

# Voice of the Canyon

A Quarterly Newsletter

Summer - 2019

## Who Remembers the Castlewood "Slide Show"

*Ron Claussen gives us another history lesson, this one on the first visitor center movie.*



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## Park Happenings

*Friends sponsored events are popular including the Parker Days Parade.*

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## Dam Events Ahead

*There are many things on the drawing board including two "dam" events. First is Dam Day and then the 6th annual Dam Run fundraiser.*

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## Leave No Trace on the Way to "Gold" Standard

*Castlewood Canyon State Park could very well become the second state park in Colorado to achieve the "Gold" standard for Leave No Trace.*

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## Project Finished!

*The committee working so hard on furnishing the park with all new interpretive and informational signs has called it a day.*

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# Dale's Dispatch

**Dale Campbell  
Friends President  
and Volunteer Naturalist**



For we passionate-about-the-outdoors Friends members and volunteers, these spring weather conditions have been challenging, even to the extent of potentially holding the first summer concert hostage.

But Mark Cormican prevailed and provided a wonderful evening of music on June 15<sup>th</sup>, complete with sunshine! Take a look at the photo and article on page 4.

For sure, we can appreciate all this extra moisture that is evident in so many wildflowers blossoming brilliantly in the Park. Just last week, I was amazed by all the yellow blooms of the resident stonecrop plants. And, I think the brilliance of spring has boosted our activities. Friends has a multitude of events either ongoing or in the planning stages for this summer. For example, new furniture is coming to the Visitors Center in early July, as a result of our fund-raising efforts. And, interpretative signs that Friends have funded are just "blossoming" in a variety of locations in the Park. To learn more about many of the activities, just continue to read this outstanding newsletter that Sharon Randall has once again assembled for us (be sure to thank her the next time you see her!).

Perhaps this summer might be your opportunity to "blossom" with the organization. We are continuing to grow and be involved with a "garden" of projects and events. There's always a way for you to participate and help Friends support our mission. Just ask one of the Board members. **OR**, better yet, with the new website design, all you have to do is click on the "Contact" link at the top of the Home page and send us a message. We'll be sure to respond within 48 hours.

I continue to be grateful to be part of such a successful organization. Thank you for your ongoing support. As I've previously mentioned, now more than ever, it's a good time to be a Friend! And, remember to take the time to enjoy the summer. Get out there and enjoy the Park!

# Looking for a Way to Honor Pat?

**Jeannette Littlejohn**  
**Friends Co-treasurer**  
**and Volunteer Naturalist**

Friends is collecting donations for a way to honor longtime volunteer and Friends member Pat Feldmeier who died suddenly in February. The decision is still to be made on what the memorial will be and that will be determined when we have a total of how much is donated. So far we have collected \$530 from Pat's neighbor and park friends.

Pat was a dedicated, passionate volunteer for many years and a wonderful friend to many of us. Her contributions to Castlewood Canyon State Park and our Friends organization are almost more than we can list. She served on the Friends board for many years. She was our Merchandise Queen--such a successful money-maker for Friends. She started the concerts in the park that now draw more than 100 participants. She expanded Turkey Vulture Day that only the weather occasionally puts a damper on. And last year she was asked to involve the park in International Vulture Day, celebrated around the world. She loved to dress up for Dam Day and special events at the Lucas Homestead.

How can we honor her? One idea is for a bench (stone or wooden) which Park Manager Brent Lounsbury has given permission to place in one of her favorite places, by the Lucas Homestead. Another is a scholarship in her name. Then there's the idea of something at the amphitheater where the outdoor concerts are held.

If you would like to contribute, please do so (no amount too large or too small). You can contribute in one of the following ways: a check to Friends at PO Box 403, Franktown 80116; leave a check in the Friends mailbox at the park; or via Friends website ([castlewoodfriends.org](http://castlewoodfriends.org)). Make sure you enter "Contribution for Pat Feldmeier Memorial" as the reason for your donations no matter which way you choose.



## Your Friends Board of Directors

Friends officers and board members serve for one-year terms. Elections are held at the annual meeting in October. You can call or email officers and board members anytime.

