

# Friends of Lory State Park

## Spring Newsletter 2015

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Celebrating our 40th this summer! Come join the fun on July 11 at Lory State Park. See [Park Manager's letter](#) for details.

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*"I want all my senses engaged. Let me absorb the world's variety and uniqueness." -- Maya Angelou*



## President's Neck of the Woods



### Letter from the President

by Sarah Myers, President (2013-2015), FoLSP Board of Directors

I love Lory State Park for so many reasons. First of all, it's a beautiful park that's very accessible to Fort Collins and residents of northern Colorado. Second, Lory is both a destination and a training ground – a place to play, learn, explore, wander, wonder, and be curious about! The trails provide excellent launch pads for all kinds of adventures, whether biking, hiking, climbing, bird watching, or horseback riding, or just absorbing nature and recreating in the great outdoors.

I have been an avid outdoors woman my entire life, and credit my time at Lory with learning to be a strong and safe hiker. I learned to use a map and compass for the first time in my youth at Lory. When GPS technology became available, I learned to use my GPS device on the Lory trails.

Third, the flora and wildlife at Lory offer so much to study and be enthralled by. Over the winter, there were several sightings of bobcats at Lory, and there are numerous reports of mountain lions, black bears, coyote, fox, Abert's Squirrels, snakes, raptors, and songbirds. Learning about the natural surroundings at Lory abound.

That's why we're excited to announce the launch of our new "[Get the Kids Outside Environmental Education Scholarship Fund](#)." This funding opportunity, made possible by a generous donation and fundraising efforts, will enable children to experience learning in Lory Park with the Park Naturalist. Environmental literacy encourages stewardship and connects children with the outdoors so that they will know their environment and develop a greater appreciation for all nature has to offer. We will be actively pursuing grants and additional donations to make the Scholarship Fund sustainable for many years to come. Friends of Lory, a 501(c) (3) organization, gratefully accepts donations with the sole purpose of supporting Lory State Park.

Mark your calendars for Lory State Park's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! The Park was officially named in honor of CSU's Dr. Charles A. Lory, in May 1975. The Howard family sold the former ranch land to the State in 1967. Before that, the Kimmons family owned the land from 1891 and sold it to the Howards in 1897. Both of these names are preserved in the Park's history through the Kimmons Trail and the Howard Trail. In the Park's pre-historic times and as recently as the 1850s, Native Americans used the land for hunting, camping, and gathering food. Now today, the Park is a great place for all ages to play and enjoy nature.

This year will also see the grand reopening of the equestrian jump course, which was burned in the Galena Fire of 2013. Thanks to a generous grant from the Colorado State Parks Foundation, and to hundreds of volunteer hours by dedicated volunteers, we anticipate the equestrian course to be completed in September, 2015.

Additionally, there are plans underway for a redesign and update to the [Mountain Bike Park Corral](#). Thanks to grant funding from REI and with support of volunteers and our new partnership with the Overland Mountain Bike Club, we anticipate the

non-motorized bike park project to launch within a year, and ultimately be a prime destination for mountain biking for all ages and skill levels. Donations and additional grants will be sought to make this project a reality.

Thanks to a grant from Larimer County's Open Lands' Small Grants program, we received funding to help manage invasive plants at the Park. Continuing work and volunteer opportunities are available this spring-summer. What to help control invasives? Join the Lory Yanks, a volunteer weed pulling group to mechanically remove the offenders. Inquire at the Park Visitor Center about joining.

Speaking of volunteer opportunities, we have a lot of them and the community is welcome to volunteer! We have both short and long term volunteer openings. The Friends of Lory Board of Directors recently welcomed 5 new members, and is seeking additional Directors & Officers to serve 1-2 year terms. The Board is a fun group of dedicated volunteers who support the Park and work closely with Park Staff to achieve specific goals and projects. Additional FoLSP volunteer openings include: Membership Coordinator, Grant Writers, Event Organizers and Helpers, Photography Coordinator, Contributing Writers to our e-newsletter, Social Media volunteers, and Historian. Volunteers are needed for events (like our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in July and our Colorado Day Ice Cream & Music event in August); for the Environmental Education program (assisting EE programs at the Park and with the scholarship fund); and for trail and special projects work (like the equestrian course, the bike corral project, specific trail maintenance), and also helping at the Visitor Center. Interested in volunteering? Stop by the Visitor Center and talk to any of the Park Staff, or email FoLSP at [loryspfriends@gmail.com](mailto:loryspfriends@gmail.com) or leave a message at [\(970\) 235-2045](tel:(970)235-2045). You can also read more about our projects on our website at <http://loryfriends.org>.

