



Colorado National Monument Association

Join Us in Preserving Our National Treasure

May 2016



Davison Receives State Award

Colorado National Monument Chief Ranger, Mark Davison, was recognized by the Colorado Tourism Office, their Board of Directors, elected officials and industry partners from across the state at a rally at the State Capital May 2nd celebrating the value of tourism. Davison was honored with ten other frontline tourism workers from across the state.

Mark has gone beyond the requirements of his position, reaching out to the tourism community in many ways. Mark has been especially active with the bicycling community: helping organize and facilitate non-competitive “tour” events - events that are open to all cyclists regardless of age and capabilities, thus drawing visitors to the valley who want to experience the scenery. Mark engages with tourism partners in other ways, notably: seeking ways to welcome visitors to the Monument and its campground; and promoting a wide range of permits for special uses such as rock climbing and family events

“We are excited to take the opportunity to honor the state’s



Trivia Question:

Can you name this fort and the NPS unit it is in? (see answer below)

Did You Know...

News from the Colorado National Monument

Visitor center hours are now 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. The change to summer hours (8am-6pm) will happen in June.

A crew from Historic Preservation Training Center was recently at the Monument to assist / train the park's Masonry Crew, focusing on the guard

outstanding frontline tourism workers throughout National Travel and Tourism Week," said Cathy Ritter, director of the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO). "These individuals are the engines who drive tourism to Colorado making it one of the most important industries in the state."

Traveling on a motor coach wrapped in the state's award-winning "Come to Life" message, the Colorado tourism team will also honor Davison in Grand Junction at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 6 at Two Rivers Convention Center. Local tourism industry and the public are encouraged to attend.

"Chief Ranger Mark Davison is one hundred percent deserving of this outstanding tourism worker honor. We thank him for his exceptional leadership and collaboration with all tourism partners, events and visitors to the Colorado National Monument," stated Mistalynn Meyeraan, spokesperson for the Grand Junction Visitor & Convention Bureau.

Tourism is one of Colorado's most important industries. In 2014 Colorado set all-time records welcoming 71.3 million visitors to the state who spent \$18.6 billion and generated \$1.1 billion in tax revenue. The 2015 travel year research will be released in June 2016.

National Travel and Tourism Week — America's annual salute to travel and tourism — was established by a congressional resolution in 1983. The week of events serves to champion the power of the tourism industry across the United States.

VC Shop Adds Local Food Product



By CNMA Store Manager and Buyer Cherry Odelberg

What's new, delicious, sells like hotcakes, tastes great on hotcakes, is part of the history of the environs of Colorado National Monument and has a beautiful vintage label featuring Colorado National Monument? COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT PEACH JAM!

walls along Rim Rock Drive. The trainers are to assist in maintaining the historical masonry style used when the road was built in the 1930's.

The Monument's Resources Office houses a seismometer that recorded a small earthquake on Sunday 4/24. The epicenter of the quake is preliminarily estimated to be 27 km east to southeast of the Monument.

May Is a Great Month to See the Monument In Bloom

Indian Paintbrush pictured below.



A photo of the Monument by local photographer Donna Fullerton was selected for the cover of "NPS Centennial Photo Book". Quite an honor in itself, yet Donna was recently contacted by National Geographic to participate with 14 other photographers and a National Geographic editor in two Photo Walks May 24/25 in Yellowstone, celebrating the NPS's Centennial. Photo shoots are at Old Faithful and Mammoth Lakes.

"I've always dreamed of working for National Geo!" Donna said.

EXPLORE, LEARN, PROTECT

Junior Ranger Days were held on April 18th and 19th at Devil's

Monument Brand Peach Jam is a reminder of when Redlands farmers grew fruit in the shadow of Colorado National Monument and CCC enrollees ate canned food three meals a day. Yes, canned food of all types was brought in by truck to feed the road builders of Rim Rock Drive.

Peaches play such an important part in the history of Colorado National Monument. When President Taft visited the area on John Otto's urging, he met the Palisade Peach Queen and was presented bushels of Grand Valley fruit. He was the President credited with designating the Monument as protected Federal property, five years before the creation of the National Park Service.

You can read this lore in "Images of America Colorado National Monument" by Alan Kania. You can purchase and enjoy Colorado Monument Peach Jam at the Visitor Center store.



CLIFF FENDLERBUSH

By Judy Kennedy, U of A Master Gardener, CSU Master Gardener and Native Plant Master

(Editor's note - welcome back to newsletter contributor Judy, who winters in Arizona and is now back in the Grand Valley.)

I've enjoyed doing the research for this article about the Cliff Fendlerbush (*Fendlera rupicola*) since it is, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful flowering shrubs in this area. I have found it on both the Dugway and Monument Trails. It is a native, perennial, multi-branched shrub whose range is from Nevada to Colorado and from Texas to Arizona. Fendlerbush is a part of the Hydrangeaceae family and a relative of our "tame" Hydrangeas.

George Englemann and Asa Gray named this species in 1852 after Augustus Fendler (1813-1883) who was a respected 19th century collector of plants and who collected

Kitchen Picnic area. The Monument hosted 365 students from six schools.

Assisting the National Park Service were the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Mesa County Search and Rescue Ground and K-9 Teams.

The students met one of the county's -rescue dogs and pulled a rescue litter up a slope. They explored the BLM wildland fire engine and learned about the building of Rim Rock Road through artifacts in the Monument's collections. The students also discovered why a few of the the bighorn sheep in this area wear radio collars and how the animals survive in this desert environment. At the end of the day each student went home with their very own Junior Ranger badge.