### Officers:

**President Dale Campbell**

(719) 592-9193

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**Vice President Travis Brown**

(303) 884-9982

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**Secretary Sharon Boyd**

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**Co-Treasurers**

**Liz Bade**

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**Jeannette Littlejohn**

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**Board Member:**

**Chris Glaeser**

(303) 601-6391

[chris.glaeser@comcast.net](mailto:chris.glaeser@comcast.net)

Friends meetings are held in the Visitor Center the 2nd Saturday of the month. The next meeting is August 10 at 10 a.m. There is no July meeting.



# History of the Castlewood Canyon State Park “Slide Show”

**Ron Claussen**

**Former Friends President  
and Volunteer Naturalist**

First, I use the term “Slide Show” because originally it was. The title is a throwback to early times which a semi-historian should do. The Visitor Center was built in the 1992/1993 timeframe. The classroom (various names over the years, multipurpose was one) was designed with an opening in the west wall for the purpose of mounting the slide equipment. It had a glass panel over the opening to hold down the noise from the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment. In the northeast and southeast corners of the multipurpose room were large speakers and the entire east wall was the screen. The seating arrangement was like a standard movie theater, long way west to east.

The slide show equipment consisted of 3 Kodak Carousel projectors stacked vertically on a rack. A 3-foot tall cabinet was in the northwest corner of visitor center office area. The two 2-drawer filing cabinets were next to it on the right. There was no office between the Visitor Center office and the multipurpose room, that was the Interp Closet where all the interpretive materials were stored. Patti Horan, one of the first Castlewood staff, was extremely instrumental in the creation of the slide show which was very high-tech for the time. OK, get into your Wayback Machine, the one from the '50s/60s. Remember Mr. Peabody and Sherman? Travel to the early 1990s. Castlewood's slide show was high tech. Back then there were no flat panel TVs. There weren't Digital Video Disks. There wasn't High-Definition (HD) anything, not even a heavy-duty truck.

Back to the slide show. In the cabinet was the equipment to control the slide show and the amplifier for the sound track. There was a controller that was the brains of the whole operation. It controlled the advancing of the 3 slide machines in sequence from top to bottom and back to the top. It faded the brightness of the blubs. It controlled the tape player and to some extent the amplifier. It was a marvel of modern technology when it worked and a disaster when it didn't. Things that would go wrong. Slides jam. Not only jam but two would drop at a time. Of course, the controller wouldn't know and the show would continue with one projector jammed. Occasionally the system would have to be restarted. This could take up to 30 minutes--if one of the two of us was around. Otherwise it could take days.

There were directions for how to fix it. A whole page of instructions with a lot of hand written notes and squiggles giving hints. It could take from 15 to 20 minutes to work your way through. You had to push buttons on the upper left hand front panel and in the rear on the right hand side. For another reason you pushed buttons on the left hand side. Some buttons were in the front. There were fans to listen for and lights that shouldn't be on. There was a lot of instructions in capital letters and BOLD--directions for the visual equipment and directions for the sound equipment. After a showing you had to push a Run/Stop button. At the end of the day, were more instructions in caps and bold telling how to turn it all off. First the projectors, then the multi-vision. Then turn off the amplifier and then the mixer and then the cassette tape, setting it at 00:00 ready to start up again the next day.

Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park decided to replace the old slide show system with a new digital projector in 2004. It took the place of the three slide projectors that were mounted in the window on the west wall. A DVD replaced the cabinet with all the control and sound equipment used for the slide show. A screen was included and mounted on the east wall. The 35mm slides had been converted to DVD by Dave Rapley and presented to the Board on Jan. 14, 2004. Back before HD, they looked pretty good. The problem with this system is that it came with a 5-year maintenance agreement that did not include replacement bulbs which cost about \$400 and lasted 400 hours. Park Manager Julie Arington had a line item in the maintenance budget to provide replacement bulbs. That line item was removed around 2007 and Friends started replacing the bulbs.