Are you like me -- Do you love the Park? Join Friends of Lory! Supporting Friends of Lory also supports our community. Donations at every level are welcome. Join

us starting at \$15 for students, \$20 for seniors, \$25 for an individual, \$35 for families, and more giving options. FoLSP membership is tax deductible, and you will be supporting the great outdoors and lasting improvements to the Park. Join through our downloadable brochure at <http://loryfriends.org/join-us/> or stop by the Visitor Center. Join me in LOVING LORY State Park this year!

"One touch of nature makes all the world kin..." - John Muir, *Cruise of the Corwin*, 1917



## Fort Collins Celebrates 8th Annual Get Outdoors Day!

On Saturday, June 13th let Mother Nature know you appreciate her by coming to City Park in Fort Collins to celebrate the 8th Annual National Get Outdoors Day!

This annual event strives to reconnect the nation's youth with outdoor fun and healthy activities. By promoting early education and exciting outdoor exploration, National Get Outdoors Day inspires kids to learn about the world outside their window.

GOCO-NOCO will host a plethora of experts, exhibitors and volunteers, including a Lory State Park booth, sponsored by the Friends of Lory State Park. Sign up for a shift to volunteer-host at the LSP booth by contacting park naturalist Alicia Goddard at (970) 493-1623; or volunteer with GOCO-NOCO organizers by contacting Pam Mayhew, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Larimer County Natural Resources Volunteer Program at 970-619-4552.



**Canyon Wren**



**Rock Wren**

*Artwork by Susan Quinlan*

## Scenic Rocks--Amazing Birds

© Susan Quinlan

Most of us treasure the picturesque cliffs and rocky escarpments of Lory State Park for their scenic beauty. University of Northern Colorado professor, Dr. Lauryn Benedict, also values these rocky sites for the biodiversity they add to the landscape. Her research focuses on two closely related birds, which inhabit only the rockiest of habitats in the western U.S.: the Rock Wren and the Canyon Wren.

Even experienced birdwatchers need a good look (or listen) to differentiate these two small, brown bird species. They are similar in size, shape, coloration, nesting and food habits. What separates the two species and their habitat use? How do they interact and co-exist? What are their adaptations for living in rocky terrain? These and other questions have fueled a variety of continuing research projects for Dr. Benedict and her graduate students, in Lory State Park and elsewhere along the Front Range, over the past four years.

"Some clear differences exist in the two species' habits," says Benedict. For one

thing, Rock Wrens are migrants, while Canyon Wrens are year-round residents with mated pairs maintaining year-round territories. Rock Wrens just begin returning in early April while Canyon Wrens begin courtship and territorial singing in early March. Rock Wrens use a variety of crevices on cliffs and amidst boulders and rocky rubble, while Canyon Wrens nest almost exclusively in cliff-crevices. Consequently, Rock Wrens are fairly common throughout rocky habitats of the park (in summer), while Canyon Wrens are uncommon and restricted to cliffside habitats. (Benedict says Santanka Cove and the Shoreline Trail are good places to observe both species.)

Both wren species build nest cups of woven grass inside their nesting crevices, but only Rock Wrens build elaborate stone paved entrances, Benedict reports. A skilled observer can learn to spot Rock Wren nests just by looking for the distinctive stone pile entrances. Intrigued by this curious stone-collecting behavior, which is highly unusual among birds--known in less than .3% of birds worldwide--Benedict and her collaborator, Nat Warning wanted to learn more.

During many hours of careful observation of marked birds, they observed only female Rock Wrens carrying stones to nesting sites. Once the nesting season was over, Warning undertook the tedious task of counting, measuring and weighing all the stones collected in and around 42 nest sites. They learned that each female Rock Wren had carried an average 222 stones weighing (in total) an average 560 gms. About a third of the nests examined contained over 700 gm of stones and one nest was paved by 1.4 kg of stones! That is about the equivalent of a 100-pound woman lugging 7,700 lbs of bowling ball sized rocks!

Why do these tiny birds go to all that trouble? The answers aren't entirely clear, but research by Warning and Benedict suggests the rock paving helps reduce the nest entrance size, may reduce water intrusion into nests, and most intriguingly, may enhance or alter the sounds made by an approaching predator, possibly

giving an incubating female more time to escape.

Another difference between the two wren species that particularly fascinates Benedict is the contrast in their singing behaviors. The unforgettable descending whistle call of the Canyon Wren is an iconic sound of western canyons. Far fewer people recognize the much more variable and melodious songs of a Rock Wren.

Benedict says Canyon Wrens sing only five different song types while an individual Rock Wren may have 35 to 100 different song types. Why do Rock Wrens use so many different songs while Canyon Wrens use so few? And what do the different songs and calls of the two species mean? These are just a few of the ecological mysteries Benedict is still working to unravel through her field work.

