

The Red Rock Rag

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FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON

The President's Report — Fall 2010

Inside this issue:

RRC Remembered	2
Holiday Party	2
Tools for the Trail	3
Mtn Biking in RRC	4
Plants of RRC	4
Section 16 News	5
Fun Facts	5
Section 16 Challenge	6
Editor Word	6
Codell Trail complete	6
Membership Form	7
Stewarding Open Space	7

Events Calendar

FoRRC Board Meeting	11/8
FoRCC Holiday Pot Luck	12/12
FoRRC Board Meeting	12/12

Greetings,

Many changes are going on right now all over the planet and many changes for me as well. It's time for me to step back and let someone else experience the pleasures I have had serving as President of the Friends of Red Rock Canyon Board of Directors. There will be a new president in December and this will be my last President's Report. Bob Johnson, one of our Board's Directors, will be taking over. So, in this report I'd like to share some of my fondest memories I remember over the past six years.

Building trails with volunteers has been so enlightening! So many of you show up early on Saturday mornings to help create and maintain the trails in Red Rock Canyon. You give your time and your energy and help preserve a most beautiful piece of Open Space. I've watched you volunteers work so hard with a true dedication. I remember one time this family had volunteered for the first time, never having worked on a trail before. A Mom and Dad and their two young boys. The day started out foggy and we all worked closely together shrouded in the clouds. Just when it was time to break for lunch the sun came out and they could see we had been working over a beautiful canyon. At first they were speechless, then their eyes weld up with tears from gazing on that beauty for the first time. Then they looked back at the trail and saw all that their small team had cleared and how it now looked like a trail that had always been there. Actually, it had been there all along; it just needed carving out and there it was and they had done it. The look on the boys' faces held such wonder and amazement; it was priceless. Those boys had em-

powered themselves and were so proud of the hard work they had done. I saw this scene repeated every time we built new trail or maintained an old one. The best part was knowing how much our community cared what happened in RRC and took an active part in contributing to its care. So from the first trail built, The Contemplative Trail, to the beginning of the last, The Codell Trail, all you wonderful volunteers have left your mark in a very gentle way on this planet. Thank you for that and allowing me to be a part of that!

Fundraising— wow, this is a community that loves its Open Space!!! Beginning with raising over \$100,000 for the Pavilion, that was amazing, right up to last year with raising \$77,000 so quickly for the preservation of White Acres! And now I will get to be a part of the raising of funds for our community's well loved Section 16! I have no doubt this community will step up and contribute what is needed. One of the most significant instances for me was when we were raising the funds for the purchase of White Acres Parcel Number One. People who had just been laid off or who had been out of work for quite awhile donated because they felt it was important and wanted to be a part of contributing even if it was in a small way. There was so much funding that came from non-profit organizations in the form of grants over the years as well. I am grateful for those and all the help I received in writing those grants. There were those Challenge Matching Grants from private citizens that gave each fundraiser a boost. Thank you so much for those! It made a difference.

I want to thank the FoRRC Board of Directors, those on the

board now and those who were on the board in the past. Thank you for your support over the years. This is a truly dedicated board that genuinely supports every cause there is regarding RRC!! You all have taught me so much and I appreciate the opportunity I have been given to experience what "Community" really means. Thank you for your trust.

Thank you to all the Colorado Springs Park and Recreation Department Personnel who have helped me keep up with the details of what was happening on your side in Red Rock Canyon and the "Partnership" we experienced! Keeping me informed made the position much smoother than it would have been without it!

To those of you who walk, hike, bike, climb and run thru Red Rock Canyon thank you for being there! You are what it is all about. This is your land. The fact that you appreciate this historic land in so many ways has given me much pleasure in being president of Friends of Red Rock Canyon all these years. You all have inspired me.

I'll be passing the RRC Torch in mid-December to Bob. I have full confidence he will be a great leader and knows what RRC needs. He has a wonderful board to assist him. Thank you Bob for all that you have already done in RRC and will do. Thanks for accepting the opportunity you are about to experience!

So now, I bid your farewell. Thank you for the "Experience". It has been a wild yet comforting ride! See you out there on the trail.

Love and Light,
Karlee Thompson
President

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON HOLIDAY PARTY

As we head towards the end of the year, the holiday season is fast approaching.

To get acquainted with our Friends of Red Rock Canyon members, we will be holding a Pot Luck Holiday Party on De-

ember 12th from 3:30-7:30pm.

Space is limited. To get directions, make a reservation and determine what to bring, please RSVP to

Friends@RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org as soon as possible.

The party will be BYOB with sodas, plates, silverware, napkins and meat provided.