Friends replaced the digital projector in 2009 with a HDTV. The decision was accelerated when the projector bulb went out and Volunteer training was due to begin in a couple of weeks. An HDTV at Costco was around \$2,000, about the investment already spent in bulbs for the digital projector. It was purchased, delivered, then went to the Board for approval. It was placed on a make-shift stand at the east wall of the multi-purpose room. Richard Brandt built the existing cabinet to support it. A decision was made to remove the cabinets from the small alcove on the south wall and put them in the HVAC room, and move the HDTV plus cabinet into the alcove. By the way, for a year or so the HD was emphasized but now-a-days all those new-fangled TVs are HD. Whenever the HDTV was mentioned, Pat Murphy, Class of '09, would rush to the HDTV and do the Vanna White thing.



# What's Been Happening?

## Turkey Vulture Day

In spite of dark clouds at times, there were a lot of people -- partly thanks to some hiking clubs who were there early and were happy to dine and mingle and see the birds. Friends sponsors the TV Dinner for the annual event. Bev Finamore had an LNT table and informed visitors about our new goal of leaving no evidence of having been in the park. Linda Lawson, a newbie was her helper.

Manning the grill were Dennis Burdick and Bob Regan. A committee headed by Ginney Regan made sure the games and hikes were executed smoothly--planners included John Berry, Ron Claussen, Chris Glaeser and Sharon Randall.



Photo by Susan Williams

## Once Again Participation in Parker Days Parade



Photo by Jenn Haniszewski

Thanks to Bridget Milnes, the park was part of the Parker Days parade again this year. Her idea to eliminate float building and simplify with a park truck and lots of volunteers marching along worked. Friends donated funds for the entrance fee and to make the signs for marchers to carry. The signs can be used for other events and gave onlookers an idea of what we are all about at Castlewood Canyon State Park.

Nancy was part of the marchers as was a bear or was that Sondra Hale? The parade team did an outstanding organization job and a good time was had by all.



Photo by Dale Campbell

## Another Successful Concert in the Park

It was a cold and rainy day, but 85 people came out to our first 2019 concert in the park to hear singer/songwriter Mark Cormican entertain with music from John Denver. He was joined by his friend Karen on the flute. Acoustically, Event Center #2 proved better than expected.

Audience members dropped \$234 in the donation box.

# What's on the Horizon?



## Dam Days

Like Turkey Vulture Day, Friends supports the "donations only" meal served at this fun event. Plan to attend on **August 3** or better yet, sign up to help. Chris Glaeser chairs Dam Days this year and is looking for volunteers to run games, portray historic figures, or lead hikes. Call him at 303) 601-6391. Sharon Randall heads the Dam Good Lunch and can use food and drink donations. Call or text her at 720) 273-9899.



Photos by Ron Cl;ausen

## The Dam Run

Coming up **Sunday, Sept. 15** is The Dam Run fundraiser. Race Director Travis Brown is looking for some good helpers to be volunteer coordinators for the 10K Trail, the Trail Clean Up Crew, the Trail Marking Crew and a Water Station.

The next meeting for Run helpers will be after the Volunteer Meeting on **July 20**. Come see what it's all about. Sign up to help with this fun event. Remember you get pancakes and sausage and all the fixings when the race is over. Email Travis at [Travisab6@hotmail.com](mailto:Travisab6@hotmail.com)

If you are interested in helping with the pancake breakfast email Sharon Randall or Susan Williams at [sharonorandall@comcast.net](mailto:sharonorandall@comcast.net) and [susanpw1994@gmail.com](mailto:susanpw1994@gmail.com)



## International Vulture Awareness Day

For the second time, Castlewood Canyon State Park will join other venues around the world in recognizing the importance of vulture populations and to promote awareness of protecting this species. **September 7** all day in the Visitor Center. Games, face painting, Friends famous turkey vulture cookies and live birds from Hawk Quest. Email Ginney Regan if you want to participate. [regan.bng2@gmail.com](mailto:regan.bng2@gmail.com)

## More Music in the Park

Mark Cormican has become a fixture at Castlewood Canyon, generously giving his talent every year to help support Friends. This year boasts two concerts. The second one is coming up on **September 14** at 5 p.m. If you would like to help email Dale Campbell [dale\\_campbell\\_co@msn.com](mailto:dale_campbell_co@msn.com)

## Another Round of TeamWorks

Friends has paid for another week of TeamWorks coming to the park to help with trail works. A crew will be in the park working July 8-11. They will camp at the Kleinert property and continue the work on widening Lake Gulch Trail.

