

# @The Preserve

*Protecting the history and future of the Monument Preserve*

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## Upcoming Events

**FOMP Board Meetings—**  
Everyone is invited. Held in the classroom at the Monument Fire Center every third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.

**January 17th**

**February 21st**

**March 21st—Election Meeting for Board of Directors**

*Trail Maintenance will resume in May every 2nd Tuesday evening!*

## ROCK OF AGES

by Amy L. Smith

**H**ow many times have you passed Monument Rock, glanced up at its looming face and continued along your way? Monument Rock may share the same name as our town, but how much do we know about the long-time resident?

Dr. Paul Grogger, a geology professor at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, says the rock has been around 50-60 million years. He recently had the opportunity to get up-close and personal with Monument Rock. "This formation is most likely to be composed of the Dawson Formation from the Cenozoic era", says Dr. Grogger. Dr. Grogger has been a professor with UCCS for 31 years and although he is a resident of Monument, this is the first time that he has had the opportunity to examine the rock up close.

Monument Rock has similar



**Monument Rock has been a resident of the area since the Cenozoic era.**

composition and appearance to other sandstone formations in the area, such as Elephant Rock, but one can find microscopic uniqueness to the rock. Monument Rock has on its surface several different types of lichen, which gives it a greenish or black color. The lichen are long time residents of the rock and very slow growers, sometimes only covering an inch every 100 years.

Much of Monument Rock contains conglomerate, which are granules larger than sand indicating a certain event, possibly a flood. Picking up a handful of the loose gravel on the ground surrounding the rock, one can

see mostly rounded white quartz and feldspar which is pink in color. There is far more quartz because once the feldspar hydrates with water, it becomes clay and dissolves away.

So, why is Monument Rock still here? One of the possible reasons that Monument Rock has remained as a solitary structure while the surrounding rocks have vanished may be because of the lack of joints or fractures in the rock. Joints and fractures run vertical through the rock and can cause the rock to degrade due to water and frost action. Rock layers with many joints tend to weather and erode much faster than rock layers with few joints and fractures.

Although Monument Rock is battling natural weathering and erosion, we are still experiencing lifting at a rate of 1 foot/100 years, which may eventually prolong the Rock's prominence along the Front Range.

## FROM THE TRAIL—"OUTNUMBERED"

by Jon Nordby

**T**he horses first noticed the four coyotes moving parallel to us, about 80 yards off that old

sandy road in the field to our right as we headed east towards home. It was late enough where the light was soft and graying everywhere, and I had just called for the

dogs to ensure they knew we were turning back. I pointed Ritchey home and nudged him up to a trot. Jimbo was on the end of a halter and

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## FROM THE TRAIL—"OUTNUMBERED"

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lead rope, getting some exercise and stretching out my right arm out every chance he got. I had noticed the speed picked up past the normal downhill-heading-to-the-barn pace, and the two were having some sort of "Wilbur-speak" conversation between them. I finally took the hint when four mule-sized ears turned and locked onto the coyotes, and immediately noticed the small pack was angled to intercept us.

As the coyotes approached, I backed the horses down to a slow trot, then a walk. Turning both horses to face them, I planned to chase them off and make a lot of noise, sort of Western fox-hunt style. It had worked before on an older horse with one coyote, why not two young horses, two dogs, against four coyotes? After all, we had them outnumbered.

Now, I'm not sure if it was a good plan or a bad plan. I do know it did not work. The three came within about 15 yards of



us, and at the end of their "attack" they hunched up, ran with their bodies bent in a U-turn, and showed their teeth. We've already established I am not a horse-whisperer, and by my fox-hunt plan, one can conclude I don't communicate with wild animals all that well either. However, all this goofy body posturing by the attackers made me surmise they were teenagers out for a lesson from mom, who was still holding back admiring their work. By now the dogs had greeted the young coyotes and decided to sort it out as only dogs will do; full speed tackling followed by throat biting, ear gnawing, and every other dirty trick used in dog-piling. For some reason, Ritchey was hesitant to be spurred directly at this mess, and Jimbo downright planted his feet. I dallied Jimbo around the saddle horn, which prevented my arm from ripping off but

