



Spring 2006 Newsletter

Pondering The Peak

By Mary Burger

Spring comes slowly to Pikes Peak. But the background work to ensure we can 'hit the ground running' continues all winter long. This season we will pursue a half dozen separate initiatives. I'll let you read about them under upcoming opportunities. Meanwhile, some real progress is being made behind the scenes. Agreement in concept has been reached with the US Forest Service on the proposal to explore the region between Pancake Rock and the Gillette portal for the Ring the Peak Trail. We are heading up the work which will comply with NEPA requirements. The area under proposal is a winter wildlife habitat, so we must proceed cautiously. Our first concern must be to protect the environment and eco-systems. But we are optimistic a sustainable route can be found.

We have also requested Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), to assist us in persuading the City of Colorado Springs to allow the Ring to pass through the South Slope reservoir area. TOSC met with agreement when they proposed the concept to City Council. Much work will have to be done to flesh out the concept and make it a reality, but progress is being made.

We are also beginning to work with the new owner of the land near Cascade which may result in a connection of the RTP from the top of Ute Indian Trail to Cascade without going out onto highway 24. It has been a busy and productive off season. Hope you can come out and join us on at least one day this season, and bring a friend.

See you on the mountain!

Bicentennial of Zebulon Pike

By Steve Jennings

In November of 1806 Zebulon Pike saw what is now Pikes Peak for the first time. A military man, he led a group of soldiers to the headwaters of the Arkansas River to explore this part of the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. His expedition had some great adventures. They attempted to climb Pikes Peak, saw the Great Sand Dunes and were captured by Spanish forces when they were found in Spanish territory. This year is the bicentennial of that expedition.

The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum has organized a celebration of that expedition with a series of exhibits and



speakers. FOTP is proud to be a sponsor of the Pike Expedition Bicentennial Celebration. There are going to be three exhibits throughout the year. The first exhibit is Pike's World: Exploration and Empire in the Greater Southwest which runs now through October 14, 2006. The next exhibit to open is Looming Large: The Artistic Legacy of Pikes Peak, March 11-March of 2007. This spring the third exhibit will be Marketing the Mountain: Pikes Peak in the Popular Imagination May 20, 2006 - May of 2007. There are monthly talks that address some aspect of Pike and the history and development of this region. More information is available at the museum's website at <http://www.springsgov.com/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=9>. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the history of Pikes Peak we hope you take advantage of this exciting set of events. The Museum is downtown at 215 South Tejon near the intersection of Tejon and Vermijo Streets. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is no admission charge. For more information call 385-5990.

New Hiking Program

By Bill Brown

Friends of the Peak is sponsoring a series of monthly recreational hikes in the Pikes Peak region beginning this spring. These will be fairly short hikes for people new to the area and long-time residents who haven't discovered some of the great hiking trails around Pikes Peak. For more information or to register for a hike, contact Bill Brown by phone (594-4817) or email (bill_brown_cmc@yahoo.com).

Palmer-Red Rock Loop:

5 miles/1,100' elev. Change - Sat, Jun 3
A popular hike from Section 16 trailhead combining the Red Rock and Palmer Trails and lower High Drive.

Catamount Trail to Garden of Eden:

4 miles/1,200' elev. change - Sat, Jul 1
From Green Mountain Falls, this trail climbs past falling Catamount Creek to a beautiful meadow.

The Craggs:

4 miles/900' elev. change - Sat, Aug 5
A higher elevation hike on Pikes Peaks west side climbing to a spectacular craggy lookout with great views to the north and west.

Horsethief Park:

5 miles/600' elev. change - Sat, Sep 2
After a short steady climb, we'll level out at Horsethief Park and hike north through an open valley beside beaver ponds and old cabin ruins.

Mt Muscoco:

5 miles/1,000' elev. change - Sat, Oct 7
From Mt Cutler trailhead, we'll climb to Mt Muscoco's rocky summit, admire views, and descend via Daniels Pass.

2006 Opportunities

In addition to the great feeling of helping out the mountain we all love, all volunteers will receive a free t-shirt, a pass to use the Pikes Peak Highway, and while they last, a new National Geographic map of the Pikes Peak area. Sign up now, and put these on your calendar!

Tundra Rescue:

Thursdays, April 6 and 20, May 4.
Volunteers will meet at the toll gate, and drive the length of the Pikes Peak Highway looking for and “rescuing” chunks of tundra which dislodge from the cut slope edge. The chunks will be stored until they can be re-planted in appropriate areas.

Cut Slope Restoration:

Saturday, May 20.
FOTP will partner with the USFS and Pikes Peak Highway Managers to restore vegetation on one of the newly widened cut slope areas below half way picnic area.

