



THE MONOLITH

A PUBLICATION BY THE COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION ■ WINTER 2005

CNMA Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Don Simonton

A confession... I'm one of those fans of America the Beautiful who have been blaming recent Congresses is for the budget cuts that hurt our wonderful national parks. I did a little research and discovered that this is not something new; it is been part of the national parks' story from the opening page.

Yellowstone, first of the parks, was established in 1872, but no funds were appropriated for protection or interpretation. So, its first Rangers were cavalymen on the payroll of the US Army, and the distinctive hats worn by Rangers today were reminders of the military tree uniforms of that era.

Colorado National Monument, first monument in this state, was established by presidential decree in 1911. Federal funding at that point amounted to one dollar per month for John Otto as superintendent. Otto dreamed of a rim rock drive around the canyons of the monument, however, money from Washington wasn't available. Civic groups began beating drums, and the result was a road built primarily through local, not national, efforts.

It was out of this historical matrix of insufficient funds that "cooperating associations" were born. The National Park Service



CNMA members enjoy themselves at the 40th anniversary celebration.

led the way in creating cooperating associations, a model of private-public partnership, almost as old as the NPS itself. It was a promising and challenging decision.

In 1920, the first Association was incorporated in Yosemite National Park, to provide a visitor center and museum. Zion and Rocky Mountain National Parks followed suit in 1931. Yellowstone's Association was started in 1933. Today, 64 cooperating associations provide assistance to the national parks system.

The idea came to the Grand Valley in 1961, when a group of

concerned citizens and NPS people got together to form a "natural history association." At that time, the monument was linked administratively with the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. On September 9, 1964, the Colorado-Black Canyon of the Gunnison Nature Association was incorporated as a nonprofit organization.

The NPS apparently took the initiative under the leadership of acting Supt. Fred Bussey and Black Canyon Supervisory Ranger TJ

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Fun in the Sun:

The 2004 Paleontological Survey of Colorado National Monument

Kelli C. Trujillo, Ph.D.

Sedimentary rocks ranging in age from Late Triassic to Late Cretaceous are exposed within the boundaries of Colorado National Monument (COLM), and they form many picturesque canyons and cliffs. But these rocks are not just scenic—they also hold a wealth of fossil resources.

During the summer of 2004, Margaret Imhof (Museum of Northern Arizona), Zach Walke (a recent graduate of Southern Oregon University), and I spent 11 weeks hiking the trails and the backcountry of Colorado National

Monument in search of fossils. Our mission was threefold: 1) To assess previously located fossil sites; 2) to survey areas of COLM that had not yet been prospected for fossils; and 3) to compile this information into one easily accessed database using GIS, which would then be used to help manage the fossil resources of COLM.

Over the past 30 years, several paleontological surveys were conducted at COLM. The first two surveys, by Dr. George L. Callison in 1977 and Dr. George F. Engelmann in 1995, focused exclusively on the Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic). These surveys found many dinosaur bones as well as fossils of smaller vertebrates and invertebrates. A third study, by Dr. Rodney Scheetz in 2001 and 2002, surveyed most rock units in the monument. A preliminary study of the Quaternary fossil resources in COLM was done in 1994 by Dr. Kirk Andersen from the Museum of Northern Arizona, and bones recovered from a fissure exposed by a rockfall were collected in 2000 and identified by Dr. Jim Mead of MNA.

In our survey, we located 19 new fossil sites and reported 57 others that had been known previously. Each of these 76 sites was given a COLM locality number, and at each site we took GPS coordinates and photographs. We also assessed the numbers of fossils seen at each site, as well as the weathering rates and stability of the sites. All of the data collected is housed at COLM in print and electronic forms.

As a result of our summer's



Margaret Imhof & Zach Walke hard at work.

work, we now know that all sedimentary rock units exposed in COLM contain fossils. The types of fossils reported from COLM include trace and body fossils of plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates. The most exciting finds include well-preserved sauropod bones in fallen blocks of the Burro Canyon Formation, a lungfish tooth from the Tidwell Member of the Morrison Formation, the only known vertebrate bone from the Kayenta Formation of Colorado, and large numbers of dinosaur tracks from the Wingate Formation.

