

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

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The Corral Bluffs Chronicle

News from the Hoodoos

March 2009

UPDATE ON CORRAL BLUFFS

On January 26, 2009, the City Park & Recreation Department gave the following update to City Council regarding the 522 acres purchased at Corral Bluffs:

“The master planning effort for the property will begin in the spring of 2009 and is anticipated to require 18-24 months. The first nine months will provide time to conduct an extensive study of the paleontological, archaeological and environmental values identified on the property. Staff is working with local paleontologists, archaeologists, and local universities and colleges to conduct these studies. In addition, staff is pursuing a planning grant through the Colorado Historical Society to assist with expenses associated with the onsite studies. It is anticipated that the majority of the work by local experts will be donated and performed at little expense to the TOPS program. Once the scientific studies are completed, staff will engage the community and key stakeholders in a public master plan process to determine locations for trails, trail-heads, etc. In the interim, the TOPS Program has partnered with the Trails and Open Space Coalition to conduct guided tours of the property. Tours will begin in early spring of 2009.”

Our thanks to the City Park & Rec Department and the experts who are volunteering their time to study Corral Bluffs.

CoBA FRIENDS GROUP

In January 2009, the CoBA board voted to become an official Friends Group, similar to Friends of Red Rock Canyon. This will allow CoBA to work with the City Park & Rec Department to:

- broaden public awareness of Corral Bluffs
- advocate for funding and resources
- provide educational materials and programs
- recruit, train and recognize volunteers
- sponsor special events
- raise funds
- develop and implement the master plan

As part of this agreement, CoBA will become a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The application process takes many months, but when completed will allow CoBA to accept tax-deductible donations without going through TOSC and apply for grants for Corral Bluffs.

NEW ON SAVECORRALBLUFFS.COM

Watch the video of the song “The Goodnight-Loving Trail” being performed! Go to the history page for the video link and new information about cattle drives and the ranchers for whom the Goodnight-Loving Trail was named.

CoBA CORNER

\$5000 MATCHING GRANT!

The Lumb-Hilaire family has offered a \$5000 challenge grant if we can match that amount in donations. Please donate any amount and get a tax deduction for 2009. (See form on reverse side).

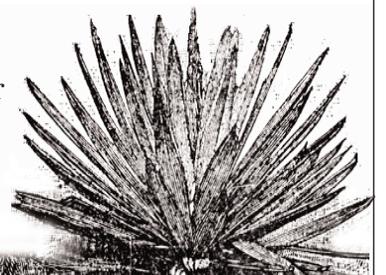
SAVE CoBA PRINTING AND POSTAGE

Get your newsletter via email and save CoBA printing and postage costs. E-mail us at CorralBluffs@aol.com to receive your paperless edition.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Please send newsletter corrections or submissions to CorralBluffs@aol.com.



I'D LIKE TO JOIN 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.

Make your check out to: Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) and write CoBA on the memo line. TOSC has graciously allowed us to use their tax exempt status until we attain our own so your donation will be tax-deductible.

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

Please print clearly

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.



STONES AND BONES

Contributed by Sharon Milito

Corral Bluffs preserves sediments deposited during the early

Paleocene Epoch as the earth was recovering

from a major mass extinction of all nonavian dinosaurs as well as many species of plants. Before this extinction, mammals were small, rodent-like creatures, but as all of the large carnivores disappeared, the mammals rapidly took over the vacant ecological niches. By the middle of the Paleocene there were 84 genera of new mammals in North America, while during the late Cretaceous Period there were only 18 genera.

To date, fossils of 12 different types of mammals have been found in Corral Bluffs. Of these, 11 are archaic ungulates, related to modern hoofed mammals, although they looked nothing like the modern cows, deer, and horses frequenting Corral Bluffs today. Most of these animals were cat-sized and resembled raccoons or lemurs. The other type of mammal identified in Corral Bluffs is a small multituberculate, mammals named for the bumps on their teeth. Multituberculates are distant relatives of the egg-laying platypus. In contrast to this, the archaic ungulates were placental mammals (live-birth).

In Corral Bluffs we hope to discover further examples of early mammals. Because of the fragility of mammal bones, typically only teeth and jaws, which are harder and preserve more easily, are found. Fossils of reptiles, like turtles and crocodiles, are more plentiful due to their hard body parts. Several of these creatures have been found in Corral Bluffs.

APRIL COLORADO SPRINGS BALLOT ISSUE

An item will be on the April ballot in Colorado Springs asking citizens to approve up to 15% of TOPS funds per year be used for maintenance of all city parks for the next five years. This would seriously hinder land purchases at Corral Bluffs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Colonel Charles Goodnight, a rancher and Civil War veteran, invented the chuckwagon for use on his cattle drives on the Goodnight-Loving Trail. The trail was named after him and another rancher, Oliver Loving. Corral Bluffs was a regular overnight stop for cattle drives on this trail.

Congratulations to the Trails & Open Space Coalition for being this year's Stuart P. Dodge Award recipient!

Please remember, Corral Bluffs is not yet open to the public, except through guided tours. There are many months of expert studies and master planning ahead before public access is available.

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours of Corral Bluffs begin the first Saturday of each month from April through October. Email corralbluffs@aol.com to reserve your place. A limited number of people will be allowed each time.

Meet at 1:30PM in the parking lot directly west of the Loaf N Jug at 6857 Hwy 94 -- just south of Platte Ave. near the intersection of Space Village Ave. and Peterson Rd. See map on our site. Dress appropriately, wear walking shoes, sunscreen and bring drinking water. No dogs.

The hike is about 2 hours long, plus 40 minutes to carpool to Corral Bluffs and back. See note below regarding weather cancellations.



Doesn't this rock at Corral Bluffs look like a skull?

OUR FIRST COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORT

Would you like to get some exercise, fresh air and enjoy the scenery while helping to beautify Corral Bluffs? Help clean up a farmer's dump every Sunday (except Easter) from 1-5PM beginning on March 8th through the end of April, or until done.

Meet at the corner of Hoofbeat & Davis at 1PM. A map and status updates will be on our site. Wear old clothes, work gloves, sunscreen and tough-soled shoes. Please bring your own drinking water and food.



NOTE: If it's precipitating, below 45° or there are gale-like winds, the monthly guided tours will be rescheduled for the following Saturday and the dump cleanup day will be cancelled for that week. Please check savecorralbluffs.com or call 683-8086 for weather status at Corral Bluffs.