Nine Mile Canyon - Rich History, Exciting Future

Anyone who has traveled into Nine Mile Canyon has been awestruck by the beauty and history that surrounds this portion of Utah. Filled with archaeological treasures left behind by many prehistoric cultures, the canyon is a valuable source of information about the past.

Visitors to the canyon are treated to a rare glimpse of the remains of dwellings that were home to the Fremont Culture and the beautiful rock art that lines the canyon walls. This canyon, though home to a few ranchers and a major freight route to the Uinta Basin during the turn of the century, has remained a primitive and pristine natural area.

Now, two special interest groups in Carbon County are striving to protect the canyon. The Castle County Chapter of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society and the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition have dedicated their time and money to preserve the canyon, enhance visitor experience and educate the public.

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition was formed in 1991 by a group of people concerned with the future the canyon. Now the Coalition is one step closer to realizing its goal of public facilities in the canyon. Carbon County has applied to the Bureau of Land Management to develop a day use area at Christensen Ranch to better serve the many visitors the canyon receives per year.

This proposal, costing in excess of $100,000, will include public restrooms, a picnic area, primitive camping area, a group meeting area and a covered pavilion. An old cabin and barn near the site will also be restored. Interpretive signs at selected prehistoric and historic sites and trail heads are planned.

The plan is waiting approval from the BLM. An archaeological clearance needs to be completed before the permit is issued. Nine Mile Canyon Coalition chairman, Layne Miller states that the picnic facility should be started by the spring of 1996.

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition recently received a National Award from the Bureau of Land Management for their volunteer work and dedication to preserving this magnificent canyon.

Castle Valley Archaeological Society

The all volunteer Castle Valley Chapter of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society has a backyard field camp in Nine Mile Canyon. Known locally as CVAS, the chapter members participate in annual surveys of Nine Mile. This year marks the seventh year of the survey. Using archaeological reconnaissance - survey, not excavation - the members of the group record any human activity in the canyon. This covers prehistoric, historic and present rock art, dwellings and storage shelters.

Assistant project director Pam Miller is pleased with the group's accomplishments. Miller states that everyone was "surprised" at the amount of rock art and sites that have been recorded. As of today, over 500 individual sites have been recorded in an approximate 7 mile portion of the canyon.

For more information about the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition contact

Sun Advocate
ATTN: Layne Miller
P.O. Box 402
Price, UT 84501
(801) 637-0732

Membership is $10.00 per year for an individual and $20.00 per year for families.
The CEU Prehistoric Museum is still seeking members to join the Associate Membership Club. Response to the recent membership drive has been great with many people and families joining for the first time.

The CEU Museum has a long history of community support. When the idea of a museum was first proposed, local residents pulled together donating time, collections and money to make this dream a reality. Now the museum has recently gained world-wide attention by the discovery of the Utahraptor along with other new dinosaur species and its recent accreditation by the American Association of Museums. This small, hometown museum now hosts nearly 60,000 visitors per year from all over the United States and throughout the world. By becoming a CEU Museum Association Member you can be a part of this exciting and dynamic institution.

Why should you join the CEU Museum Association Membership Club? The CEU Prehistoric Museum relies on donations from people like you to continue the high standards that you have come to expect from this museum. Members contribute funds to enhance existing exhibits and create new ones. Contributions also go toward the funding of museum sponsored field trips and family activities. Best of all, 10% of your membership fee will be spent on benefits for you including discounts in the Museum Shop, research privileges in the Museum Research Library, behind the scenes tours of the museum facility and visits to field research sites not open to the public.

Categories for year long membership include Associate - $15, Contributer - $25, Donor - $50, Patron - $100, Figureine Guild - $500, Mammoth Club - $1000, Raptor Circle - $2000 and the new Corporate League at $3000.

1995 Association Members

- Antiquarian Fossil's Inc.
- Chanel Atwood
- Arlene Bonello
- Ed Bonzo
- Virginia Cochran
- Marvin & Jeanette Evans
- Peter & Emojeane Ferguson
- Paul M. Golas
- Bob & Margene Hackney
- Helper Jr. High School
- James Lee Jensen
- Kardelis Family
- Theresa King
- Richard Lee
- Sue Ann Martell
- Blaine & Pam Miller
- Eldon Miller
- Pearl Oliver
- Mavis M. Oswald
- Bob & Peggy Peyton
- Clark & Barbara Warren
- Kathleen Warren
- Theora Worley

* New Members

Volunteer Corner

What do kids in Price do with their summer vacations? If they are CEU Museum Volunteers - plenty! Comprised of local children ages 10-16 who have an interest in paleontology or archaeology, the CEU Museum Volunteer Program is unique. Spending two days a week and up to three hours per day in the museum facility, the volunteers learn about the exhibits and develop good communication skills by giving tours and supplying information to visitors. From June through August, 32 volunteers worked hard to log in 747 1/2 hours.

