

Voice of the Canyon

SUMMER 2022

Annual Meeting in October

The next Friends' meeting will be the Annual Meeting October 8 when members will hear about the year's accomplishments and we elect board members. Watch for email announcements.

John Denver Tribute Artist Performs Again

On a wonderful night, visitors and volunteers enjoyed a concert on the new stage.

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After 25 Years Friends is Still Going Strong

Friends outgoing president Dale Campbell writes about the 25 year "history" of our fund-raising group.

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Friends Funds Signs to Help Raptors

Friends paid for the new Interpretive sign that will go up in the Falls parking lot.

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You Must Come Shop

The Merchandise Team has done it again and filled the Friends store with interesting and useful items.

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Dale's Dispatch

Dale Campbell Outgoing Friends President and Volunteer Naturalist

It can easily be said that 2022 is a unique year. For example, I believe that the weather patterns this year have been unlike any other that I've experienced during almost 30 years in Colorado. Additionally, we've all experienced unique events or circumstances in our lives since January 1st 2022 that make this a different year than previous ones. And, of course, we all continue through this "maturity process" that is our lives. But, did you know that this is also a unique year due to the fact that Friends is now 25 years old. Yes – 25!

How's that even possible? That's simple to answer. It's possible due to you – our members, our Board of passionate volunteers and also due to the park staff who have been such a big component of just what Friends is and continues to be. When it's all said and done, it's the people with a passion who have made it possible!

In this edition of the Voice of the Canyon, not only will you read about how we got to this 25th anniversary, but there will be additional articles that demonstrate to you how Friends continues to successfully partner with the park and its volunteers to preserve, protect and promote this "Jewel of the Prairie." And, next time you see her, please pass along a "Thank You" to Sharon Randall, our newsletter editor. Her efforts make this essential communication tool available to you four times a year.

During this year as we acknowledge the 25th anniversary of Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park, I'm pleased to have been involved with the organization since its inception. It's been much more of a success than we ever imagined. And I know that Friends will continue to be a significant partner with the park and its volunteers. Friends, I suppose, is sort of like the gift that keeps on giving.

So, here's to the future of Friends and the people who will help to make it a success in the years to come!

Concert Sponsored by HOA Draws a Crowd on Lovely Evening

Ron Claussen
Friends Member
Volunteer Naturalist

It was a warm and breezy night with a great sunset

The adventure began in 2015 when Pat Feldmeier had the idea for a concert in Castlewood. She was a John Denver fan and Mark Cormican is a tribute artist. Wala, a Friends concert was born.

The purpose of the concert was to raise Castlewood in the awareness of the public, raise Friends of Castlewood Canyon

State Park in the awareness of the public and maybe make a few bucks in the offing. Mark offered his time and talent to the effort.

This year was a little different than years past, A STAGE. The building of The Stage was an Eagle Scout project of Tyler Church. It worked out well providing a stable platform for the entertainers, Mark and his guitars and Karen and her flutes.

As for the objects, we had 77 attendees and pulled in \$645 but the sunset was priceless.

As a note of appreciation, the Friends group gives a big shout out to the HOA group for putting on the event, AND donating \$345 to Friends (Mark Cormican and his flute player received the rest). You folks surely have the "Rocky Mountain High" spirit.—Steve L'Esperance



Friends Co-treasurer Liz Bade holds up the \$345 presented to Friends by Sondra Hale at the Canyon Ladies potluck. It was part of the donations collected at the Concert.



The new stage, financed by Friends, was perfect for the evening concert before 77 people.

Photos by Fran Tate

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Celebrating 25 Years!

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



This sunrise welcomed trail runners in 2018. It's a fitting symbol for Friends as the organization moves into the next 25 years.

Photo by Dale Campbell

Can you believe it? As of 2022, Friends has existed for a quarter of century! What started out as a concerned group of passionate volunteers getting together to protect the park they loved has evolved into an enduring all volunteer organization that has had many successes throughout those 25 years. And, even today, it's all possible due to the passionate volunteers who come together from many backgrounds to help support the park we continue to love and cherish.

