

News from the Hoodoos



Spring 2023

News Flash!

From the CoBA President

Corral Bluffs has been in the news, did you read about Wild Horse property addition? It appears that there will be a Master Plan kicking off soon, watch the news or our web site or the Parks web site for dates/times. This is a 1000 acre south of HWY-94, and it isn't connected with the current portions of CBOS where CoBA has been leading hikes.

(continued page 6).

New Property Acquisition

see article page 6.

Gold Standard LNT: Colorado Springs Parks and Open Spaces received national distinction as a city-wide Gold Standard site by Leave No Trace. <https://lnt.org/16-colorado-springs-parks-receive-a-unique-recognition/>

Join CoBA: Become a member of Corral Bluffs Alliance! See application form within this newsletter.

Members only event: In May we will be having a Meet the Scientists opportunity at the Corral Bluffs Research Station for members only. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions to Dr. Tyler Lyson and his team. Flyers will be emailed to members with information.

Renew your membership this spring for maximum 2023 benefits



Join us for a Hike

Spring 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 2022, CoBA hike leaders shared scenic Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp with over 480 hikers on 40 hikes, despite temporary closures due to excessive summer heat.

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

Meet our Hike Leaders

Rose DiCenso

As part of the Corral Bluffs Board of Directors for the past 5 years I have lead interpretive hikes, done school programs, monitored raptors and represented Corral Bluffs at wildlife festivals. I have also done bat surveys/capturing at Jimmy Camp Creek and Corral Bluffs during the city bioblitzes.

I taught school in Colorado Springs for over 28 years mainly teaching at middle school but also working with every age from kindergarten to Master's degree candidates.

I have been a volunteer with Colorado Parks and Wildlife for over 33 years. I'm still an active volunteer. With CPW I have: worked at wildlife festivals, done school presentations, monitored raptors, captured injured wild animals and worked with wildlife rehabilitators, mapped prairie dog colonies for the release of black-footed ferrets, and teach archery at Mueller State Park and Cheyenne Mountain State Park. I also taught Project Wild at CC for 19 years and was an original core team member for the T.E.N. Project for 20 years. I also work with several of the terrestrial biologists on various projects (bat surveys, black-footed ferret releases, plague management, etc.)

I was recently honored with a Colorado Association of Science Teachers' Award for "Excellence in Teaching: Informal Division".



**See it while you can!
The Corral Bluffs
exhibit, "After the
Asteroid" at the
Denver Museum of
Nature & Science will
be gone soon!**



Ramblings from Ranger Mike

An update from the ranger side of things is that the Parks Department is going to hold a two-day interpretive event at Jimmy Camp Creek Regional Park in the fall. The event will be one day for school groups from around the Pikes Peak region and a second day open to the public. The event has been titled "A Walk Through Time" and will focus on the rich history of Jimmy Camp and will consist of Living History, Aviation History, Period History, Native History as well as some great Natural Sciences. We do not have a set date yet, but the event will fall in September or October of 2023. Maybe, just maybe, we can make this an annual thing, alternating with a similar event at Corral Bluffs.



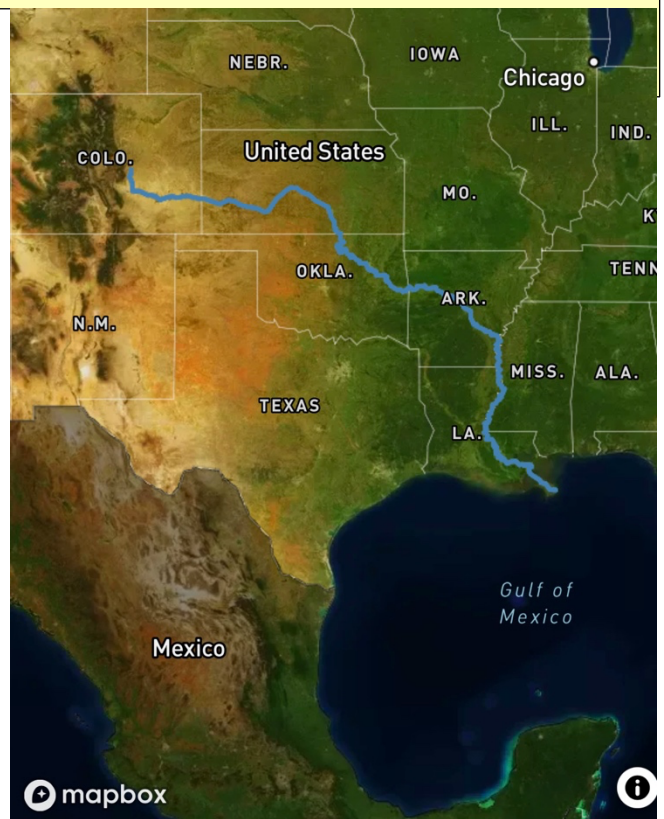
Put it on your calendar! Upcoming Fund Raisers for CoBA

***Thursday June 1, 2023**, at Red Leg Brewing from 5 to 8. 2323 Garden of the Gods Rd, 80907

***Saturday October 28, 2023**, at Bristol Brewing Company 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. 1604 S Cascade Ave, 80905.

