

Corral Bluffs Alliance (CoBA)
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The Corral Bluffs Chronicle

News from the Hoodoos

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Victory!

Case Property Purchased by City for New Corral Bluffs Open Space

But the work isn't over yet...

On November 10, 2008, after months of meetings, presentations, discussions, and e-mails by dedicated Corral Bluffs Alliance (CoBA) members and Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), Colorado Springs City Council voted to purchase the first section of Corral Bluffs for one million dollars using funds allocated by TOPS (Trails, Open Space & Parks). Twenty citizens prepared to present comments supporting the purchase represented CoBA at the meeting. The Council approved the purchase by a 7-1 vote.

Earlier this year El Paso County had made plans to create a motorcycle park on this property. Open space advocates, residents, paleontologists, archaeologists, botanists, historians, politicians, teachers and concerned citizens banded together to fight this proposal. Their work led to the county dropping their plans and the City of Colorado Springs acquiring the land for a limited use open space.

CoBA's goal is to support creation of a continuous regional park system encompassing Corral Bluffs to Jimmy Camp Creek Park. In reaching this goal we ask your continued support. This is our first victory, but not the end.

Please remember, this fabulous new property is not yet open to the public. There are many months of work ahead before access is available. Watch our website for scheduled hikes and master planning information as it becomes available.

Thank You All!

A very special thank you to all who helped in this endeavor. Thanks for listening, encouraging, writing letters and attending meetings. We couldn't have done this without you.

This triumph is yours!

Visit our website at savecorralbluffs.com for info on archaeology, geology, paleontology, history, plants and wildlife of Corral Bluffs.

The human spirit needs places where nature has not been rearranged by the hand of man. ~Author Unknown

CoBA Corner- Notes from the Board

CoBA needs you! We are looking for people interested in joining our board or volunteering to help. If you are interested please fill out and mail the form on the reverse side.

Matching grant! The Lumb-Hilaire family has offered a \$5000 challenge grant if we can match that amount in donations. Please donate any amount now to take a tax deduction for 2008. (See form on reverse side).

Future Newsletters- It saves CoBA postage if you can receive your edition through e-mail. E-mail us at SaveCorralBluffs@aol.com to receive your paperless edition.



Please print clearly

I'd like to join the Corral Bluffs Alliance.

(Please check one level)

Supporter - \$25. You'll receive email updates on how you can help.

Contributor - \$100. Same as above, plus you'll receive a free bumper/window sticker

Conservationist - \$500. Same as above, plus the knowledge that you're contributing toward land acquisition, expert research, required technical studies, educational materials, postage, printing and advertising.

mail to:

Corral Bluffs Alliance
P.O. Box 81
Peyton, CO 80831

***To make your donation tax-deductible, please make your check out to Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) and write Corral Bluffs on the memo line. TOSC has graciously offered to help us in our fundraising efforts.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Cell phone (_____) _____

Email _____

I'm willing to volunteer time to help.

I've enclosed \$ _____ to be matched by the challenge grant.



CB Stones and Bones

Geologist, Ken Weissenburger and paleontology researcher, Sharon Milito are currently surveying

the bluffs to document the rock strata and fossils. Understanding the layers of rock is vital to determining ancient environments.

In August 2008, a team of paleontology students led by Dr. Jaelyn Eberle from University of Colorado at Boulder and Dr. Ian Miller from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science visited Corral Bluffs and found crocodile bones and mammal teeth. In October 2008, paleontology researcher, Sharon Milito, found crocodile bones at two sites.

Did You Know?

-CB contains fossils of mammals that lived during the first million years after the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. It is one of only a few places on earth where these fossils are preserved.

The Nature of Things

Colorado College Professor of Biology, Dr. Tass Kelso visited the Bluffs in September. She was impressed at the undisturbed nature of the native flora, and only recorded two weed species. She documented three to four different ecosystems: short grass prairie, bluffs, sand prairie and the dry creek bed. Did you know that blue grama grass, a common grass at Corral Bluffs, is our state grass? It can be recognized by its eyelash-like flowers.



Bouteloua gracilis (blue grama)

The Mystery Fossil

About fourteen years ago, Barbara Delph, who grew up with Corral Bluffs as her playground, found a fossil embedded in a plateau of sandstone at Corral Bluffs. Barbara is long-time Corral Bluffs resident and many of her fossil discoveries are in museums. This fossil was an oblong dish about 7" long that seemed like possibly an animal skull. No one knew quite what it was. She knew it needed to be removed by an expert, so it remained in the stone.



In June 2008, it was excavated by Dr. Kirk Johnson, Chief Curator and Vice President of Research & Collections at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS). What did this mystery fossil turn out to be? After dissolving the excess sandstone, it became clear it was a portion of an ancient turtle shell (see photo). The entire shell may have been about 4 feet long. Large turtles, alligators and crocodiles were only some of the animals that roamed Corral Bluffs 65 million years ago when it was a subtropical forest.



In the field with collected turtle shell. From left to right: Jeff Cahill, Jackie Hilaire, Phyllis Cahill, Barbara Delph, Roberta Oxley, Dr. Kirk Johnson and Bob Rozinski.
-Photo, above, and turtle shell photo courtesy of DMNS

CoBA Board

- Jackie Hilaire, President
 - Phyllis Pollema-Cahill, Vice President
 - Cristine Watkins, Secretary/Treasurer
 - David Lumb, board member
 - R.J. "Jeff" Cahill, board member
 - Don Watkins, Sr., board member
 - Roberta Oxley, board member
 - Sharon Milito, board member
- Newsletter corrections or submissions should be directed to Sharon Milito at samilito@comcast.net

THE VISION OF CORRAL BLUFFS ALLIANCE IS TO PRESERVE CORRAL BLUFFS' NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES WHILE BALANCING THIS WITH PUBLIC ACCESS SO EVERYONE CAN LEARN ABOUT ITS RESOURCES AND ENJOY ITS SCENIC BEAUTY.