

News From the Hoodoos



March 2019

From the President

Welcome to the newly revised *News from the Hoodoos*

Lots of changes have occurred since the last newsletter; but let's start by refreshing everyone on the mission of Corral Bluffs Alliance (CoBA), from the 501c3 Bylaws:

CoBA is an alliance of concerned citizens formed with the focus of protecting the Corral Bluffs area. Corral Bluffs is a unique, rugged, and beautiful landform on the eastside entryway to the City of Colorado Springs along both the north and south sides of U.S. Highway 94. The slightly higher elevation of Corral Bluffs from the surrounding plains gives it, from a geographic perspective, a foothills type environment even though it is about 15 miles from the Rocky Mountain foothills.

The board decided a few years ago that we would be friends to both Corral Bluffs Open Space (CBOS) and Jimmy Camp Creek (JCC). We hold a hiking permit that allows us to guide hikes in both CBOS and JCC. Our hike leader group has grown and we are much more flexible and able to lead your group's hikes.

As the issues go along many of the new changes will be revealed – watch for these, just as I hope you look thru this issue to find the CoBA Vision Map which parallels the TOPS application that CoBA has submitted to the Colorado Springs TOPS

**More
on pg 4**

Inside Story

In the past months Corral Bluffs Open Space has increased in size by over 300 acres with the purchase of two additional parcels, for a total of 830 acres!

CoBA is accepting donations toward the creation of a new website. Check our Facebook page to donate.

At least four Golden Eagles have wintered over in Corral Bluffs. Last summer we had a nesting pair, and at least one eaglet fledged in July. Golden Eagles live up to 30 years!



Nature Notes

During the past two summers TOPS has conducted BioBlitzes at Corral Bluffs Open Space and Jimmy Camp Creek Park.

Interesting finds include:

- Four types of bats including an Eastern Red Bat
- North American Racer snake
- A longhorn beetle that seems to be common in Corral Bluffs, but has only been recorded in Colorado once before.
- Lark Buntings, the Colorado State Bird
- Over 30 different species of grass!
- For a complete listing of all species go to [INaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/corral-bluffs-bioblitz-colorado-springs-trails-parks-and-recreation-bioblitz-2018)
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	Corral Bluffs	Jimmy Camp
Birds	87	131
Mammals	14	13
Reptiles and Amphibians	9	8
Plants	171	109
Invertebrates (insects, spiders, etc)	218	179
Fungi (awaiting lab analysis)	2	3
Total Species	501	432

A BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers conduct an intensive study over a continuous time period, usually 24 hours. Wikipedia

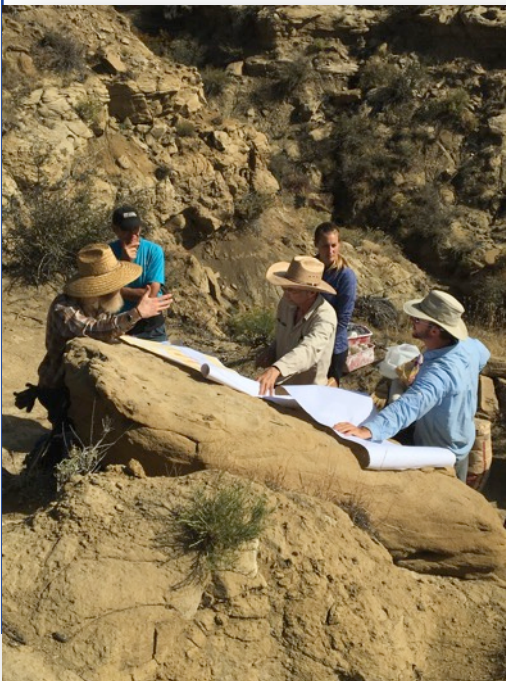
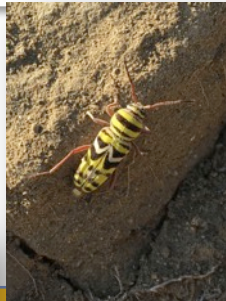


Watch For

- Meadowlarks start to sing in March
- Prairie dog babies are born in March or April
- In early April wild plums begin to bloom attracting many butterflies