It's often said that if we don't know our history, we will not know what path we will need to go into the future. So, recognizing that Friends has "been doing business" now for 25 years, let's take a moment and take a brief look back at our history.

Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park originated in September 1997. The major event that galvanized and energized the organization was the pending threat of a housing development on the northeast rim of the Park's east canyon. At that time, Friends formed a private-public partnership with State Parks Division, Douglas County, and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to purchase 397 acres immediately adjacent to the park boundary for \$1.35 M. This tract provided the buffer needed to protect the delicate ecologies and viewshed of the east canyon from potential unintended consequences of residential development. Friends committed to raise \$100,000 of the total purchase price, which helped convince decision-makers at the State level to conclude the purchase from the developer September, 1998.

Friends initially acquired its non-profit status in 2000 under the 501(c)(3) status of the Friends of Colorado State Parks Foundation. In December 2003 the IRS granted Friends independent 501(c)(3) status. Castlewood Canyon State Park is significant because it's located between two metropolitan areas: Denver and Colorado Springs CO. But what have we been able to do in those 25 years? Here are but just a few examples.

Friends supports ongoing programs as well as one-time projects. For example, Friends offers annual support to the Wonders of Castlewood Program, that pays transportation to the park to underserved schools so they can participate in our naturalist led environment education classes. Additionally, Friends has donated all audio-visual equipment, which the park uses for Environmental Education of the public and volunteers. For the planning and construction of the East Canyon Preservation Trail, Friends contributed \$8,000 in 2008 and hosted the ribbon-cutting event. In 2013, Friends contributed \$20,000 toward the remodel of the Visitor Center vestibule. More recently, Friends paid \$14,500 for 23 new and replacement interpretive signs that were designed by park volunteers. And there's more, so much more! Just ask a Board member and we'll be glad to let you know what else Friends has done in the last 25 years to help the park.

So, during this 25th anniversary, your involvement with Friends is even more important. Not only your support through your membership, but also through opportunities to help support Friends projects and fund-raising initiatives. The upcoming Dam Run on September 18th is just one example where volunteering a few hours of your time will help to continue making Friends a success!

Do We Need a Friends Facebook Page?

**Jeannette Littlejohn and
Samantha Tanner
Friends Members
and Volunteer Naturalists**

Friends members aren't thinking of the Friends Facebook page when they want to advertise an upcoming event or brag a bit about a successful one and show-off photos.

On these pages last spring, we asked for help and gave a list of ideas. We haven't had much of a response. If we want to develop a following for the Friends Facebook page, we have to have information to share..

Maybe we don't need a Friends Facebook page. There is a CPW website that contains Castlewood Canyon events/updates and also there is a volunteer page.

I just did a search on Facebook that showed quite a few different Castlewood Canyon Facebook groups. People may be confused on which one they want to follow.

We are hoping to be on the agenda at the October meeting to discuss what we should do about our page.

Eagle Scout Builds Important Fence on Park's West Side

We congratulate Everett Crossman for providing a new fence across from the Falls parking lot to remind hikers

to stay on the trails and honor trail closures.

Friends contributed \$100 to this \$1,102 Eagle Scout project; Everett raised the rest of the funds as part of the Eagle Scout requirements.



News from the Top

**Brent Lounsbury
Park Manager**



Hello Friends,

Well, happy state fiscal New Year! As you may know the State's fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th, so we've just switched over. With that, I can relate that for fiscal year '21-22 we had 202k visitors, which compares to 252k in '20-21, 217k in '19-20, and 167k in '18-19. We've certainly seen less people out as regular work and school schedules have resumed, but we're still quite busy.