Friends will again sponsor a Meet the Team Supper with Dale Campbell and Sharon Boyd in charge. If you want to participate, let them know.

# Tracing our Steps toward Leave No Trace "Gold"

**Bev Finamore**  
Friends member  
and Volunteer Naturalist

Leave No Trace at Castlewood Canyon is gaining momentum towards our goal of the "Gold" standard for the second State Park in Colorado. This is thanks to our great staff, volunteers and guidance from Roxborough State park LNT committee.

We have quite a few contacts in the last couple months:

- Casey Varney, Dot Anderson and I visited the Lemay Academy for their Math & Science Fair. Casey brought her pollinator exhibit, I did Leave No Trace, and Dot brought Skins and Skulls and her Tiger Salamander.
- Ron Claussen and I held an Awareness class for the Douglas County Open Space at the beautiful Sandstone Ranch property.
- We have plans to partner with the Castlewood Climbing Group to have a climb and clean. I visited with them and passed out LNT cards including the rock-climbing card for their use. They are very enthusiastic group and certainly practice LNT in the climbing area.
- We visited with the City of Colorado Springs Parks and Rec and are discussing a joint Trainer Class in the fall along with our Master Trainer, Randa Kelton, class of 2019.
- Thank you to Chris Glaeser for taking our Leave No Trace outreach table to Cherry Creek State Park for their Lake Days on June 8th.

Upcoming events --- AKA request for volunteers!!

- Castlewood Canyon has been chosen as a visiting park by the Girls Scouts, on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. We already have over 50 scouts registered, a great opportunity to teach LNT. I am investigating how to tie in LNT to some of their badge requirements, so that they can complete later with their troop.
- We will be applying to the Adopt a Highway program at our entrance to the park, mile marker 46, south to mile marker 44. It requires only 4 clean-up events a year and will help LNT at our entrance.
- Dog boxes are up and are being used, as evidence on the side of the trails! Now we must figure out how to get the owners to place in the trash receptacle. If you would like to monitor on your next visit to the park, let us know, Margaret has keys and bags are in the garage.
- Our outreach table will set up in the Visitor Center on busy weekends and all events in the park. The LNT box is in the Visitor Center, for easy access.

Thank you for all your support, if you have any comments, questions and /or you would like to volunteer for any of the upcoming events.... you can always reach me at [bevfinamore@gmail.com](mailto:bevfinamore@gmail.com).



Linda Lawson, left, a rookie volunteer, has taken on Leave No Trace as her mission, helping chairman Bev Finamore spread the word about keeping the park and really the world a cleaner place.

Photo by Susan Williams

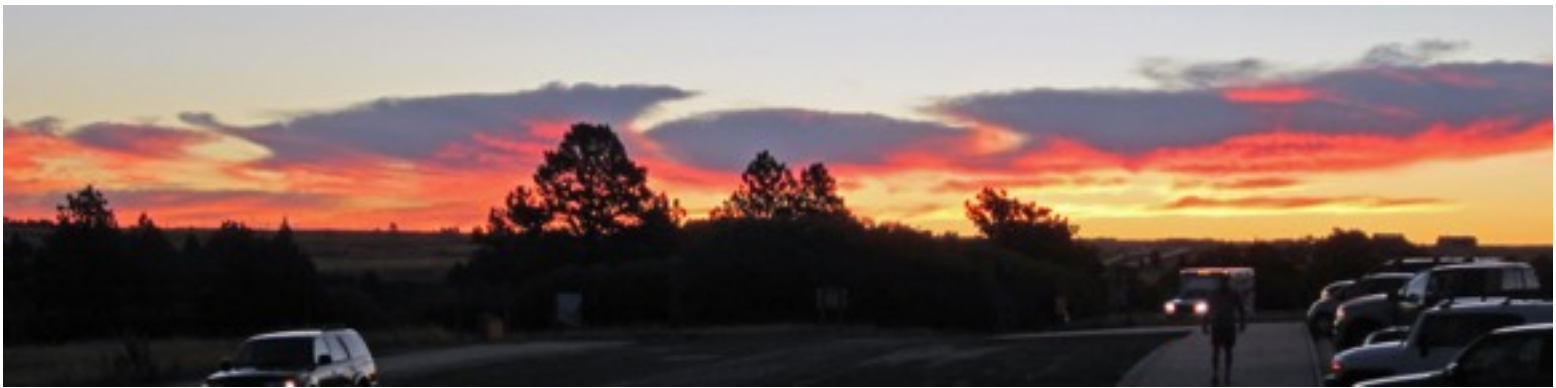
# Launching the First “Run the Parks” Series

