



OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martín J. Chávez

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

Volume 9, Issue 4, October 2008 - December 2008

GREETINGS FROM THE OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE

The Open Space Alliance is proud to be the host for the City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center's **3rd Annual Open Space: A View with Room**. This fantastic art show runs through December 11th. All of the art work in the show depicts the many lands being preserved as part of the City of Albuquerque's Open Space System. The paintings primarily highlight and bring into focus the variety of spaces that are available in the city of Albuquerque. We are fortunate to have a system which encompasses such a wide variety of terrain, from the Volcanoes on the West Side, and spectacular Sandia Mountain views, to the inspiring scenery of the Rio Grande Bosque.

Invited artists include Charlie Burk, Lorenzo Chavez, Michelle Chrisman, Marilyn Drake, Charles "Bud" Edmondson, Thais Haines, Pat Harrison, Elaine Koehler, Robert Kuester, Lee McVey, Fred Miller, Paul Murray, Maggie O'Brien, Jeannie Sellmer, Mary Sweet, and Ann Templeton.

All the paintings are for sale, and 30 percent of each sale will go to the Open Space Alliance which uses this fund raiser to better support open space education programs, volunteer activities, and special workshops. The Open Space Visitor Center is at 6500 Coors NW and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

In addition to the art show, autumn is a time for many other Open Space activities. The 11th Annual Maize Maze at the Los Poblanos Fields Open Space runs through Sunday, November 2nd. See page 6 for more information. Also, October is time for **Dia Del Rio**, a celebration of the Rio Grande with fun and volunteer projects. Please see the article on page 2.

Come enjoy the fall season in the Albuquerque Open Space areas!

Steven Hamp, President, Open Space Alliance

OTHER FALL DELIGHTS IN OPEN SPACE



It's that time of year again. The chill in the morning air, the smell of roasting green chile, the presence of hot air balloons floating above us, the patches of yellow in the Bosque....Ahhh...fall! You can just breathe in the word and feel a tingle. The cooler days and changing colors of the season make this a great time to get out and enjoy your favorite Major Public Open Space areas. Throughout the month of October and into November opportunities abound in Open Space.

Wandering the bosque during the fall offers a cool and refreshing experience as sunlight passes golden through the fluttering cottonwood leaves, with the gentle sounds of the river in the distance. Worth celebrating this fall as well is the completion of two new trails in the East Mountains Open Space properties of Golden and

Gutierrez Canyon. Rumor has it that those mysterious *Duendes* of trail building legend have been hard at work by the light of the full moon, building trails that lead to natural wonders and treasures. See the article on page 3 for the rest of the story.

You can also witness the arrival of Sandhill Cranes, Canada Geese and other migratory birds at the Open Space Visitor Center. This year there will be a special weekend of events celebrating the arrival of the Sandhills (see page 6). The Visitor Center is also the perfect day trip for an introduction to the Open Space program. Bring the whole family and take advantage of this year round treasure!

Fall Volunteer Opportunities with Open Space

Ours is a city of contrasting landscapes, with vast desert scrublands giving way to the lush river forest of the Rio Grande bosque, and piñon/juniper foothills leading to the majestic Sandia Mountains. These special places help to define who we are as a city. During the month of October, join the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division and other local organizations for two special events that serve to celebrate and protect our unique landscapes.



DIA DEL RIO, October 18th

This year the Open Space Division and REI will host the 14th Annual Dia del Rio Celebration. Join us for a variety of conservation projects that nurture and protect the bosque and river, including: trail work, graffiti removal, and trash clean up. There will be activities appropriate for all ages, so bring the whole family! During the event you can also enjoy educational tables from area organizations working to protect and enhance the Rio Grande and bosque. There will be a prize drawing at the end of the event, with prizes donated by REI and other generous sponsors.

WHEN: Saturday, October 18 from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Arrive early for sign in and snacks provided by La Montanita Co-op and our other generous sponsors!

WHERE: Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area. Take Rio Bravo Blvd. west from Broadway. Before the bridge turn right onto Poco Loco Rd. and follow it directly west into the parking area.

BRING: Gloves, sun protection, and plenty of water.

REGISTER: Pre-registration is recommended. Stop by REI at 1550 Mercantile Ave NE or call 247-1191. *The first 80 people to pre-register will receive a free t-shirt the day of the event, courtesy of REI!*

Have a raft or canoe? Boaters are also encouraged participate and help clean trash from the river. (Boaters must follow New Mexico State Parks boating regulations. Call 1-888-NMPARKS for more information.)

