



THE MONOLITH

A PUBLICATION BY THE COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION ■ SUMMER 2005

What is an Electronic Ranger?

By Sandy Hood

My husband Bill and I have often been asked that question when we try to explain how we spend our time as volunteers for the National Park Service. An Electronic Ranger is our name for an interactive computer program designed to present information about a park to the visiting public. Visitors simply touch a monitor screen to learn about a variety of park subjects, such as plants, animals, geology or history.

Bill wanted to use his computer skills in retirement to educate the public about geology. Initially, he started working on what was going to be "A Geologic Field Trip to the Colorado National Monument." We purchased a program that formed the basic framework so Bill wouldn't have to do detailed programming. As Bill learned how to manipulate his new program, he began to develop ideas about how to present the beautiful and interesting geology of the Monument to visitors. We both manned the information desk at Colorado National Monument at this time, and experienced first-

hand, from visitor questions, what topics were of interest. As Bill spoke with park volunteers and personnel about his program, he was asked to include other topics,



Visitors use the Electronic Ranger to learn more about Colorado National Monument.

such as animals and plants.

Bill developed short stories about some subjects, such as Erosion. This story explains, in a number of separate panels, how erosion shaped the monument we see today. Other topics are presented mainly to aid in identification. For example, if visitors want to know "What's that yellow flower blooming by the side of the road?" they can push the Yellow Flowers button on the Flowers by Color menu and pick out the one

they want from the variety of yellow flowers shown. Bill particularly enjoyed learning about and photographing wildflowers in the monument. It took about 1500

hours of work to complete the Electronic Ranger for Colorado National Monument. Bill was awarded the Shoulder to Shoulder award by the Park Service in January, 2002, for his efforts.

Thinking that it might be fun to do additional Electronic Rangers for other national parks, Bill mentioned his willingness to Karen Wade, Director of the Intermountain Region. It didn't take long for other parks to express an interest in having a program.

I signed on as a partner when it became apparent that Bill would need several lifetimes to complete the requests that came in! Working together, we have completed Electronic Rangers for Fossil Butte National Monument and Guadalupe Mountains National Park. A short program, which will be part of the new visitor center displays at Arches National Park, is currently being

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Meet the Ranger: Joel Barnett

Park Ranger is Glad to Be in His Hometown Once Again

By Denise Hight

Colorado National Monument Law Enforcement Ranger Joel Barnett knew what he wanted to do from a very young age. “My family went to Yellowstone on vacation when I was about six years old. I saw a ranger on horseback, and that was it. I knew I wanted to be a ranger.”

After graduating from Grand Junction High School, Joel earned his B.A. in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Mesa State College. He then went on to receive his law enforcement training at the Police Officer Academy at Colorado

Northwest Community College. While attending school, he proudly served in the Marine Reserves from 1984 to 1990.

Seeking a head start in the field, Joel started his NPS career before he graduated from the Police Officer Academy, taking a seasonal fee collector post at

Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming in 1989. He worked for several seasons as a fee collector at various parks, including two seasons at Colorado National Monument in 1992 and 1993. After he graduated from the Police Academy, he started working as a seasonal law enforcement officer in 1994 at Devils Tower. He became a permanent NPS law enforcement officer in November 2000 at White Sands National Monument in New Mexico. Over the years he has served with the NPS, Joel has worked at quite a few other parks, including Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve and Katmai National Park & Preserve, both in Alaska, Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, and Saguaro National Park in Arizona.

Joel was pleased to arrive back home to work at Colorado National Monument in September 2003. “I got my roaming years out of the way. I’m really excited to



A visit to Yellowstone at the age of six inspired Joel Barnett to become a park ranger.

come back home to the community I grew up in.” He is grateful to be able to once again live close to his family here in the Grand Valley and he enjoys the people, the seasons, and the outdoor opportunities in this area. Joel, who is single, still takes pride in looking after his “children,” a 110-pound Great Pyrenees dog, Shelly, and his tabby cat, Otis. An avid hiker, Joel can be commonly seen in his free time exploring the valley and the surrounding desert with Shelly. He also finds great pleasure in riding his bicycle on Rim Rock Drive through the monument, cross-country skiing, fishing, and gardening.