To learn more about this scientist's work and listen to some of her recordings of the songs and calls of both wren species, visit her website:

<http://www.unco.edu/biology/lbenedict/research.html> You can help Benedict learn more about these wrens and their ecology by posting your observations of either species at [ebird.org/](http://ebird.org/) or emailing her directly at <[Lauryn.Benedict@unco.edu](mailto:Lauryn.Benedict@unco.edu)>

And next time you enjoy the rocky landscape of Lory State Park, remember to look for these fascinating little birds that make their homes amidst those scenic rocks.

## Lory State Park: A Spiritual Experience

Photo and article by Stephen Hatch



For the past twenty years or so, I've followed a schedule that allows me to visit Lory State Park three or four days out of every week. Sandwiched in between my work commitments is a two or three hour period of time spent in the Park. A large part of that time is, of course, spent hiking. As I move along the trail, I find my attention expanding to take in the feast of natural beauty spread out before me. My favorite destinations include the highest promontory on the Westridge Trail, the Arthur's Rock Trail, and – when I don't have as much time available – the Well Gulch Loop.

However, my activities at Lory involve much more than hiking. Time spent in silence and quiet meditation is a large part of what I do while in the Park. For example, in the wintertime, I enjoy trekking up to a rock ledge on the south side of Arthur's Rock. Even on a sunny day with temperatures in the low teens at the parking lot, the thermometer on my backpack often registers in the upper 40s up on that ledge. Once seated amidst red feldspar chips, a few clumps of sagebrush and fuzzy miner's candle, I begin by reading a few pages from an inspirational book, followed by twenty minutes of meditation and a half-hour of journaling.

Because I work as an adjunct professor one day a week, I often grade papers up on that ledge as well. I tease my students that it's important for me to grade their papers when I'm in the best mood possible, which always occurs when I'm in the Great Outdoors.

I've structured my lifestyle so I can give ample time and attention to the contemplative dimension, seeking the ultimate purpose and meaning of life. Time spent in Nature, I've found, is the ideal way to do this. In the rich silence radiating from the Park's landscapes of ruddy rock, forests of ponderosa pine, pegmatite peaks, trickling streams and wide-open skies, I discover that *I am Listened-to*. For the silence of Nature is never a mere absence of sound. Rather, it is continually permeated by a sacred Listening that never fails to awaken my own creative imagination. Within that listening Silence, I discover new ideas, insights and metaphors that continually revolutionize my understanding of life.

For me, time spent in the Park generally involves quite a bit of solitude, which helps align my mind and heart with more cosmic perspectives. To this end, I love climbing up to a ridge top and gazing across Horsetooth Reservoir at downtown Fort Collins. From up on that ridge, amidst piney air, colorful wildflower meadows and cheerful songbird calls, town-life appears so small and insignificant! Such is the gift of Lory State Park.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." - John Muir,  
*The Yosemite*, 1912.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike."  
- John Muir, *The Yosemite*, 1912.



## Every Picture Tells a Story:

### Capturing Images of Lory's Wildlife

by Britton Holsinger and Jessica Muschong, FRCC students

As part of its mission to promote wild cat conservation through research and community stewardship, the Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy, RMCC, has sponsored wildlife cameras at Lory State Park since 2010.

Although the cameras are owned and maintained by RMCC, as part of the organization's educational outreach program, Front Range Community College (FRCC) environmental science students check the cameras once a week on their own time and use the photos to learn about native wildlife and explore the scientific method as part of their classwork.

This agreement with FRCC is part of the Communities, Cameras, and Conservation program launched by RMCC as a mountain lion research and ecology program with a focus on field research and technology. The photo data retrieved is added to a science database overseen by the RMCC and shared with other wildlife researchers. Students gain experience in field work and use data from the photo captures to prepare their own scientific research projects for class.

"This project has provided students with hands-on experience monitoring wildlife using non-invasive camera technology. Not only are we learning about the presence and movements of mountain lions, but all of the wildlife using the park. This information informs us about how to manage and conserve this important resource within an area that also provides a beautiful recreation experience for people," said Barbara Patterson, FRCC Professor of Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources. "Students in the wildlife biology class, honors students, and work-study students all participate in this project. They work with wildlife professionals, learn how to write technical research articles, and to make recommendations to park management based on the results."

