



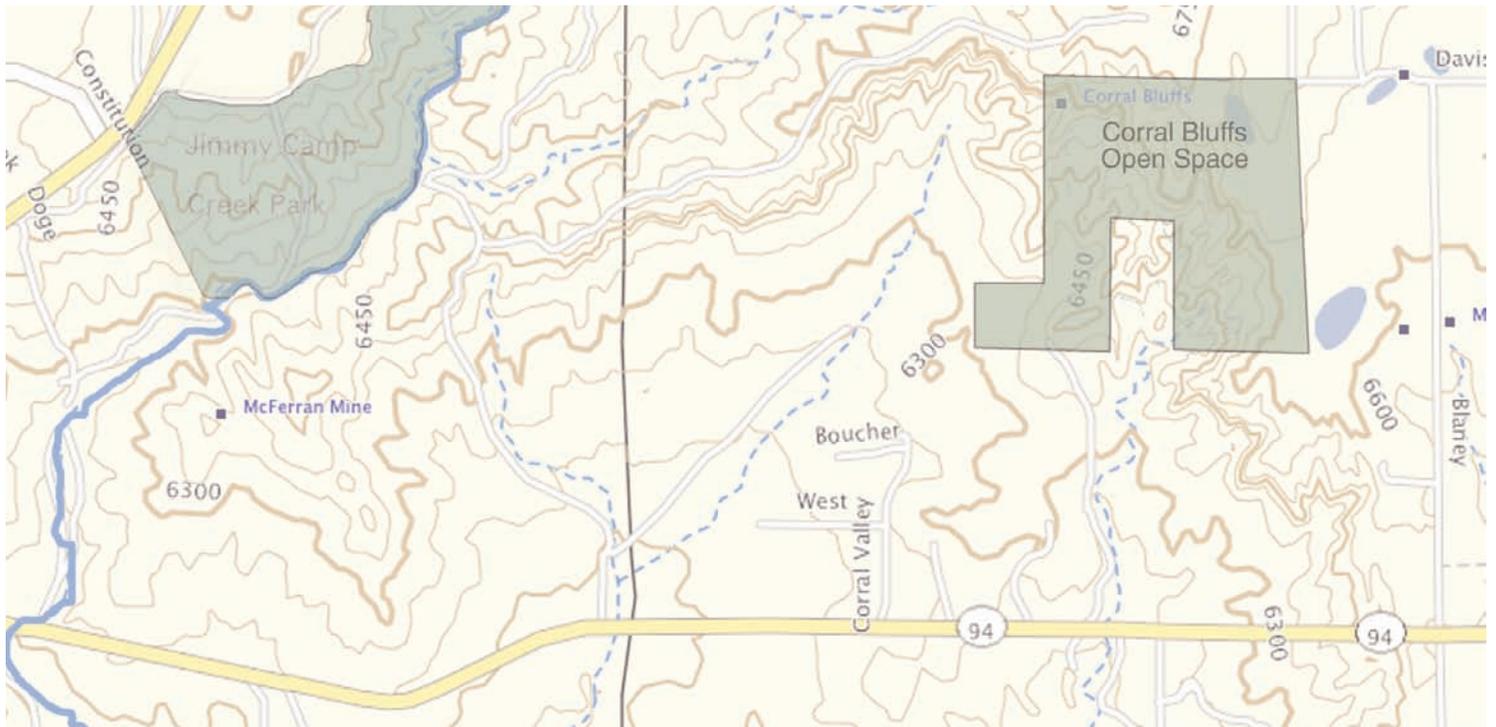
The Corral Bluffs Chronicle

News from the Hoodoos

March 2011

THE NEW SHAPE OF CORRAL BLUFFS OPEN SPACE

On January 31st, 2011 the purchase of the 76-acre parcel owned by the Anderson family was complete! The Corral Bluffs Open Space now totals almost 600 acres. No dates have been set for starting the master planning process, but guided tours continue. See the next page for dates.



YOUR HELP NEEDED WITH CLEANUP

Please help finish cleaning up an old farmer's dump just north of Corral Bluffs Open Space. Cleanup is every Sunday from 1:00 - 4:00PM (except holidays and bad weather days). With your help, we hope to finish it this winter.

Most heavy items have been removed, but many, many small items still need to be sorted into piles for recycling.

