



OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martin J. Chávez

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Open Space Division and the Open Space Alliance

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SCULPTURE GARDEN RISING FROM THE ASHES

There is a Phoenix rising from the ashes of the Pueblo Montano fire that took place two years ago, but in the shape of an eagle. Chainsaw artist Mark Chavez, one of the firefighters who helped put out that fire in the bosque, seemed to be an imminently appropriate choice to carve sculptures into the standing dead cottonwood trees at the trailhead.

Mark's first offering can already be seen there - an eagle rising from flames - the first of five sculptures to be created in the future Pueblo Montano sculpture garden. To Mark, the eagle represents public service and freedom. He will also carve a firefighter, who will have one foot on top of a dragon's head. "The dragon" is firefighter slang for a fire. This sculpture will be in honor of the men and women who fought to quell the bosque fire. Other trees will feature a sandhill crane, and La Llorona, the "ditch witch. Some trees will remain for cavity nesting birds and wildlife habitat.

In an interview with the Albuquerque Tribune, Mark said "You take this big, barren, chunk of wood that doesn't look like it's good for anything except maybe to cut up and burn for firewood, and you start chiseling away at it, and, little by little, something starts forming. And in the end, something beautiful is made out of something that other people might see as worthless. I feel like our lives are shaped that way."

Thanks to people like Mark and all the many agencies, citizens, and Open Space volunteers involved with recreating the bosque in the aftermath of the bosque fires, restoration efforts on all levels are transforming our riparian habitat into a local treasure for many generations to come.



Eagle carving at Pueblo Montano

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Martin J. Chavez, Mayor

June 27th marked the 15th anniversary of the creation of the Petroglyph National Monument. Congress identified the Monument as a 'partnership park' which was to be jointly-managed between City, State, and Federal agencies. This unusual situation was due to the (proposed) Petroglyph Monument's proximity to a major metropolitan area (which was Albuquerque). In 1990 I was a State Senator representing the City's west side. It was obvious to anyone at that time that the City was marching toward the west, and eventually would grow up the volcanic escarpment if something wasn't done. It was equally obvious to anyone with any sensitivity to and appreciation of Albuquerque's cultural history that this was a very special place that absolutely needed to be preserved.

I was proud to personally sponsor the majority of state money for the acquisition of land and for the establishment of the Monument. I remember in particular one special weekend during the Legislative session when I was able to slip away from the Round House to do a reconnaissance hike up Rinconada Canyon all the way to Vulcan Volcano. Remember, this is before there was a Petroglyph National Monument. The beauty and tranquility that I experienced looking out over the City and the Rio Grande valley fortified my resolve to bring the players to the table and get the job done. And we did it. Being involved in the creation of the Petroglyph National Monument is one of my proudest moments as a state legislator. As a result, my kids and I, and you and your family, and their kids, will have a place forever where they can get out in nature and enjoy and learn and appreciate the magnificent natural environment and history we all share.

So I encourage you to park at Rinconada canyon and hike up to the volcanos, and somewhere take a break and pause to remember what a wonderful natural, historical, and cultural resource we all share in the Petroglyph National Monument. Enjoy it; protect it; and tread lightly on it.

OPEN SPACE RECEIVES TWO BOSQUE AWARDS

The Open Space Division has recently been given two awards in recognition of its work to restore the Rio Grande bosque. "I have always placed the highest priority in taking care of the bosque, and have the greatest confidence in Open Space to do the best job," Mayor Martin Chavez commented. "These awards are proof of the quality and abilities of our City's crews."

The first of the two awards was presented by the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, citing Open Space as the "Outstanding Conservationist" for 2004. Ciudad and the City worked together during the summer of 2004 to reduce heavy fuel loads in the bosque by cutting non-native trees and mulching woody material. Over 800 acres was cleared in just three months utilizing grant funds from the State of New Mexico.

The second award was given by the New Mexico Riparian Council, a conservation group dedicated to improving waterways in the state. The Riparian Council honored City Open Space, Tree New Mexico, and United South Broadway Corp with its "2004 Public Awareness/ Education Award" for creating a Bosque Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The YCC hired young adults to clean up the bosque, clear trails, plant trees, build kiosks, and work on numerous educational activities.