More information about the vehicle registration Keep Colorado Wild (KCW) pass, starting in 2023, has come out. We're actively advertising it. This includes info on partial refunds from regular Annuals, which has been one of the main questions people have had about the first year launch. You can find this info on cpw.state.co.us by clicking on the Keep Colorado Wild banner.

As you also may have heard, we are keeping our *free* Volunteer Annual Pass that we've had historically for at least another year. I know most of you have been recipients of this having donated at least 48 hours annually. This is very good news for us, and I believe is a response from CPW to the emails that you have sent, as well as those from Rachel, me, and other concerned staff. I fully intend to keep the pressure on so that the Volunteer Annual Pass remains a permanent part of our recognition and incentive program.

In other news, one of the boulders we were going to use for our new bridge abutments was determined to not be stable enough, so we're looking into other options. This means more surveys and tests and will delay the project some, as well as possibly increasing cost. This is frustrating but we will get through it, and I believe the end product will be worth the hassle.

That's it for this edition. I hope this finds you all well, and thank you as always for all that you do!

Pursuit of the Pancake! Our 9th Annual Dam Run Will Soon Be Here

Steve L'Esperance
Friends Vice President
and Volunteer Naturalist

In about 10 weeks runners, joggers and walkers will be huffing and puffing down Creek Bottom, and up Rim Rock trails, deftly placing their feet where many have done so before. Yes, our planning for THE Dam Run at Castlewood is well underway!

More information can be found via our Friends website or Running Guru sign up below:

<https://www.castlewoodfriends.org/dam-run>

<https://www.runningguru.com/E1.asp?eID=TheDamRun2022>

We have a Sign-Up Genius in place, please choose your volunteer preference via this sign up below, as of 7/8/22 we have 32 openings available:

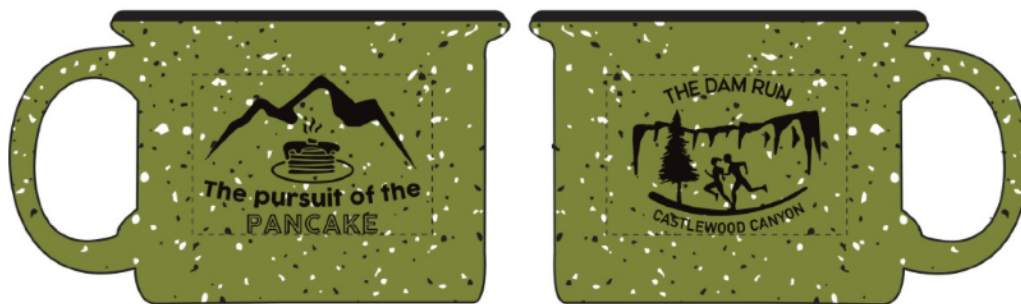
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040544afad2da5f58-castlewood>

All runners will receive a coffee mug to accompany the return of the pancake breakfast (see below). Thanks to Mindy Thompson for her assistance with the design. New volunteers will be getting a Tshirt with the same design. We think these new logo's are fun and will add some uniqueness to our race!!

We'll keep you updated on when Zoom calls will be to go over Race Volunteer roles. In general, we'll be using prior race roles, so it should be easy if you've volunteered before. We also have some race posters/flyers to hand out so feel free to reach out to Steve for those. Sometimes the best way to market a race is just recruiting your friends/family!

Thanks in advance, and we are looking forward to a great "Pancake Pursuit" at Castlewood on Sept. 18! See you there!

Feel free to reach out to any of us for information (Dale Campbell, Shawn or Steve L'Esperance)



News of a Significant Donation

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

More than a year's worth of effort involving Park Management, Friends, CPW Water Rights specialists, DNR contacts, and contract preparation via the Colorado state controller's office came to fruition on the 20th of May with a \$150,000 donation to Friends. Yes, you read that correctly - \$150,000! How is this possible? Let me provide a little background to help us all understand the significance of this responsibility (more about our responsibility in just a bit...).