Although the mountain lion is one of the top three predators in North America, along with the grizzly bear and the wolf, few studies have been conducted on this keystone species. Mountain lions, also called cougars or pumas, are elusive animals that face a future of decreasing habitat and direct competition with civilization in the new urban/wildland interface. With the information collected from the Lory State Park cameras and several other camera projects sponsored by the RMCC throughout the Rocky Mountain Region, the non-profit group hopes to educate the public about the importance of this species to a balanced ecosystem and offer ways to achieve peaceful coexistence.

There are a total of eight cameras in the greater Lory State Park area, four "lower" cameras and four "upper" cameras." Three of the four lower cameras are situated near the main park road, but off-trail and in somewhat secluded spots, with one near the Arthur's Rock trail. Unfortunately, being so near the busy main road with a lot of human traffic, these lower cameras capture little mountain lion activity. The four upper cameras, placed in more remote areas of the park, have regularly captured photos of at least three mountain lions, a mother and two kittens.

Students hike the circuit of cameras to retrieve memory cards, check or change batteries, reset the cameras and keep the view clear of brush. They also record signs of wildlife—scat, tracks, recent kills—and environmental disturbances in their research logs. The information gathered onsite, out of range of the camera view, is also valuable data that may explain what is seen in the photo captures.

While the focus of the camera project at Lory State Park is mountain lion research, student researchers have gathered images of mule deer, wild turkey, elk, bobcat, rabbit, coyote, and fox, as well as the ever-present morning marathon runner. These images are also important to research, recording which native fauna share the area, how healthy it is, how they interact, and how habitats change. To see images from the Lory State Park cameras, visit the FoLSP website <http://www.loryfriends.org>; or the park website <http://www.cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Lory>.

It is amazing how much wildlife exists just a few miles from a city with a population of over 100,000. With this increasingly close proximity, encounters with wildlife are becoming more common. For this reason, people must become more aware and educated about how to balance a shared existence; and be more vigilant and hospitable in everyday interaction with wildlife. Fortunately, images captured by these cameras show the natural world to those who would otherwise be oblivious of the wild kingdom in our backyard.

For more information about the FRCC project, contact Barbara Patterson, Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources Program at Front Range Community College at [\(970\) 204-8310](tel:(970)204-8310), or e-mail [Patterson@frontrange.edu](mailto:Patterson@frontrange.edu).

For information about Communities, Cameras, and Conservation contact Don Hunter or Caroline Krumm at <http://www.catconservancy.org>, where you can also sign up for a two day mountain lion field seminar, June 20 and 21; OR call Caroline Krumm at [\(970\) 215-3759](tel:(970)215-3759) or e-mail [ckrumm@yahoo.com](mailto:ckrumm@yahoo.com).



## **Get the Kids Outside Environmental Education Scholarship**

**By Alicia Goddard, Park Naturalist**

Thank you to the Friends of Lory State Park and all the donors who made the official launch of our Get the Kids Outdoors Scholarship possible. Visions do not become reality without a creative, thoughtful, and resourceful community. My great appreciation to all those who have made this vision a reality.

We are now accepting applicants for our Get the Kids Outdoors Scholarship. It is hard to believe that some children grow up in the shadows of beautiful natural areas such as Lory State Park, yet never get the chance to visit. Without being out in nature, they cannot learn about the land set aside for their enjoyment and that of future generations. The best stewardship of our environment comes from firsthand knowledge of wild places. To give more children access to outdoor environmental education, the FoLSP developed this scholarship to help economically disadvantaged children represented by various non-profit organizations, including public schools, bring youth to Lory State Park for field trips.

When students arrive at Lory, they are encouraged to explore the park through our many environmental education programs which are age-appropriate and meet state

learning standards. Park staff and volunteers lead these proven programs so students can gain direct outdoor experience. They acquire firsthand knowledge of the park's ancient geologic history, dating back 1.6 to 1.8 billion years, and learn about ecosystems and habitat. The land rising from the prairies to the mountains above Lory is unique in that it preserves transitional zones that allow for varied habitats and a diversity of animals. Lory's native wildlife varies from mountain lions and bears to raptors, lizards and snakes, birds, butterflies and bees. During wildlife programs, students see and touch animal pelts and paw prints, making the day special and memorable.

Lory wouldn't have such diverse wildlife without its diverse plant life. Students experience the smell of wild sage and the vanilla scent of ponderosa pine bark and see firsthand the beauty of the sand lily and the exquisitely-shaped seeds of mountain mahogany.

Incorporated into field trips are lessons on skills such as map reading, compass and GPS use and, occasionally, advanced subjects such as ecology, wildland fire, conservation and stewardship. Students learn about the park's rich history by rediscovering the stories of Native Americans who hunted Lory's lands, and early settlers who homesteaded here.

