

THE RED ROCK RAG

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News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

Autumn, 2008

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"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

Hike leaders wanted

Last month Gravity Play Adventure Guides offered Friends of Red Rock Canyon the opportunity to provide bike leaders who were familiar with Red Rock Canyon for informational hikes. Thanks to the people who volunteered to lead hikes, this was a successful collaboration. In appreciation of our providing guides, Gravity Play made a generous contribution to Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

We now anticipate similar opportunities in the future. To be prepared for these opportunities, we plan to develop a list of people who would be willing to lead hikes. There is the possibility that we could offer some orientation walks for future bike leaders so you can learn still more about Red Rock Canyon. If you are interested in leading future hikes, please call Don Ellis at 447-0424 or Karlee Thompson at 597-9822, or e-mail us at: friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org

October Program:

"Sandstone Weathering - forms and processes"

Weathering of the sandstone in Red Rock Canyon and the Garden of the Gods has created shapes and forms which sometimes inspire aesthetic appreciation, sometimes spur imagination, sometimes engender fanciful names.

Brandon Vogt who is on the faculty of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs has a special interest in the processes which created those forms, and has made them the subject of his doctoral dissertation. He will tell the story behind the weathered sandstone forms in a talk entitled "Sandstone Weathering - forms and processes" which is sponsored by Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

The talk "Sandstone Weathering - forms and processes" will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday, October 14, at the Old Colorado City History Center, 1 South 24th Street. On Saturday, October 18, Dr. Vogt will lead an educational walk in Red Rock Canyon to complement his talk. Information about the walk will be available at the Tuesday talk. Both the talk and the walk are free, with donations accepted at the talk.

Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Parking lot area beautification

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM (please arrive by 8:30)

Please register through the *Volunteer Opportunities* page on the Friends of Red Rock Canyon website:

redrockcanyonopenspace.org
or by calling Amy Ellison at 385-6520.

November Program:

"Painting Red Rock Canyon"

Artist Laura Reilly paints light-filled landscapes in an impressionist style. Her passion for landscape goes beyond the canvas and is also manifest in her devotion to the preservation of Colorado's special places and landscapes through her commitment to the Palmer Land Trust.

She has developed a passion for Red Rock Canyon landscapes and will share that passion with us in a talk entitled "Painting Red Rock Canyon" which is sponsored by Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

The talk "Painting Red Rock Canyon" will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday, November 11, at the Old Colorado City History Center, 1 South 24th Street. The talk is free, with donations accepted.

Our Thanks

Friends of Red Rock Canyon wishes to express our appreciation to Gravity Play Adventure Guides for providing the opportunity to introduce visiting groups to Red Rock Canyon and for their generous support

Trails and Open Space Coalition endorses White Acres

**TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COALITION
RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE TOPS WORKING COMMITTEE TO
RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE OF "WHITE ACRES" IN ITS ENTIRETY**

WHEREAS, White Acres contains valuable environmental resources, cultural resources, and has high conservation values worthy of preservation,

WHEREAS, the Red Rock Canyon area, including White Acres, was identified in the Colorado Springs Open Space Plan and the El Paso County Parks Master Plan as high priority candidate open space and is also part of the City's Hogbacks Candidate area,

WHEREAS, Red Rock Canyon has been preserved and Section 16 is currently under lease to the City with acquisition discussions ongoing, leaving White Acres as the unacquired part of the vision for this area,

WHEREAS, White Acres contains some significant trails and trail connections between Section 16 and Red Rock Canyon Open Space,

WHEREAS, White Acres acquisition in its entirety permits possible trail connection from Red Rock Canyon/Section 16 to El Paso County's Bear Creek Park,

WHEREAS, White Acres is part of the City's mountain backdrop and is part of the Front Range Mountain Backdrop preservation effort,

WHEREAS, The City is committed to the preservation of our Front Range Backdrop,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COALITION THAT:

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors recommends and urges the TOPS Working Committee to move expediently to recommend acquisition of all of White Acres except the house on the easternmost portion of the property.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon meetings:

Friends of Red Rock Canyon holds regular meetings at 7:00 PM 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 2, 2008

Thursday, November 6, 2008

Thursday, December 4, 2008

Friends of Red Rock Canyon President's Report, Autumn 2008

Greetings,

Autumn has arrived bringing out all those beautiful deep colors in the foliage in Red Rock Canyon. There are other changes going on as well. The Former Bock House had been deconstructed along with the garage and bomb shelter. Rocks lay in piles; beams wait inspection. All are pieces of a puzzle that when put together will be the original creation of the Red Rock Canyon Open Air Pavilion. The big picture will be revealed sometime around Thanksgiving. I've been watching this huge recycle project from the side line amazed at how much work and love John Bock had put into his home. I wondered how he would feel now watching his creation becoming something new that all the community can enjoy. I think he'd be pleased that the two fireplaces he built in his home have been kept as they now will be part of the open air pavilion. It already is an open and airy place! I do add some words of caution if you are visiting the site. The orange fencing is to keep visitors out for their own protection. Construction is going on Monday thru Friday so care must be taken when walking thru that area. Trucks and heavy equipment is being used. Even though there is no construction work going on during the weekends still watch your step. Charlie Patterson Construction was awarded the contract with a bid of \$359,000. Yes, this is a higher number than we were told three years ago - realistically prices have gone up. It's a fair bid with Charlie actually saying he didn't want to do the project

to make money, rather than his heart is into the land and he wanted to get to do the job. I think we will all be pleasantly surprised come mid-November 2008! Here, again, Friends of Red Rock Canyon thank all our contributing donors who made this project possible. Chris Lieber, Director of Design, Development and TOPS, thanked FoRRC at a recent TOPS Working Committee Meeting for the \$102,000 contribution toward the pavilion. He said it would have not been possible for the pavilion if FoRRC had not made that contribution. I pass that "thank you" on to you the community who gave. Without your generosity this event could never have happened!

Another change in progress in RRC is the frontage property at the main parking lot. It's our Beautification Project. Three volunteer work days have helped clear out the overgrowth of Chinese Elm (not native in RRC) in the front and we are not done yet. October 04 will be our last workday in RRC for 2008. If you have volunteered before please come back and help us out some more. If you haven't now is your opportunity to come on out and join our team of energetic volunteers and bring out some more of the natural beauty in Red Rock Canyon Open Space. We will begin working around 8:30 AM and finish around 1:30 PM. If you can't make it for the whole time join us anyway. We will be able to be seen working on the property that runs parallel to HWY 24. Come on over, grab some loppers and get to work! Bring water, sturdy shoes, gloves and your energy. Snacks are provided.

Happy Trails and Take the Time to Play,

Karlee Thompson
President, Friends of Red Rock Canyon

- 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 ____ 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 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE in the upper right hand corner shows a date before this month Friends of Red Rock Canyon has not received your current membership; and this could be your last issue of the **RED ROCK RAG**.*

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

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@redrockcanyonoperspace.org
Please send electronic text in plain text (.txt) format.

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**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL DATE**