Red Rocks Open Space:

Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14.
We will partner with Colorado Springs Park and Recreation Department, and the Friends of Red Rocks Open Space, to build a portion of the trails mapped out for this new city park. Refreshments will be catered by Wild Oats Market.

North Cheyenne Creek Trail:

(USFS#622), (aka Seven Bridges Trail)
Saturday, June 3, (National Trails Day)
and alternate Thursdays starting June 15 through September 21.

We will begin our maintenance on this historic route to Jones Park by re-establishing the trail along the south side of the creek, and replacing the first water crossing over North Cheyenne Creek. We will also repair the trail surface along the entire route to allow appropriate drainage and prevent further rutting. USFS will allow volunteers to access the trail head on the currently closed portion of Gold Camp Road to accomplish this work.

Ring the Peak Trail Construction:

June 17 and 18, July 8 and 9, August 26 and 27, September 9 and 10.
FOTP will continue in the effort to connect existent trails on Pikes Peak to form an urban access ring around the mountain. This year’s efforts will focus on Putney Gulch Trail: the connection of USFS road #383, (Four Mile Road), to USFS 708, (Horsethief Park). Each weekend project will offer participants the opportunity to camp at the base of the Putney Gulch Trail in the dispersed camping area of the Pikes Peak National Forest along Four Mile Road. A trailhead sign will be installed thanking the volunteers and our sponsors, and dedication ceremony will take place upon completion of the trail segment.

Barr Trail Workdays:

July 1 and August 12.
FOTP has worked with the Pikes Peak Trail Dogs in maintaining Barr Trail since 1997. The Trail Dogs have subdivided the trail into ownership sections, and perform normal routine maintenance. In addition, this year, FOTP will sponsor two work days. The first will be a trail maintenance work day in which a portion of the trail near the ‘Incline shortcut’ will be repaired. At the second, we will transport replacement railings to their intended installation point.

Devil’s Playground Trail Reroute:

July 16 – 21.
On the trail from the Craggs Campground to Devil’s Playground just below tree line the trail was originally a series of tight switchbacks, which have been eroded away into two steep chutes. 2 miles down from the top, (at Devils’ Playground), and two miles up from the bottom, we will install two switchback

legs to bypass the current chutes. Care will be taken to minimize damage to the tundra, and restore as much vegetation as is possible in the closed portion of the trail.

FOTP will provide catered food for all volunteers. Trail crews may arrive Saturday, July 15th. Work will begin Sunday, July 16 and continue through Friday, July 21st.

Crags to Devil's Playground Trail Repair: July 22 and 23.

This year, we are planning to address the trail from the top, (Devil's Playground), down. We will offer an overnight camping event at the halfway picnic area along Pikes Peak Highway to encourage more volunteers to help us restore this route. Volunteers need not camp to work one or both days. The camping opportunity is exercised only by those who choose to work both days and spend an evening with other volunteers. The work will consist of restoration of the current alignment as far down the trail, from Devil's Playground as we can complete. With sufficient volunteers, we may be able to reach the top of the chutes, where the re-route is planned.

Registration for the workdays will occur at the picnic area each day, and volunteers will car pool to the Devil's Playground area.

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All participants should pre-register at fotp.com or by calling 471-3145 or by mailing or faxing in the registration form. Mail the form to:

FOTP
P.O. Box 2494
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-2494
Or Fax it to (719) 471-3145

**Friends of the Peak
Mail in Registration Form
Volunteer Opportunities 2006**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of People: _____

Please circle the dates you are registering for. Information will be sent to you a week before the project.

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Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14

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July 16 – 21

Crags to Devil's Playground Trail Repair:

July 22 and 23

Thank You 2005 Donors!

Summit Contributors: \$500 to \$10,000

Triple Crown of Running
Barr Trail Mountain Race
Randall & Anne Greene

Life Zone Contributors: \$100 to \$499

Sharon & Ed Benson
Tom & Martie Cinnamon
Eleanor de Chadenedes
Marilyn & Dan Foster
Martha & Herbert Fuller
Bob & Elly Hostetler

Paul Knott
Clifford Laurence
Lee & Beverly McDowell
Eddie & Rhonda Moore
Jim & Margaret Strub
William & Tracy Thomas

Sponsors: \$35-\$99

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Myra & Frank Bennett
Bill & Jean Brown
James & Kathryn Damico
Janice de Chadenedes
Anita Fromm
John Fuller
Bill & Alice Gardner
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Lucille & Thomas Poydock
Paul Smith
Cheryl Spencer
Mark Spinuzzi & Renee Walker
Tyrone Steen

Regular Members: \$10 to \$34

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Reilly Barry
Andy & Lynn Blair
Bruce Cary
Rock Cogar
Virginia Colby
Robert & Ethel Deffeyes
Charles & Carol Donachy
Edward Drew
Jim Ebersole & Carol Maynard
Timothy Edwards
Nancy Elmlinger

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