After working over a certain number of hours, volunteers are rewarded with a day long field trip. This year's trip will be to Nine Mile Canyon. Focusing on the rich archaeological and geological past of the canyon, museum employees Sue Ann Martell and Chanel Atwood will treat the kids to a behind the scenes view that few people get to see.

Becoming a member is easy. Fill out and return the enclosed envelope to the CEU Museum, the choice of membership benefits is yours. Your membership good for one year from the date of purchase. The CEU Prehistoric Museum is a non-profit organization and a portion of your donation is tax deductible. For a list of member benefits, contact the CEU Prehistoric Museum.

Thank You Volunteers!!

- Chris Allred, Natalie Bates,
- Sarah Batt, Laura Faucheux,
- Emily Dart, Carmella Fossat,
- Kassandra Gurul, Lindsay Higbee,
- Adam Hott, Joseph Hott,
- Rose Levanger, Mindy McBride,
- Adam Needs, Jennifer Nieslen,
- Chris Page, David Page,
- Chelsie Richardson,
- Brian Robinson, Derek Rourke,
- BreAnna Sherman, Jessie Skriner,
- Shauna Smith, Callie Sorenson,
- Kathryn Stone, Michael Stone,
- Callie Jo Swenson, Michelle Taylor,
- Chanelle Viau, Sunmer Watkins,
- Jaimi Westenskow, Jared Worley,
- and Amber Young.
An unusually wet spring delayed the opening of many of the CEU Museum active quarry sites. But despite the unpredictable weather, the 1995 quarry season ended in success. Bones were removed from quarries throughout the Eastern Utah area including the Utahraptor site, the Carrol site, the '66 quarry and the Cleveland-Lloyd.

Volunteers from Arizona, California, Colorado and Michigan converged on the quarries and provided man power and expertise in removing and transporting the bones. Hundreds of hours were put in this season to remove and transport over 100 bones from these quarry sites.

A highlight of this quarry season was a visit to the Utahraptor site by world renown physicist, Steven Hawking. An avid dinosaur lover, Hawking scheduled the visit to the site after a sold out speaking engagement at the Hansen Planetarium in Salt Lake. Confined to a wheelchair, Hawking could not make the steep climb to the site but viewed it from the air. During a luncheon in Moab, CEU Museum Director, Don Burge, Utahraptor Quarry Boss, Carl Limone and several other museum representatives presented Hawking with a plaque commemorating his visit. Limone also showed him a limb bone removed from the quarry that morning.

Burge was thrilled that the famous scientist was able to share his views on dinosaurs with the him and his staff.

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**Gallery Exhibits**

Two new art exhibits are featured in the CEU Prehistoric Museum Art Gallery for fall. The first exhibit, Images from the Outback, is a collection of photographs from renowned photographer Leon Yost. Yost’s photos of prehistoric pictograms painted by Aboriginal artists in the Australian outback captures a continuing tradition. Aboriginal rock art reaches back over 40,000 years and depicts ceremonies that are still performed in some of the most remote regions of the world.

Yost has spent 20 years photographing prehistoric Native American pictogram sites in the American Southwest. For these striking photographs, he worked directly with the indigenous Australians whose rich oral history and myths are replayed in these photos.

Yost has exhibited his work in many shows including the International Rock Art Exhibition ’94. The exhibit will be on display in the CEU Museum North Gallery from September - December 31.

The second exhibit is by local artist Iris Howe. Entitled Buttes & Bones, Iris captures the rich colors of the Eastern Utah desert in her unique oil paintings. Influenced by the San Rafael Swell and brilliant Utah sky, Iris sees the unusual in everyday items. Bones are a means of expression for Howe; where other people see death and decay, she sees life and promise. In many of her works, bones are seen suspended or floating in the blue of the sky.

A member of the Castle Country Council for the Arts and Humanities, Iris is planning on exhibiting her work at the Rio Grande building in March of 1996. You can see her paintings in the CEU Museum South Gallery September 22 through December 1, 1995. Come in and replenish your soul and enrich your spirit.