Most of all, however, Joel loves the monument and the effect it has on Grand Valley residents: “I enjoy and appreciate the pride that the local community takes in this park. I enjoy meeting people and watching them learn to become good stewards of the land.”

The Monolith is published by the Colorado National Monument Association for its members. The CNMA is a 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization working in cooperation with the National Park Service. The CNMA supports educational programs and projects at Colorado National Monument.

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CNMA Thanks Spring 2005 Walks & Talks Presenters

Several hundred people took part in the Spring 2005 Walks & Talks programs. A big thank you goes to the following individuals and groups for sharing their time and expertise.

Lynn Albers	Palisade Astronomy
Don Campbell	Connection
Fran & Paul Didier	Don Regan
Grand Junction	Jeanne Wenger
Centennial Band	Michelle & Hal
Ralph Libby	Wheatley
John Moore	Felicie Williams



Above: The Grand Junction Centennial Band entertained appreciative visitors at a recent concert at Colorado National Monument.

Left: Author and geologist Felicie Williams shared her knowledge in "Geology Hike in Fruita Canyon."

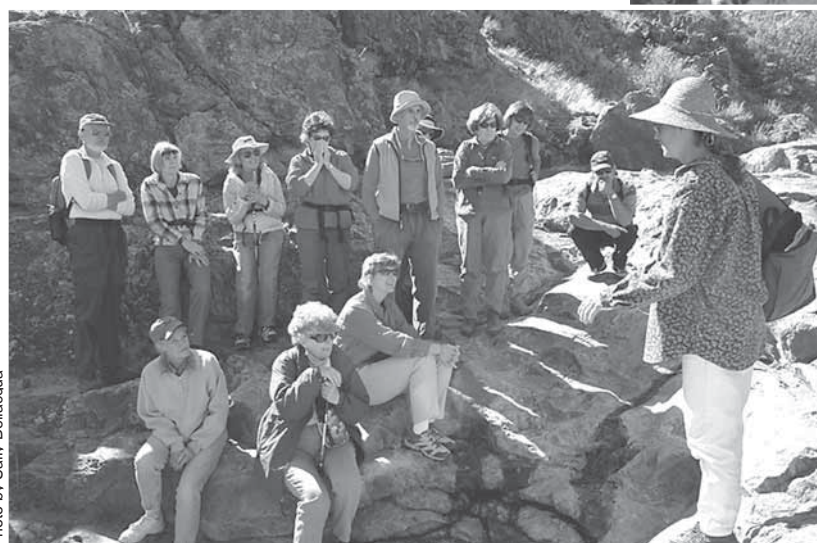


Photo by Sally Bellacqua

Thank You!

Art & Photography Exhibit and Annual Meeting a Great Success

Over 120 people attended the CNMA's annual meeting and second annual Art & Photography Exhibit held April 12 at Redlands United Methodist Church. A big thank you goes to Paul Jensen for performing beautiful music inspired by the landscape of Western Colorado. Thank you also to the following artists and photographers for exhibiting their works:

Sally Bellacqua	Darlyne Merkel
Brad Butler	Joann Moon
Yvette Campbell	Judy Morehouse
Pat Darley	Rose Nordenberg
Shirley Dickinson	Lorraine Sells
Jeff Kochevar	Judy Woodbury



Employees of Choice Hotels in Grand Junction volunteered their time on April 19 to work on projects at Colorado National Monument. Projects included weeding the native plants garden at the Visitor Center, stacking firewood near the east and west entrances, and laying road bed for parking areas near the Resource Management building.