Meet at the corner of Hoofbeat & Davis Road at 1:00PM. A map and weather updates are at corralbluffs.com. Wear old clothes, work gloves, sun-screen and tough-soled shoes. Bring water and snacks for yourself.

If you've never seen Corral Bluffs, we'll take you on a short hike before you help with the cleanup.



Cleanup crew on February 27th included 6 cadets from Air Force Academy Squadron 18

CORRAL BLUFFS HIKES—DID YOU KNOW?

DYK- Monthly hikes have started again

DYK- You can sign up by writing to
corralbluffs@aol.com

DYK- You can schedule a special group hike for
days other than the first Saturday of the month



Yes, the monthly hikes have started and we welcome groups to set up special hikes. Already we have had the Broadmoor Garden Club take a special group hike. It was lots of fun and a really great group of folks. The Falcon Senior's group, Falcon Garden Club, Country Chix (A Red Hat group) and possibly a rock hounding group have also scheduled special group hikes.

This is basically a 2-boot hike with rest stops at points-of-interest. Though we are following the same route as last year, we have changed it up a little to go up from the magpie nest to the vista view and come back down after going up to the pour-off. This makes it a little easier on some and seems it will be safer when on top where all the rocks are. And as we know, when the rattlesnakes are awake, they love rocks.

The first monthly hike in March was a small group but in spite of the cold weather (it never got above 40 degrees) we enjoyed the hike. When the fog lifted it was wonderful to see the vistas. Every shrub and grass was coated with a heavy frost from the low cloud cover, which had covered the area overnight.

New this year, we found a deer skeleton with intact backbone and skull and antlers attached. If you count only one side of the points it's a 4-point buck, otherwise it's 8-point.

Each season the Bluffs take on a different character. So if you haven't seen Corral Bluffs Open Space first hand, now is the time.

GUIDED TOURS

CoBA is using a new easier tour route of the Corral Bluffs Open Space for 2011. It includes the western valley and a view from the western ridge.

Tour dates (weather permitting):

April 2nd, 2011, Saturday 10:00AM

May 7th, 2011 Saturday 8:00AM with TOSC

June 4th, 2011 Saturday 8:00AM

In addition to our regular guided tours, special tours are available for groups of ten or more. Email corralbluffs@aol.com to reserve your place or to organize special group tours. See corralbluffs.org for more details.



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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We'd really welcome help with the following:

- collecting plant specimens
- finding and controlling noxious weeds
- newsletter writing & editing
- grant writing
- trash pickup
- organizing & leading public hikes
- educational presentations
- fundraising & special events
- membership development
- volunteer recruitment, training & recognition

Please write to corralbluffs@aol.com for more information on how you can help.



STONES AND BONES ADVENTURES IN PALEONTOLOGY

By Sharon Milito, Project
Paleontologist



The greatest part about my paleontology avocation is “finding stuff.” It is like a great treasure hunt. I’ve been working out at Corral Bluffs for 2 years now. The area never ceases to amaze me. I don’t find many fossils anymore. I think I’ve found most of them. For the first year every time I went out I found turtle and crocodile bones. My favorite turtle is Sherlock, a complete turtle shell entirely encrusted in gravel. My favorite crocodile kept dropping various body parts for several months! The first time I found several scutes and one vertebra, and on subsequent visits I’d find a limb bone, scute or more vertebrae. I think he might have finally donated all of his bones to our efforts.

After a year and a half I stopped finding crocodiles and turtles, and suddenly started finding mammal jaws. From January until May we found 6 mammal jaws. Those jaws are very hard to find, and seem to show up where we least expect to find them.

Then last summer I started finding Native American artifacts. Since I am not permitted to collect human artifacts I had to contact Steve, the archaeologist who did the field work at Corral Bluffs, several times. He happily came back out to document and collect those items. I had a delightful day learning about archaeology with him, and I discovered something new in which I am interested.

Some of the things I’ve found were exhilarating in a totally different way. Since the survey began, I have run into 12 rattlesnakes. All but one were glad to get out of my way. That one was cornered in a gully that I was walking through. I felt like I was in an adventure story where everything kept getting worse. I discovered the snake as I tripped on a branch. I quickly jumped up when I heard the rattle. Sweat started pouring down my face, and sun-

screen dripped into my eyes. The snake kept rattling at me, and through my tears I could see he wasn’t going anywhere. I decided I would have to be the one to retreat, so I climbed up the embankment and over a hill, then back down to the gully to get past it. The sweat in my eyes didn’t keep me from stopping to take a great photo, though.