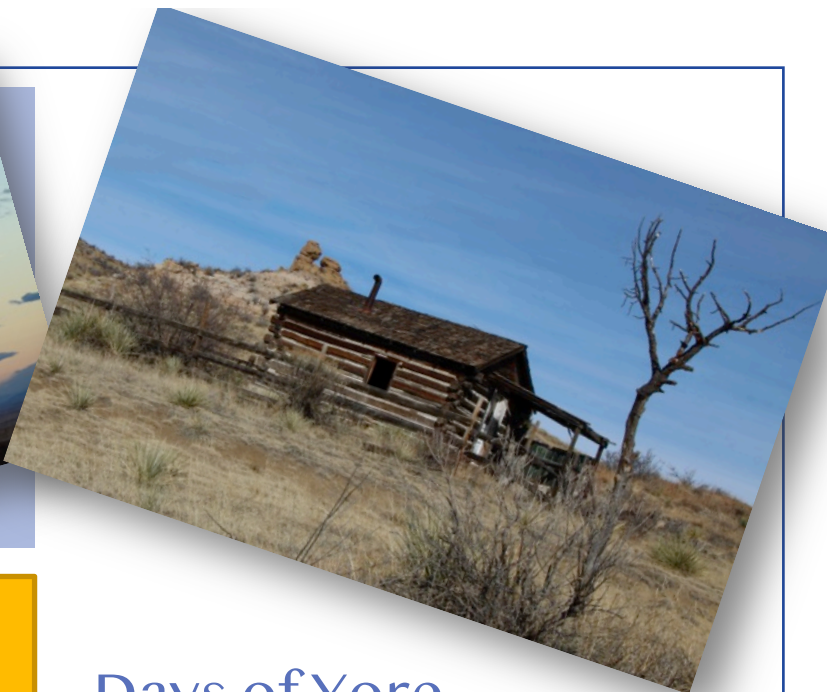
Source: Colorado Nature Almanac; Grassland to Glaciers; personal observation

*Keep your eyes open for this beetle. **Megacyllene Angulifera***



Stones and Bones

During the past three years the Denver Museum of Nature & Science has been conducting intensive geological and paleontological research in Corral Bluffs as they continue their work on life before and after the K-T extinction. Dinosaurs ruled the land before the K-T event, while mammals took over after the dinosaurs' demise. Experts in vertebrate paleontology, plant paleontology, fossil pollen, paleomagnetism, and geology have been gathering data to tell the ancient story of Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp.



Upcoming Events

1. Spring is right around the corner! CoBA will be offering guided hikes all spring, summer and fall. Gather your group of six or more and request a hike. Check out events on the Corral Bluffs Facebook page or Message us.

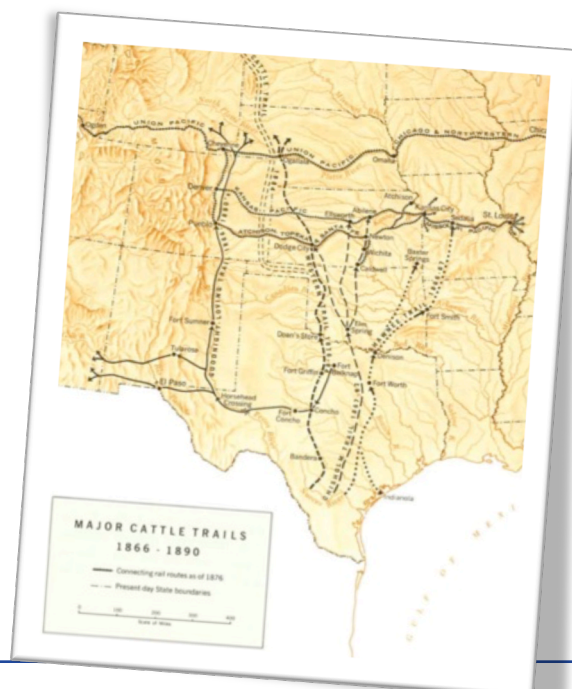
2. Watch for our new website!

3. In June a mini-BioBlitz will be conducted on the newest parcel of property. It will be for science teams only as they document all the living species in 24 hours. To attend a public BioBlitz check out Red Rock Canyon Open Space in July or participate in the City Nature Challenge in April!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2019-colorado-springs>

