

# THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 3, Number 4

News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

April, 2002

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[www.saveredrockcanyon.com](http://www.saveredrockcanyon.com)

## Red Rock Canyon Foundation established

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation completed its incorporation papers for the State of Colorado on March 26. The purpose of the Foundation will be to raise private funds toward the purchase of the Red Rock Canyon property as public open space.

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation will apply for Federal 501 (c)3 nonprofit status, and contributions will then be tax deductible.

Initial Directors of the Foundation are Shanti Toll, Tom Faudree, and Rick Laurenzi.

## TOPS, TPL discuss Red Rock Canyon

In late February, representatives of the City of Colorado Springs Trails Open Space and Parks program (TOPS) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) had an initial meeting with Tom Kay and Jim Phillips, representatives for Red Rock Canyon land owner John Bock. At this meeting the parties involved began to explore possibilities for a future Red Rock Canyon open space purchase.

At its March 13 meeting, the TOPS Working Committee affirmed its intent to hold further discussions with representatives of the landowner. However, as reported in an article by Ed Sealover in the March 14 *Gazette*, talks have slowed temporarily due to John Bock's passing away the weekend of March ninth. Ed Sealover's report indicated that the property, which is now controlled by John's widow Joan, is still for sale.

In contrast to many recent TOPS meetings, the meeting room for the March 13 meeting was packed with interested citizens. Several people spoke on behalf of Red Rock Canyon, making a variety of points. Chip Spangler, Chairman of the Manitou Springs Open Space Advisory Committee, affirmed MSOSAC's commitment to participate with TOPS in a Red Rock Canyon open space purchase. When Shanti Toll asked those who were at the meeting in support of Red Rock Canyon to stand, about eighty percent of the citizens present stood. However, Bock representatives Tom Kay and Jim Phillips who were at the back of the room remained seated.

## Wanted: CPA

The Red Rock Canyon Foundation Board would like to spend about an hour with a CPA who is willing to brief the Board members on financial questions.

If you could provide this service, please call Rick Laurenzi at 685-4175 or Shanti Toll at 634-1810.

## Joe Fabeck steps down

A short time before the March Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting, Joe Fabeck indicated that he would be stepping down from his position as Chairman of the Red Rock Canyon Committee. He cited other major time commitments over the coming months as his reason for stepping down. Joe has also stepped down from his position as a member of the Manitou Springs Open Space Advisory Committee.

Joe has served as Chairman of the Red Rock Canyon Committee for the past two years.

At the March Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting, Shanti Toll and Don Ellis accepted positions as co-chairs of the organization. Rick Laurenzi agreed to act as Treasurer, and Bill Steinhour accepted the responsibility of "mail coordinator."

## Our Thanks

The Red Rock Canyon Committee wishes to express its appreciation to three anonymous contributors who have made contributions for operating expenses during the past month.

We would like to express our *Special Thanks* to Mike Duncan for preparing the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the Red Rock Canyon Foundation.

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

**CALENDAR:****Meetings of Possible Interest:**

- April 2 Manitou Springs City Council  
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- April 4 **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)
- April 9 Colorado Springs City Council  
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,  
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- April 10 **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)
- April 16 Manitou Springs City Council  
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- April 23 Colorado Springs City Council  
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,  
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- April 24 **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)
- April 24 **Manitou Springs Open Space  
Advisory Committee**  
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- May 2 **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](http://www.springsgov.com)

El Paso County government:  
[www.elpasoco.com](http://www.elpasoco.com)

Also, check the CONO web site for related announcements and links:  
[www.csono.org](http://www.csono.org)

**EDITORIAL:****Thanks, Joe!!**

In the Summer of 1999 when we had the opportunity to offer public hiking tours of Red Rock Canyon, Joe Fabeck led a hike nearly every Sunday.

Two years ago, Joe accepted the chairmanship of the Red Rock Canyon Committee. He proved himself a leader in that capacity as well, in the meeting room, in the public arena, and in one-on-one discussions.

Being a leader over those two years took ongoing tireless effort: planning, scheduling, arranging, ... contacting officials, candidates, organizations, community leaders, ... and keeping us informed and involved with his frequent e-mails.

Joe held a steady course. During the time that the hope for Red Rock Canyon open space appeared so clouded, he never lost sight of two guiding concepts: First of all, we need a willing seller; and it's not possible to negotiate for more than your starting proposition.

That kind of leadership and that kind of dedication to a purpose need to be honed through years of experience. Joe certainly had that experience, as a corporate executive, as a business owner, and as a citizen actively involved in Manitou Springs City government. Several times, he has shared some of his negotiating experiences as a corporate executive, illustrating how they paralleled the Red Rock Canyon situation.

Joe said that being the Chair of the Red Rock Canyon Committee was almost a full time job. Knowing how much effort I've devoted and how much Joe was always out there ahead doing much much more, working constantly, I might guess that it was sometimes more than a full time job.