The program will go over some of the changes that will be occurring within FoRCC in the coming year.

ROCK CLIMBING

RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE REMEMBERED

The Red Rock Canyon experienced began early one Saturday morning in April six years ago. I and several young climbers (boys and girls) who constituted a Boy Scout Venture Crew slogged out of the parking area adjacent to U.S. 24 following the route of the original roadway leading South up the canyon. The parking area was primitive - crushed stone, puddles, and railroad ties. The road itself was just shy of a mud river. Each step forward settled gently in the ooze to be followed by the sucking sound of the opposite boot's unwilling extraction. The mud caking onto our boots adding weight to each step.

Red Rock Canyon was relatively new and under used and, as a climbing site, absolutely new to us. We had previously climbed in the Garden of the Gods on sandstone, 11 Mile Canyon on granite and various gyms when winter was inhospitable. Our levels of experience were mixed. Some had more formal training than experience, others excellent training and experience, and some with only experience climbing with the group and no formal training. But we all had enthusiasm.

In fairness to the Crew then, we looked over the climbing guide and began our climbing experience on Saylor's wall on the 5-7 to 5-9 climbs that day. The canyon was recently

bolted so the hardware was new and shiny and the sandstone had sharp edges. Jake, who had a positive ape index and was our most skill-full climber, speculated that except for balance you might not need to use your hands there. The climbing was great and, over the years the Crew's core group returned week after week, weather and seasons permitting, to climb almost all the bolted routes. My copy of the climbing guide is full of annotations dating climbs I have led. The Crew brought friends and associates along who were all taught first to climb, then to lead and top out and finally to clean. We taught them ropes and knots and gear and safety – not necessarily in that order. The occasional (dramatic!) fall brought its share of excitement (terror!) and taught humility.

Over time the climbs and the Canyon have changed. The sandstone routes with such sharp edges that stuck so well are showing wear. The thin lip on Rethinking Ethics is now just a worn sandy bevel. Its now wise to carry a small wrench to tighten bolts that have loosened through weathering and the wear of thousands of clips. The rings on bolts at the top of the climbs are deeply scored from the drag of ropes imbedded with bits of sandstone lowering one happy climber after another and need to be considered

for replacement. On weekends the paths are filled with hikers, bikers, their children and dogs running free to scare the bejesus out of belayers. What sticks to your boots as you march up the well worn gravel path is not mud; merd, but not mud. The Canyon's quiet solitude disturbed only by the snap and clink of quickdraws is a memory. Gone is the waving sea of cat tails at the pond and the ducks, geese, and the occasional open air weddings it hosted. No longer are the hungry coyotes disturbed by hardware jingling in your pack as you pierce the morning stillness.

The Crew too has changed. They are no longer teenagers but young adults. Most have college degrees and at least one has earned a Ph.D. None are still local. Some have gone on to do serious mountaineering, summiting Rainier and Danali. They all have gone and left me and the canyon behind. But parking is good, the porta-johns delightful, the sucking mud gone and I have new friends who too enjoy the morning walk, the challenge of the climb and the view from the top of the canyon walls.

Written by: Mike Haase
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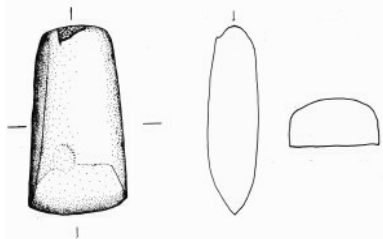
August 20, 2010

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TRAILBUILDING

TOOLS FOR THE TRAIL — Part 1 — “Adze Hoe”

Note: This is Part 1 of a series of articles providing a brief history of the tools used today on the trail.



Linearbandkeramic Shoe-last adze, amphibolites

The Adze/Adz Hoe, Grub Hoe, or Hazel Hoe all has a synonymous relationship in the fact that the hoe is one of the oldest tools known to man. Early indications show that ancient worldwide civilizations of “hunter gatherers” slowly decreased their nomadic tendencies and began to settle into regions for domestic habitation. “The many demands of a settled way of life led to a higher degree of tool specialization; the identities of the ax, adz, chisel, and saw were clearly established more than 4,000 years ago.” The celt, a smooth chisel-shaped tool head that formed either an ax or adz, dates from the establishment of agriculture and the domestication of animals. No particular region of the world can definitively lay claim to the invention of the hoe. Some researchers can attest that the African hoe evolved from a pointed stick which primitive man used in an upward and downward stabbing motion. With the new tool, they began to grub the earth rather than stab it. Most worldwide archeological excavations have discovered some form of hoe was utilized. The

