

# THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 7, Number 4

News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

Fall, 2006

Published by THE FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON

*"supporting Red Rock Canyon Open Space through stewardship, education, advocacy, fundraising and volunteer projects"*  
P.O. Box 6754, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-6754

[www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org](http://www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org)

## Friends of Red Rock Canyon offered \$5,000 fundraising challenge

A member of the Friends of Red Rock Canyon Board of Directors has offered to donate up to \$5,000 to Friends of Red Rock Canyon to match contributions from our members and supporters during the remainder of the year.

In the past year, Friends of Red Rock Canyon has received grant funds specifically for trail building and environmental stewardship and has sponsored volunteer work days. Money raised through this fundraising challenge will allow us to expand our operating budget and to devote more to projects in Red Rock Canyon. We are planning to use a significant part of the money raised to help fund interpretive signs for the History and Geology trail loops.

We encourage you to take advantage of this rare opportunity to double the value of your contribution by using the form in this newsletter or by responding to the fundraising letter you will receive in October.

### ***Our Thanks***

We would like to express our appreciation to REI for co-sponsoring the National Public Lands Day project September 30 and to all of the volunteers who have participated in projects this past season.

We would also like to express our thanks to all of the members and contributors who support Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

## First Red Rock Canyon climbing competition to be held September 23

On Saturday, September 23, 2006, THE ROCK Climbing Center together with the Front Range Climbing Company and the Sport Climbing Center will host the first ever "Red Rock Redpoint" outdoor climbing competition at Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

The competition will use the "Redpoint" format which means that climbers must reach the top of the climb without falling or weighting the rope. However, they do not have to do this on their first try. Even if a climber accomplishes this on his or her 20th attempt, he or she will still be scored for the climb. Competitors will have five hours to complete as many climbs as they want although they will only be scored on their top ten climbs. Climbers must provide their own belayers and equipment.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in each of four categories, Youth (14 and under), Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced for both male climbers and for female climbers.

The competition is open to all ages and abilities although participants must demonstrate the ability to climb safely outdoors.

Registration for climbers will be in Red Rock Canyon at 9 AM, and the competition will be from 10 AM to 3 PM followed by an awards happy hour at Kinfolks at 4 PM. Climbers' registration is \$25. There is no charge for spectators.

20% of the proceeds from the competition will be donated to Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

The organizers of the September 23 outdoor climbing competition look forward to this event becoming an annual outdoor climbing festival.

For more information, contact THE ROCK Climbing Center at (719) 481-9099 or [info@climbingTHEROCK.com](mailto:info@climbingTHEROCK.com).

## Red Rock Canyon Volunteer Workdays

**September 30, 2006**

National Public Lands Day  
Environmental Stewardship & Trail Building  
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sponsored by

Friends of Red Rock Canyon & REI

Register with REI

1376 E. Woodman Road

or

Contact Amy Ellison at 385-6520,

or register at:

cityparkvol@springsgov.com

**October 14, 2006**

Trail Building 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Cosponsored by Friends of Red Rock Canyon

Register with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

at 1-800-925-2220

**October 20, 2006**

Colorado Springs Make a Difference Day

Trail Building 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Contact: Pikes Peak United Way 632-1543

For more information, on volunteer projects, see:

[www.springsgov.com/page.asp?NavID=5552](http://www.springsgov.com/page.asp?NavID=5552)

or call Kim King at City Parks: 385-5940.

## Friends of Red Rock Canyon meetings:

Friends of Red Rock Canyon holds regular meetings at 7:00 PM the first Thursday of the month in the Academy Room on the lower level at the historic Colorado Springs City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Avenue. People attending the meeting use the entrance at the southeast corner of the building and sign in at the security desk. Our forthcoming meetings are:

Thursday, October 5, 2006

Thursday, November 2, 2006

Thursday, December 7, 2006

## Autumn workdays focus on Roundup Trail

When completed, the Roundup Trail will connect the Red Rock Canyon Trail to the Greenlee Canyon and Mesa Trails through the southeast corner of Section 16 and the southern part of Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

The September 30 workday co-sponsored by REI and Friends of Red Rock Canyon will be devoted to clearing the trail corridor for the Roundup Trail.

On October 14, we will construct the trail. Trail construction is funded in part by a grant to Friends of Red Rock Canyon from the Colorado State Parks State Trails Program. The October 14 workday will be coordinated by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.