"More than anything, the bosque is about community and partnerships. It takes working together with agencies, service groups and our youth to really succeed," said Matt Schmader, Open Space Superintendent.

City Open Space to Adopt ROCK CLIMBING POLICY

Granite boulders blanket the sloping Sandia Mountain foothills. Each year, these rocky blossoms draw increasing numbers of “boulderers” (as small-rock climbing enthusiasts are known) to their steep faces. Most “bouldering” on City Open Space takes place at clusters near the U-Mound, at the east end of Copper Avenue. However, bouldering near Albuquerque happens throughout the foothills, as well as in Tijeras Canyon.

Bouldering is a growing sport, and Open Space’s proximity to Albuquerque means that ever-greater numbers of climbers will make their way to the Duke City’s hills. This is especially the case as the City acquires more (bouldery) Open Space land (the recent 327-acre acquisition in Tijeras Canyon, for instance).

However, the desert is a fragile and endangered environment. In order to manage potential environmental impacts from this activity, the Open Space Division is proposing a climbing policy to be posted at the trailheads of popular climbing areas. Fixed-protection policy is included to address the limited cliff climbing located on City Open Space. The following is a draft list of proposed climbing guidelines.

- Climbers must use designated trails, and not create new trails.
- Crash pads and staging areas must not damage the fragile desert vegetation.
- Placing fixed protection, including bolts and pitons, is not allowed.
- Replacement of existing fixed anchors for safety reasons is allowed; the responsibility for the installation, inspection, and maintenance of fixed anchors rests entirely with the climbing community.
- Cultural resources, including archaeological specimens, must not be disturbed.
- Practice “Leave No Trace” wilderness ethics.

This policy is a work-in-progress; we welcome and encourage the climbing public and the Albuquerque community to provide ideas. Grass-roots, bottom-up planning and policy-making is the way to go! To get involved contact Jay Lee Evans @ 452-5207.

SHRED FEST Albuquerque’s Climbing Community Gives Back to Open Space and Has a Rockin’ Time

On any given day, visitors to the Sandia Foothills Open Space participate in an array of playful activities: hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, and near the U-mound/Copper Ave. trailhead -- bouldering. Bouldering is rock climbing on difficult, generally short routes up the sides of boulders. In the past, climbers bouldered only to prepare for more lofty objectives; today bouldering has become its own sport. The U-Mound, as climbers call the cluster of rocks northeast of the Copper trailhead, is the most popular bouldering spot in the Albuquerque region. The area is also widely used by hikers and mountain bikers. Each group impacts the U-Mound’s steep, fragile desert soils and vegetation in various ways, leading to erosion and overall degradation of desert habitat. The climbing community, together with City Open Space, is taking action to protect the U-Mound.

For each of the last four years, the “Shred Fest” has brought together dozens of climbers and as well as local businesses (Mountains and Rivers, Stone Age Climbing Gym, REI) to the U-Mound to clean up broken glass and litter and hold a friendly bouldering competition. In past years, hundreds of pounds of glass and debris were removed from the site as a result of the Shred Fest. This year, about twenty Shred Fest participants broadened the scope of their stewardship to close unsustainable “social” trails by planting cholla and prickly pear cactus along errant pathways. Four trails were closed as a result of this enthusiastic volunteer effort. The overall goal is to close all unsustainable trails, and to replace them with ones that will endure in harmony with the desert. Such trails will benefit all user groups. In addition, a kiosk is planned for the area that will help to orient visitors to the natural history of the area, the trail system, as well as to the sport of bouldering. For more information about the Shred Fest, or to participate in next year’s event, contact Jim Sattler of the Open Space Division, or any of the local businesses listed above.