All in all, we had a productive and fun summer. The information we provided will allow resource managers and others at COLM to keep track of their fossil resources in order to preserve and protect them. The folks at COLM were great to work with. And we got to spend our summer wandering around Colorado National Monument! For geologists and paleontologists, it doesn't get any better than that!

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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“Thank You”

CNMA Thanks Our Fall 2004 Walks & Talks Presenters



Ken Logan discussed the progress of “The Colorado Puma Research & Development Program.”

Ralph Libby took adventurous hikers out to view “The Arches & Bridges of Colorado National Monument.”



Robert Young shared his knowledge of “The Geology of Colorado National Monument.”

Greg Gnesios was glad to hold “The Dinosaur Diamond” up to the light of day.



Lynn Albers exposed some of the secrets of “Our Healing Native Plants.”



Additionally, Don Regan & John Moore showed us how to “Explore Wedding & Lower Monument Canyons,” and Gigi Richard cautioned us about the hazards of “Flash Flooding at Colorado National Monument.”

Photos by Beverly & Jack Kingsley

Join us soon for the Spring 2005 Walks & Talks. If you have any suggestions for programs or presenters, please call Denise at 858-3617 ext. 308 or Renee at 858-3617 ext. 307, or e-mail us at colm_cnma@nps.gov.

CNMA Bookstore Bests

By Denise Hight

Quite a few new products have arrived in our bookstore in the past few months. Stop by and check out the great selections. Don't forget—CNMA members receive a 15% discount all year round! Purchases support educational programs at Colorado National Monument.

Sue Henry is an award-winning author with her series of ten Jessie Arnold mystery novels set in Alaska. She has started a spinoff series featuring Maxie McNabb, retiree and avid RVer. The first book in the new series, *The Serpents Trail*, is set in Grand Junction and the Colorado National Monument. Maxie looks for clues in familiar

local landmarks as she attempts to unravel the secret of her dying friend—a secret that puts Maxie's life in danger. (Hardback, \$23.95)

The Grand Valley Audubon Society has published a guidebook just for this area, featuring the 374 bird species seen in western Colorado. *Birds of Western Colorado Plateau and Mesa Country* contains descriptions, maps, charts, and graphs, and beautiful illustrations by Don Radovich. This is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the birdlife of this area. (\$29.95)

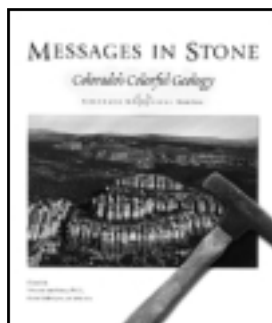
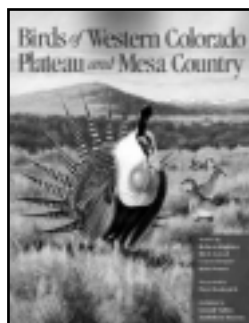
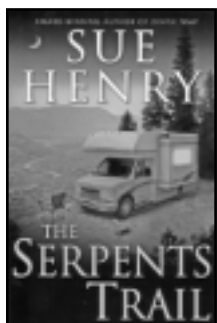
Another beautiful new book is *Messages in Stone: Colorado's Colorful Geology*, published by the Colorado Geological Survey. The

book is full of stunning photographs of Colorado's spectacular scenery and geological features. It is written for amateur and professional geologists and for anyone wishing to know more about Colorado's colorful geological history. (\$16.95)

Visitors to America's national parks can record their adventures using *America's National Parks Deluxe Scrapbook Page Kit*. The kit contains journal sheets, background sheets, stickers, frame-ups, punch-outs, and page-toppers—everything you need to save and share your memories from your national park visits. (\$9.95)

We still have a few copies of the *Colorado National Monument 2005 Calendar*. They are on sale and won't last long.

We hope to see you soon at Colorado National Monument!



40th Anniversary

Continued from page 1

Fewless. Local board members were primarily from Fruita and included former Mayor Clarence Smith. He felt the participation in the project was an important community service. Another board member, Earle Brumbaugh, remembers being motivated by horseback rides from Fruita to Pinyon Mesa, and by climbing in the canyons.

Of such everyday sentiments and commitments are born institu-

tions. The early Association sought to raise funds to support the NPS through the bookstore, and they promptly began exploring the possibility of specific publications about the monument. "A Geologic Story of Colorado National Monument" was produced by the US Geologic Survey in 1965, and an official handbook by the Association came out in 1969.