Ride the Rockies

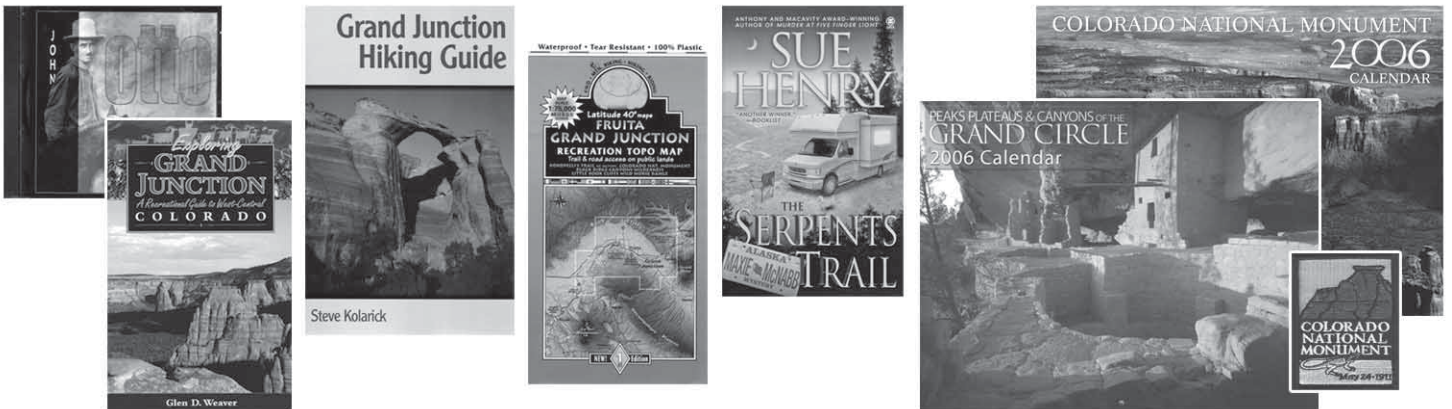
Over 2000 bicyclists rode through Colorado National Monument on June 19 as part of the Ride the Rockies bicycle tour.

—Photo by Sally Bellacqua.



CNMA Bookstore Bests

We have lots of new products in the CNMA bookstore this summer. We invite you to stop in and take a look the next time you are up here enjoying the beautiful Colorado National Monument. CNMA members receive a 15% discount, and your purchase helps support educational programs at Colorado National Monument.



Those of you who attended our annual meeting in April were fortunate enough to hear local composer and musician Paul Jensen play music inspired by the scenery of western Colorado. Paul has made a CD of his beautiful songs, *John Otto: Man of the Canyon*, and it is available for \$14.95.

There are a couple of new guides to the local area, and they are proving to be invaluable to both residents and visitors. *Exploring Grand Junction: A Recreational Guide to West-Central Colorado* by Glen D. Weaver (\$14.95) covers hiking and biking trails, and scenic drives. Weaver discusses downtown Grand Junction, the Grand

Mesa, the wineries, state parks, and, of course, Colorado National Monument. *Grand Junction Hiking Guide* by Steve Kolarick (\$16.95) includes everything from short city hikes to demanding backcountry trails, including Grand Mesa, the Bookcliffs, Uncompaghre Plateau, Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area, and an entire chapter devoted to Colorado National Monument.

The *Fruita & Grand Junction Recreation Topo Map* covers the local area including Colorado National Monument, Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, Bangs Canyon, and the Little Book Cliffs wild horse range. The waterproof plastic map is \$9.95.

The Serpents Trail is a mystery

novel set in Grand Junction and Colorado National Monument. This popular novel, by award-winning author Sue Henry, is now available in paperback for \$6.99.

Many visitors to national parks collect souvenir patches as a memento of their travels. We are now selling a lovely patch with the Colorado National Monument logo. (\$3.95)

We have a variety of 2006 calendars including the *Colorado National Monument Calendar* with photographs by a variety of local photographers. We also carry the *Peaks, Plateaus and Canyons* calendar, available in wall, desk or pocket sizes.

Have a great summer!

A few thoughts from the superintendent...

By Bruce Noble



Sometimes opportunities arrive in unexpected ways. Last December, my wife and I were in Washington, DC during the holiday season. One afternoon, we stopped by a grocery store in the Georgetown section of the city to purchase a few items. We got out of our car in the parking lot and immediately noticed a wallet on the ground. We picked it up with the intention of delivering it to the store management with the expectation that they would return the wallet to its owner. Instead, we learned that they would keep the wallet in their safe until it was claimed, but would make no effort to locate the owner. Under those circumstances, we decided we would keep the wallet and attempt to track down the owner ourselves.