Do you have a favorite area of the bosque you'd like to clean up during Dia del Rio? Call us and we'll provide the trash bags and haul out the trash at the end of the day! Call 452-5200 or email kswanson@cabq.gov to organize your cleanup.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY, October 25th

Make a Difference Day is a **national day of community service** held annually at the end of October. Each year, volunteers throughout Albuquerque work to help improve the quality of life in our community through service projects. The Open Space Division and our partner organization the Nicodemus Wilderness Project participate in Make a Difference Day by organizing a variety of conservation activities that take place at the **Piedra Lisa Open Space** located at the end of Candelaria. Projects include trail maintenance, trail building, trash cleanup, graffiti removal, etc.

This day of spirited volunteerism is an enjoyable event for the whole family. Join us at **8:30 am** at the parking area east of Tramway on Camino de la Sierra, just south of the east end of Candelaria. Projects wrap up around 12:30pm.

The Nicodemus Wilderness Project is a worldwide organization based in Albuquerque and the adopters of the Piedra Lisa Open Space. Their mission is "to protect wildlife and our environment and to build future conservation leaders by engaging youth in environmental stewardship projects worldwide". Their program helps to elevate young people (especially at-risk and low-income kids and teens) into leadership roles by engaging them in environmental stewardship projects. For more information see www.wildernessproject.org.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



For more information about Make a Difference Day please call 452-5200 or email jsattler@cabq.gov

Los Duendes at Work in the East Mountains Trail building Updates at Gutierrez Canyon and Golden Open Space

~ by Jim Sattler



The mysterious and industrious Open Space trail crew known as *Los Duendes* has recently achieved two important milestones on the East Mountain Open Space properties of Golden and Gutierrez Canyon.

The first achievement is at the 1,180 acre Golden Open Space, which is located off of La Madera Road, approximately 10 miles off of New Mexico Highway 14. After years of planning and two seasons of trail construction the Open Space Division is proud to announce the opening of a 2.25 mile trail loop on a mesa top overlooking the vast and colorful dissected arroyo complex leading to the San Pedro Creek. This is the first phase of a planned 8 to 10 mile trail system on the Golden Open Space.

The new trail was built by volunteers from San Pedro Creek Estates, Puertocito residents, and several mountain biking groups, including the Trail Partners, FooMTB, the WOMBATS and BOMB with supervision from Open Space staff.

The second achievement is at the 300 acre Gutierrez Canyon Open Space, which was recently expanded by the addition of the 420 acre John A. Milne property to create a Major Public Open Space area totaling 720 acres, spanning from New Mexico Highway 14 in Cedar Crest, east to Gutierrez Canyon Road. The original 300 acres are characterized by steep sided sandstone canyons with ephemeral streams and scenic overlooks. The geologic feature known as the Tijeras Syncline forms a steep ridge paralleling Gutierrez Canyon Road, near the eastern boundary of the property.

For years the residents on the east side of Gutierrez Canyon Road lived a stones throw from the Open Space, but were separated from it by the formidable looking ridge of the Tijeras Syncline. Open Space is now happy to announce a new access trail leading up and over the syncline and providing residents with a sustainable trail to access the property.

This trail was the product of four Eagle Scout projects over the course of two years. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America and to obtain this rank a scout must complete a project which demonstrates planning and leadership skills. The Division would like to thank Eagle Scouts Zach Bowles, Zach Kavelman, Lucas Walker and Josh Crowley for their hard work and contribution to Open Space.

Los Duendes or not, these accomplishments could not have been possible without the help of hardworking volunteers. Thanks to all those who picked up a Pulaski, Mattock or McLeod and helped make our trails possible!

Highlights of the 2008 Open Space Summer Series

by **Bill Pentler, Environmental Education Coordinator**

With the earlier appearance of darkness and cooler conditions I'm both elated and a bit saddened by the end of the 2008 Open Space Summer Series which is the first one that I've put together completely.

In some ways the real test of success is in attendance and the true measure of it comes in averages of people per event. In 2007 we had an average of 43 people enjoying each of the Saturday Sunset Series and 12 to 13 for the Sunday Hikes. The averages for this year are **53 folks** at each Saturday Series and an amazing increase to **24 people** at each Sunday Hike. I attribute the increase on Sundays to opening the hikes to all areas of Open Space instead of having them occur strictly from the Elena Gallegos, not to mention the great press we've received from the Westsider section of the Journal.

All in all, I'm calling this year a success although we didn't have consistent enough youth involvement at the Sunday Hikes to take advantage of the Nicodemus Wilderness Project's Apprentice Ecologist Initiative. This important initiative promotes stewardship and an awareness of the environment through conservation and/or educational projects. Young people then write about their experiences with the project and have the chance to win a \$500 scholarship. Next year during the Summer Series we would like to choose hikes and events that appeal more to families and youth, and to actively promote the Apprentice Ecologist Initiative opportunity.

