



Colorado National Monument Association

Join Us in Preserving Our National Treasure

June 2016

Rangers from Around the World Visit Colorado National Monument



By CNM Superintendent Ken Mabery

Prior to the International Ranger Congress in Estes Park, Colorado State University conducted a Field Class that included Colorado National Monument. Approximately 25 Rangers from 14 countries spent one day and two nights at the monument, including a field trip and two panel discussions. Participants represented parks in Africa, Australia and Indonesia.

The Colorado National Monument Association staff participated in two ways - prior to and following the first panel, the International Rangers shopped in the bookstore; and CNMA ED Marilee Langfitt participated in the second panel consisting of regional park partners such as Mesa Land Trust, and a Colorado State Parks Ranger.

Did You Know...

News from the Colorado National Monument

- Summer Visitor Center hours of 8am to 6pm will go in to effect June 18th
- **We've had several reports of a black bear with cubs west of 16.5 Road.** Please help keep the bears safe by securing all food and trash inside vehicles or in wildlife-proof garbage containers. Give special consideration to what you leave in the back of pickup trucks, including back-packs and coolers. Keep yourself safe by not getting between the bear and her cubs

Current Research and Eradication Projects within the Monument:

- The **Archeology Team** is collecting data for future interpretation and stewardship of the White Rocks Area.
- The **Exotic Plant Management strike team**

After Colorado National Monument, participants traveled to Arches, Mesa Verde, and Great Sand Dunes.

At the Congress, the CSU Facilitators and some of the Ranger participants volunteered that the Monument was the highlight of their tour.



Visitor Center Shop Adds Second Local Food Product

By CNMA Store Manager and Buyer Cherry Odelberg

Editor's note: Last month we introduced our first locally produced food item, Colorado National Monument Peach Jam, bearing an authentic Monument Peach crate label from the the days when peaches were grown extensively in the Redlands at the base of the Monument.

All products sold in the Visitor Center book and gift store must be pre-approved by Park Service administration to meet requirements that the product has educational value related to the Monument. This second item complies with the educational requirement.

Road Builders Coffee

Local Graphic Designer Amy Nuernberg designed the Road Builders logo for CNMA in 2003. Historian Denise Hight tells the story as follows:

'2003 was the 70th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Leroy Lewis (then aged 90, now since deceased) suggested that the Monument hold a 70 year celebration. Lewis was one of the CCC road builders at the Monument in the 1930s, and still lived locally in Grand Junction. There are photographs of him in the Road Builders brochure that is sold in the VC.

(EPMT) recently eradicating Yellow Sweet Clover in Ute and No Thoroughfare Canyons. They were led by the Vegetation Team and camping in Loop C during their stay.

- **Colorado Parks and Wildlife will continue bat surveys** at various locations in the park. Their team will be mist netting bats and recording vocalizations over the summer.
- **The Rocky Mountain Bird Conservancy** will be conducting early morning point count surveys in No Thoroughfare and Ute Canyons.

Star Gazing Event Cancelled in May Due to Weather Has Been Rescheduled



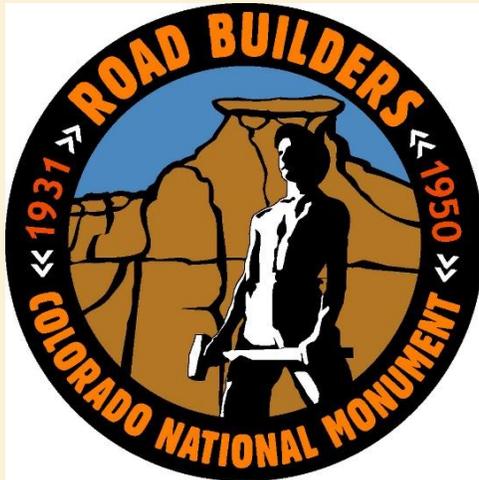
Star Gazing, No Fee,

Saturday, July 30th; 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Colorado National Monument

Join local astronomer, Danny Rosen, for a talk on star gazing. Danny will give a 20 minute talk on what

We followed up on his suggestion and held a wonderful event to celebrate the building of the road through Colorado National Monument. We called it the "Road Builders" celebration to include the other groups in addition to the CCC that helped build the road: John Otto, WPA - Work Progress Administration, Park Service employees and the Local Experienced Men – LEMs. As well as Lewis, there were about seven of the original road builders who attended. Since the Road Builders project was started in the Great Depression era 1930s, we wanted the 30s look in the logo.



As you enjoy a hot cup of coffee and the beautiful scenery, remember hundreds of young men rising before dawn, fortifying themselves with black camp kitchen coffee, and working by hand to make this geologic gem accessible to all.

The coffee is sold by the cup or bag in the Visitor Center.



Desert Indian Paintbrush

can be seen in the evening sky, with a look at planets, stars, constellations, star clusters, nebulae, and more! Weather permitting, viewing through telescopes provided by the Western Colorado Astronomy Club will be available to the public.