When we opened the wallet, we had the strange feeling of looking into someone else's life. The wallet was chock full of all the personal items that everyone fears losing. Not only is there money at stake, but also the individual has to go through the aggravation of replacing a driver's license, credit cards, and so on. The driver's license in the wallet listed West

Virginia as the state of residence, but my wife followed a hunch and looked up the name in the Washington, DC telephone book. Sure enough, there was a name in the phone book that matched the name on the driver's license. I phoned the gentleman and he immediately realized that his wallet was indeed missing. We made arrangements for him to meet at the place we were staying so I could return the wallet to him.

When we finally met, he told me that he was so relieved to have his wallet back that he wanted to make a donation to my favorite charity. I assured him that no donation was required and said that my wife and I were just happy to have returned the wallet to its rightful owner. However, he stated that we had done him a great favor and insisted on making the donation.

I was unprepared for this turn of events and quickly began thinking of all the worthy places that I might suggest for a donation. Nothing immediately came to mind until I thought about the Colorado National Monument Association. It is a 501(c)3 organization and certainly eligible to receive such donations. I briefly explained the mission of the Association to him and gave him the mailing address. He said he would put a check in the mail. A few weeks later, the CNMA received a check for \$1000.00 from the McGee Foundation in West Virginia. On behalf of the Association, I certainly want to thank Mr. McGee and his wife for their generosity.

The world is full of opportunities, some of which can be entirely unexpected.

—Bruce Noble

The message I take away from this story is that the world is full of opportunities, some of which can be entirely unexpected. Another recent example of such an opportunity was the Ride the Rockies event that brought over 2,000 bicycle riders through Colorado National Monument on June 19, 2005. The Ride the Rockies organizers approached me shortly after my arrival last summer and asked about the possibility of bringing their event to the Monument. This was an unexpected opportunity to introduce the Monument to a large number of first time visitors, many of whom we believe will return in the future. I want to sincerely thank the park staff and the CNMA staff who worked diligently to make this event a success.

In closing, my hope would be that all of us will experience an abundance of unexpected positive opportunities in the future. I wish everyone all the best during the remainder of the summer and beyond.

Thank You CNMA Members!

Your membership supports educational programs at Colorado National Monument. We couldn't do it without you!

Corporate/Patron (\$200+)

Alpine Bank – Norm Franke
Bob Fisher & Patti Chamberlain
John & Linda Fulham
Rich Humphrey
Impact Colorado – Bob von Normann
Judine Leonhart
Sorter Construction – William Ogle

Contributing (\$100+)

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Bob & Adele Suydam
Roger & Linda Swingle
Polly Tackett
Wayne Westerson & Alberta Husch
Bob & Nancy Wilson (plus matching funds from Pfizer Corporation)
Rollin & Joan Wilson

New Members January–June 2005

Sandra & Chuck Ackerman
Larry & Evelyn Beidleman
Julie Bergren
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Bradley & Barbara Butler
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Joan & Rick Colgan
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John & Diane Younker
Sharanne Zen

Glenn Burgeson Memorial

Donations

David & Eileen Brodowski
Bob & Sharon Kessler
Jack & Beverly Kingsley

Electronic Ranger

Continued from page 1

reviewed by the park. Our new exhibit of insect fossils of the Green River Formation just opened at the Dinosaur Journey Museum in Fruita, Colorado. We are now creating a program for Carlsbad Caverns National Park. We have been asked to build a program for Khvalynsk National Park in Russia, and last summer met with the park superintendent and his scientific advisor to lay out the framework for the program.

Our work is done on a volunteer basis, but the rewards are



Karen Wade and Palma Wilson presented Bill Hood the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Award for his work on the Electronic Ranger.

many. We meet and work with park rangers who are very knowledgeable, and many have become good friends. We get a “behind the scenes” look at project parks, an interesting view not available to the general public. We learn about a park and its animals, plants, geol-

ogy and history in depth while doing research, and so gain a greater appreciation for our beautiful natural world. In the process of trying to find suitable bird photos, we have become good friends with two professional bird photographers. We have always loved to travel, and photography has been a longstanding hobby. Creating Electronic Ranger programs combines our interests with our skills in a way that helps park visitors get the most out of precious vacation time. It is our way of paying back the pleasure of many trips to national parks with Bill's children years ago. To us, this is what retirement is all about.