**Dale Campbell**  
Friends President  
and Volunteer Naturalist

I’m sure our members know that the September Dam Run at Castlewood Canyon is one of Friends primary fundraisers. This year on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, we’ll be having the sixth annual run. **But**, do you know that other Parks also have fundraising runs? Barr Lake has one in April and Cheyenne Mountain has its half marathon in early October. Both of these are activities of Friends organizations.

With a little bit of brainstorming and conversation, an idea germinated to potentially tie two or more of these runs together in a State Park Run Series. To start out, this year Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park (FoCMSP) and our very own Friends group have partnered together to have the first State Park Duo Series – “*Run the Canyon and Then the Mountain.*” We’re offering runners the opportunity to participate in both runs at a reduced price. And, those that experience both will be awarded a commemorative gift to note their support of this initial run series.

Know someone who might be interested in supporting this new collaborative effort? Refer them either to the FoCMSP website at [http://friendsofcmosp.org/?page\\_id=1099](http://friendsofcmosp.org/?page_id=1099) or our Friends website at <https://www.castlewoodfriends.org/dam-run> They might just get curious and learn more about Friends by clicking on a few other of our webpages!



## Planning Underway for 6th Annual Dam Run

**Travis Brown**  
Friends Vice-President  
and Volunteer Naturalist

Castlewood Canyon’s Sixth Annual trail run is a mere three months away and there’s still a few holes to fill. We are looking for some good helpers to be volunteer coordinators for the 10K Trail, the Trail Clean Up Crew, the Trail Marking Crew and a Water Station. If any of these have been your job in the past, please let us know.

We are working on sponsors. Any information on past contacts, or knowledge of vendors interested in taking part in our run is appreciated. Let me or Dale know

It’s been decided to have T-shirts for all runners this year. Cherie Holverstott is heading this up.

Please continue getting the word out, we will have posters and flyers at the Park soon.

Ron Claussen designed a map of the 10k run that we will post on Running Guru for this year’s run. <https://www.runningguru.com/E3.asp?eID=54608>

Come to a Run Meeting to volunteer or find out more. They will be every month on the 3rd Saturday following the Volunteer meeting. The next one is July 20. Remember that 6 a.m might sound early to start a volunteer job, but look at that sunrise we’ve enjoyed every year. There’s beauty in the Dam Run.

## Partners in the Outdoors Conference – Another Outreach Success

**Dale Campbell**  
**Friends President**  
**and Volunteer Naturalist**

Friends was once again represented at the annual Partners in the Outdoors Conference. Sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), it was held in Breckenridge in April. The Conference brought together organizations, agencies, schools, businesses and communities engaged in the future of Colorado's conservation and outdoor recreational opportunities. Beverly Finamore and I were glad to be able to represent our organization for 2019.

This year, the following questions were posed to more than 550 attendees:

- How do we continue to collaborate, shifting from successful planning to on-the-ground implementation?
- How might we turn this plan into action that will make a difference for Colorado's future?

Many of the breakout sessions over the two days were focused on answering these questions in one way or another. Among our favorites were Balancing Outdoor Recreation and Conservation; CO Trex – An Introduction; Creating Unexpected Partnerships; Making Change from Change (more to come on this in the next newsletter); AND Recreational Impacts & Monitoring: An analytic approach to public lands management.

This year's conference also emphasized a transition from planning to implementation of the **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)**. Details of the plan can be found at <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/SCORP.aspx> CPW and the state are targeting implementing the plan over a five year period. While that's a pretty ambitious schedule, numerous attendees emphasized that this is necessary to keep the Colorado that we all know and love. Progress and status updates will be noted at the Partners Conference in the upcoming years.

