

THE RED ROCK RAG

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News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

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www.saveredrockcanyon.com

Celebrating an Open Space Success Story

Author and poet Ruth Obee has celebrated Red Rock Canyon with her article "Red Rock Canyon - The Secret Garden of the Gods" and her poem "The Ballad of Red Rock Canyon - Secret Garden of the Gods" both of which were first published in *Cheyenne Mountain RTVA*. Now, she has written a book celebrating the Stratton Open Space, *A Sense of Place - Discovering the Stratton Open Space*. The book opens with a brief history of the community activism which led to the preservation of the Stratton Open Space and ends with a catalog of species found on the property and a map. Between, the species, the community and the land are celebrated in a collection of Ruth Obee's poems interspersed with Rosemary Apple Blossom Lonewolf's water colors and photographs by Scott Flora and Kent Obee.

The Stratton Open Space, located adjacent to the northeast corner of North Cheyenne Canyon Park, was the first open space purchased under Colorado Springs' TOPS program. Preservation of the Stratton Open Space was the culmination of nearly four years of effort by a dedicated citizens' group, Cheyenne Commons. And, in fact, Cheyenne Commons' efforts were a key component in the creation of Colorado Springs' TOPS program.

Cheyenne Commons' efforts in creating public awareness, promoting education, participating in the public process, raising private funds, and seeing their vision to fruition provide the very model of what we seek to accomplish through the Red Rock Canyon Foundation and Red Rock Canyon Committee. Fortunately, some of our most active supporters are Cheyenne Commons.

Section 16 trail work scheduled

There will be a scheduled Section 16 Trail work day on Saturday, October 19.

The trail still needs lots of drain and waterbar work. And more trimming.

If you can help, please e-mail Gary Michels at gmichels@coloradocollege.edu or call him at 685-9304 a few days before the trail work date so he can have tools and refreshments ready.

Red Rock Canyon Committee to preview updated slide show

At the October third Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting a preview version of the updated Red Rock Canyon slide show will be presented.

The slide show narrative has been updated to reflect the current status of the Red Rock Canyon property. In the new preview version, the slide show is just under 15 minutes long, reflecting the desire of some organizations to have a program of that length.

The preview showing will give everyone the opportunity to provide suggestions which can be used to improve the slide show prior to production of a finished narrative tape.

Our Thanks

The Red Rock Canyon Committee wishes to express its appreciation to

Jo Cervone

for her contribution toward the Red Rock Canyon Committee's operating expenses during the past month.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Village at Skyline for providing our meeting room.

Red Rock Canyon Foundation to hold regular meetings

Red Rock Canyon Foundation President Shanti Toll has announced that the Red Rock Canyon Foundation will hold regular meetings the third Thursday of each month. The meetings will be held at the Celebration Productions office at 2207 West Colorado Avenue at 4 P.M.

All members of the Foundation and others interested in the Foundation's goals are invited to attend.

Wild Geraniums

by Ruth Obee, from her new book *A Sense of Place-Discovering the Stratton Open Space*

Harbingers of fall,
bleeding vermilion five-lobed leaves, flowers
of delicate pink and purple
amid the copper-and-moss-green granite rocks --
patina of verdigris --
the bear-sgraffitoeed trees,
hawks at apex, shooting down
shims of pale blue, late afternoon light. Placer-rich sun --
immutable ore, shining above.
For color and design, movement and dance,
the chakras of purest, wheeling energy,
look to nature's timeless, established art --
the wave and the wind.
The more you look, the more you see
the unity of things - without and within.

EDITORIAL:

Once Upon a Neighborhood

Once upon a time in the not too distant past, there was a neighborhood, a small neighborhood of 81 modest households, an old neighborhood, a charming neighborhood, a humble neighborhood, a friendly neighborhood. People came to the neighborhood because it was one of the few places in the city where they could afford to live. Most owned their homes, took pride in them, loved them, cared for them. Neighbors knew each other and had a sense of community in their neighborhood.

Then, the city where this neighborhood was located came with plans, big plans, plans that could have destroyed the neighborhood. The neighbors organized. They studied the rules. They played the game. They literally fought City Hall and won.

And, there is still a neighborhood. It's called Mill Street. Surely, you all know the story.

Now there's another neighborhood, small and humble, only about two dozen households. Some of the householders are elderly and disabled. All have very modest incomes. Most have lived in the neighborhood a long time and own their homes. Now, this neighborhood in its turn is threatened.