Meet in the Saddlehorn picnic area parking lot for Danny's presentation, to begin at 8:15 p.m. Telescope viewing will follow at dark. Bring lawn chairs and binoculars; please no white flashlights as it impedes telescope viewing, red lights acceptable. For more information on the WCAC, visit www.wcacastronomy.org

New and Renewed Memberships May

Entrada - \$250

Brian and Joyce Olson

Kayenta - \$100

Stan and Andrea Jones
Nancy and H. Glenn Martin
Susan and Jerry Norton
Joy and Tom Thyer

Wingate - \$50

Steve and Janet Graves
Mary Hawkins
Roberta Hettinger
Dennis and Karen Kiefer
Mickey and Lily Shanabarger
Don and Ruth Trowbridge
Mrs. Jean Waid

Chinle - \$30

Martha Harris and Dave Adams
Gary Hahn and Carolyn Bales
Chip and Susan Dehart
Robert J. Dowling
Denise and Steve Hight
Beki Hovet
Frank D. Huyler III
Brent Johnson
Brenda Keller
Ken and Alice Lauritzen

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

The grayish-green stems of this herbaceous perennial are usually about 6-16" tall. It's bright, it's colorful, it's desert Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*). Its alternate, lanceolate leaves grade into lobed flower bracts which are spiked clusters of inconspicuous, tubular green flowers tipped with a bright orange-red that is often mistaken for the flower petal. Blooming from April to September, the paintbrush is found on dry, bushy, or rocky hillsides among pines or sagebrush scrub. I found it on the Monument Trail. It is a native plant that is established in all states west of the Continental Divide.

Named because each stem is topped with bright red resembling a painter's brush, legend has it that paintbrushes sprang up where an Indian discarded his brushes after painting a colorful desert sunset. The designation *Castilleja* was named for Domingo Castillejo (1744-1793) a professor of botany in Cadiz, Spain. "Chrom" is Greek for "color" and botanist Aven Nelson named this species from a specimen he collected in 1898.

This partially parasitic plant attaches to other plants by means of root-like projections called haustoria which absorb water and food from the host. It makes only a portion of the nutrients that it requires through photosynthesis and parasitizes the roots of other plants for the rest of its food. Its roots grow into the soil until they touch roots of other plants such as sagebrush. They then penetrate the tissues of the host plant to steal its food.

Its family is Scrophulariaceae which also includes the snapdragons. The lance-shaped leaves clasp the stem alternately and are long, narrow and hairy. They are divided into three to five narrow spreading finger-like lobes. Stems can be simple or branched from the base. Leaves and stems of the plant have a dense covering of short, rather bristly hairs. Its stems are reddish-purple, and the leaves, while green in damp conditions, may also have a purplish cast, either just along the edges or all over.

Red paintbrush can be pollinated by butterflies, bumblebees, or hummingbirds which results in a fruit that is a two chambered capsule. There are two hundred species of Indian paintbrush in western North America and even an expert botanist can have trouble differentiating among them. So, don't worry about the details, just enjoy the plant.

However, if you feel you would enjoy our native plants if you knew more about and could identify them, please think about attending CSU Extension's Native Plant Master classes. They are held each spring in the Colorado National Monument (also at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and the Grand Mesa) and they are not only fun, but you will find yourself becoming even more interested in native plants and their habitat. .

Joan Karp
Brenda Keller
Janness and Nathan Niebauer
Danny Norris
John and Dawn Piatanesi
Larry and Linda Reed
Linda Reeves
Jerold Saef and Karen Bailis Saef
Don and Judy Schneider
Gayle L. Smith
David Steading
Judith Woodbury
Shannon Young
Don and Cathy Zippert.

A Primer on Bighorn Sheep

Excerpted from an article written for the *Boulder Daily Camera* by Jeff Mitton, a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado

After photographing landscapes at dawn, I was returning to my campsite at Colorado National Monument (CNM).

A flagger controlling traffic at a road repair site told me that I would be allowed to pass in a few minutes, so I got out of my vehicle and started a conversation with her. I am indebted to Ana Jarvis, for when I told her that I was doing photography, she walked me the 10 feet to the edge of the cliff and pointed out a herd of bighorn that was not visible from the road. Twenty-four desert bighorn were resting in the morning sun on a ledge. .

Bighorn sheep, are comprised of four subspecies. Sierra Nevada bighorn, Rocky Mountain bighorn named for the mountain ranges that they occupy. Mexican bighorn occupy southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Mexico and Desert bighorn occupy the Colorado Plateau and Great Basin. Rocky Mountain bighorn are in Rocky Mountain National Park

Mark Your Calendar for the CNMA Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 30th, Details are forthcoming.

We are looking for tax deductible donations for our Silent Auction. Please call [970 216-4596](tel:9702164596) if you are able to help.



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and desert bighorn are in Colorado National Monument .

With the exception of pictographs and petroglyphs of bighorn, no evidence places bighorn sheep in the last several centuries in either CNM or the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area (BRCWA) immediately to the west. Desert bighorn have historically occupied the area near the confluence of the Green and Yampa rivers, to the north.

Desert bighorn were established in CNM and BRCWA by three introductions, all taken from the area around Lake Mead..

At this time of year, bighorn are usually segregated into two types of herds. Adult males form small herds, and adult females, juveniles and lambs assemble into larger herds.

One of the females in a photo has a purple ear tag (No. 150) and a collar. Kim Hartwig from the National Park Service at CNM provided the information on sheep introductions, but she directed me to Stephanie Durno at Colorado Parks and Wildlife for information on Lady 150.

Lady 150 was one of three ewes tagged and collared in Devil's Canyon in January of this year to provide sentinels for disease outbreaks, major habitat shifts and to aid location of herds for annual surveys. Durno was surprised that Lady 150 had migrated to join a different herd since January. Annual surveys record gender ratios, diseases and other measures of health, and these data are used to compare the Black Ridge desert bighorn herd with the Dominguez-Escalante herd to the south.