In 1977, the Association was incorporated as the Colorado National Monument Association. Mimi Buck was its first business manager and began the tradition of

membership development, increased bookstore sales, and appropriate assistance towards the interpretation of the geological wonders of the monument. Through the years, contributions by the CNMA have included the John Otto and Stephen Mather Memorials, the slide program in the Visitor Center, the Walks & Talks programs, and many publications and products of distinction. As a result, the CNMA has donated nearly \$500,000 (through 2003) to assist the National Park Service at the monument.

A few thoughts from the superintendent...

By Bruce Noble



It is my great pleasure to have assumed the role of superintendent of Colorado National Monument

on June 14, 2004, and I have appreciated the opportunity to meet many of you since that time. For those whom I haven't met, let me briefly say a bit about myself.

I have enjoyed nearly twenty years of experience with the National Park Service. I did a stint working in cultural resources in the Washington office, worked as Chief of Interpretation & Cultural Resources at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and had a truly amazing four years as superintendent of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Alaska. Prior to my NPS career, I worked in the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and also worked seasonally at South Pass City State Historic Site in Wyoming.

My wife Pat and I are truly thrilled to live and work here on the Western Slope of Colorado. We're much closer to friends and family, including our son James who lives in Charleston, SC, after recently graduating from college there. (I know South Carolina isn't that close, but it seems right next door after four years in Alaska!) We're also pleased to be in Colorado because we're able to ski and hike and participate in all the

outdoor activities that we enjoy so much. I am greatly honored to count all of you as neighbors in this fabulous part of the world.

A good part of my first few months at Colorado National Monument were spent meeting with individual employees and learning about their jobs. I am very impressed with the outstanding staff and how dedicated they are to getting their jobs done. In the process of meeting with them, I also learned about their ideas for improving the Monument. We've already been able to act on many of those ideas.

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Just to offer a few examples, we've gotten new road striping on the east hill of Rim Rock Drive, we've utilized the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado to make some major improvements to the Ute Canyon Trail, and we've purchased some much needed new equipment. In addition, the staff has devoted considerable time to completing the General Management Plan and to revising the Fire Management Plan. Looking into the future, I'd like to emphasize four major goals for Colorado National Monument:

- *Rebuilding the Interpretive/educational programs,*
- *Improving the Monument's trail network, including the development of linkages with the local and regional trail network,*
- *Engaging in community outreach designed to maintain and expand our network of public & private partnerships in the*

Grand Valley, and

- *Securing the personnel and funding necessary to serve the public in the most effective possible manner.*

These goals shouldn't be surprising given that they largely reflect the forthcoming General Management Plan. In particular, they mirror the plan's emphasis on maintaining close relations between the Monument and the surrounding community. I want to hear your thoughts about these goals and would appreciate your support in pursuing them.

Looking specifically at the Colorado National Monument Association (CNMA), it has already been a great pleasure to work with both the board members and staff. Beverly Kingsley is both enthusiastic and effective as board president, and Renee Creeden and Denise Hight do an excellent job of running the bookstore in the Visitor Center. I was also very pleased to participate in CNMA's 40th anniversary celebration last September.

Approximately 50 people turned out on a busy weekend to recognize the association's many outstanding accomplishments over the years. This kind of track record speaks well of the past successes and bodes well for the future of CNMA.

In many respects, these are challenging times for national park

Continued on page 7

Thank You CNMA Members!

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

Special Donations

Bill Hood (\$600 instructor's fee)

Joyce Olson (\$500 donation for trail guide)

The McGee Foundation (\$1000 in honor of Bruce & Pat Noble)

Rosenthal-Slatte Foundation (\$5000)

Benefactor (\$500+)

Rich Humphrey

Corporate/Patron (\$200+)

Alpine Bank - Norm Franke

Bob Fisher & Patti Chamberlain

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Roger & Rita Shenkel

Bob & Adele Suydam

Roger & Linda Swingle

Polly Tackett

Wayne Westerson & Alberta Husch

Bob & Nancy Wilson (plus matching funds from Pfizer Corp.)

