

# Voice of the Canyon

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring - 2020

## Zoom Meeting Scheduled for May 9 at 10 a.m.

See how to join the board meeting by Zoom. Details on this page along with a listing of your nine-member Board of Directors and their emails and phone numbers. Questions? Ideas? Tune in by Zoom.

Page 2

## Want to Help with Friends Next Big Fund Raising Effort?

Susan Williams fills members in on the project to help build a much needed bridge over Cherry Creek.



Page 3

## Friends Has Tackled Many Difficult Money-raising Projects

Board President Dale Campbell reminds members of the Friends organization and the other major fundraisers that have been successful.

Page 4

## Get to the Visitor Center as Soon as it Opens to do a Little Shopping

Cherie Holverstott tempts readers with descriptions of what is available in the merchandise corner.

Page 5

## An Interpretive Sign on Park Birds

This new sign will change with the seasons.

Page 6



# Dale's Dispatch

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

I know that you will all agree that we find ourselves in interesting times. We're all impacted one way or another by the Stay-at-Home and Safer-at-Home orders that Colorado has implemented to help fight this Covid-19 pandemic. And, even though Friends is an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization, we, too have been impacted. With the Visitor's Center closed, our merchandise sales have dropped to \$0. Merchandise sales, by the way, is our primary ongoing fund-raising resource. And, there are other considerations and adjustments that the Board is reviewing.

However, just because there are limitations on what we can do and a number of activities are not yet allowed doesn't mean that Friends has been shut down. Quite the contrary, in fact. Think about it in this way. With the stay-at-home phase of the social distancing, people have been encouraged to Work From Home (WFH). But, for Friends, we have embraced a VFH ethic. What's "VFH" you may ask. That's **Volunteer From Home!** Yes, its definitely been an opportunity to continue our volunteer efforts virtually! Through video conferences, phone calls and email traffic, multiple Friends members are continuing to contribute their time and talents toward the park.

In this newsletter, you will be introduced to a major project that got kicked off at the start of 2020. This project – to build a bridge on Lake Gulch Trail over Cherry Creek – will be a major improvement to the park's trail system. Consider, for example, that all the school groups that visit the park generally cross the creek. With the care that it takes to make the existing boulder crossing, that's time taken away from the student's learning experience at the park. So, having an easier crossing and providing more time to see more in the park is just one example of how such a bridge can benefit the park.

Via our VFH approach, Friends is developing plans for a variety of fund-raising campaigns that will enable construction of the bridge. Information flyers, public relations media and event planning are just a few of the ongoing activities.

So, maybe you're wanting to volunteer at the park but not sure what you might be able to do. I would suggest the VFH approach with Friends. Your efforts will help with the fundraising plan and campaigns. And all of your VFH hours count toward the 48-hour annual commitment we volunteers have to CPW. I suggest you give it a try. Just contact any of the Friends Board members to learn how you can help!

# Park and Friends Working in Conjunction with CPW NE Region

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

Some of you may remember from your volunteer training the illustration of a three-legged stool and how that relates to the Park. In this illustration, each of the legs of the stool represent a support element for the visitors to the Park (the seat of the stool). These elements are the park staff, the volunteer corps and Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park. It's this partnership that makes it possible for so many people to enjoy the resource that is our beloved park.

With the upcoming Bridge across Cherry Creek Project (current working title for the project), this partnership is being expanded to include resources from the Northeast Region of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Park Manager Brent Lounsbury and I have been working with several contacts from the NE Region Project Management office to enlist CPW's help to support the design efforts for the bridge. This support will encompass several major elements of the design phase, including the following:

- Conducting the survey, developing the design, hiring consultants (geotechnical and environmental), conducting bidding if necessary, and hiring contractors if necessary.
- Design elements will include a bridge height evaluation, abutments, tether to connect the bridge to one of the abutments, trail connections, and any required environmental mitigation.

Within the past few days, this has all started with the CPW in-house surveyor conducting a site survey on Tuesday, 28 April. From that information, CPW will then begin determining the exact bridge location, a proposed elevation above Cherry Creek for the bridge, the abutment design and how the Lake Gulch Trail would interconnect to the bridge. The target for completion of the design effort is mid to late summer 2020.

Stay tuned to the Friends website for additional updates as the spring and summer progress.

