

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

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The Corral Bluffs Chronicle

News from the Hoodoos

June 2009

CORRAL BLUFFS ALLIANCE UPDATE

2008 was a fast-paced, intense year for those of us supporting the preservation of Corral Bluffs as an open space. Thanks to tireless efforts and your grassroots support, the outcome was the purchase of 522 acres of open space.

There's a tendency to assume that once the major battle is won, that we're done. This is far from true. The pace of work is now slower, but the tasks are bigger.

The CoBA board is working with the City Parks and Rec Department, the Trails, Open Space and Parks Working Committee and the Trails and Open Space Coalition to ensure Corral Bluffs becomes a premier open space in the Pikes Peak region.

You might ask what you can do to HELP. Great question! HELP is needed to:

- formulate a vision for the open space
- provide information to aid in the master plan
- increase public awareness of Corral Bluffs
- lead guided tours
- clean up the farmer's dump and other trash
- find existing trails and locate potential new trails
- create a business plan for CoBA
- maintain our database and do secretarial work
- compile and edit our newsletter
- fundraise for land acquisition, expert research, educational materials and more

We hope to protect much more of the fragile bluffs and make Corral Bluffs Open Space connect with Jimmy Camp Creek Park and the regional trail system. We hope that one day you can take your family to the open space and have a picnic watching the sun set over the Peak with the eagles flying high.

The CoBA board is searching for a few energetic, like-minded folks to assist us in this process. If you'd like to HELP, please contact us at CorralBluffs@aol.com.

APRIL COLORADO SPRINGS BALLOT ISSUE

The item on the April ballot in Colorado Springs asking citizens to approve up to 15% of TOPS

funds per year for maintenance of all city parks for the next five years was defeated. This allows funds to be used for purchase of new open space, as originally intended.

OUR LAST PAPER NEWSLETTER

Our cost for each paper edition of our newsletter is \$270. To put our limited funds to best use, subsequent issues of our newsletter will only be available in electronic form. This will also allow us to use color photographs. When a new edition is available for downloading from our website, an email notice will be sent to those on our emailing list. To be on our emailing list, either fill out the form on the reverse side or email CorralBluffs@aol.com.



Indian artifact found recently near Corral Bluffs which will be donated to the Pioneer Museum.

CoBA CORNER

\$5000 MATCHING GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

Thank you to those who donated \$750 since the \$5000 Lumb-Hilaire grant challenge started. To donate, please see form on 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 Dr. Ken Weissenburger, geologist

Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp

Creek bluffs are located on the southern rim of the Denver Basin. They contain the "largest contiguous natural surface outcrops" of the Denver Basin layers at and just above the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary—the point in time when the dinosaurs became extinct.

What is the Denver Basin and why is it important? The Denver Basin is not a topographic depression, as its name implies. Instead, it is a structural basin that also served as a depositional basin during the early Tertiary Period.

A structural basin has rock layers bent downward toward a common center, like the cross section of half an onion.

Much of the downward bending in the Denver

Basin was simultaneous with the upward thrusting of Rockies II. With the upthrust of Rockies II, erosion began.

Most of the eroded debris from the Rockies found its way to the Gulf of Mexico. However, the Denver Basin served as a local catcher's mitt, or depositional basin, to capture layer upon layer of eroded rock. The last layers to fill the basin are the least bent.

As an end result, the Denver Basin contains a preserved rock record of climates and ecosystems from some 60 million years ago. Long, "horizontal" outcrops of these layers are naturally exposed at Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp where experts may study them.



The Denver Basin - Reynolds RG, Johnson KR, Ellis B, Dechesne M, Miller IM (2007) Earth history along Colorado's Front Range: Salvaging geologic data in the suburbs and sharing it with the citizens. GSA Today: Vol. 17, No. 12 pp. 4-10

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

Schedule of guided tours at Corral Bluffs:

July 11th 8:00AM

August 1st 8:00AM

September 5th 8:00AM

October 3rd 1:30PM

Email CorralBluffs@aol.com to reserve your place. A limited number of people will be allowed.

Meet in the parking lot directly west of the Loaf N Jug at 6857 Hwy 94 – just south of Platte Ave. (Hwy 24) 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.

If it's precipitating, below 45° or there are gale-like winds, the monthly guided tours will be rescheduled for the following Saturday. Please check corralbluffs.com for weather status.

DID YOU KNOW?

Both male and female golden eagles collect materials to build their huge nests, but it's the male



who's in charge of arranging the nest. Soon after the female carefully places a stick, the male will move it. The female lays one or two eggs in February. Both parents then take turns keeping them warm and cautiously curl up their talons so they don't break the eggs.

A new eaglet hatched at Corral Bluffs. It's now losing its white baby down and testing its wings.

UPDATE ON OUR FIRST COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORT

A good start was made on cleaning up the farmer's dump, thanks to the efforts of Corral Bluffs supporters. Two large trailerfuls of metal were brought to the recyclers, as well as one large trailerful of tires and two large boxes of glass. Two large trailerfuls of wood were hauled away to be burnt as firewood. The cleanup effort will begin again in September or October.