As many of you may know, the Metzler family was a neighbor to the Park. In fact, Mr. Metzler donated part of the West Side to the Park years ago. When he passed away, the law firm handling his estate began selling off his assets for charity. Part of his estate included water rights under the West entrance to the park. From the park's perspective, we didn't want a third-party to develop these rights, as that could have led to equipment intrusion in the park.

So, discussions with the estate's lawyer began in June 2021 to consider options for donating the water rights asset value to the park via Friends. One option included Friends actually owning and managing the water rights. This was put aside as it would have taken Friends into another realm of responsibilities to manage the asset. After a number of months of discussion, the team determined that the best course of action was to have CPW buy the rights and then the proceeds of the sale would be donated directly to Friends. Of course, accomplishing this involved a number of departments and divisions within the state's organization, and took time to process through the various entities. Thankfully, it all came together and made the \$150,000 deposit to Friends possible.

Bottom line: CPW owns the water rights, thus preventing any third-party intrusion into the park and Friends has received the proceeds of the sale, which like all the funds that Friends raises, will be put back into the park. Sounds like a true Win-Win-Win story to me!

We offer our thanks to all of the folks involved with making this a reality, especially Mr. Edward Barad, the attorney for the Metzler estate. With the cooperation of all the multiple parties and departments involved, and with the previous land donations to the park, the Metzler family has truly made an impact on the history and future of Castlewood Canyon State Park.



Last years players were John Berry, left, Bev Finamore, Ron Claussen, Shawn L'Esperance, and Chris Glaeser.

Want to Have Some Fun?

Want to join the Dam Players and dress in a costume to portray one of the characters from the dam story? Dam Day Chairman Chris Glaeser is looking in particular for two characters—Potato Clark, an investor in the dam and Aunt Louisa (Engel) who fed and nursed the workers who built the dam. Chris has copies of the original stock certificate and "Potato" can pass them out for a free lunch.

Or dress as a citizen of the early '30s who used the dam lake for camping, canoeing and hunting.

Need help? Email Chris, chris.glaeser@comcast.net

Protecting the Next Generation

Karen Metz
CAS Raptor Monitoring
and Volunteer Naturalist

The goal of CPW is to protect wildlife, natural features, and cultural resources in each state park for generations to come. Our park managers work hard to accomplish that goal, and Friends is very supportive of that mission.

In recent months Castlewood managers have taken additional new steps in their efforts to protect future generations of raptors and to educate park visitors on the importance of complying with conservation efforts in the park.

Raptor monitors are very grateful to the Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park for funding the new interpretive sign Protecting the Next Generation. This sign continues the tradition of Friends to educate park visitors. The sign will be placed in the Falls parking lot.

For the new interpretive sign, manager Brent Lounsbury stated: "When we respect closure notices and stay on park designated trails, we give nesting raptors a chance to successfully raise the next generation."

As of late June, three species of raptors were documented as nesting within the park and another two species were nesting along the park's borders. Successes are anticipated for most of those nests, but we have also already witnessed nest failures, including failures in areas without park designated trails.

Going off trail will always be a temptation but we hope, through education and interpretive efforts, to decrease the frequency and the numbers of people disturbing raptors in nesting season, February through August. We want the woodlands and the scattered trees in the grasslands to host nesting hawks and the canyons that are ideal nesting locations for falcons, owls, vultures and eagles to be secure places for raising future generations of raptors.

The CAS Raptor Monitoring Volunteers say thank you to Friends!



This young turkey vulture was raised in the park last year.

Photo by Linda Staehler

Building the Stage, No Small Feat



Eagle Scout Tyler Church made a plan for the amphitheater stage and worked out a generous deal at Lowes, Castle Rock that included free delivery. He had a team to help build it. Friends had already authorized \$3,000 for the project, but Tyler did it for \$1,879.17. At right, Ranger Mindy Thompson and Shaun and Steve L'Esperance check out the finished product.