The Roundup Trail will connect to the trail segment between the Mesa Trail and the Sand Canyon Trail which was constructed during an REI sponsored National Trails Day project June 3, creating a variety of longer trail loops in Rock Canyon Open Space.

## Hogback area trails, new trailhead opened

Early this past Summer, the trailhead on 31st Street just south of Highway 24 was opened. The trailhead parking lot includes an open gravel area designed for horse trailers.

A new trail, named the Lower Hogback Trail, was constructed connecting the new trailhead to the Red Rock Canyon Trail. Existing roads which connect this trail to the Hogback area were then opened as the Hogback Valley Trail and the Red Rock Rim Trail. Another existing road which connects these is now the Lion Trail.

## "Under the Hunter's Moon"

The Catamount Institute is again sponsoring a full moon hike, "Under the Hunter's Moon," in Red Rock Canyon on Saturday, October 7 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. The hike will offer a unique opportunity to learn about night time ecology as well as the history and geology of Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

The hike is free for Catamount members and \$3.00 for non-members.

Participants must register by October 4, either through the Catamount website:

<http://www.catamountinstitute.org/registration.php?eventid=54>  
or by calling 471-0910.

## Friends of Red Rock Canyon President's Report, Fall 2006

Greetings All,

It's been a busy season in Red Rock Canyon Open Space and REI has continued to contribute a great deal. In addition to REI's \$10,000 grant, REI sponsored a June 3 trail building workday. On National Public Lands Day, September 30, REI will be cosponsoring a workday clearing the trail corridor for a continuation of this trail. This new trail, which will be known as the Roundup Trail, will complete the southern connection between the Sand Canyon and Red Rock Canyon trails.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon will help sponsor and coordinate the September 30 workday, and is recruiting volunteers to assist. Funds from the REI grant will help support our part of the workday, too.

Using funds from REI's grant, Friends of Red Rock Canyon sponsored a July 29th workday. Nineteen volunteers began the much needed removal of invasive Chinese Elm in Sand Canyon. The trees were cut and dragged to a spot easily accessible for the mulcher. These trees were recycled as mulch which will be used in Red Rock Canyon and other City parks. Chris Lieber from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services reports the volunteers did an excellent job accomplishing an estimated \$7,000 worth of work! Congratulations volunteers - job well done!

Again, Friends of Red Rock Canyon thank REI and their volunteers for all their help!

Our Board of Directors has had some recent changes. Leaving our board is Getty Nuhn. Getty has graciously given of herself serving on our Board for the past year. However, with her role as Chair for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board she has needed to resign her position as a director for Friends of Red Rock Canyon. She will need more time for the Parks Board, and we appreciate that! Getty, thank you for your time and for the new ideas you have brought to the Board. You will be missed! Please come back and visit any time.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon's newest Board member is Eric Billmeyer! Eric is a Project Coordinator with Rocky Mountain Field Institute and has a great deal of experience implementing projects on Pikes Peak and in The Garden of the Gods. He has experience in watershed rehabilitation. His degrees include a Master's in Applied Geography and Environmental Studies. Welcome aboard from all the directors of Friends of Red Rock Canyon! We look forward to your sharing your experience with us.

I also thank You, the Members of Friends of Red Rock Canyon, for it is through your dedicated volunteering, memberships and donations that Friends of Red Rock Canyon can do so much for Red Rock Canyon Open Space. You truly are stewards of the land and Friends of Red Rock Canyon's greatest assets! Our Board appreciates all of you!

'Til next time,  
Karlee Thompson

### - CHALLENGE GRANT CONTRIBUTION - **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 \_\_\_\_\_ Brochure or grant writer

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocacy & Community outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

My main interests in Red Rock Canyon Open Space are: \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

# ***CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL!***

***If the upper right hand corner of the label (MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE) is blank, Friends of Red Rock Canyon has not received your current membership; and this could be your last issue of the RED ROCK RAG.***

***Join Friends of Red Rock Canyon now and be sure to keep getting the RED ROCK RAG***

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

## **WE WANT YOUR INPUT!**

Letters, articles, comments may be sent to:

Rag Editor  
Friends of Red Rock Canyon  
P.O. Box 6754  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-6754

Electronic submissions may be sent to:

friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org  
***Please*** send electronic text in plain text (.txt) format.

THE RED ROCK RAG reserves the right to publish or not publish any submission and to edit submissions for style and length.

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For more information, contact **Friends of Red Rock Canyon**: friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org

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**MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL DATE**