Getting outdoors and pursuing an active lifestyle has great health and mind benefits, including improved attention spans, creative thinking, less obesity, greater lung capacity, and a sense of well-being. Environmental education helps build critical thinking skills and fosters leadership qualities. It makes other school subjects rich and relevant, teaches kids to be real-world problem solvers, helps students become self-directed learners, and gets them excited about learning.



**\*Who can apply:**

Eligible applications for the outdoor education scholarship must meet the following criteria:

1. Applicants must schedule a program with our outdoor educator. To schedule a visit, email [dnr\\_loryinterp@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_loryinterp@state.co.us) and state you are applying for this scholarship.
2. If you have a proposed project, it must include an outdoor environmental education activity at Lory State Park. (If the project involves research, a research permit must be completed and approved prior to applying for the scholarship)
3. The organization requesting the scholarship must be non-profit.
4. The application must support the mission of Colorado State Parks and Wildlife.
5. Preference is given to applicants in the Northern Colorado area based on need.

If awarded this scholarship, a completion report is requested within 30 days after the field trip. The report should include a description of the actual field trip including the number of teachers, parent volunteers, and students, as well as learning outcomes achieved and state standards met.

\* Maximum scholarship amount is \$500.

\* Maximum number of people per trip is 120.

\* Scholarship deadlines are March 31st for Spring or August 31st for Fall.

For an application and a complete brochure about our Get the Kids Outside Scholarship, please contact our park naturalist at [dnr\\_loryinterp@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_loryinterp@state.co.us). Tax-deductible donations can be made to support the scholarship fund. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

## **Corral Center Mountain Bike Skills Park to be Revitalized**

**By Mick Syzek, Volunteer Coordinator**

Lory State Park is a very popular regional mountain bike destination for people who live in and visit Colorado's Northern Front Range area. Annually we have well over 20,000 mountain bike visitors who experience our trail system, which includes the Corral Center Mountain Bike Skills Park, a unique and special feature at Lory. The Bike Park was originally built as a corral for the equine concessionaire Double Diamond Stables, active from 1986 to about 2006. With help from local volunteers, the Corral Center was then converted into a beginner Mountain Bike Park for kids and adults to practice and hone their skills for trail riding.

Lory partners with local, regional, and national groups to host mountain bike races and events throughout each year. Race events include "40 in the Fort" sponsored by the Overland Mountain Bike Club (<http://www.overlandmtb.org>), the "Lory X-Terra Triathlon" managed by Without Limits Productions (<http://www.withoutlimits.co>) , and the "Lory Mountain Challenge", a weekly late- summer series of youth mountain bike races sponsored and managed by Ciclismo Youth Foundation (<http://www.ciclismyouthfoundation.org>). The Overland Mountain Bike Club also sponsors "Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day" to introduce youth to the outdoor rewards of recreational mountain biking on soft surface trails. All of these events use the Corral Center Mountain Bike Park, many staging starts and finishes at this central location.

Although still quite popular, the Bike Park needs substantial updating and renovation. Drainage issues from several notable rain events over the years have compromised the dirt jumps and loop track. The wooden structural features were deemed unsafe due to age, weathering, and deterioration. In September of 2013, REI volunteers and crew members from the Larimer County Conservation Corps

(<http://www.larimerworkforce.org>) removed the structures. Park management and the Friends of Lory State Park have researched current features of bike parks that appeal to the mountain biking community. We envision a highly sustainable facility to minimize ongoing maintenance needs. It will include tiered or progressive loops, courses, and features that all ages and most levels of bikers will be able to enjoy and build their skills. The newly remodeled Bike Skills Park will serve as a great training area leading to safer and more enjoyable adventures on the numerous and varied trails at Lory.

With planning and redesign underway, fundraising efforts have begun. Volunteers are needed for this phase of the project. Contact the Friends of Lory State Park at [loryspfriends@gmail.com](mailto:loryspfriends@gmail.com) if interested in participating on our Project Committee. There will also be a need for field volunteers during various later phases of installation, so get on our email, Facebook, or Twitter lists, and stay tuned for more news and updates!



Photo of unknown equestrian sailing over a barrel jump; designers are considering installing one or two at Lory, with barrels donated from our friends at Odell Brewing Company.

## **Half Finished: 24 New Equestrian Jumps in Place, Course Open to Public**

**By Mick Syzek, Volunteer Coordinator**

In January of 2014, the Friends of Lory State Park with Lory Park staff and volunteers began to rebuild the more than 50 wooden equestrian jumps in the South Valley Loop area of the Park that were destroyed by the Galena Fire of March 15, 2013. Equestrians are already taking advantage of the new jumps! The Foundation for Colorado State Parks bestowed grant funds of \$8,000 towards the reconstruction efforts. This allowed the Park to hire James Atkinson out of San Diego, a course designer and equestrian jumps builder with international experience, to help us construct portable replacement jumps according to specifications from the United States Eventing Association (USEA).