Message from the CNMA President



By
Beverly
Kingsley

Driving around town, I am seeing more and more Colorado National Monument Association decals on the backs of car windows. These decals are a visible show of your support of Colorado National Monument.

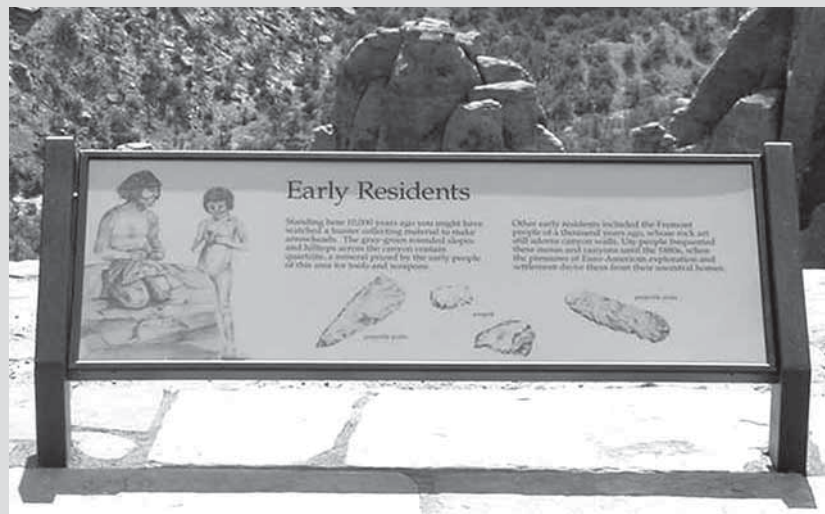
So how does the CNMA support the Colorado National Monument? One way is through the financial support and organization of educational programs, open to the public, such as the spring and fall Walks & Talks. The Park Service also has many projects in the monument that they are not able to complete without the financial assistance of the CNMA. One example is the wayside exhibits, which are pictured in this issue of *The Monolith*. The CNMA paid for the materials and labor for the installation. In the May 2005 board meeting, the CNMA Board of Directors approved the following aid request for the year 2005:

1. \$1000 to build base of wayside at Highland View.
2. \$2500 for new fee signs and informational signs at east and west entrances.
3. \$3200 to cover the cost of transcribing backlog of oral histories.
4. \$800 for Media Mapper Software to allow the park to

- integrate photographs into GIS projects.
5. \$500 for a six panel portable display system to be used for outreach interpretive programs and public meetings.
6. \$500 for three backpack sprayers and two pairs of pruners needed for weed management and landscaping efforts.
7. \$1730 for a dry mounting press and supplies for use in interpretive displays that can be produced in-house. The displays will be used in the Visitor Center and for outreach programs.
8. \$500 to have historic photographs preserved through a special archival process.
9. \$1000 for continued support of the Trails & rails program with Amtrak.

10. \$1000 for dark sky enhancement lighting in Saddlehorn Campground.
11. \$1000 for printing site bulletins for distribution to visitors.

The grand total for these projects is \$13,730. In addition to this, the CNMA provides information desk assistance, support for the volunteer program, and aid for a myriad of other projects. Last year, the CNMA provided over \$45,000 in support to the NPS, and we have given over \$500,000 since our inception in 1964. We are proud of our 41 years of service to Colorado National Monument, and I would like to take this opportunity to both thank you for your gifts in the past, and to encourage you to continue to support this wonderful monument that we are fortunate to have in our own backyard.



Next time you drive through the monument, stop at the overlooks and take a look at the new wayside exhibits. The CNMA paid for the installation of the exhibits titled: *Layers of Time*, *A Canyon Profile*, and *Early Residents*.

—Photo by Greg Crawford



THE MONOLITH
Colorado National Monument Association
 Colorado National Monument
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