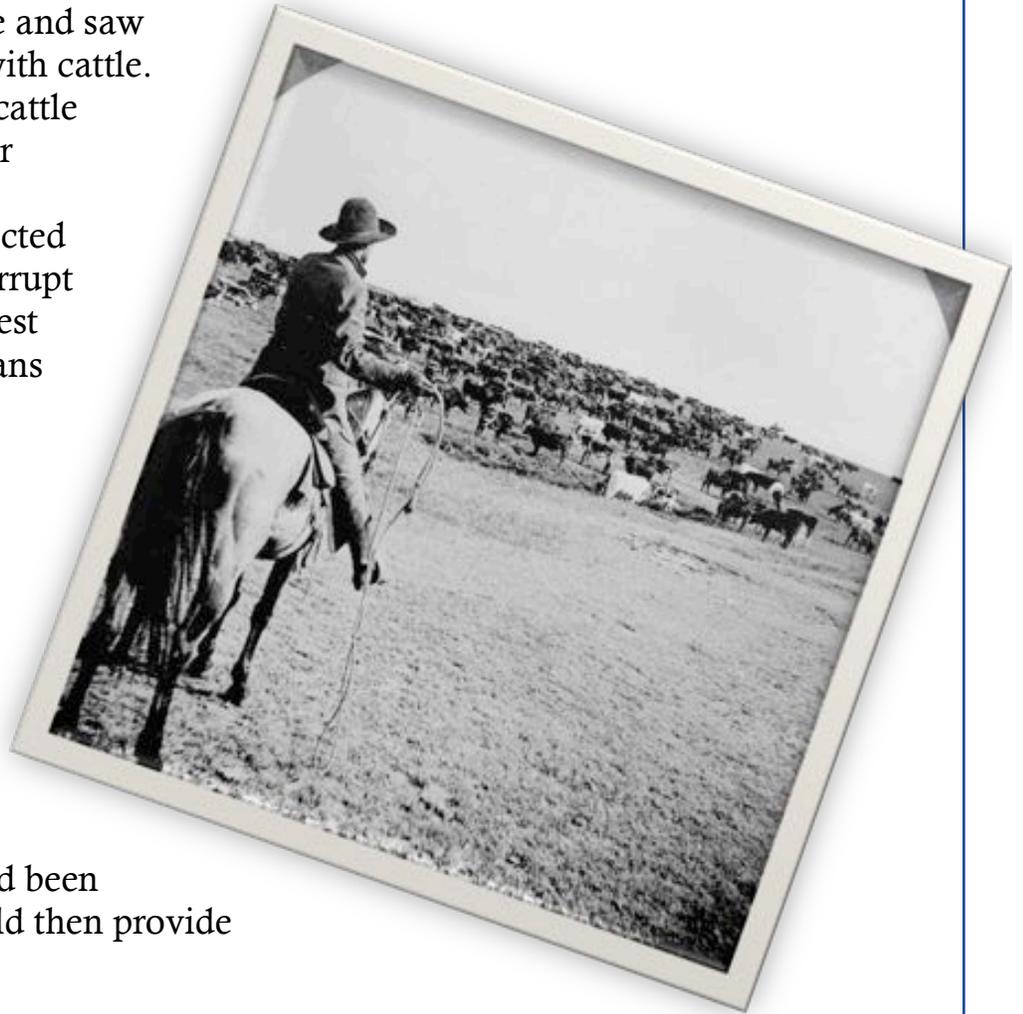
By Rose DiCenso

Charles Goodnight joined the Confederate Army but never fought in any battles against the Union Forces. His job was to keep the supply lines open in Texas, a job much like his position with the Texas Rangers that he held before the war.

In 1864, when his enlistment was over, Charles returned to his home and saw that the range was overrun with cattle. No one had been taking the cattle north during the war. Former markets in New Orleans and Missouri were in ruin. Neglected cattle over ran the range. Corrupt government officials, dishonest neighbors, and starving Indians drained stock off ranches. A steer selling for \$10 in Texas would bring \$25 in Chicago or Kansas City.

Most Texans decided to drive their cattle north to Kansas. Charlie looked to the west to sell cattle to Colorado gold and silver miners. Also, the Colorado and Wyoming grasslands had been emptied of bison, which could then provide grass for his cattle.

Charlie was 30 years old but was muscular and compact and had more scouting and trail experience than most and excellent trail sense. He recruited other experienced trail hands like Oliver Loving and Bose Ikard, a well-respected African American cowboy. They headed west with a crew of 18 cowboys and a rolling kitchen (a chuck wagon) with a cook.



Goodnight Loving Trail con't

They took a 700-mile journey from Fort *Belknap* to Fort Sumner New Mexico the host of U.S. Army garrison and involuntary home of a Navajo Tribe. He sold some of his cattle to his old enemies during the war, the U.S. Army and some to the Indian Agent for the Navajo.

After Fort Sumner, Charlie headed north across Raton Pass and sold cattle to Colorado rancher John Wesley Iliff. When they reached the Colorado Springs area, cowboys would bed the cattle down for the night in Corral Bluffs using the box canyons to contain the herd. That way, one cowboy could ride watch on the entire herd.

Charles and Oliver returned to Texas to buy more cattle and also established a swing station/ranch on the Apishipa River in Colorado.

Irritated by tollgate keeper Richen "Uncle Dick" Wootton's 10 cents a head toll to cross Raton Pass, Goodnight found an alternate route across Trinchera Pass to the east on subsequent drives north.

On the second cattle drive, Oliver Loving was killed by Comanches. While he lay dying, he made Charles promise to return his body to Texas. Charles bought a lead casket and on the return trip to Texas, dug up Oliver's body and took it home.

Sources:

<https://www.goodnightbarnpueblo.org/about/meet-charles-goodnight>

Out Where the West Begins: Profiles, Visions, and Strategies of Early Western Business Leaders by Philip Anschutz

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/goodnight-loving-trail>

It Happened in Colorado, by James Crutchfield



Contact us at info@corralbluffs.org

Website: www.corralbluffs.org

You can sign up for a hike on our website!

Corral Bluffs Alliance Board of Directors

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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](#)

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[Colorado Native Plant Society](#)

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