Lory State Park was able to purchase finished and raw log lumber material from insurance monies received as a result of the fire. James and NOCO local Dan Michaels led several workshops throughout the year, culminating in placing the last of 24 finished jumps onto the field course in late August 2014. Volunteers organized and scheduled by the Friends of Lory State Park devoted many afternoons and weekends to construct, assemble, stain the jumps, help place them in the field, and weed-whack the approaches to the jumps.

Key Volunteer Glen Akins kept track of construction sketches, diagrams, and drawings of all the various jump styles built. Members of the CSU English Riding Club organized by Tiare Santisteven, and the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) led by Dan Williams, were key to volunteer efforts to completely clean out the charred wood remains, nails, and bolt hardware from the burned jump locations. Boy Scout Josh Knebel organized the volunteer construction of two complex portable jumps for his Eagle Project. We are currently working to get all the pictures and videos of volunteers, as well as jumpers on the course, uploaded or at least linked to the Friends website.

We are now close to halfway complete with the entire project, and existing jumps are open to the public. Starting in May we will be posting scheduled afternoon and weekend workdays. Watch for the SignUpGenius web link on our website, [loryfriends.org](http://loryfriends.org). We are scheduling two full weeks from June 7-21 that we will be offering volunteer opportunities daily. We plan to continue constructing jumps throughout the summer as needed to complete another 25 or more. Ideally, we have asked James and Dan to return one or two more times towards the end of the summer to help with jump placement in the field (dates TBD). AND - mark your calendars - ***the grand reopening and official dedication of the course is now scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2015!*** We hope you will make plans to attend and ride with your equine friends!



L to R: Park Resource Technician Cameron Landis; Park Ranger Dan Sprys; Volunteer Jim Boyd; and LSP Park Manager Larry Butterfield

## After Four Years, Volunteer Jim Boyd "Retires"

**Photo and article by Karen Wheeler**

On Jan. 27, the staff and management of Lory State Park said a fond farewell to one of the park's most dedicated and respected volunteers. For the past four years, rain or shine, heat-wave or snow flurries, Jim Boyd has driven the 20 miles from his home north of Wellington, Colo., two days a week to arrive at the Lory State Park Visitor's Center at 7:30 a.m. prepared for whatever the day might bring. His quiet, cheerful presence became a fixture at the window, selling park passes, hunting and fishing licenses, boat registrations, and providing information to visitors about Colorado's State Parks.

"It's been a real pleasure," Boyd said during a farewell party held in his honor. "I

just didn't think it would be four years! I can't say enough good things about the staff and their exceptional commitment to making this park the very best it can be."

Boyd began volunteering with Lory State Park in January, 2011, after noticing the Visitor's Center was often closed when he came to run the trails. Chatting with newly-appointed Park Manager Larry Butterfield, he discovered that Butterfield was between full-time rangers and running the park alone, so he simply offered to help. The rest is history.

"Jim has been reliable, consistent, and an important force for keeping the Visitor's Center running," said Butterfield. "He did whatever needed to be done. He also brought life experience and an amazing knowledge of computer systems and digital engineering that has been invaluable to us."

#### **'That's a job for Jim'**

Boyd was instrumental in helping set up many of the park's front office systems, repair interactive interpretive programs in the Visitor's Center, and other "minor" jobs like resetting and syncing the new photocopier to the front office computers.

The phrase "that's a job for Jim" was invoked anytime a computer or electronic device failed or a software system or user's manual needed explaining.

"We have lots of stories about Jim 'saving the day,'" said Park Resource Technician Cameron Landis. "And Jim has lots of great stories about the park."

#### **Most Memorable Moment: The Cowboy in the Park**

Boyd has many fascinating park stories, but his favorite is about the cowboy and his two horses found camping by a cove in the park. The man had traveled to Colorado from Wisconsin on horseback seeking ranch work. Along the way, he asked to camp at farms or ranches where he might rest and graze his horses. He never asked for handouts, but people happily shared food for both the man and his horses.

"He was a soft-spoken man, reticent about sharing his story. I was impressed by his independence, sincerity, and genuineness. Everything he owned in this world was

packed on those two horses. He wasn't riding for a cause or to hype a product. He was just living honestly, his own way. When we explained he couldn't camp in the park, we opened local maps and pointed out likely places he could look for work and the best and the safest route to get there."