dang near stopped Ritchey's forward progress when the rope got tight. I gained a few yards toward the fight, and it was enough to start the three young coyotes back to mom. The blue heeler chased, and the Australian Shepard turn tail with me. We headed for home at a trot, for I figured running was going to get a bit out of control. We barely got started, maybe 50 yards down the road, when the entire scene repeated. Another attempt down the road, and it repeated again. Finally, we made 100 yards before the fourth "attack", and after that we saw the pack no more.

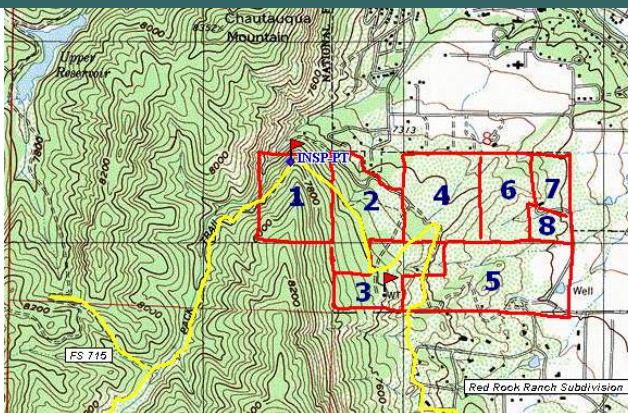
I've since been on that old sandy road in the Preserve, hiking quietly, on bikes, and often on horseback. Now and again I've seen an occasional stray coyote by himself, but I've not run into any other pack since that summer evening. They are still there, I know, and just choose when they are seen. They leave tracks in the freshly fallen snow, and late at night they answer the echo of the train whistle off Mt Herman.

## LIMBAUGH CANYON

by Chris Tirpak

As many of you are aware, the Limbaugh Canyon Trail (USFS 715) has been partially closed for the better part of 2 1/2 years. An update on the progress is long overdue. Read on!

Briefly, for those unfamiliar with the area, the northern end of the trail that passes over Inspiration Point and to the east back to either The Glenn or Red Rocks Ranch and then Monument Preserve crosses several parcels of private property. The critical piece of property is labeled #1 on the map. It is referred to as the "Canyon 40" (it is 40 acres) by the owners who have held it since the early 1950's. Properties 2,3,4, and 5 are also crossed



Map of trail access to Limbaugh Canyon crossing several parcels of private property.

by the trail; however, the crux of the issue is the Canyon 40.

Over the years, increased usage by hikers, bikers, and equestrians became a

large concern for the property owners and they moved to block access. This resulted confrontation and miscommunication of information. Ultimately I felt it was necessary to call the property owners to start talking about a solution.

So what have we done? The answer is a lot. We have worked with the property owners and the USFS to limit the confrontation and find a way to get the property into the USFS inventory. Two years ago we convinced the family to sell the

Canyon 40 to the USFS. The only problem was that the USFS has no budget for land acquisitions. That being the situation we reached out to other organizations and land trusts and eventu-

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ally began working with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to find a way to acquire the property and get it turned over to USFS. FOMP and TPL have managed to get the Canyon 40 prioritized for acquisition by USFS as soon as funds become available. That was no small feat and we need to thank the TPL for helping us accomplish that. I also have to thank each of you for staying clear of the Canyon 40 and keeping the confrontation down.

Now for the really good news! As a result of these efforts the Canyon 40 is currently one of several pieces of property involved in a land swap between USFS and a private party. The private party is

not a ski area or other insanely controversial project, it is a routine and fairly dull property swap. The swap has been underway for 9 months and will probably complete sometime in late 2007. We will likely miss the 2007 summer season, but will hopefully be able to work with USFS to re-open the northern end of the trail in 2008! FOMP has already begun discussing re-routes and trail head options with USFS and will continue this work as well as the negotiations until Limbaugh Canyon is re-opened.