Adze Hoe use varied from African woodcarving to prehistoric Maroi woodcarvings from New Zealand. African and Egyptian adzes were used for planing and carving. “It was made of a wooden handle, often fashioned from a branch cut at its ramification, to which a blade was fitted.” Developing adzes were made from nephrite, also known as jade. Knapped flint adzes were made in central Europe in the late Mesolithic Period (8,000-2,700bc). “Polished adzes and axes made of ground stone, like amphibolites, basalt, or jadeite are typical for the Neolithic Period (last 10,000yrs). Shoe-last adzes or celts, named for their typical shape, are found in the Linearbandkeramic and Rössen cultures of the early Neolithic.” Diorite or basalt stone, when ground created sharper edged adzes. Later meteoric iron were used and sharpened by grinding also. By Egyptian times, the adz had acquired a wooden haft (handle) with a copper or bronze blade set flat at the top of the haft to form a T. In this form but with a steel blade, it continued to be the prime hand tool for shaping and trimming wood. Egyptians used various sizes of adzes for different jobs. The larger adzes were used for removing bark, branches and in boat and house construction, smaller adzes for delicate carving and planing. “The adz was once an indispensable tool of general utility. In addition to surfacing, it was particularly useful for truing and otherwise leveling framework such as posts, beams, and rafters, in setting up the frames of wooden ships and in dressing ships’ planking. For special purposes, the blade was round instead of flat, allowing the adz to

cut hollows such as gutters. Dugout canoes, log coffins, and stock watering troughs, all cut from a whole log, were products of the adz. Short-handled adzes were used by coopers and makers of wooden bowls.”

Today’s adz hoe has largely been replaced by the sawmill and the power-planer, at least in industrialized cultures. Adzes are also in current use by artists such as the American and Canadian Indian sculptors doing large pole carvings.

Adz hoes of various weights and sizes are available and are good for building and repairing trail tread and for digging trenches to hold turnpike logs and waterbars. They usually come with a 34-inch handle and a six-inch-wide blade set at an “adze angle” and are maintained and used like a mattock.

Adze hoes are some trail builders tool of choice and should be respected for their continued historical significance.

By: Bob Johnson
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FOOTNOTES

1. “Hand tool,” Encyclopedia Britannica. 2004. Premium Service. 29 Sept 2004 <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article?tocid=39193>
2. “Carpenters and their tools,” 28 Sep 2004. <http://www.nefertiti.iwebland.com/trades/carpenters.htm>
3. “Adze,” Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 28 Sep 2004. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adze>
4. “hand tool-European usage,” Encyclopedia Britannica. 29 Sep 2004. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/print?tocid=39216>

BIKING

MOUNTAIN BIKING IN RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE

Located just off Highway 24 on the SE part of Colorado Springs, you can find a beautiful gem of a park for doing some riding— Red Rocks Canyon Open Space. The park has something for everyone of all levels of riding experience with some picturesque views overlooking the Springs. The park offers the following approximate mileage breakdown of trails:

5 miles of “easy” trails

These are trails that offer wide and smooth surfaces at relatively low degrees of slope. These trails will meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, and will not have steps or other obstacles in them.

10 miles of “intermediate” trails

These trails are narrower than the easy trails and may have obstructions such as water diversions, steps, or exposed rocks on their surface. Gradients on Intermediate trails should not exceed 10%, except for short distances.

3 miles of ‘difficult’ trails

Difficult trails provide a more challenging experience, including steeper grades, rough surfaces, and narrow widths. They may contain frequent switchbacks

For getting your feet wet, I would suggest the following route out of the northern end of the park where the main parking lot is located. Head south onto Quarry Pass trail for a bit and turn left at Red Rock Rim trail and come back down the trail where you initially started. Nice scenic views make this an enjoyable morning ride.

For those biking enthusiasts who are looking for a little bit more of a challenge, I would suggest climbing all the way to the top of Mesa Trail – it starts at the same northern parking lot. Go south on Mesa Trail and start climbing, and climbing and climb some more. When you get to the top, the trail turns left and goes down hill for a quarter of a

mile. Go past the Section 16 trailhead marker on your right you have two options 1) go left on Greenlee trail heading back north and take the Greenlee Trail back down to your starting point or 2) Just past that is a trailhead going south and down into the canyon – be observant of the pedestrians and the switchbacks that take you down into the canyon. Be careful as there can be snow in there at the bottom from late fall to early spring. Follow that trail around to Red Rock Canyon Trail and back to your starting point. Occasionally you can observe rock climbers practicing on your right.

