

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

612 Royal Gorge Blvd. Cañon City, Co. | 719-269-9036

## Contact your board of directors for more information

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Kris Dittmar- Vice

Paula McFarland- Treasurer

Jim Nelson- Secretary

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Paula McFarland - Newsletter

Terri Meeks - Newsletter

Ann Zielinski - Activities

719-269-9036

[www.fremontheritage.com](http://www.fremontheritage.com)

## Memberships to the Museum

Become a member to support  
our history & history to come.

Individuals cost is \$10.00

Couples cost is \$15.00

Families cost is \$20.00

Organizations cost is \$25.00

Life members cost is \$150.00

Friends of the Museum &  
History Center, P.O. Box 481,  
Cañon City, CO 81215-0481

## Paleo to the People

In response to the enthusiasm generated by the find of the Jurassic tibia and fibula of a giant sauropod, the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center and the Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS) will be hosting an all-day fossil symposium on Saturday, May 20 from 9:00-4:00 at the Steeple Event Center, 701 Macon Avenue.

Planned speakers and presentations include:

**Joshua Broussard** (BLM) and **Jana McKeeman** (WIPS lab director) - "The discovery, extraction and prepping of the two fossils"

**Dan Grenard** (retired BLM) - "Marshall Felch, 1800s quarry excavator"

**Melissa Smeins** (BLM) - "Garden Park National Natural Landmark, 150th year"

**Jim McKeeman** (WIPS) - "Dr. Ken Carpenter's work; Marsh and Cope in Garden Park"

**Registration \$10** - You may register and reserve your spot for the symposium at the museum, Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00-4:00.

There will be a mid-day break for participants to enjoy lunch.

*Contributed by Cindy Smith*

## History in the Making

**Morning Line** - Remember to tune in to 1400 KRLN the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month to hear news, stories and information from the museum.

**Community Coffee and Conversation** - Watch the museum's calendar to join the conversation about Cañon City's history, its buildings and institutions.

**Virtual Genealogy Classes** - Join us for our Zoom genealogy sessions on March 11 "Just Google It!", April 8 "Investigating Causes of Death" and May 13 "Citizenship and Naturalization". All presentations are at 9:00. Registration can be completed via the museum's calendar

Follow the museum's activities on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/canoncitymuseum).

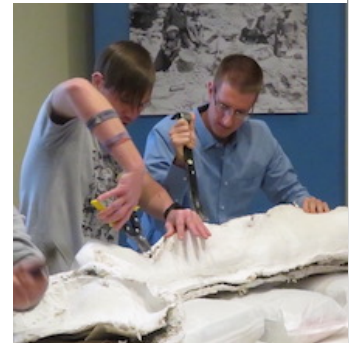
If you are interested in viewing photos from the museum's collection, follow us on instagram at rgrmhmc.

Check the museum's calendar for the schedule of all activities, registration and waiver forms.

<https://museum.canoncity.org>

## Keeping It Local

Now that the unveiling hoopla has settled down, the work has begun. Over 450 people attended the opening of the plaster jackets on Saturday January 20 to reveal the fibula and tibia of a sauropod. I had the opportunity that day to have a short talk with Chad McCarty, discoverer of this find. While looking for geodes, he recognized a circular patch different in color and composition than the surrounding rocks and soil. He contacted the local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office and the rest is now history.



That day we were not shown the two broken parts of the astragalus, the larger of two dinosaur ankle bones. This too is an important discovery as along with the smaller calcaneum, it might help to distinguish exactly the type of sauropod.

Cindy Smith,  
Director of  
the Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS) indicated that the cracks that are visible along the fibula probably occurred post-mortem perhaps when stepped upon by another dinosaur.



Volunteers from WIPS have been coming each Friday and Saturday to work on cleaning and preparing the fossils for exhibit and to teach the public about the science of paleontology and preservation techniques. Much of the cleaning work on the upper surfaces has been completed and stabilization of the fossils is ongoing. *(continued)*



As of the beginning of March, preparation is under way to turn the fossils. A one fourth inch layer of archival foam will be sculpted to fit over the top of each fossil so that an archival cradle can be structured to support each. Cleaning of the undersides will then continue. Don't miss this unique opportunity share in the experience.

## Friends Annual Meeting

Keeping it local seems to be the theme of 2023. Gerrie Colette conducted the Friends annual meeting on Saturday, February 4th. She introduced the board members and asked each to speak about their areas of responsibility. Attendees had the opportunity to bid on gift baskets containing restaurant gift cards, a selection of small items and best of all a Royal Gorge brick. Lisa Studts, Director of the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center, inaugurated the museum's 95th year by presenting the history of the museum, achievements, major holdings, current projects and objectives for the future.

Dall DeWeese required that the museum be a part of the Municipal Building along with the City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce and a jail in the basement. With great foresight, he insisted the building be fireproof, the floors have large load capacity, and the walls have metal hooks to hold his taxidermy specimens.



The winners of our silent auction baskets are: Gerrie Colette, Kerrie Rogers, Barb Dittmar, Paula McFarland, Joan Larson, Penny McPherson, and Anne Zielinski. Many thanks to all who bid on our items and we hope everyone enjoys their goodies.