April Visitor Comments on Trip Advisor about the Monument:

- "Beautiful Views, lovely area!"
- " Absolutely gorgeous and makes for a wonderful day. Take a picnic lunch and lots of photos. It is truly amazing and so peaceful, well maintained and a true natural wonder."
- "Breathtaking"
- "The trails, the views from Rimrock Rd, the visitor center, the friendly volunteers... We love everything about this beautiful gem!"

Trivia Answer:

Fort Jefferson - Dry Tortugas National Park.

for a few seasons in the southwest. Rupicola is latin for rock dweller

It also goes by the common name Mock Orange and can grow to 6 ½ feet. Showy, fragrant, single or small clusters of white or pink-tinged flowers grow at the end of short branches. The spoon shaped blooms cover the entire plant during its flowering time from March to July. New bark is a reddish-tan which becomes gray and shredded with age. The leaves are narrow, dark green and thick with rolled margins. The leaves have three prominent sunken veins and their attachment to the stem is alternate.

Fendlerbush thrives on dry rocky slopes of igneous or limestone soils where it can endure intense heat and considerable drought. Its deep roots grasp the soils and hold it in place. It often grows in association with junipers and mountain mahogany. The fruit is a four-celled capsule which looks “acorn like” and remains on the plant all year. Fendlerbush generally reproduces from the seeds that the capsule holds although it can be “cloned” via branch cuttings.

Navajo used a decoction of the bark to kill head lice, as a cathartic, and for Plumeway, Nightway, and Windway ceremonies. The Hopi also used it in various religious ceremonies. Fendlerbush provides excellent browse for goats, sheep, and deer. So, it has been and still is a valuable resource and a truly beautiful addition to the red rocks and canyons of the Colorado National Monument.



It's Camping Season!

We have an award winning campground in our own backyard! Monument's Saddlehorn Campground, adjacent to the Visitor Center, was acknowledged by *Sunset Magazine* as one of the 12 best campgrounds in the nation, based on its 82 secluded camping sites, privacy, fabulous

Fort Jefferson is one of the largest coastal forts ever constructed. U.S. military attention was drawn to the keys in the early 1800s due to their strategic location in the Florida Straits. Plans were made for a massive fortress and construction began in 1846, but the fort was never completed. The invention of the rifled cannon made it obsolete. As the military value of Fort Jefferson waned, its pristine reefs, abundant sea life, and impressive numbers of birds grew in value. In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt set aside Fort Jefferson and the surrounding waters as a national monument. The area was re-designated as Dry Tortugas National Park in 1992 to protect both the historical and natural features.

(Thanks to Dan Hallett, Chief of Maintenance, for this edition's trivia question!)

New and Renewed Memberships April

Silver - \$500 Business

Solvay Chemicals

Dakota - \$500 Individual

Charlie and Linda Eagler

Kayneta - \$100

Bruce and MaryAnn McBride
Wanda Putman

Wingate - \$50

Barb and Ed Chamberlain

views and superior night skies for star gazing.

Campground General Information from Arlene Jackson, Chief of Interpretation, Education and Community Outreach

General Information

Saddlehorn Campground is located near the Saddlehorn Visitor Center, four miles from the west entrance (near Fruita, CO) and is the only established campground within the monument.

- Campground fees are \$20 per night, per campsite. Holders of selected park passes may be eligible to receive a 50% discount on camping fees. In addition to camping fees, park entrance fees for non-pass holders apply. No refunds are given for camping fees.
- Campsite occupancy limits: Seven (7) persons per site, three (3) tents per site and two (2) vehicles per site. C-Loop allows one (1) vehicle per site. Maximum stay is 14 days.
- Restrooms are available with running water and flush toilets. No showers.
- Each site includes a picnic table, charcoal-only grill and a parking area. Wood fires are prohibited. Charcoal grills and campstoves are permitted.
- No electric, sewer or water hook-ups available. The nearest dump station is at the Colorado Welcome Center in Fruita.
- No generator use from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Pets are allowed at campsites but must be on a leash 6 feet or less and attended to at all times. Please pick up after your pet and place waste in garbage receptacles. Pets are allowed on paved surfaces but not on hiking trails.

Individual and Family Camping

- The campground is open year-round. During the months of March-October, reservations are accepted up to 6 months in advance via www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Reserved sites will have a colored tag attached to the numbered post in each campsite. Non-reserved sites are available on a first come-first served basis.
- Sites are suitable for tents and various sized recreational vehicles up to 40 feet in length.
- During the summer months, C-Loop is open for tents only.

Keith Cracraft
Richard Hecker
Mariann Landindi
Art Ryder
Fran Sloatman
Kenand Kathryn Stubler
Terry L. Wagner

Chinle - \$30

Cynthia Brown
Heather Cuffel-Conway and Ed Conway
Pete and Karen Dickes
MariAnn Fifield
David Guinnee
John Haseman
Shane and Megan Henry
Susan and Tom Hess
Karen Horton
Katharine Kierstead
Kim and Rick Krueger
Eileen Lepisto
Hamilton and Lise MacGregor
Ralph Marshall
Ken and Jean Mabery
Anne Murphy
Mary Needham
David and MM Odelberg
Donna and Bill Patterson
Liz Pray
John and Jean Rodwick
Andrea Shield
Neil and Kimberley Sitko
Will Taylor
John Trammell
Eileen Warner
Nancy Winne

[Visit our website](#)

Group Camping

- Information and reservations for campsites for large, organized groups is available at 970-858-3617, ext. 300.

[Website](#) [About](#) [Shop](#)

[Membership](#) [Contact](#)

Backcountry Camping

- Backcountry camping is available by obtaining a free permit from the visitor center.