Stay tuned for next time, and I will lay out a fun ride for the more difficult trails that start in RRCOS and head into Section 16 with a sweet hogback return into the park!

By: Stephen Laurence
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BOTANY

PLANTS OF RED ROCK CANYON



Liatris punctata
"dotted gayfeather"

***Liatris punctata*: Popular Names are: Gayfeather or Dotted Blazing Star**

Strolling around Red Rock Canyon from August to October you may notice this outstanding tall, purple plant. Native to Colorado, *Liatris punctata* has a long taproot making it one of our most xeric perennial plants. Fortunately for us it prefers our sandy, gravelly, alkaline soils. Blazingstar is a member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae), one of the largest plant families in the world. It was described for science in 1834 by the famous British botanist Sir William Jackson Hooker in his monumental Flora Boreali-Americana. It can grow to heights of 24 to 36 inches and is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds and is only occasionally

browsed by deer. It is used as an addition to many local, xeric home gardens as well.

Some Indian tribes on the plains used the thickened stem bases of Blazingstar as survival food, but generally they were used as medicine. The roots of most *Liatris* species contain the starch inulin which can't be metabolized by humans, but which is considered a mild liver and kidney tonic. Blazingstar tea was used to treat kidney, bladder and menstrual problems, water retention, colic, and as a gargle used to soothe throat and tonsil inflammation. Mashed roots were applied to snake bites as a poultice and they were also simmered in honey to make cough syrup. Its Lakota name is Tat' é cannuga" which means 'wind-lumped wood'.

Whatever the use, we are delighted to have this hardy, purple flower offer some color to the fading fall landscape.

by Coreen Toll, Colorado Master Gardener

Council unanimously approves Section 16

At the September 28 meeting of the Colorado Springs City Council, Aimee Cox of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services presented an overview of Section 16 and the agreement which she and the Department had negotiated for its purchase. Several people spoke in favor of purchasing Section 16 including Manitou Springs Mayor Mark Snyder and representatives of the Trails and Open Space Coalition, the Palmer Land Trust, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Several Council Members expressed strong support for the purchase and commented on the number of e-mails which they had received in support of Section 16.

Following the presentation and discussion, Colorado Springs City Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the City's Real Estate Services and the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Manager to enter into a purchase agreement with the State Land Board for the purchase of Section 16.

Terms of the agreement have already been negotiated between the City and the State Land Board. Section 16 is to be purchased for \$3.8 million. \$1 million of this will come from a GOCO grant which was awarded several years ago; and El Paso County will contribute \$200,000. The City will also pay \$321,000 for a 99 year mineral rights lease with the option to

renew the lease or meet any offer for the mineral rights after 99 years. Without this lease, mining on Section 16 would be possible since mineral rights take precedence over surface rights.

The State Land Board will consider formal approval of the purchase agreement at its meeting on October 8. Once the agreement has been approved by the State Land Board, City Council will need to authorize the expenditure. First reading on approval of the expenditure will probably be at the October 12th Council meeting, and final approval at the October 26th meeting.

Fun Facts about Red Rock Canyon

The full length of the Hogback Valley Trail offers panoramic views of the Dakota hogback. (Essentially running border to border from Wyoming to New Mexico, the Dakota hogback is, in fact, one of the best known topographic features in Colorado.) The best access to see the rocks up close is at the junction of the Lower Hogback Trail with the Red Rock Rim Trail. Just a few paces south of

the junction, a small quarry cuts into massive sandstone at the end of the hogback. On the east side of the junction, a low cut exposes thin beds at the top of the formation at the contact with the overlying Benton Shale. South of the junction the Lower Hogback Trail runs along the upper beds of the Dakota for a hundred meters or so. These beds on the west side of the trail appear to

be inclined or "dipping" downhill toward the west. They are in fact upside down, having been "overturned" by the slow downhill mass wasting process called creep.

Printed with permission from Don Ellis—Geologic Folio Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

PALMER LAND TRUST CHALLENGE FOR SECTION 16

Palmer Land Trust offered \$20,000 challenge for Section 16 easement

The Palmer Land Trust has been offered a \$20,000 challenge grant by the Mary K. Chapman Foundation to further its effort to raise \$40,000 for a conservation easement on Section 16. At the September 28 City Council Meeting, Amanda Hill of the Palmer

Land Trust announced this challenge.

The conservation easement will be held by the Palmer Land Trust, and will assure that Section 16 is permanently protected. A conservation easement is required by GOCO as a condition for the City to receive the \$1 million GOCO grant for Section 16.

Once Palmer has raised \$20,000 from the community, the

challenge grant will match every dollar contributed and meet the \$40,000 goal.