Photos by Chris Glaeser and Susan Williams

Friends' Finances as of June 30, 2022

**Friends Board Member and
Co-Treasurer Liz Bade
Volunteer Naturalist**

The list below shows the balances in our specific project funds as well as our General Fund which are not committed to a particular project at this time. You'll notice that several of the project funds were seeded by the Friends General Fund which grows from member dues, unspecified donations, and the Dam Run. Once General Fund monies are allocated to a specific project, they are subtracted from the General Fund balance and put in the project's balance.

Climber Equipment Fund	\$ 376.62	- Committed from Friends General Fund
Interpretive Sign Fund	1,234.11	- From grants and Friends General Fund
Leave No Trace Fund	1,955.28	- Committed from Friends General Fund
Native Garden Fund	2,320.96	- From grants and bee house sales
VC Displays Fund	4,878.00	- From grants and Friends General Fund
VC Remodel Fund	4,837.98	- From grants and Friends General Fund
Wonders Fund	2,972.38	- From grants and canvas bag sales
*Wildcat Canyon Bridge	\$30,840.17	- Grants, Friends General Fund, donors
Friends of Castlewood Canyon	24,702.39	- Current uncommitted General Fund
**Water Rights Metzler gift	\$150,000.00	- Gift from Robert Metzler estate

*\$30,000 in Friends' interest bearing account

**All in Friends' interest bearing account

I suspect you'll also notice the newest entry in our assets – the wonderful \$150,000 gift from the Robert Metzler estate. For those of you who are new to Friends and Castlewood Canyon, Mr. Metzler was the grandson of Margaret and Patrick Lucas, the homesteaders responsible for the house (now in disrepair) on the west side of the park. He was a big proponent of environmental education and expressed a desire that this bequest would be directed toward those activities at the park that would particularly help underserved kids.

This bountiful bequest motivated your treasurers – Jeannette and Liz – to research ways to make this money work for us. Though, as you all no doubt know, interest rates are pathetic, we did open an interest bearing account which earned \$7.75 for us in June. We'll take it!



Car Show Time Again

Mayhem Racing Charities will host its second annual car show "Cars at the Canyon," Aug. 21, 9 a.m. to noon. The show benefits Friends. Last year organizer Dave Lowry gave Friends \$1,037.

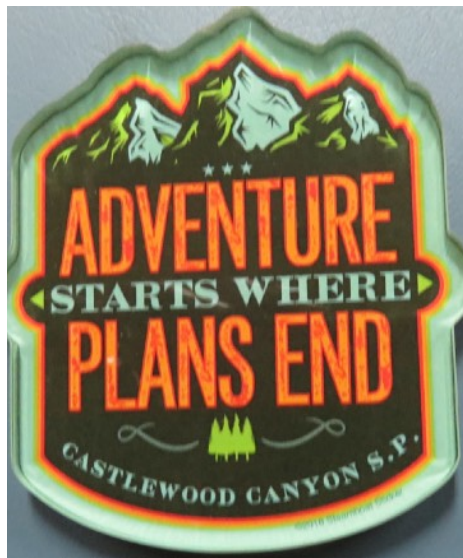
The park will provide rangers-led tours during the show for anyone curious. There's a raffle and trophies.

<https://www.mayhemracingcharities.com/event-details/2nd-annual-cars-at-the-canyon>

Check out the New Goodies in the Friends Store

Cherie Holverstott
Friends Member
and Volunteer Naturalist

When sharing information about merchandise in the Visitor Center, I usually talk about clothing items. But not this time! We have merchandise in the form of magnets and patches! These items have been asked for by many park visitors and thanks to the time and effort of Carole Stapleton, a member of the Merchandise Team, **these items are finally here.**



Photos by Charles Holverstott

Just as with the ongoing manufacturing and shipping issues we're experiencing with the clothing merchandise due to Covid-19, the magnets and patches have also been impacted. But now that these newest items are in the Visitor Center, they are selling like Mom's hotcakes! The iron-on patches are beautiful and colorful and the magnets are unique in their design. Both items are selling very well, so don't delay in getting one for yourself and others for friends and family. And this is also a good time to think about Christmas stocking stuffers! There also is a wide assortment of clothing for both men and women. Even though it's summer, our Colorado evenings are cool. The hoodies are perfect for layering so you might want to get yours while the selection is good. Happy shopping as you support the Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park.