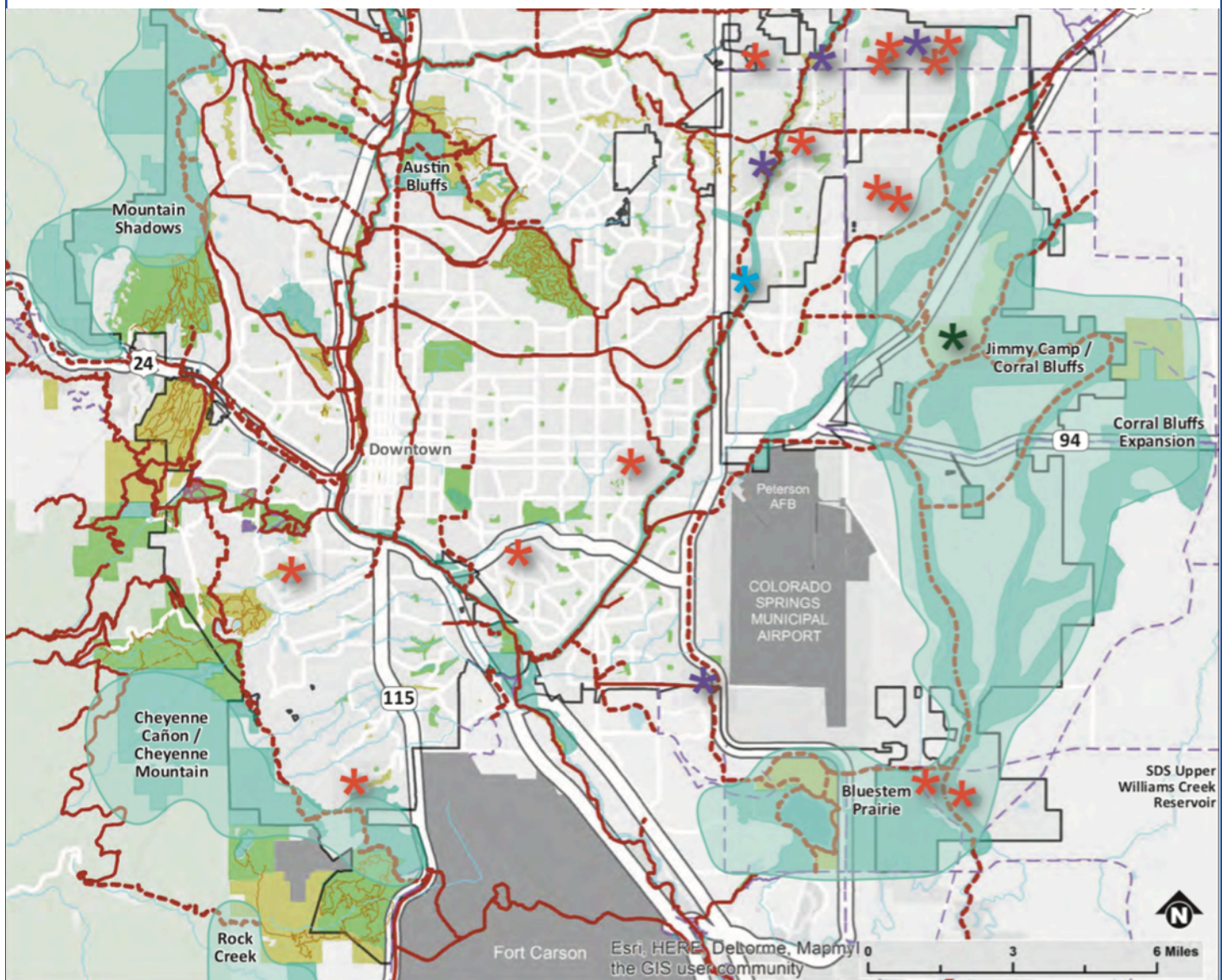
Days of Yore

Where did the name “Corral Bluffs” come from? A common mistake is to think the area is called “**Coral** Bluffs” causing visitors to expect the bluffs to be coral-colored, or to contain bits of coral. But actually, during the mid-1860s the bluffs acted as natural *corrals* containing the cattle during nighttime rest stops during cattle drives from Texas to Denver and Wyoming along the Goodnight-Loving Trail. Charles Goodnight invented the chuckwagon when he modified a wagon to be a mobile kitchen. *Chuck* was a slang word for food. (Wikipedia).



(Continued from page 1)

CoBA looks forward to welcoming your group, be it a family reunion, a church group, a school class, a hiking group, or a meet-up group. If you don't have a group watch the Facebook page for upcoming hikes and events and join-in so you can get engaged with this exciting area, which is ever changing with the weather, the seasons, and the researchers.



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|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Candidate Open Space Area | Proposed Urban Trail | Pike National Forest |
| Conceptual Open Space Network | Existing Urban Trail | Park Lands (City, County and Special District) |
| Undeveloped Parks | Existing County Trail | Open Space/Special Resource Area/Greenway |
| Neighborhood Park | Proposed County Trail | Undeveloped Park Land (City and Special District) |
| Community Park | Existing Park Trail | City Limits |
| Sports Complex | | |
| Regional Park | | |

Plan Summary | 11

Map shows CoBA and city vision for open space network with Corral Bluffs/Jimmy Camp stretching between Highways 24 and 94, and south to Bluestem Prairie Open Space. For better detail please see:

Colorado Springs Parks System Master Plan

https://parks.coloradosprings.gov/sites/default/files/parks_recreation_and_cultural_services/cos_masterplandocument_140923-view.pdf

Corral Bluffs Alliance Board of Directors

Jackie Hilaire: President, Hike Leader

Bill Koerner: Vice President

Cristine Watkins: Treasurer

Shaunna Hunt: Historian

Rose DiCenso: Fund Raising, Hike Leader

Paula Watkins: Fund Raising, Hike Leader

Sharon Milito: Newsletter, Hike Leader

David Lumb

Ellie Rosenberg

Don Watkins, Sr.

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.



<https://www.facebook.com/people/Corral-Bluffs/100011263022486>

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: www.dmns.org

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

Colorado College: www.coloradocollege.edu

Colorado Parks and Wildlife: <https://cpw.state.co.us>

Colorado Natural Areas Program:

<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/pages/cnap-info.aspx>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov

Aiken Audubon Society: www.aikenaudubon.com

Mile High Bug Club: www.facebook.com/milehighbugs

Colorado Native Plant Society: <https://conps.org>



The Easter Daisy is the first spring flower to bloom in Corral Bluffs.



Corral Bluffs Alliance