That sets some goals and the stage for next year's venue. To give you a taste of what's in store for you with the 2009 Summer Series there's the potential to hear an accordionist, see an African dance troupe, see and learn about Bonsai Trees, turtles and tortoises, bird rehabilitation, huge snakes, Tai Chi, geology, hike some outlying Open Space properties, and much more!

I've also been thinking about Flamenco dancers, jugglers, and storytellers, but also want to know what *you'd* like to see! Please send me your ideas for things that might interest you. I can be reached at 452-5222 or wpentler@cabq.gov.

For all of you hunting for ways to fill the gap for events through the rest of the year, I want everyone to keep an eye on our Open Space Visitor Center located at 6500 Coors Blvd. There are lots of great workshops, a Crane festival, and other events already scheduled, plus art shows such as the View with Room exhibit which opened in late September.

To find information about these and other events, please go to the events icon in the upper left corner of our website page www.cabq.gov/openspace.

Thank you all for your patronage and we'll see you at the next event!



Saturday Evening Programs

	2007	2008
Number of Programs	14	15
Number of Participants	605	800
Average per Program	43	53

Sunday Hikes

	2007	2008
Number of Programs	11	15
Number of Participants	138	363
Average per Program	13	24

FALL AND WINTER 2008

Ongoing through December 11th, View with Room Art Exhibit and Sale, *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. An art exhibit and fundraiser for the Open Space Alliance featuring New Mexico based Plein Air Artists. Free and open during regular Open Space Visitor Center hours. Tues-Sat, 9:00am - 5:00pm.

Every Saturday, 9:00 - 10:30am, Tai Chi Chuan. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. \$15.00 suggested donation. A portion supports the Open Space Alliance.

Every Sunday, 9:00 - 10:30am, Yoga with a View. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. Bring your own yoga mat and blanket. \$15.00 suggested donation. A portion supports the Open Space Alliance.

First Sunday of the Month, (10/5, 11/2, 12/7), 7:30am, Bosque Wild: A Guided Nature Walk into the Bosque *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. Meet behind Sagebrush Community Church, east of Coors at the end of La Orilla Rd. and turn left into the parking. Binoculars recommended. Space is limited to 20 people, 7 years old and above. Call 897-8831 to register.

October 4, 11, 9:00am, Bird Walks. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. Binoculars recommended. Space is limited to 20 people, 7 years old and above. Call 897-8831 to register.

October 11, Public Reception for Open Space: A View With Room Art Exhibit, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. Plein air painting demonstration and refreshments.

October 12, 1:30pm - 4:30pm, Beginning Nature Journaling with Margy O'Brien. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. Instruction will take place outdoors. Dress appropriately. Bring a blanket or portable chair for your comfort. \$15.00. Max of 20 people 10 years and older. Bring a blank, unlined book of choice, an existing journal, pencils, and art supplies. Call 897-8831 to register. Email: jrwillis@cabq.gov

October 18, 8:30am - 1:00pm, 14th Annual Dia del Rio Celebration. *Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area*. Please see the article on page 2 for more information.

October 18, Noon - 4pm, New Mexico Flintknapper's Demonstration. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd.

October 25th, 8:30am - 1:00pm, Make a Difference Day. *Piedra Lisa Open Space located at the end of Candelaria* Please see the article on page 2 for more information.

October 25th, Hanging with Bats Talk and Booksigning, 4:30pm. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd.

October 26th, 8:30am - 1:00pm, Nature Journaling: Working with Color. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. See description for October 12th event.

November 1st, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Dia de Los Muertos Celebration. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. Day of the Dead activities for children and adults. For more information, 452-5200 or email: kswanson@cabq.gov

November 9th, 9:30am, Tai Chi with the Cranes. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd.

November 22nd, 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles of Albuquerque: Presentation and Booksigning, 10AM: Stephen Ausherman shows an interpretive film on the areas featured in the book. Books available for purchase at the Open Space Visitor Center—cash or check only.

November 22nd, Talk and Booksigning with Janet Chapman, Author of Kenneth Milton Chapman: A Life Dedicated to Indian Arts and Artists, 2:00PM. *Open Space Visitor Center*, 6500 Coors Blvd. Book available for purchase at the Open Space Visitor Center—cash or check only.

Please see www.cabq.gov/openspace for a regularly updated calendar of events or call 452-5200



There will be several special events days this years at the Los Poblanos Fields Maze in the Maize.

October 18: Arts Day featuring local artists and crafts people. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

October 10 & 11: Moonlight Night Mazes. The maze hours will be extended into the late evening on these days.

October 31 and November 1: Annual Haunted Maze features a spooky maze and haunters to delight and frighten our visitors.