## 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 with ideas and questions.

### Officers:

#### **President Dale Campbell**

(719) 592-9193

[dale\\_campbell\\_co@msn.com](mailto:dale_campbell_co@msn.com)

#### **Vice President Travis Brown**

(303) 884-9982

[Travisab6@hotmail.com](mailto:Travisab6@hotmail.com)

#### **Secretary Sharon Boyd**

(719) 592-9193

[sharon\\_boyd\\_co@msn.com](mailto:sharon_boyd_co@msn.com)

### Co-Treasurers

#### **Liz Bade (Grants)**

(303) 841-4874

[epbincolo@gmail.com](mailto:epbincolo@gmail.com)

#### **Jeannette Littlejohn (Membership)**

(303) 841-1630

[jalitt90@msn.com](mailto:jalitt90@msn.com)

### Board Members:

#### **Chris Glaeser**

(303) 601-6391

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

#### **Bridget Milnes**

(303) 660-4986

[milnes6739@gmail.com](mailto:milnes6739@gmail.com)

#### **Bev Finamore (LNT)**

(720) 289-5020

[bevfinamore@gmail.com](mailto:bevfinamore@gmail.com)

#### **Susan Williams (Outreach)**

(720) 840-8886

[susanpw1994@gmail.com](mailto:susanpw1994@gmail.com)

## Friends May 2020 Zoom Meeting Details

Dale Campbell is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic:** Friends May Meeting

**Time:** May 9, 2020 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/438604778?pwd=TUdqblRUZmpJNlFZcnFNbEdqckRyQT09>

Meeting ID: 438 604 778

Password: CCSP052020

# Social Distancing Got You Perplexed?

## Don't know what to do with your extra time at home?

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

Friends of Castlewood Canyon is looking for Volunteers who like new and challenging park projects. The time commitment is up to you! This project will improve the safety and accessibility for visitors at the crossing of Cherry Creek where Inner Canyon and Lake Gulch trails meet. You can find a full description of the Bridge construction project on the Friends website. <https://www.castlewoodfriends.org/the-bridge-fundraiser>

Due to the restrictions in place to protect everyone during the COVID-19 pandemic, planning is taking place via electronic and voice communications (easier to maintain social distancing that way). It is the hope of the members of the core **Build a Bridge** committee that restrictions on public gatherings will be lifted by midsummer. At that time plans (already in place) aimed to inform visitors about the bridge will be able to go forward.

There will be a wide variety of opportunities for volunteers such as: **Build a Bridge Kick Off Event**, where you can greet visitors and tell them about the project; be a Roving Ambassador; show the new diorama of the bridge and hand out Fact Cards with the bridge location. Other ways you can help are to join in the 'Donate a Dollar' campaign; post signs in your communities; help with grant writing; encourage family and friends to donate a Plank or Plaque program; but most important - Give feedback to the Bridge committee on how to do a better job of getting the word out.

If you are interested in sharing your ideas or helping directly, send your contact information with a short description of how you would like to help to the Friends of Castlewood Canyon email address: **Friends of Castlewood Canyon:** [focwmsp@gmail.com](mailto:focwmsp@gmail.com)



**COMING SOON!**

*Look for the upcoming "Name the Bridge" contest and the unveiling of a fantastic traveling diorama of the bridge crossing by Board Member Chris Glaeser.*

# Friends Has a History. . .

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

“People come together to focus on an objective. Things get done. Funds get raised and donated to the park.”

That’s just a brief description of what Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park is all about and has been doing since 1997. Friends came together as an organization that year with the focus to raise funds to help purchase property, all with the intent to protect and preserve the park as it was known almost a quarter of a century ago. That initial project inspired a group of enthusiastic volunteers to bring themselves together in an organization intending to financially support this state resource we all know and love. From that initial effort, which by the way raised \$100,000 toward the purchase of the afore mentioned property, Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park has continued on its mission to preserve, protect and promote the park.

Moving ahead a few years, Friends had another opportunity to coalesce around a major expansion project that would provide multiple benefits for the park. The Kleinert property on the west side of Castlewood Canyon Road became available for purchase. Friends again stepped up and, in the spring of 2014, made a commitment to provide \$30,000 to Castlewood Canyon State Park to aid in the purchase of the property. The concerted effort that was supported by many paid off, literally. On Sept. 27, 2014, Friends presented the park with a check for \$30,000. This also happened to occur on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the park. How’s that for a cause for celebration?

As many of you know, Friends continues to provide funds to the park to assist in educational efforts, improvements of visitors’ experiences, and preserving and protecting the park. Funds for these ongoing efforts are raised through merchandise sales, grants and ongoing donations. It’s how the organization has continued to meet its mission since 1997.

All that said, we now have another fundraising opportunity to bring together not only Friends, but also the surrounding communities and the cadre of visitors who keep returning to enjoy the wonders the park has to offer. Anyone who has ever hiked the Lake Gulch Trail is aware of the challenging boulder crossing at Cherry Creek. The park and Friends wants to make this a safer experience by building a bridge to cross the Creek. Building the bridge will require funding – approximately \$150,000 as estimated at the present time. And, raising these funds is exactly where Friends comes into play! Like we’ve done before, here’s another project we can all rally around and make happen.

Through a variety of media postings, notices and signage, Friends will start introducing the project to the park visitors in early June. A major kickoff for the project will be introduced later in the summer, all with the goal of seeing the project come to fruition in the spring 2021. There are multiple ways we will all be able to help. Just stay tuned for more information.

By the way, you can learn about the project and stay updated on its progress by just going to <https://www.castlewoodfriends.org/the-bridge-fundraiser>



At the Park’s 50th birthday party Friends proudly presented a check for \$30,000, meeting its pledge toward the acquisition of the old Kleinert place. Special events like yoga in the Park made it possible.