And, we wouldn't be nearly as close to having a Red Rock Canyon open space if Joe hadn't done that job.

**THANKS, JOE!!**

Don Ellis

## Red Rock Canyon land security tightened

According to a report in the March 19 *Gazette*, two homeless men who were arrested for the murder of a local taxi driver had borrowed a tent so they could camp in Red Rock Canyon. Tom Kay who is working on behalf of the Red Rock Canyon landowner said that the two men had been camped in one of the quarries and had cut numerous old trees for fire wood.

Following the discovery of the camp, Tom Kay met with the El Paso County Sheriff's Department concerning increased security for the property. Mr. Kay has stated that, "any trespassers will be arrested and charged."

## Abundance of woody plants on landfill studied

In December of last year, Anna Engeln and Lauren Tice of Colorado College studied the abundance and species richness of woody plants on the 26th Street landfill which occupies a portion of the Red Rock Canyon property. They compared their observations on the landfill with observations on a matched, undisturbed site in Section 16 and with a revegetating burn area on the Palmer Foundation Reserve off of Mesa Road.

Not surprisingly, they observed that the landfill, which has been closed since 1986, had fewer woody plants and less variety of woody plants than the other two areas. Initially, Engeln and Tice speculated that this might be the result of differences in soil nitrogen (nutrients) and soil texture. However, when they analyzed soils from the landfill and Section 16, they found that soil texture and nitrogen levels were similar.

They did find that the soil over the landfill tended to be more alkaline than the Section 16 or burn area soil and to be less uniform in its pH, and they noted that this observation is similar to what has been found in other studies of landfills.

Engeln and Tice suggested that one major factor causing the landfill to have fewer and less varied woody plants might be the landfill gas. Along with the methane produced by the landfill, there is a significant amount of carbon dioxide. And, at high concentrations, carbon dioxide in the soil is toxic to plants. The effect of the clay cap in preventing the growth of deep roots was also suggested as a contributing factor, as was the presence of toxic leachates. Engeln and Tice noted that these factors bear further study.

Of the three areas studied, Engeln and Tice found the burn area which has only been revegetating since 1999 had the greatest variety of woody plant species "because when an area is cleared it allows for the establishment of a variety of fast-growing species." A

similar abundance of species would be expected on the landfill, but for the factors which adversely influence the growing environment.

Engeln and Tice made arrangements with Tom Kay for access to the landfill site.

Their paper can be accessed on the web at: <http://faculty1.coloradocollege.edu/~shall/EV208/AnnaLaurenPaper.html>

### ESSAY:

## Harbingers of Spring

The return of the robin, businesslike in his red vest industriously extracting earthworms from the front lawn, is a sign of Spring so enshrined in American art and literature that it is almost a cliché. So, too, is the first crocus, small and delicate in the garden testing the cold air and the lingering snow as it reaches up, opening itself to the sunshine of the lengthening days. Despite the overused words and oft reproduced images recapitulating these annual events, the events themselves are new and fresh each year. For many, they herald not only the biological reawakening of a new growing season but also a personal emotional revitalization.

In the 1940's and 50's, I grew up a ways southeast of the Red Rock Canyon property. For half a dozen years, the only water we had fell from the sky or was hauled from a spring in jugs and cans. And, even after we got water from a pipeline, our attempts to grow a garden or a lawn met with limited success. So, the harbingers of Spring which touched my youthful soul (and still touch me the most deeply) were different, wilder, more robust.

Spring was heralded, not by the robin, but by the meadow lark standing erect on a fence post, yellow bib bared to the world, loudly trilling a crisp melodious flute like greeting to all, ... as I passed on my walk to school ... Rather than the smooth petite crocus of the garden, I saw the floral face of Spring in the larger, hairy, almost disheveled, yet delicately beautiful pasque flower (prairie anemone, wild crocus).

If I could choose to live again the Springtime of my life, I would again choose to live it where the meadow lark announces the season of reawakening.

Perhaps that is one reason I am so passionate about preserving a natural Red Rock Canyon, preserving a wild place where our increasingly urbanized and regulated community can readily reconnect with the meadow lark and the pasque flower, the dynamic order of nature in contrast to the designed and manicured order of the city.

So, walk the Section 16 trail above Red Rock Canyon, walk around the Meadow Red Rock Loop, look at the pasque flowers. See if you share my passion for the wild and the natural.

We are at the beginning of a new season!

Don Ellis

**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE!**

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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**WE WANT YOUR INPUT!**

Letters, articles, comments (and glossy photos) may be sent to:  
Rag Editor  
Red Rock Canyon Committee  
P. O. Box 2352  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

Electronic submissions may be sent to:  
[rag@saveredrockcanyon.com](mailto:rag@saveredrockcanyon.com)  
***Please*** send electronic text in plain ASCII (txt) format.  
Digital images are welcome and should be 200 dpi or better  
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