Rollin & Joan Wilson

New Members May-Dec. 2004

Dianne Adams

Cary Ann Atwood

Jeannette Banks

Nancy Barnes & Wilbur Cramer

Bill & Pat Barnes

Ron & Louise Beach

Joel & Betty Bechtel

Margaret Beer

Beverly Biggs

Esther Brown

Charles & Judith Burch

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Laurence Strong

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CNM: Just One Facet of Dinosaur Diamond

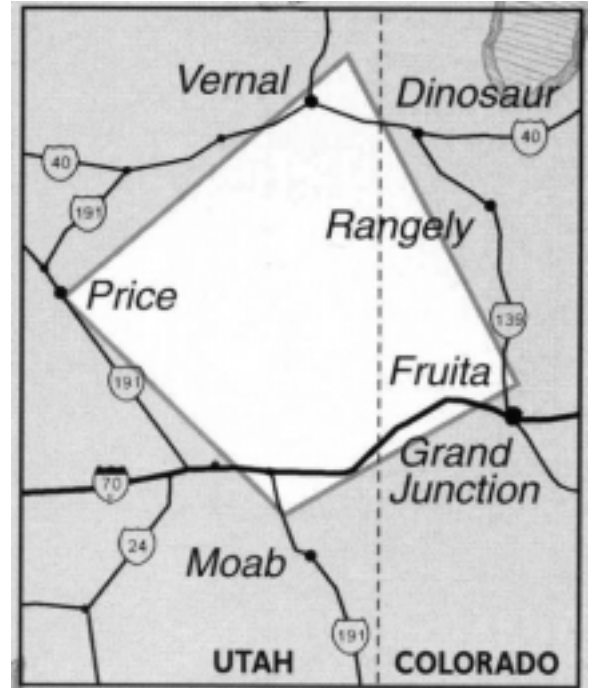
By Greg Gnesios
Dinosaur Diamond Byway
Coordinator

Colorado National Monument is many things to many people but one of its lesser known qualities is that it is a key part of the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway. The Dinosaur Diamond is a 512-mile network of state and local highways that forms a roughly circular path beginning in Fruita, Colorado, and extending northward through Rangely all the way up to Dinosaur National Monument on the Utah/Colorado border where it curves to the west through Vernal, Utah, and then descends southward through Price and Green River, reaching its southernmost point in Moab, Utah. From there it turns eastward back toward the Fruita/Grand Junction area.

All along the Diamond is a fascinating array of dinosaur quarries and fossil digs, rock art sites, incredible geology, unique museums, and world-class scenery as typified by the high red rock cliffs of Colorado National Monument. In fact, the monument qualifies in nearly all of the categories listed above.

Several major attractions of the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway are located within close proximity to the monument. North of the Colorado River in Fruita is the Dinosaur Journey Museum where visitors can not only see fossil examples of prehistoric creatures, but can also marvel at life-sized animatronic dinosaurs as well. Between the Colorado National Monument and the museum is Dinosaur Hill, the place where in 1901 paleontologist Elmer Riggs unearthed the first complete *Apatosaurus* (formerly known as the *brontosaurus*).

Dinosaur Hill is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and includes a short self-guiding interpretive trail leading to the exact spot where the excavation took place. Just to the west of Dinosaur Hill is the Fruita Paleo Area, another interpretive adventure through an area of steeply eroded badlands where paleontolo-



gists are even now still uncovering new fossil finds.

Amongst all these features, Colorado National Monument remains the crown jewel of an area rich in prehistoric, cultural, natural and scenic resources. But once you leave the park, you may want to explore more of the Dinosaur Diamond to discover for yourself over 200 million years of history along a Scenic Byway.

For more information, check out www.dinosaurdiamond.org.

Superintendent

Continued from page 5

cooperating associations. Internet book sales and the growth of large bookstore chains have made the business environment increasingly competitive. In addition, high gasoline prices have meant that the number of people driving to park bookstores has been flat or even

declining in recent years. Flexibility and creativity are the key elements of success in wrestling with the circumstances that confront us. Early in 2005, I hope to be able to schedule a CNMA board meeting where we can focus specifically on developing strategic goals for the future of the association. By talking concretely about our goals for the future, I believe we can develop a road map that will help to

ensure the future success of CNMA and Colorado National Monument.

I intend to remain accessible to both the Monument staff and the CNMA board and membership. If you have an idea or issue to discuss, please feel free to phone (858-3617, x300), email (bruce_noble@nps.gov), or stop by my office. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you.



Colorado National Monument Association

Colorado National Monument

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