### **From Nuclear Submarines to Computers**

Jim and his sister grew up all over the world, thanks to his dad serving in the United States Air Force. Camping, hunting and fishing were regular features of his childhood and later, trail running, bicycling, skiing and hiking. Although he first considered a Forest Service career, Boyd joined the Navy shortly out of high school for the educational opportunities and was recruited into the Nuclear Submarine program where he spent six years. After leaving the service, he continued to work for the Navy as a contractor performing quality evaluation of underwater weapons systems, and then joined a private, underwater research group as a submarine pilot.

When technology advanced from electronics to computers, Boyd saw the future and joined Computab, a private company that processed computing projects for large corporations before computers became standard office equipment. Boyd rose to vice president and director of Computab before leaving to join IBM as the large systems specialist for Hawaii and the Far East.

Transferred to Colorado in 1990 to support United Airlines Reservation System, Boyd then moved to outsourcing when IBM began to acquire banks. When it came time to retire, the Boyds decided to stay in Colorado.

"I have been fortunate to have worked all over the world, but we love the beauty of Colorado and we love the community," Boyd said. "We decided to stay."

Everyone who has worked or visited Lory State Park over the past four years and had the good fortune to meet Jim Boyd would agree it was a great decision.

# Park Manager's Update

By Larry Butterfield



Hello Lory State Park visitors and supporters! I hope you all have had the chance to get out and enjoy the variety of weather we've had over the past few months. 2015 started quickly for us with plenty of activities lined up for the new year. We have our regular events scheduled along with a few others, so take a minute to review the list below of upcoming exciting outdoor opportunities in the park.

## 2015 SCHEDULE of EVENTS

May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Quad Rock Endurance Trail Race
May 30th	X-Terra Triathlon
TBD	Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day
June 27th	40 in the Fort
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lory State Park 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary!
August 3rd	Colorado Day (Concert)
August 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25th	Lory Mountain Challenge
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Black Squirrel Half Marathon
October Date TBD	Equestrian Jump Course Grand Opening!
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Open House

## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lory State Park**

In 1967 the State of Colorado purchased ranch land formerly owned first by the Kimmons family, and then the Howard family. On May 7<sup>th</sup> 1975, the park was named and dedicated in honor of Dr. Charles A. Lory (1872-1969), president of Colorado State University from 1909 until 1940. Dr. Lory was instrumental in the growth of CSU along with being a huge supporter of the Big Thompson Water Project.

May 7th is the actual 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lory becoming a state park, but will celebrate our anniversary on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July from 9 AM- 3 PM. The day of celebration will include a small “carnival” atmosphere with a lot of fun outdoor activities in collaboration with many of our partners. The Friends of Lory State Park plans to provide live music and a food vendor, as well. We are very excited to celebrate Lory's past and future with everyone who enjoys this wonderful place.

## **Progress Report**

A little more than 2 years ago we lost 10 multi-use bridges and 52 equestrian jumps in the Galena Fire. We partnered with Friends of Lory, Overland Mountain Bike and many others who donated time and money to rebuild all 10 bridges in an astonishing 6-week period.

After the bridges were completed, Friends of Lory State Park applied for funding from the Foundation for Colorado State Parks (FoCSP) to rebuild the equestrian course. FoCSP is also non-profit, and since inception, has greatly supported all 42 Colorado State Parks. As with the bridges, our insurance paid for materials, but we lacked the knowledge to build the jumps. Dan Michaels with Boulder Valley Eventing Club,

(<http://www.bvea.org>) a Longmont-based equestrian sporting group, knew of a professional equestrian jump builder and course designer, James

Atkinson. Working closely with me, Diana Dwyer and others from FOLSP wrote the best proposal possible for funds to hire Atkinson to assist us in rebuilding the jumps.

The Foundation's funding was put to very good use as we worked closely with several partners rebuild and place a variety of jumps in the South Valley area of the park. Atkinson, who has designed, built and placed jumps all over the country, came out from San Diego, CA to advise on construction and placement of the jumps and train our volunteers in building methods. After mastering the building techniques, our volunteer work force held work days throughout the spring and summer, completing a large number of jumps. Periodically, Atkinson returned to locate and stake them in place. Boy Scout Josh Knebel worked with FoLSP Volunteer Coordinator Mick Syzek to build two additional jumps, completed in September. Since January 2014, 25 jumps have been built and placed. Our 2-year goal is to have all 52 completed and in place by October, 2015, when we plan to celebrate with a grand opening and recognize all who have contributed on this tremendous project.

Our next project will be the Corral Center Mountain Bike Park. Friends of Lory "master grant writer" Diana Dwyer successfully obtained a \$3,000 grant for planning and redevelopment of the bike park. The past 8 years have taken their toll on the bike skills park. Volunteer coordinator Mick Syzek is leading the charge to raise funds, develop a sustainable plan, and hire a qualified contractor to carry out the work. This project has a lot of potential and the entire staff is excited to work closely with FoLSP to see it through to completion.