JULY

- 9 **SUNSET SERIES: RATTLESNAKE MUSEUM**
 Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
 Learn about rattlesnakes and their reptile kin that you may encounter in Open Space.
- 10 **SUNDAY HIKE: POND ECOLOGY**
 Pino Trailhead, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 9:00 am
 Explore the wild community that lives in the Elena Gallegos pond.
- 16 **SUNSET SERIES: LATIN AMERICA MUSIC**
 Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
 Latin American ballads, Cumbia and Nueva Cancion. This program sponsored by the NM Humanities Council.
- 17 **SUNDAY HIKE: WILDERNESS SURVIVAL**
 Elena Gallegos Picnic Area *Special Time!* 5:00 pm
 Learn the basics of wilderness survival -- find food and water, build a shelter and create fire.
- 21 **OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE MEETING**
 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 The Open Space Alliance is a Friends group supporting Open Space Division education and conservation. Meetings are open to the public. Call 452-5200 for meeting location and more information.
- 23 **SUNSET SERIES: WAY OF THE DRUM**
 Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
 Learn about Cochiti drummaking and culture. This program sponsored by the New Mexico Humanities Council.
- 24 **SUNDAY HIKE: BEGINNING GPS WORKSHOP**
 Pino Trailhead, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 9:00 am
 Using a Geographic Positioning Satellite device, learn how to navigate over the land.
- 29 **NATURE AWARENESS TALK AND DEMONSTRATION**
 Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 6:30 pm
 Richard Cleveland, former Head Instructor at Tom Brown's famous Tracking, Nature, and Wilderness Survival School in New Jersey, will be giving a free talk and demo on nature awareness and self-reliant skills.
- 30 **SUNSET SERIES: SEPHARDIC SURVIVAL -- THE BALANCE OF THE KABBALISTIC HEART**
 Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
 Music and stories of this special Jewish tradition.

AUGUST

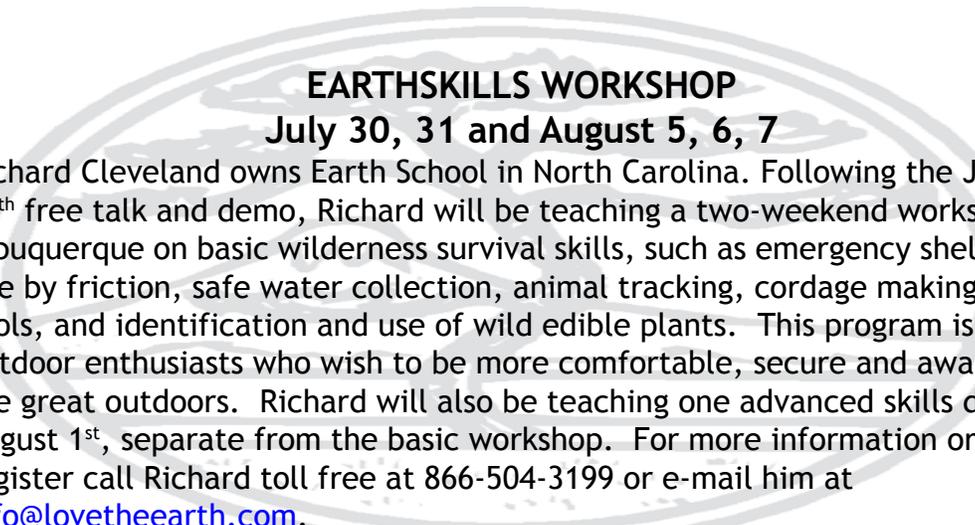
- 6 **SUNSET SERIES: FOLK MUSIC, DANCE AND STORYTELLING**
 Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
 Entertainment by Johanna and Scott Darsee.

AUGUST

- 13 **SUNSET SERIES: WORLDWIND QUINTET**
Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
Multi-cultural chamber music.
- 18 **OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE MEETING**
4:00 pm
The Open Space Alliance is a volunteer Friends group supporting Open Space Division education and conservation. Meetings are open to the public. Call 452-5200 for meeting location and more information.
- 19 **OPEN SPACE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BARBECUE**
Kiwanis Reservation Area, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 5 pm - 8 pm
Volunteers are a *huge* reason Open Space is able to maintain safe and quality trails, lands and facilities. Open Space staff say *thank you* with food and awards. Family and friends welcome!
- 20 **SUNSET SERIES: MICAEOUS POTTERY DEMONSTRATION AND FIRING**
Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
Archaeologist, Dr. Kurt Anschuetz, will demonstrate the special art of this kind of pottery making.
- 21 **SUNDAY HIKE: NATURE JOURNALING FOR KIDS**
Pino Trailhead, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 9:00 am
Kids learn how to capture and take home the world around them while leaving it exactly where they found it.
- 27 **SUNSET SERIES: CHRIS NOLAN -- GUITARIST, VOCALIST AND SONGWRITER**
Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
Original songs by this local artist.