# Get Ready to Be Excited About Expanded Merchandise when Visitor Center Opens Again

**Cherie Holverstott**  
**Friends Member**  
**and Volunteer Naturalist**

When the Visitor Center opens again, you are going to see that a much needed and attractive change has recently been made to the merchandise area! Several feet were added to the existing slat wall. This additional space gave us the opportunity to install four more wire display baskets for the stuffed animals, resulting in a neater merchandise area. It has also provided a more visible location for postcards, booklets and brochures. A big thank you to Joe Marquez for installing the additional slat wall and to my husband, Charles Holverstott, for installing the wire baskets.

The most recent clothing additions are pullover hoodies for women and men. Both styles are in two different color combinations and two distinctive art designs. These stylish and cozy hoodies are perfect for cooler weather or summer evenings and come in a variety of sizes. Within the next few weeks, new warm weather clothing for women and men will come in and we will try to get them on the racks by practicing social distancing. These will be in seasonal colors and will have art designs reflecting the park's environment.

We are planning to introduce wood stickers to the current vinyl sticker inventory. These stickers are made in Denver using cherry and maple wood and they are both an eco-friendly and biodegradable product. Each sticker is individually inspected and packaged by hand! Even though they are wood, they are flexible allowing them to bend around curved areas such as water bottles or car bumpers! Yes, they work on cars, bicycles, scooters and motorcycles! Not only are they water and UV resistant, they are dishwasher safe! The packaging is even 100% biodegradable! We feel that the addition of these wood stickers will be a great addition to the LNT program.

We invite you to visit the merchandise area when the VC opens again and consider some of the items for upcoming gift-giving occasions such as graduation and Father's Day.



## Donations for 2019 and a Recent 2020 One

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

Friends would like to give a shout out to all those people who generously donated a total of \$1,590 during 2019 to Friends of Castlewood Canyon State Park. We are not listing names as some want to remain anonymous, but you know who you are and Friends thanks you very, very much.

We can name givers of a recent 2020 donation. Josh Cook and Sarah Carter were to be married at Castlewood but couldn't because of COVID-19 orders. So they sent Friends a \$50 donation to be put toward environmental education. Now they plan a backyard wedding in Idaho and "Look forward to days when we can hike at Castlewood Canyon again!"

## Watch for a new Interpretive Sign on Park Birds Going Up at the West Side Trailhead

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

Park birders Linda Pohle, Karen Metz, Josette Mastra, and Linda Vincent have been busy working on two interpretive signs to display some of Castlewood's many bird varieties. They have already put together a Spring/Summer bird panel that has wonderful photos by many of our volunteers. These are birds we are likely to find in the park during those two seasons. This sign is will be installed at the West Side Trailhead. and will probably be there on your next

hike. A Fall/Winter bird panel should arrive at the park shortly. It will replace the Spring/Summer panel this fall. This Canyon Wren by Thea Etchells is just one of the 22 great photos on the new sign.



---

## The Canyon's Alive . . . With the sound of music!

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

We hope it will be at least. We'll have Mark Cormican back this year for two concerts, June 28 and Sept 13. But wouldn't it be great to have some informal music, maybe a guitarist at Canyon Point, the sound of a flute at the Bridge Canyon Overlook, an acapella group in the VC courtyard? Pleasant surprises for our park visitors to happen upon. We've written to the music departments at seven Douglas County high schools to learn if they might have some talented students who would like to get some public experience (and community service hours) this summer; we're waiting to hear from them. Susan Williams has lined up a talented young singer/guitarist; they're deciding on dates for this spring. Are you a singer or musician? How about entertaining our visitors for a couple hours this summer? Do you know any? See if they'd like to experience playing al fresco. If so, send word to Susan Williams, Liz Bade or Jeannette Littlejohn.

---

## Professionals to Help with Friends Financial Reports

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

No sooner had Rachel sent word to the volunteers that Friends would love some financial expertise to help prepare reports, such as balance sheets, and profit/loss statements, Samantha Tanner and Linda Lawson replied. Samantha is a former bookkeeper with over 15 years experience she knows her way around Quicken, an application that will be able to provide a lot of good information about Friends finances. Linda Lawson is a retired CPA and adjunct professor at DU's School of Accountancy. Thank you both.

As you know, in efforts to raise funds for the footbridge over Cherry Creek, Friends will be submitting grant applications for some very significant sums. The grantors have very detailed requirements as far as financial and other reports that will substantiate our organization and its accomplishments.

Samantha and Linda have determined that Samantha will be in charge of recording our financial info into Quicken and producing whatever reports we might need. Jeannette and Nat Littlejohn were able to download our data that Samantha uploaded into Quicken. Within a day, she sent out a Profit/Loss statement for 2017! Periodically, Samantha will send Linda reports and whatever information Linda thinks helpful for Linda's review. If effect, we now have two knowledgeable professionals keeping our finances in top shape. Please thank them when next you see them.