In the meantime, you may still enjoy Limbaugh Canyon Trail if you take the turn marked to the north on the map that leads to the Palmer Lake Reservoirs. If you use the trail heading north to-

wards Inspiration Point, this is a hard left turn to the northwest just before the last big creek crossing. If you need detailed descriptions please stop by Balanced Rock Bike and Ski and ask Tim Watkins for more information.

How can you help the future of Limbaugh Canyon? Keep avoiding the closed portion of the trail until we get it legally re-opened. Please renew your FOMP membership, get others to join, and consider an additional donation so we can purchase the necessary supplies and equipment to perform the trail maintenance and re-route. And finally, come out and join us on our regularly scheduled work nights May through October (even just once a year is great).

## MEET THE MEMBER—JON NORDBY

by Amy L. Smith

**H**ave you seen someone at the Preserve with a killer looking mountain bike and a shy smile? If so, you have probably run into Jon Nordby.

He has been riding the trails at Monument Preserve for over 17 years. Jon and his wife Kim live nearby the Preserve and can be found there several times a week all year-round.

Mountain biking in the fresh snow is one of Jon's favorite activities at the Preserve, but when the snow gets too deep, you can find him on horseback, hiking with his dogs or sometimes on skis or snowshoes.

Jon is currently the Vice President of FOMP and enjoys spending time supporting the Trail Maintenance and the Memorial Grove Ceremony. Jon and Kim have volunteered nearly 75 hours of work this year on the trail system alone.

Jon has been trained by IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) and the USFS, and tries to pass his knowledge of proper trail maintenance on to others. Jon has been instrumental in the coordination of three



**Jon finds ways to enjoy the Preserve year-round.**

major Eagle Scout projects at the Preserve this year focused on proper trail maintenance.

One of Jon's favorite historical experiences at the Preserve was at last Spring's Memorial Grove Ceremony. Jon met Robert Bradshaw who had lived at the "chimney house" as a young boy with his family from about 1939-1945. "He told me of hunting rabbits from the nursery racks and how that was a major source of the meat his family ate in those days", recalls Jon. Mr. Bradshaw also told Jon of sitting and watching the POW workers from the Mountain Post come in. He remembered how the MPs spoke a language that he did not understand. The

old ruins of Mr. Bradshaw's childhood home are still visible with the chimney still standing just South of Memorial Grove Road.

*"With the increase in use,  
we need a corresponding  
10x increase in  
volunteerism"*

—Jon Nordby

Jon's outlook for the Preserve is bright, but urges more volunteer involvement. "With the increase in use, we need a corresponding 10x increase in volunteerism; so not only do we have a chance of staying ahead of the trail issues, but also so we can continue to focus on the history, the fire crews, the beetles and noxious weeds, and expand our trail maintenance to outlying trails that connect into the preserve."

Clearly, Jon's first love is mountain biking, but his support and concern for the Monument Preserve is holistic.



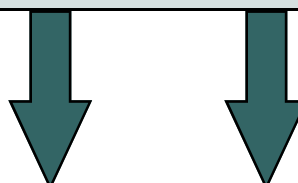
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## MEMBERSHIP FORM



**FRIENDS OF  
MONUMENT PRESERVE**

### **Become a member of the Friends of Monument Preserve.**

As a member of the Friends of Monument Preserve, you will help fund trail maintenance, educational programs, volunteer events and more!

### **Make your tax deductible donation to**

Friends of Monument Preserve  
PO Box 634  
Monument, CO 80132

### **Annual Memberships**

Individual	\$15 _____
Family	\$25 _____
Business/Sponsor	\$100 _____
Other	_____

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\* used for newsletters and event reminders

### **Your Interests:**

Hiking _____	Biking _____	Horseback riding _____
Fishing _____	Nature/Ecology _____	Preservation/Archeology _____