Follow the Raindrop

The rain that reaches the ground in Corral Bluffs will eventually make its way to the Gulf of Mexico. This amazing website follows the path of a drop of rain from wherever it falls, to the ocean. Here, the rain flows down from the washes and gullies of Corral Bluffs, into Jimmy Camp Creek, to Fountain Creek, into the Arkansas River, to the Mississippi, and into the Gulf of Mexico. The image to the right shows the path water takes from Corral Bluffs. Try out this website: <https://river-runner.samlearner.com/?lng=-104.65525288803092&lat=38.86094670425513>



Visualization by [Sam Learner](#) | | | | Data: [USGS](#).

Nature Notes

Spotlight on: Prairie Rattlesnake, *Crotalus viridis*

When you attend a hike with us, one of the first things you will hear is, “Let us tell you a little about rattlesnake etiquette.” We’re not explaining proper ways to address a snake, but we are making sure everyone knows how to be respectful of these remarkable animals. Prairie Rattlesnakes are not an unusual find in Corral Bluffs. In the heat of the day, they can be found in shady crevices or under shrubs. In the cool of the early morning, they may be on top of rocks warming themselves. They are most active in the morning, evening or at night.

Rattlesnakes have poor vision and hearing. Instead of hearing as we do, they are very sensitive to vibrations, which they feel through their lower jaw. Also known as a type of Pit Viper, they have a pit or a hollow spot between their eyes and nostrils that detects heat, enabling them to sense prey. They also use their tongues to “taste” the air and the ground allowing them to locate mice and other small mammals.

If you hear the rattling of its tail, the best reaction is to freeze, and locate from where the sound is coming, then give the snake plenty of space as you proceed. Rattlesnakes are generally timid creatures and are simply warning you to stay away. Although their bites are extremely toxic, they only bite to protect themselves.

The Prairie Rattlesnake and the more common, and similar-looking Bullsnake, are both found in Corral Bluffs. You should always assume you’ve come upon a rattlesnake and make yourself safe. Then from a distance, decide which kind of snake you’ve found. The best way to tell the difference is by looking at the head shape. A rattlesnake has a triangular head, while a bullsnake has a small, rounded head. Of course, the bullsnake does not have a rattle on its tail, but it gives a good impersonation of a rattlesnake by hissing loudly, so don’t rely on the sound for an ID. Reference: <https://animalia.bio/praire-rattlesnake>



Prairie Rattlesnake



Bullsnake



Triangular Rattlesnake head



Rounded Bullsnake head

Stones & Bones

Excerpts from ***Colorado Springs Paleo Research Project 2022 Year End Review*** by Dr. Tyler Lyson, Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

“2022 was another successful year for the Colorado Springs Research project! Our team spent 40 days in the field, published four peer-reviewed scientific papers, received a \$100K grant from the National Geographic Society, filmed a 90-minute documentary for the French public broadcasting network (Channel 5's Science Grand Format) and Japan's NHK called “Asteroid Survivors” which will air in the spring of 2023, and had our work highlighted in Discover Magazine and The New York Times.”

“We found 23 new vertebrate localities and collected more fossils at 12 existing Denver Museum of Nature & Science localities. We found 16 new plant localities and collected 1,000 plant fossils.”



Carsiptychus skull found in 2023. The concretion had fallen off the right side, revealing a beautiful row of teeth.

To view the entire report, containing many photographs, copy and paste this link into your search bar:

<https://sway.office.com/QOZgSEn6OCYxWCdU?ref=email>

New Property Acquisition

Colorado Springs Trails, Open Spaces and Parks (TOPS) is acquiring the Wild Horse Ranch Property, adding over 1,000 acres to the Corral Bluffs package of properties. This parcel on the south side of Highway 94, directly across from Corral Bluffs Open Space. Besides vast grasslands, this property also has a pond, and will provide recreation on the eastern side of the city and wildlife habitat. After the master planning process, Wild Horse Ranch will be opened to the public.

Aerial image from Google Earth.



From the President continued from page 1

Speaking of hikes, I've already started taking out small group hikes. Please contact CoBA if you want to bring out a group of 6+ to view this area. The talks by DMNS folks are on-going in our community, and CoBA is always available to provide a talk to groups. The science is on-going and this area still offers great insights into a very unique time in our globe's history. Paula is working to get CoBA booked on several fund-raiser type events, so watch for notices of these, too. The display at the DMNS for CBOS has changed, so if you haven't been there lately, and are in Denver area, do check that out.

Looking forward to the 2023 season at CBOS...come see what's changed over the winter (there is always something that changes).

Jax Hilaire

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. Memberships are good from July 1, 2023- July 1, 2024. To get the most of your membership, join soon!

Corral Bluffs Alliance Board of Directors

Jax Hilaire: President, Hike Leader

Paula Watkins: Vice President,
Treasurer, Fund Raising, Hike
Leader

Rose DiCenso: Fund Raising, Hike
Leader

Bill Koerner

Sharon Milito: Secretary,
Newsletter, Website, Hike Leader

Jennifer Heiny, Hike Leader

David Lumb

Ellie Rosenberg

Cristine Watkins



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

