



Ridge Report



Just after leaving his handprint in place at the CU Denver Dinosaur Tracks Museum, the famous naturalist **Sir David Attenborough**, who wrote dozens of award winning BBC books, poses on the FODR tracksite.

Volume 18, Number 2
2006 Summer Issue

Knight on the Rocks

By Martin Lockley

How many knights of the British realm have worked at Red Rocks? The answer is at least two. The first was then Beatle Paul McCartney – now the 64 year old Sir Paul, who coincidentally played Red Rocks in '64, long before he was knighted. The second is Sir David Attenborough, world famous popularizer of Natural History films, and brother of the equally famous Oscar-winning film director Sir, (also Lord) Richard Attenborough.

Sir D. A. and his film crew from the BBC Natural History unit in Bristol, UK, visited on June 17-20th to film sequences for his new five part series *In Cold Blood* that will include shots of Red Rocks and Dinosaur Ridge, where some of America's most famous dinosaurs were first discovered. The series explores the perennial debate about whether or not dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures were warm blooded like modern mammals and birds.

Attenborough, who is now 80 years old, has worked for the BBC for more than 50 years, mostly as a senior executive: but he is deeply immersed in hands on science and natural history and is a prolific author of many very popular books. Having traveled to many of the world's more exotic locations, he is no stranger to Colorado. In the 1980s he filmed parts of his *Lost Worlds Vanished Lives* series at the famous dinosaur track site along the Purgatoire River south of La Junta. At that time Paleontologist Martin Lockley, from the CU Denver Dinosaur Tracks Museum, acted as his tracking guide. On this trip he filmed the tracks at Dinosaur Ridge, again using Lockley and Dinosaur Ridge Executive Director Joe Tempel as consultants.

Attenborough is famous for many series, including *Life of Earth*. Possibly the most enduring Attenborough image from this series is his touching close encounter with a mountain gorilla from Rwanda, as they reached out to touch fingertips. The British public, which loves Sir David, and his extremely popular natural history series, voted this man-meets-ape episode into second place. Their favorite was an Australian Lyrebird scene from the *Life of Birds*, easily found online as a video clip. This extraordinary bird not only imitates a dozen other species, but can also do perfect renditions of a chain saw, car alarms, and camera shutters- all cleverly captured on film and audio tape.

In the realm of natural history, however, Attenborough counts paleontology as one of his special loves. "As a patriotic Englishman" he said, tongue-in-cheek "I am proud to say that it was in England that the first dinosaurs were found and given their name, but there can be no doubt that it is here in the wild west that the most spectacular finds have been made, and it is a great thrill to visit again and examine the evidence first hand."

As proof of his dedication to paleontology Sir David visited the Dinosaur Tracks Museum at the CU Denver Downtown Campus and left Colorado with an impression of his hand to add to the collection of dinosaur tracks and other fossil footprints. Lockley, told Attenborough that had he been a famous runner he would have asked for a footprint, but as he is a famous author a handprint was more appropriate. Lockley, whose naturalist father worked with Attenborough on BBC projects, remembers going to his first Attenborough lecture some 50 year ago. He said he was pleased to finally bag the track of such a rare bird.



Martin Lockley and Sir David Attenborough

**Friends of Dinosaur Ridge
16831 West Alameda Parkway
Morrison, Colorado 80465**

**Tel: 303-697-DINO (3466)
www.dinoridge.org**

**Editor: Ed Warren
Design and Production: Ed Warren**

The Friends of Dinosaur Ridge (FODR), a 501 C3 non-profit tax exempt organization, was established to protect the natural resources on Dinosaur Ridge and Triceratops Trail, and to educate visitors about the area's geologic, prehistoric and natural features.

Major Contributors

- ❖ Gates Family Foundation
- ❖ Coors Foundation
- ❖ Great Outdoors Colorado
- ❖ Jeffco Conservation Trust Funds
- ❖ Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)
- ❖ Jefferson County Open Space
- ❖ Boettcher Foundation

Friends of Dinosaur Ridge 2006

Officers

President	Chris Carroll	CO Geological Survey
Vice-President	Sam Bartlett	Bureau of Recl. Retired
Secretary	Bob Raynolds	Consulting Geologist
Treasurer	Keith Meakins	Accountant

Executive Committee Members

Norb Cygan	Geologist
Duff Kerr	Kerr & Associates
Kathleen McCoy	Lawyer
Pete Martin	U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Betty Rall	Geologist
Ed Warren	Geological Engineer, Ret.

Board of Directors.

Tim Connors	National Park Service
Harald Drewes	Geologist
DuWayne Ebertowski	Fed. Hwy Admin., Ret.
Jan Jacobs	Technical Editor
John Kelly	Geologist
Susan Landon	Thomasson Partner Associates
Martin Lockley	University of Colorado, Denver
Marge MacLachlan	Geologist
Pete Modreski	United States Geological Survey
Beth Simmons	Metro State College
Jeff Stephenson	Denver Museum of Nature and Science
Andy Taylor	Metro State College

Committee Chairs

Pete Martin	Budget
Beth Simmons	Education
Joe Tempel	Fundraising
Tom Moglestad	Outreach
Sam Bartlett	Preservation
Martin Lockley	Publications

Staff – Friends of Dinosaur Ridge

Executive Director	Joe Tempel
Program & Operations Director	Tom Moglestad
Educational Programs Assistant	Erin Fair
Visitor Center Manager	Roger Bennett
Visitor Center Assistant	Jack Davidson
Visitor Center Assistant	Barb Davidson
VC Assistant & Computer Tech	Brian Davidson