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **SUNDAY HIKE: MAP AND COMPASS FOR FAMILIES**
Pino Trailhead, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 9:00 am
This is a fun activity that will assure that everyone in the family will be able to navigate over the land.



EARTHSKILLS WORKSHOP

July 30, 31 and August 5, 6, 7

Richard Cleveland owns Earth School in North Carolina. Following the July 29th free talk and demo, Richard will be teaching a two-weekend workshop in Albuquerque on basic wilderness survival skills, such as emergency shelters, fire by friction, safe water collection, animal tracking, cordage making, stone tools, and identification and use of wild edible plants. This program is for all outdoor enthusiasts who wish to be more comfortable, secure and aware in the great outdoors. Richard will also be teaching one advanced skills day on August 1st, separate from the basic workshop. For more information or to register call Richard toll free at 866-504-3199 or e-mail him at info@lovetheearth.com.

Los Poblanos Fields
Open Space
**8th Annual
Maize Maze**

September 3 - October 31
Saturdays & Sundays
11:00 am - 6:00 pm

and

MOONLIGHT MAZE
September 16 & 17
October 14 & 15
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm



This year's roadrunner-theme maze covers several acres. Miles of paths are cut through rows of corn and millet that will serve as wildlife feed after the maze has ended. The journey through the maze can take between 45 minutes to one hour.

Admission to the Maze is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 5-12 years old. Proceeds benefit Rio Grande Community Farms, the non-profit organization jointly managing the farm with the Open Space Division.

If you would like to volunteer for the Maze or would like more information, contact **Jenny Gamble** at jennygamble@hotmail.com or call 345-4580.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

FIELD CHECKLISTS

Open Space is now creating checklists for various Open Space lands. These checklists will be available to the public as brochures. Visitors can use them to learn more about what and whom they might find within a particular Open Space environmental habitat. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing and able to research and verify in the field mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, plants, trees, geology, and the overall habitat of a particular area.

ELENA BIRD HOUSE "ADOPTION"

The bird houses at Elena Gallegos need some TLC. Adoption of these houses would involve mapping where the houses are located (we can school you on our GPS units), cleaning and maintaining all the houses, and monitoring bird usage.

VISITOR USE SURVEY

The National Park Service is currently gathering information for a Visitor Use Plan. Help is needed to ask visitors a series of short questions regarding their use of City managed lands in Petroglyph National Monument.

If any of these projects strike your fancy, please contact Jodi Hedderig at jhedderig@cabq.gov or call 452-5210.

Open Space Visitor Center UPDATE!

The Open Space Visitor Center has broken ground! We are pleased to inform you that the demolition phase of construction is complete(!) and new construction and remodel will begin soon. Our vision of designing an Open Space facility that will serve the community as an educational hub is becoming a reality right before our eyes. Please look forward to our website which will soon have photos of construction and remodel in progress. www.cabq.gov/openspace



looking down the hall into the big meeting room

.....

Get involved in the Open Space Alliance *today* and contribute to the future of YOUR Open Space!

Your generous contribution to the Open Space Alliance supports OSA's mission of enhancing our quality of life through: heightening public awareness of Open Space lands; building and strengthening partnerships with groups who share Open Space values; promoting conservation, acquisition, and stewardship of Open Space lands; strengthening volunteerism and community outreach programs; providing financial support.

For information about our current activities, contact Steve Hamp, OSA Board President, at shamp7@comcast.net, or 247-2523.

To join, please fill out the information and return the form with your check or money order.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWAL
- \$10 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR
- \$20 INDIVIDUAL
- \$30 FAMILY
- \$250 SUSTAINING
- \$500 CORPORATE
- \$1000 LIFE MEMBER

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Open Space Alliance, P.O. Box 91265, Albuquerque, NM 87199

OPEN SPACE news

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HOURS OF OPERATION

OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE
7:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday through Friday
873-6620

ELENA GALLEGOS PICNIC AREA
Winter: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT
Boca Negra Canyon
Las Imagenes Visitor Center
8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends

RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE PARK
Rio Grande Nature Center
2901 Candelaria NW
(505) 344-7240
10:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
\$1 Adults / \$.50 Children

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
7:00 am to 11:00 pm, all week
(505) 873-6632 (voice/relay)

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