## Senior Mini College

It's back! Senior Mini College will take place March 20-24, 2023. Registration opened on March 1 and will continue until March 20th from 8:00-4:30 weekdays. The following presentations by Museum staff and volunteers are scheduled:

Tuesday, March 21, 9:00-10:15 Jessica Ashton-Wortman, Early Tourism of the Royal Gorge Region

Tuesday, March 21, 9:00-10:15 Terri Meeks, Reuniting a Family after 120+ Years

Tuesday, March 21, 10:30-11:45 Lisa Studts, Researching Historic Properties & Local Historic Property Designation

Wednesday, March 22, 10:30-11:45 Loretta Bailey and Kimberly Worsham, Snake Oil Cures All Ailments (1874)

Thursday, March 23, 2:30-3:45 Terri Meeks, Reuniting a Family after 120+ Years

Friday, March 24, 1:00-3:45 Joshua Broussard and Jessica Ashton-Wortman, Roadside Geology of Cañon City

## Jr. Paleontologist Program - It Rocked!

On Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup>, in co-operation with the Western Interior Paleontological Society, the museum hosted a Jr. Paleontologist program, and it was a great success! The event brought over 50 attendees both big and small, a really fun way for parents and kids to learn together. The 90-minute workshops featured the topics of fossil formation and identification, fossil excavation and preparation as well as the history of fossil discoveries of the Royal Gorge Region. Students observed live preparation of the fossils discovered in the fall of 2022 and were able to ask questions of the workers. Perhaps the most exciting and engaging part of the program was the grand finale when each child was given a real, raw fossil and tools and instructed on how to prepare the fossil, removing the surrounding dirt and rock from the fossil itself. Once their preparation work was complete, the students were able to take their fossil home to keep!



*Contributed by Jessica Wortman*

## “Be Our Guest” Exhibit

Hotels and Motels are the subject of the new exhibit in the museum’s Reading Room. Learn the history of the hotel industry in Cañon City from its start in the late 1800s. See photographs of the sumptuous interiors from the 1930s. And treasure the historic buildings that are still standing today. Whether for lodging, stagecoach stops, business, hot springs and health spas, the hotel business was hopping. Read the stories of colorful characters who ran these establishments. And don’t overlook the glass case in the hall with a hotel register, menus, keys, and doorknobs.

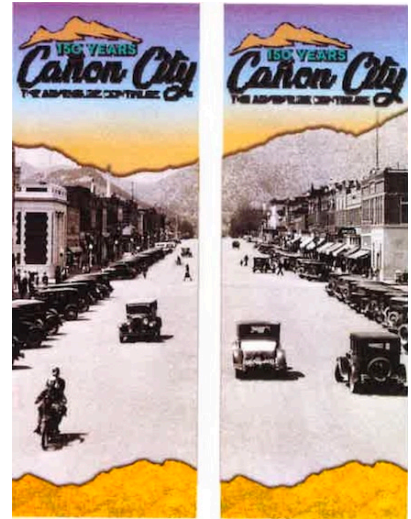
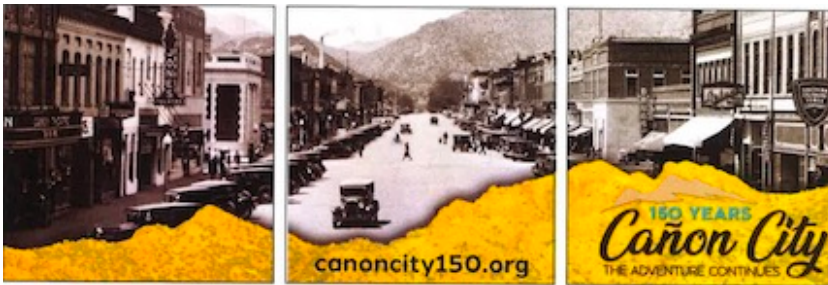


If you are a long-time Cañon City resident, many of these buildings will bring back fond memories and adventurous stories.

## Banners and Bricks

If you enjoyed the sesquicentennial celebration and want a remembrance to pass down to future generations, the museum has several banners that were displayed on Main Street lampposts and throughout town currently for sale. The banners pictured on the right are 65.5" high and 23.5" wide. They may be purchased as a pair or singly. Cost is \$30 each.

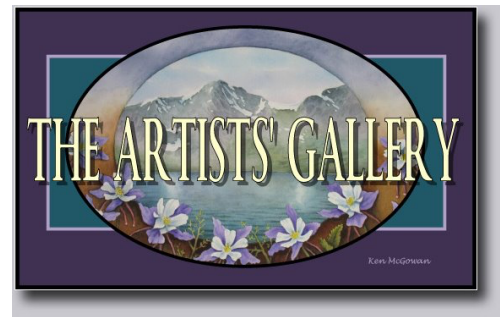
The banners pictured below are 100" high and 87" wide. They too may be purchased as a set or individually. Cost is \$50 each.



There are four 19'5" X 5' - "150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee" (text only, no image) banners. Cost is \$100. These banners and our historic bricks are available for purchase at the museum during regular business hours Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00-4:00.

**Just a  
reminder...**

If you have not had the opportunity to renew your membership for 2023, it is never too late. Envelopes are available at the museum. Your financial support enables the museum to continue to collect Cañon City history, to offer educational programs to the community, and to preserve and protect local history. Thank you.



**The Artist Gallery**

416 Main Street, Cañon City

(719) 345-4070