Discount Days: October 11th from 1:00 - 4:00 PM adults are \$5 and children ages 4-12 are \$2. Come with a previous year's t-shirt and you get \$1 off on any day!

Additional event attractions include a hay bale labyrinth, hay bale ride, and farm products for sale including hay bales, corn shocks, & sunflower seed heads! Please visit www.riograndefarm.org or call 505-345-4580 for more information and for weekday group reservations.

Open Space Sandhill Crane Celebration November 15 and 16



Open Space Visitor Center,
6500 Coors Blvd.

Saturday: Plein air painting demonstration. "Love in the Bosque: The Musical" by Phil Bock. Love in the Bosque is a story of love, courage and deception told through the characters of a sandhill crane family. There will be two showings.

Sunday: Slideshow and Talk

with Jerry Goffe, wildlife photographer. Hawks Aloft presentation: Raptors of the Rio Grande Valley. Talk with live birds (11:00am)

Call 897-8831 or see www.cabq.gov/openspace for more information

Open Space Haiku and Assorted Poetry, with Apologies to Basho



Fall always seems to get us in touch with our poetic, sensitive side here at the Open Space offices. There's just something about this season that gets the old creative juices a flowin'. So, in between building trails, making trail maps and dealing with natural resources management issues, the

Open Space staff managed to bust out some O.S.-themed poems for your enjoyment. Sit back with a cup a green tea (or beverage of your choice) and get ready to be amazed by our mad word-smithery!

Serene, Majestic
Good for your body and mind
Open Space abounds
~

Trail through desert
Dog poop in path, ruins day
Mutt mitts are in stock!!!
~

Brain plasticity
Reconnect neurons and joy
Visit Open Space
~

It is Open Space
Un-built, unspoiled landscapes
It is, room to breathe
~

Wind swept across my
Brow, yellow leaves quaking now,
Night is creeping in.

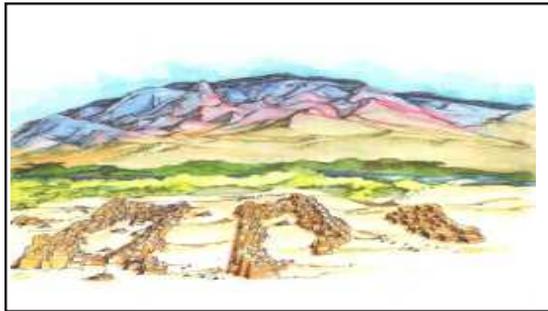
This is Open Space
Full of grace, pretty like lace...
Dog poop? A disgrace!

Haiku by Jodi Hedderig, Joshua Willis, Kent Swanson, and James Lewis, with divine inspiration from various *Duendes*, *hadās*, and Mr. Chuy P. Cabra.

Piedra Lisa Canyon by Jim Sattler

Sitting in a window of sunshine
As a gentle rain falls
Yellow cottonwoods bow to the wind
As the granite bows to the water
The stream surges forward
Just enough to fall to the next plateau

**PIEDRAS MARCADAS PUEBLO TOURS
DURING BALLOON FIESTA WEEKEND**



The Piedras Marcadas Pueblo Village is a unique part of the Petroglyph National Monument. Piedras Marcadas, Spanish for “Marked Rock” is an ancestral pueblo that was occupied between AD 1300 and the mid-1500’s. It was comprised of three multi-storied structures and over 1,000 rooms, making it the largest remaining unexcavated pueblo in the middle Rio Grande Valley. The site is currently closed to the public. However, the Open Space Division will offer special tours of the site during the week of Balloon Fiesta, October 4th through the 12th.

In 1988, the City of Albuquerque purchased the property, protecting it from proposed development. Open Space Superintendent and Archeologist Dr. Matt Schmader will interpret the site and take you on a tour of this once thriving and important community. Bring water and dress appropriately for a short hike.

See www.cabq.gov/openspace or call 897-8831 for dates and times.

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, and 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
- \$15 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 Alliance
 P.O. Box 91265
 Albuquerque, NM 87199



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 PAID
 Permit #297
 Albuquerque, NM

Open Space News

is a quarterly publication of the
 City of Albuquerque, Parks & Recreation Department, **OPEN SPACE DIVISION**
 P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103
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 and funded by the **OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE**

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OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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 7:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Monday through Friday
 (505)452-5200

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
 (505)857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT BOCA NEGRA CANYON

8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
 \$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
 (505)897-8814

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

6500 Coors Blvd. NW
 (505)897-8831
 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Tuesday - Saturday

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

8:00 am to 6:00 pm, all week
 (505) 452-5206 (voice/relay)
 OR
242-COPS