Contributions can be sent to:

Palmer Land Trust
P.O. Box 1261
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

(Please note on your check that the contribution is for the Section 16 easement.)

Word from the Editor

You will notice several new additions to our newsletter this time. Articles have been added for some of the various interest groups that use Red Rock Canyon Open Space. We have gardening, hiking, climbing, geology and biking articles. If you have an interest that you would like to see information included in the newsletter, please email me at Friends@RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org.

To improve our newsletter, a survey has been created. Please

take about 5 minutes to complete the survey. The link to the survey is at: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22AXRVQ7SCL>

Thank you very much for your input. We do appreciate the chance to improve our newsletter.

One thing that the survey will ask is how many members would like to receive their newsletter via email instead of U.S. mail. Email has a few advantages over the postal service: it has a faster deliv-

ery time, we can save paper because you will print it out only if you want to, we will save the cost of postage and printing for anyone who elects to receive it via email. Please indicate on the survey what your preference is. If you do not wish to take the survey you can email me your email address directly at Friends@RedRockCanyonOpenSpace.org.

Thank you. Connie Johnson Editor—Red Rock Rag

TRAILBUILDING

CODELL TRAIL COMPLETES THE MASTER PLAN

On September 18th the last of the major trails in the Red Rock Canyon Master plan was basically completed. It goes along the top of Hogback Ridge on the far west side of the Open space. It is a beautiful trail especially during Autumn and Spring with wonderful views and easy hiking/biking.

Actually it is one of the most important trails in the Red Rock Canyon. It is part of both the geological and historical hiking loop.

Next year there will be markers pointing out the historical ruins of the first gold mine and other significant remains. Along the trail you can see fossils of natural shells and see how the geology of the land was created over millions of years.

We want to thank the scores of volunteers that made this trail a reality and not just an idea in a master plan. Sure there is much more work such as trail reroutes

or upgrades yet to be done. But we do have a sense of completion and pride.

TO GET THERE: Park in the parking lot at 31st and Rt. 24. Walk up the trail and turn left on Hogback Valley Trail. Follow the trail till you come to the Codell Trail sign on the left side.

UPDATE: The trail is only one month old and has already seen lots of use.

Are you interested in preserving our Open Spaces? Are you a biker, hiker, climber, interested in plants, flowers or animals, or a person that enjoys the beauty of the outdoors? Join Friends of Red Rock Canyon and help us keep our park beautiful.

Don't forget to check your renewal date on the back page of the newsletter.

- MEMBERSHIP FORM -
Friends of Red Rock Canyon

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City / State / Zip Code _____
 Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Yes, I want to join Friends of Red Rock Canyon for the coming year
 _____ Individual Member (\$10)
 _____ Family Membership (\$15) Other Family Members: _____

 _____ Organization / Business Membership (\$30)
 _____ I would like to help even more with a contribution of \$ _____

I would like to be involved in volunteer efforts:
 _____ Trail and stewardship volunteer _____ Educational Programs _____ Serve on Board of Directors
 _____ Advocacy & Community outreach _____ Other (please describe) _____

Please mail this membership form with your check to:
Friends of Red Rock Canyon
 P.O. Box 6754
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904 -6754
 (Friends of Red Rock Canyon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.)

FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON



EDITORIAL

STEWARING OUR OPEN SPACES

Greetings Friends of Red Rock Canyon and friends of the Earth. It is hoped that you have had an enjoyable summer and were able to hike/bike and/or climb the trails that bring you close to the beauty of nature.

Each year citizens and neighbors volunteer time and energy to maintain the trails and enhance Red Rock Canyon. Once the government took care of the parks, but no more. With little money and taxes, the environment and parks remain unprotected. It is up to us to care for the land!

So each of us are stewards of the parks we use. No one will pick up after us. If we see trash and not pick it up, then everyone behind us will also see the same distractions from the beauty of nature. If we see a fellow human abusing our parks, then nothing is learned and they will do it again. Slowly we will see the wonders of nature in Red Rock Canyon and other open spaces being whittled away by over populated humans insensitivity and litter.

Using trails courteously and safely is one of the best ways of protecting the habitat of our open

spaces. There are so many of us, we can overwhelm the environment. We know that it is fun to explore, and sometimes we just have to get away from people. So try to keep your scrambling to places where your footsteps won't damage other living things. Actually the trail system of Red Rock Canyon Open Space is designed to give you the best views and be able to see the best places.

Thanks for caring about Red Rock Canyon!

Shanti Toll

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RENEWAL DATE**

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of Red
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We're on the Web

www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org