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**Shop Talk**

The CEU Museum Shop is all decked out for fall with lots of new merchandise. For the jewelry lover, Song Dog Designs has created a variety of handmade necklaces and bracelets with rock art symbols from the San Rafael Swell and Nine Mile Canyon areas. There are also some new earrings by local artist Bobbie Irwin. The earrings, called Inklings, are all handwoven and are available in pierced or clip on styles.

For the creative part of you, the CEU Museum Shop offers Create Your Own Rock Art packets. These kits, designed by the Salix Corporation of Salt Lake City, use manufactured sandstone slabs and stencils to create natural looking rock art.

Adorable dinosaur candles are now available. These colorful candles burn down to “dinosaur green” inside. They make great gifts!

Local favorite, artist Joe Venus has supplied the Museum Shop with a number of his signed and numbered prints. Joe’s artwork depicts the rock art of Nine Mile Canyon and the San Rafael Swell along with the images of the ancient artists - the Fremont Culture.

Another local artist, Gail Raby has reproduced rock art by using a historic technique. Gail has studied the panels and takes great care to paint the rock art reproduction just like the original. Each piece is ready to display with hangers.

Stop in and check out our new T-shirts. Southwest designs are featured on a new overdyed shirt that gives the look of suede. Remember the CEU Museum Shop for all of your gift giving needs. The Shop is open during regular museum hours.

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Ask the Experts

**Q:** What really caused the dinosaurs to become extinct?

**A:** All dinosaurs became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous Period, approximately 65 million years ago. The actual cause of their extinction is still a hot debate in the scientific community. Right now, scientists think that a combination of factors led to their extinction, not just one event. This period of extinction began when the earth’s climate began to get colder. Volcanoes began to erupt and the earth’s climate became even colder because of all the ash in the atmosphere. Finally, a large meteor hit the earth. The impact created an explosion about the same intensity as thousands of nuclear bombs. This created a new climate that blocked out so much sun that plants and eventually the dinosaurs died.

**Q:** What is the name of the largest dinosaur that ever lived?

**A:** Supersaurus weighed in at up to 55 tons, measured over 100 feet long and stood at least 54 feet tall.

If you have a question that you would like answered send it to CEU Prehistoric Museum ATTN: Newsletter, 451 E., 400 N. Price, UT 84501 Phone: (801) 637-5060 or FAX (801) 637-2514. If we use your question in the CEU Museum Newsletter, you will receive a year long Associate Membership FREE!!
October

San Rafael Swell Rock Art & History
Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7-8
Carbon County Recreation

Bike & Hike the San Rafael Swell
Saturday and Sunday Oct. 7-8
Carbon County Recreation

Utah Friends of Paleontology
Tuesday, Oct. 10 7:00 p.m.
CEU Museum Classroom

The Cult of the Great Mother Goddess in Ancient Rome
Lecture by Susan Burdett
Thursday, Oct. 19 7:00 p.m.
CEU Museum Classroom

Warrior Ridge Hike- Nine Mile Canyon
Saturday, Oct. 21 8:00 a.m.
Carbon County Recreation
CEU Museum

Spinners & Weavers
Saturday, Oct. 21
10:00 a.m.
CEU Museum Classroom
Contact Bobbie Irwin, 637-8476

November

Utah Friends of Paleontology
Tuesday, Nov. 14
7:00 p.m.
CEU Museum Classroom

Utah Statewide Archaeology Society Lecture by Reed Martin
Wednesday, Nov. 15
7:00 p.m.
CEU Museum Classroom

Spinners & Weavers
Saturday, Nov. 18
10:00 a.m.
CEU Museum Classroom
Contact Bobbie Irwin, 637-8476

Utah Historical Society
Tuesday, Nov. 21
7:00 p.m.
CEU Museum Classroom

CLOSED
Thursday, Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Day

Visit From Santa
Saturday, Nov. 25
CEU Museum

December

Utah Friends of Paleontology
Tuesday, Dec. 12
7:00 p.m.
CEU Museum Classroom

Spinners & Weavers
Saturday, Dec. 16
10:00 a.m.
CEU Museum Classroom
Contact Bobbie Irwin, 637-8476

Utah Historical Society
Tuesday, Dec. 19
7:00 p.m.
CEU Museum Classroom

CLOSED
Monday, Dec. 25
Christmas Day

CLOSED
Monday, Jan. 1
New Year’s Day

Happy Holidays!!