Though many people in this neighborhood own their homes, none owns the land on which the home sits. The neighborhood is located on the fringe of the Red Rock Canyon property. And, we have become the threat.

How Red Rock Canyon open space advocates and the City treat these neighbors to the future Red Rock Canyon Open Space will be one true measure of our humanity, ... or lack thereof.

It is reasonable to assume that Colorado Springs does not wish to become the landlord to this neighborhood. It is not the appropriate role for the City. Understandably, too, many of us would like to see the fringe of the property as open space or devoted to a compatible public use which would enhance the gateway to Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

None of this, however, relieves us of our responsibility to be sensitive to the Red Rock Canyon neighborhood. Personally, I believe that arrangements might be possible which would preserve both Red Rock Canyon Open Space and the Red Rock Canyon Neighborhood. And, I believe that we should be open to such arrangements.

I don't know what form those arrangements might take. Perhaps the Red Rock Canyon Neighborhood could partner with one of the nonprofit affordable housing organizations in an arrangement where that organization would purchase the small parcels of land which are home to the neighborhood and become the neighborhood's landlord.

When all is said and done the Red Rock Canyon Neighborhood can survive only if its residents make an organized and committed effort to survive, just as the Mill Street residents have done.

Don Ellis

NOTE: When the **RED ROCK RAG** began publication, one of its objectives was to provide a forum for differing opinions on issues related to Red Rock Canyon. The foregoing editorial, addresses an issue on which there are certainly differing views. And, we hope that you will offer those views for publication.

CALENDAR

Meetings of Possible Interest:

September 29 book signing by Ruth Obee

A Sense of Place
- Discovering the Stratton Open Space
1:00 P.M. Chinook Bookshop
210 N. Tejon Street

October 1 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue

October 3 **Red Rock Canyon Committee**
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline (off Lower Gold
Camp Road), Activities Room, Building No. 4
(The Easternmost Building - enter from the
parking lot north of the building)

October 8 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa

October 9 **TOPS Working Committee**
4:00 P.M. Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(East of I-25, 2 blocks north of Uintah)

October 15 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue

October 17 **Red Rock Canyon Foundation**
4:00 P.M. Celebration Productions
2207 W. Colorado Avenue

October 19 **SECTION 16 TRAIL WORK DAY**
contact Gary Michels at 598-8849 or
gmichels@coloradocollege.edu

October 22 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa

October 23 **TOPS Working Committee**
7:30 A.M. Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(East of I-25, 2 blocks north of Uintah)

October 23 **Manitou Springs Open Space
Advisory Committee**
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue

November 7 **Red Rock Canyon Committee**
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline (off Lower Gold
Camp Road), Activities Room, Building No. 4
(The Easternmost Building - enter from the
parking lot north of the building)

NOTE: Scheduled meetings can be subject to change or
cancellation. Check these web pages within a week of
scheduled meeting for items of interest:

Colorado Springs City government: www.springsgov.com

El Paso County government: www.elpasoco.com

Also, check the CONO web site: www.cskon0.org

Red Rock Canyon Foundation - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Membership dues: _____ (\$25 suggested)

Membership level (8 month commitment - check one)

- Supporter (willing to write occasionally e-mails or letters)
- Helper (willing to volunteer 5 to 10 hours a month)
- Leader (willing to volunteer 3 to 6 hours a week)

Areas of interest for volunteering

- Computer support
- Brochure or grant writer
- Other (please describe) _____
- Worker
- Community outreach

Signature _____ Date _____

Send this membership form to:

Red Rock Canyon Foundation
2207 W. Colorado Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE RED ROCK CANYON COMMITTEE!

- Enclosed is my contribution to the Red Rock Canyon Committee for operating expenses
(Check payable to "Red Rock Canyon Committee", not tax deductible)
_____ Do _____ Don't acknowledge my contribution in the Red Rock Rag
- I want to be involved
My efforts could best be used for: _____
- Keep me informed with the **RED ROCK RAG**.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

For more information, contact **Linda Hodges** at the **Trails and Open Space Coalition**: 633-6884,
or e-mail: help@saveredrockcanyon.com

Opinions expressed in **THE RED ROCK RAG** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion
of the Red Rock Canyon Committee.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Letters, articles, comments may be sent to:

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Red Rock Canyon Committee
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Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

Electronic submissions may be sent to:

rag@saveredrockcanyon.com

Please send electronic text in plain ASCII (.txt) format

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