On the first day, prior to beginning the formal conference, representatives of various Colorado state park Friends organizations gathered together in the Friends Rendezvous. Sponsored by the Friends of Colorado State Parks (<https://www.friendsofcoloradostateparks.com/>), the three hour session provided a unique opportunity to network with other Friends groups and learn about their successes and ongoing ideas/projects. Matt Gray from the state level group provided a thoughtful look at Cornerstone Projects and how Friends groups can benefit from refocusing their efforts on what will best benefit their group and associated park. The presentation will be posted to the Friends website.

In many ways, the highlight of the conference was the opportunity to once again be an exhibitor. Friends partnered with the Leave No Trace team from Roxborough State Park to show how two park specific volunteer groups are partnering together to help roll-out Leave No Trace principles and practice for visitors. We had multiple opportunities to talk with attendees regarding how well this partnership is working and how we want to continue emphasizing the essential need to all state parks to embrace the Leave No Trace approach to appreciating the outdoors. For more on Leave No Trace for Castlewood Canyon, be sure to read Beverly Finamore's article on page 6.

I highly recommend attending next year's conference. The Friends of Colorado State Parks, in conjunction with CPW, provides scholarships to attend the Rendezvous and the Conference. As soon as information about the 2020 conference is available, I'll be sure to let everyone know. One way or another, we'll be there in 2020 to continue networking and learning more about how to support SCORP at the grassroots level.



Photo by Dale Campbell

Staffing the shared Leave No Trace table are left to right. Michaleen Richer, Dean Solvason, Bev Finamore, Sally Anderson, and Michael Thomas.



# FINAL 6 NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGNS INSTALLED

**Liz Bade**  
**Friends Co-treasurer**  
**and Volunteer Naturalist**

Was anyone else tired of looking at the white blanks at the kiosk where interpretive signs once provided information for park visitors? Three years and 19 new signs later, our interpretive sign project was completed with the installation of six signs at the kiosk. These signs are arranged in facing pairs to highlight the park from pre-history to today's resources including geology, exploration, discovery, recreation, and stewardship.



*Photos by Liz Bade*

As a group, all of the new signs support the theme of the Castlewood Canyon as an oasis in an arid land that people, plants and animals call home. In the sign texts, we used words that evoke images of safety, home, and preservation to appeal to a person's emotions about nature in relatable ways. The photos on the signs illustrate the texts' concepts. First, a huge thank you to the Colorado Parks Foundation whose generous \$3500 grant enabled the creation of the homestead, dam, Lake Louisa, native garden, and East Canyon Preserve signs. The core interpretive committee (Cathy Fischer, Josette Mastra, Linda Pohle, Linda Vincent, and Susan Williams) were awesome in their attention to detail, good ideas, and creativity. Karin Hostetter, from Interpret This, was invaluable in setting us in the right direction and offering improvements to our text drafts. Ericka Agebrand, creatively transformed our overflowing ideas for the kiosk signs into a striking design that organized all the info and photos into comprehensive appeal. Many excellent photographers donated their work to the project. All of them are credited on the signs so be sure to notice when you happen upon one. We thank them all.



*Photo by Susan Williams*

## And There Was A Grand Party

The Interpretive Sign Project committee, contributing photographers and supporters celebrated the completion of the three-year job that produced 19 signs installed around the Park. The party was held at Event Center #3. Left to right are Dale Campbell, Karen Hostetter, Cathy Fischer, Jeannette Littlejohn, Chris Glaeser, Diane Roberts, Liz Bade, Linda Pohle, Joe Marquez, Ericka Agebrand, Josette Mastra, Sharon Randall and Pam Steinman.

# First Work and then Comes Fun



Photo by Brent Lounsbury

TeamWorks crews are coming twice to the park this summer, paid for by Friends. We provided \$10,500 to enable two weeks of work by these smart, energetic young people who love the outdoors. The first week, they worked widening the Inner-Canyon Trail so park crews can get machinery down for emergencies. Bob Powers, Bill Lange and John Lipe worked with them along with park staff. A TeamWorks crew will come again in July and a recent grant from Colorado Parks Foundation may allow a third week.

Friends members enjoyed an evening with the crew, feeding them a picnic supper, playing a LNT game, and learning about each other.

See the TeamWorks website at <https://teensinc.org/lincoln-hills-teamworks/>.