Have a wonderful spring, and enjoy Lory Park as often as possible!



## Meet Dan Sprys, New Ranger at Lory State Park

Photo and Article by Dan Sprys

Hello Friends of Lory!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Dan Sprys, and I am the new ranger here at Lory. I most recently transferred from Lake Pueblo State Park, in southern Colorado, where I managed the campground program. I am excited to start a new adventure at a natural resources and trails-based park. I most look forward to exploring and getting to know my new home here in Fort Collins! A little about myself:

- I have a degree from Central Michigan University in Park and Recreation Management.
- I am an avid fly fisherman, so on my days off you are most likely to find me exploring the new rivers in this area.
- My girlfriend Kelsey and I have two energetic dogs, Sullivan and Aspen, so you may run into us out on the trails at Lory.

I look forward to working closely with all of you to keep Lory the beautiful park that it is today. Stop in or call if you have any questions for me, otherwise I will see you out and about!



## Meet Lory State Park's New Ranger Intern: Michael DeKuiper

**Photo and article by Karen Wheeler**

New ranger intern Michael DeKuiper will become a familiar face at Lory State Park from January through October.

From Fremont, Michigan, DeKuiper started college at Central Michigan University as a pre-law major but a summer in West Virginia leading white water rafting trips opened his eyes to a whole new career. When he returned to school that fall, he switched his major to Outdoor Recreation and has not looked back.

"I just love being outdoors. It's where I'm most comfortable and I am pretty sure my family of doctors and lawyers envy my career choice," DeKuiper chuckled.

Last year, he served a ranger internship at Sylvan Lake State Park near Eagle, Colo., and enjoyed every minute of it. He's looking forward to experiencing Lory, which offers a menu of outdoor activities very different from Sylvan Lake  
(<http://www.cpw.state.co.us/placetogo/parks/SylvanLake>)

DeKuiper says he wanted to join the park service to "make a difference in the community" and believes his work as a ranger will do that: serving the community by protecting the resources, the wildlife, and the people who appreciate the natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities offered by state parks.



## **Meet Nicole Sedgeley, Visitor Services Technician**

**Photo and article by Karen  
Wheeler**

Nicole Sedgeley is a fourth generation Colorado native from Golden, Colo., whose parents imparted a love of the outdoors to her and her brother at an early age. Mom, a nurse-practitioner, and dad, a mechanical engineer with Coors Brewing Company, made most family trips outdoor adventures that included hiking, biking, camping and skiing.

Nicole loved the outdoors so much she decided to make a career of it, earning a Bachelor of Science with Honors in wildlife biology from Colorado State University, and is currently working on a master's degree in science education.

Nicole has worked as an interpretive ranger at Yellowstone National Park and Rocky Mountain National Park, and at Zion National Park as a biological science technician doing small mammal research. Now, she looks forward to a busy and interesting season at Lory State Park, learning about the native flora and fauna and interacting with park visitors of all ages to ensure that they have a positive experience in the park.

"I love working with people, encouraging them to explore, enjoy, and understand nature and to take care of our wonderful natural resources," Nicole said. "Especially kids. After all, they are the future stewards of our beautiful planet."



## **Meet Andrew Nave and Caitlin Leslie, Lory State Park Hosts for 2015**

**Photo and article by Karen  
Wheeler**

Andrew Nave and Caitlin Leslie have joined the Lory State Park team as volunteer park hosts for the 2015 season.

Both come from the Philadelphia area in Pennsylvania, and grew up enjoying and exploring the outdoors; both have experience in outdoor recreation, environmental education and wilderness training.

Andrew began his work life as a physical trainer and therapist, but chose a career in graphic design and marketing and currently works freelance in the antiques and auction industry. He has also worked as a wilderness guide with meetup.com and for Discover Outdoors, as well as volunteered as a trail ambassador for Wissahickon Park in Pennsylvania, and taught forestry to kids in Maine for a summer.

Caitlin has a nursing degree and is a certified emergency room nurse who has worked as a traveling nurse for various corporations from Maine to Virginia, Arizona, and Colorado. She has her certification in Advanced Wilderness Life Support.

The couple believes strongly in living simply, following an ecologically sound, sustainable lifestyle and enjoying and protecting the beauty of nature. They both look forward to an exceptional summer season at Lory State Park, getting to know the Northern Colorado area and its unique landscape and wildlife.

"We enjoy the park and all that it offers," the couple explained. "Working as volunteer hosts allows us to give back while learning more about the field of outdoor recreation

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