Wandering through Jimmy Camp I came upon a nice, fresh deer leg. I started feeling a bit nervous, and then I came upon an empty dug-out in a gully, totally carpeted with fur. I was very glad I wasn’t alone. That mountain lion was probably sitting on a nearby rock watching our procession.

I’ve discovered that being out at the Bluffs in a rainstorm can be treacherous. I’ve found that thunder in April can turn into an instantaneous blizzard, and that temperatures of 104 degrees can grill my ham and cheese sandwich. I’ve discovered two rock hammers that I lost on previous visits, and am waiting to rediscover a mitten I lost. I’ve learned that if you name landforms you can recognize them again and find your way around a puzzling topography.

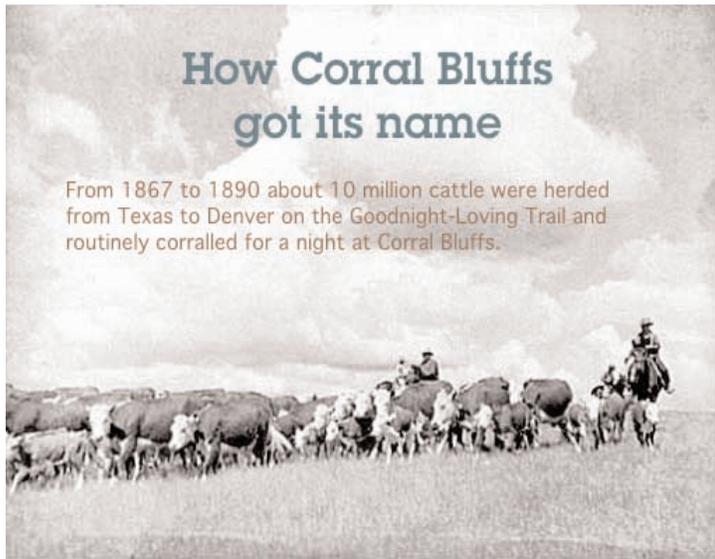
Through all of this, though, my favorite discovery of all, is the peace, solitude and beauty of the area. I’ve had the opportunity to take some great photos of the scenery, the flowers and the animals. I’ve seen golden eagles surveying their realm, swooping owls, night hawks feigning injury, spectacular rainbows, herds of deer, firework displays of desert four o’clocks, fields of wildflowers, and colors of blooming prickly pears I never knew existed. Corral Bluffs is truly a special addition to our city!

To see some my Corral Bluffs sights visit my website: <http://paleotrailsproject.org>



POWER POINT PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

CoBA has developed a PowerPoint presentation full of beautiful photographs and interesting facts about Corral Bluffs' history, geology, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and plants, as well as the vision for preserving more of the Bluffs. If you know of a group who'd enjoy this presentation, please contact Jackie Hilaire, CoBA President, at corralbluffs@aol.com to schedule a time.

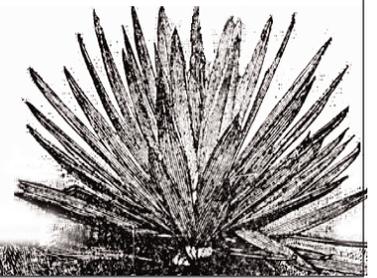


One slide from our PowerPoint presentation

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

If it's been a year or more since you've become a member of Corral Bluffs Alliance, please renew your membership now by filling out the form on the last page. We put your money to good use. In 2010 we pledged \$2000 toward maintenance of a new land purchase at Corral Bluffs. We appreciate your continued support!



BLUEBIRD BOX MONITORS NEEDED

An eagle scout has volunteered to build and install bluebird boxes near Corral Bluffs as part of our new Wildlife Habitat Council project in cooperation with Waste Management. We still need volunteers to monitor the boxes during spring and summer. Please write to corralbluffs@aol.com if interested.



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 Contributor 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: Corral Bluffs Alliance. Your donation is 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 enclosing \$_____ toward maintenance of new open space at Corral Bluffs.

I'd like to volunteer time to help.