Photos by Bob Powers

## A New Friends Promotional Brochure is on the Drawing Board

**Susan Williams**  
**Former Friends Board Member and**  
**Volunteer Naturalist**

A small working group--Liz Bade, Margaret O'Connor and Susan Williams--has been appointed to update the Friends Donor and Member Brochures.

The prototype draft of the brochure is based on the Friends' Mission Statement--Preserve, Protect, Promote Castlewood Canyon. This will be a constant theme in other collateral materials we develop. Business cards, Membership application forms, Event Banners and Signs will all reflect this message.

Our intent is to create one marketing piece for Members and Donors. The 'linchpin' will be highlighting the new Friends Web Site as a resource for information about friends' accomplishments, current projects, long term goals, and most importantly, **How to support Friends.**

A major change will be a greater use of pictures to tell our story. As the slogan goes--a picture is worth a thousand words. If you have suggestions please email any member of the working team. Your ideas are always welcome.

# Won't You Be My Neighbor?

**Susan Williams**  
**Former Friends Board**  
**Member and**  
**Volunteer Naturalist**

*“Won't you be my neighbor”* is a warm greeting to many who grew up in the time of Mr. Rogers. However, today, this greeting evokes a different feeling for those who live in the Franktown area. Once a small town that residents proudly claimed, *“It's just a stop light, post office and a few restaurants!”* is now faced with residential developments on all sides.

Douglas County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country. Franktown is also growing rapidly. Ranches are disappearing and being replaced by residential communities. Just travel south from Parker on the old highway 83 and experience the increase in traffic from new homes on the east. Originally a dirt road, Highway 83 is now a four lane highway down to Ponderosa High School where it hits a bottleneck by returning to two lanes. Future county plans are to widen 83 all the way to its junction with Hwy 86 in Franktown. In the meantime, more housing is being built along that corridor. Development is also rapidly taking place east of Franktown along highway 86 where large parcels of land are currently before the planning commission for approval of zoning changes.

The addition of new residents impacts traffic, water usage, public services, school capacities, and most important to fans of Castlewood Canyon- **wildlife and recreation**. These important issues are under debate among Franktown citizens, developers, and the Douglas County Planning Commission.

The Friends of Castlewood Canyon's mission is to Preserve, Protect and Promote the park's natural resources, and its status as a gem on the prairie. In a time of growth, protecting the wildlife and natural resources at Castlewood Canyon State Park becomes even more urgent. As more open prairies are developed, preserving the natural borders of the Park becomes a priority.

Castlewood Canyon State Park is one of the few state parks designated as a **State Natural Area** due to rare plants and animals. It is also recognized **globally** as an **IPA**, Important Bird Area, because it preserves critical habitats for rare birds.

You can help by becoming an active voice in supporting Castlewood Canyon State Park as a **Natural Treasure**. Become aware of the changes in your area by attending Douglas County Planning meetings. They are open to the public and announcements can be found on their web site. Meetings regarding specific developments are posted on large white road signs at the actual proposed development sites. Just look around, they are easy to find. Have a **VOICE** and share what you learn with your friends and neighbors. Encourage them to support Friends of Castlewood Canyon by donation and/or membership. Important information about Friends' accomplishments and future projects are described at [www.castlewoodfriends.org](http://www.castlewoodfriends.org)

## Big Sale on Friends Merchandise to Make Room for New Summer Goods Just on the Racks

With lots of new summer shirts in new colors and styles on the racks, the merchandise team of Cherie Holverstott and Sondra Hale is reducing some of the current sale items to 40% off the regular price. Lots of the sale items are just right for summer: T-shirts and mid-weight hoodies for cooler nights. You can even stock-up on some heavy-weight hoodies at this huge savings.

Carole Stapleton and Karen Sisson have ordered new stickers and they are in stock and moving fast. Two new styles in the larger stickers are on the rack, so come check out our new selections. Julie Brown is keeping us well supplied with hiking sticks including shorter kids sticks.