Cherie Holverstott sponsored a big give-away at the Canyon Ladies Potluck after receiving a mis-printed t-shirt order. The company said to keep them and made a new order. Since they couldn't be sold, Cherie came up with a great give-away. Here she is at left giving Bev Finamore her choice. At right is Sondra Hale who was drawing names.

Dam Day is Coming Up, Aug. 6

Volunteers and board members have been working on the upcoming Dam Day, headed again by Board Member Chris Glaeser. It's a volunteer event sponsored by the park. Friends has traditionally paid for the Dam Good Lunch and put out the donation boxes collecting an average of \$300. It takes place at the Event Centers from 11 to 3 with lunch from 11:30 to 1:30.

Friends member Susan Williams is heading the Dam Good Lunch committee. Richard Williams and Ed Stapleton, Friends members as well as volunteers, head up the grill. Jeannette Littlejohn, Board Member Bridget Milnes, Sondra Hale and Linda Vincent help with set-up and serving. Last year around 150 people stayed for lunch.

Costumed players bring home the events of the day, with Hugh Paine (Ron Claussen) and a neighboring rancher (John Berry), stationed at the dam to tell the story of the fateful night and send visitors back to the pavilions for more stories, games and lunch.

If you are out for a hike on Aug. 6, tell the visitors you see what's going on at the pavilions and that they can have a Dam Good Lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and chips and a little sweet treat. There will be games for the kids and stories for everyone.

Chris can still use help with games and story telling and hikes to the dam. Can you help? Give him a call or email. His info is on page 2 with the rest of the board. To get in the mood, or learn a thing or two, watch this U Tube from the Denver Public Library.

[Cherry Creek Flood, 1933 - Denver Public Library](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiaGxj10qq0)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiaGxj10qq0>



Face painting is back! Carole Stapleton will decorate faces or arms with Dams? We'll see. But tell the kids we are doing Face painting Aug. 6.

Interested in Keeping Up with Friends? Check Our Website!

Dale Campbell
Friends President
and Volunteer Naturalist

Did you know that for almost 10 years of our quarter century existence, Friends has had an on-line website? We've been fortunate to be able to have this Internet presence, as it greatly broadens our reach to folks within and beyond Colorado's borders. Three years ago, a complete remake of the website has provided expanded capabilities and additional tools to reach out to a variety of people

There are also multiple resources within the website that you may find helpful. Information about Friends projects, a calendar of events, dates for monthly Friends meetings, history of Friends, how to contact us and much more can be found on the various tabs of our website.

But, did you also know that the website has additional information and resources that is available exclusively for Friends members? All you need to do is click on the Log In icon on the upper right of the Home page and log in with your email and chosen password. Haven't yet set up a Members log-in? Just follow the prompts on the Log In screen. Once you're logged in, scroll to the bottom of the Home page and just click on "Member Documents." You'll be able to access meeting minutes and other members-only information about Friends. While logged-in, you can also update your member information and profile.

Since the remake, resources available on this Members page have subsequently been expanded. Thanks to an enlarged Website Committee, the Members Only section covers more areas relating to the organization and the park. So, you're now able to access more documents, see more information throughout the various tabs on the site and have more timely updates to the overall information on the website.

By the way, I hope you've already bookmarked the website on your browser or smart phone. If you haven't, simply go to www.castlewoodfriends.org. And while you're there bookmarking this location, browse through the website and let us know if you see anything that you have a suggestion about or needs to be updated. Just send those comments to focwcsp@gmail.com