# Friends Business Update

**Sharon Boyd**  
**Friends Secretary**  
**and Volunteer Naturalist**

While Friends has only had a few meetings this year (considering weather interruptions and volunteer training focus), we have been able to accomplish a number of projects and decided to support numerous others in the ongoing business of the organization. Here's a quick overview of what's being funded or in the works:

- 2019 Major Funded Projects:
  - Replacement furniture for the VC Public area has been purchased from the "Blue Ridge Log Works". Delivery is scheduled for early July. When you get a chance to see it, let us know what you think.
  - TeamWorks trail work: Crew visits are scheduled for June 24-27 and July 8-11, Friends contributed \$10,500 for them to come. As a further boost to our TeamWorks trail rehabilitation efforts led by Joe, we have just been awarded a \$2,000 grant from Colorado Parks Foundation toward a 3rd week of TeamWorks. We now need to raise the additional \$3,250 to pay for the week. We have submitted other grant requests toward this effort. Friends is supporting a "Meet the Team" picnic dinner and get-together.
  - Castlewood Canyon Climbing Committee continues to wisely spend their grant for further supplies and equipment to support their mission of keeping climbing safe in the Park.
  - The Leave No Trace Grant that Friends created continues to benefit the LNT Committee's effort to raise awareness and implement the principles of LNT through signage, educational materials and training. Specific details can be found in Beverly Finamore's article on page 6.
- Purchase of Grill/Griddle for Friends Supported Food Events. These include TV Dinner (Welcome Back Turkey Vulture Day), Dam Good Lunch (Dam Day) and Castlewood Canyon Breakfast Club at the Dam Run. With our 501 (c)(3) status and taking advantage of a Memorial Day sale and the available veteran discounts, we were actually able to save more than 35% on this purchase.
- The Friends sponsored Mark Cormican Concert on June 15, 2019 was once again a success. For more details about this fund-raising effort, take a look at the article and photos in this edition of the newsletter.
- Interpretative Sign Completion Celebration. The interpretative committee celebrated its success in June. Eighteen signs have been installed in the Park during this two-year project. This is just one more way that Friends continues to support efforts to enhance the visitors' experiences at the Park.
- Our merchandise purchasing point of contact had been Pat Feldmeier for many years. With Pat's passing in February (refer to the article in the previous newsletter), our organization scrambled to try to fill the void. Friends members have stepped forward to organize new merchandise committees to support this primary fundraising effort. More than 40% of our annual revenues come from merchandise sales.
- Friends donated a Ball Cap/T-Shirt combo to the 2019 Rocky Mountain State Park Executive Conference (RMSPEC 2019) April 29 to May 3, 2019. This provided another marketing opportunity for Friends.
- Parker Day Parade – Friends paid for the \$75.00 registration fee for the event and provided \$250.00 for the Parker Parade team to order new signs to use in the parade. These reusable signs displayed a variety of topics including: hiking, birdwatching, rock climbing, photography, concerts and LNT.
- Friends allocated \$60 toward the purchase of two hummingbird feeders and the appropriate supplies. While the hummers are benefiting from these new feeders, park visitors enjoy watching the birds just outside the Visitor Center.

In retrospect, the organization has been busier than expected. If you want to learn more details about any of the above or are just curious about the day-to-day workings of this 22-year-old organization, feel free to attend one of the regular meetings. The schedule is posted on the Friends website.

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## We Need You as a Friend

If you aren't a member of the Park's Friends group please recognize how important your membership is when Friends seeks grants. Think how important your ideas, input and time can mean to the organization dedicated to the Park. Sign up today using the link on the Friends website: <https://www.castlewoodfriends.org/membership-plans>



# What a Night!

## Kim Richey Concert a Success

The Kim Richey Benefit Concert for Friends did two things for those who participated. It introduced them to this amazing singer/songwriter and taught them about the Tri-Lakes Art Center in Palmer Lake. And there's four restaurants in this small town, all of them worth a visit.

Friends member and volunteer naturalist Karen Sisson (left) was instrumental in making the event happen. She knew Kim Richey as a songwriter from all the hits she's written, but it was 2018 classmate and fellow volunteer naturalist Tim Jones who knew Kim's own music. Once Karen heard it--well the rest is history, she says.

Karen says she is sure Kim will come back again, and tells us that the generous, talented singer even said she'd enjoy playing our amphitheater! "Maybe we can make that happen," Karen says.



Photos by Susan Williams