

OPEN SPACE newsletter



Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 18, Issue 3, July - September 2017

Spring Projects A Success!

Jim Sattler

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's spring projects such a success! A special thanks to the 35 volunteers who braved a cold, wet, windy Copper Cleanup! Our spring projects kicked off with a cleanup at the

Route 66 Open Space and then moved on to cleanups at Copper, Indian School, Menaul and Piedra Lisa.

This year a total of 224 volunteers participated in the five Foothills Spring Cleanup projects and helped to clean up a total of 100 bags of trash, 13

bags of mixed recycling, 6.25 bags of aluminum, 34 five-gallon buckets of glass and 148 pounds of dog poop. One of the most interesting items found during these cleanups was a homemade catapult at the Route 66 Open Space. In addition to trash removal, volunteers also worked on a variety trail-building and maintenance projects, and planted hundreds of cactus cuttings to close off unofficial user-made trails.



Courageous Copper Cleanup Volunteers! (Bill Pentler)

National River Cleanup took place in May with 67 volunteers helping to make the event fun and productive. Thanks to our friends at Kirtland Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation for providing rafts to float cleanup crews from the Montano Bridge down to the Central Avenue Bridge. Volunteer crews were able to spread out along the river from Central down to Rio Bravo. Altogether 250 cubic feet of trash was

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gathered along with 11 bags of mixed recycling, 4 bags of glass and 2 bags of aluminum. Some of the most interesting items found during the day included a water-logged piece of artwork and a birth certificate.

National Trails Day, an annual event organized by the American Hiking Association and celebrated around the country with special events recognizing the importance of our country's trails, rounded out the spring events on June 3rd. The Open Space Division hosted the event at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area with 89 volunteers participating in twelve different projects. Special thanks to our adoption groups FBOMB, Charlie's Crew, and The Shackley Family Trail Doctors, who each led projects on their adopted trails.



Volunteers working and cheasing at the Menaul cleanup (Bill Pentler)

Thanks also to volunteer crew leaders Jim Gore, John Bronisz, Scott McLeod, Charlie Wood, Daniel Ryerson, Joshua Willis, Richard Shackley, Steven Shackley, Coleen Hartwell, and Kathy Butler.

A variety of work was accomplished throughout the Elena Gallegos including cactus planting to close off unofficial user-made trails, regular trail maintenance to reduce erosion and improve drainage, new trail construction, and fence construction.



Thanks to The Shackley Family Trail Doctors for their hard work at all of the spring projects! (Bill Pentler)

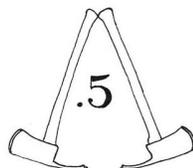
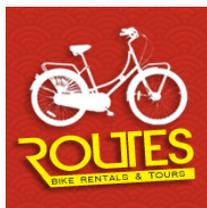
Thanks again to everyone who participated! As Sherry Butler said, "Volunteers don't get paid because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." Thanks also to all of our sponsors (opposite page) who help make these events, as well as our East Mountain trail days, possible.



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Congratulations to Bill Pentler!

The Open Space Division is happy to announce the promotion of Bill Pentler to the Resource Management and Visitor Services Supervisor position formerly held by Jim Sattler. Bill has been with the Open Space Division for nine years and was formerly in a Parks Program Specialist position serving as the Education Coordinator for the Division. Bill has an extensive background in wildlife biology, zoology and environmental education. Bill has also been coordinating and scheduling the popular Summer Series programs which run each year from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Please welcome Bill to his new position.



Bill with students at Boca Negra

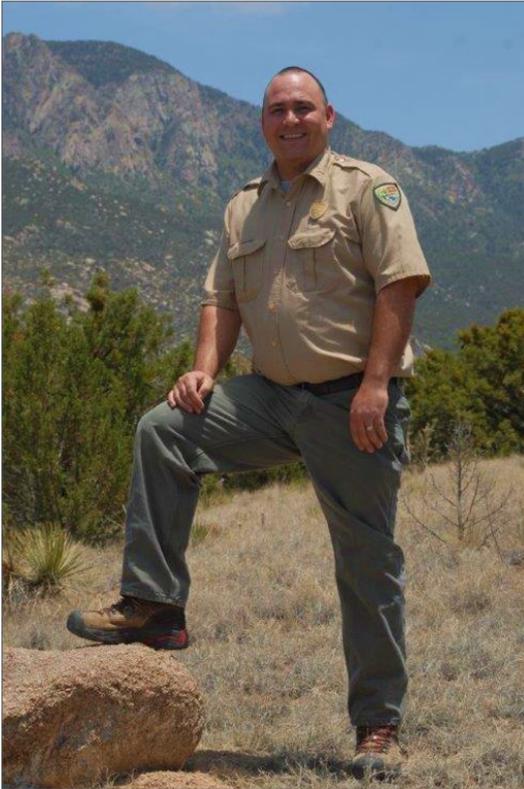
Welcome to Dionne Epps!

Please welcome Dionne Epps as our new Open Space Volunteer Coordinator, the position formerly held by Jolynn Maestas. Dionne is originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, where she worked as a Facilitator for the City for six years. She has also trained with the National Youth Vote Coalition in Washington, D.C., and was a board member and volunteer for the Governor of Arkansas Gang-Related Task Force. She began working for the Park Management Division of Parks and Recreation as the Park Use and Volunteer Coordinator after she moved to Albuquerque. Dionne holds a Bachelor's Degree in English with an emphasis in Technical Writing and an Associate's Degree in Psychology. Her goals in her new position include nurturing longstanding volunteer relationships and building new ones, supporting environmental education and cultural resource interpretation, and community-building, and she invites volunteers to stop by her new office at the Open Space Visitor Center. Open Space welcomes Dionne to the Division!



Dionne at the Open Space Visitor Center

Congratulations to John Keliiaa!



John at Elena Gallegos (Bill Pentler)

The Open Space Division is happy to announce the promotion of John Keliiaa to the Parks Program Specialist position formerly held by Jim Marmon. John has been working with the Division for five years, first as a temporary Park Attendant before he was hired into a permanent position in 2015. John is a familiar face to visitors at the Elena Gallegos and has also assisted with the Mayor's Bosque Youth Corps program and on numerous volunteer projects. In addition to his experience with Open Space, John has also worked for the United States Forest Service in Wyoming and has a degree in Fire Science. We congratulate John on his promotion and look forward to the enthusiasm that he brings with him.

Congratulations to Benito Gonzales!



Benito at a Spring Cleanup (Bill Pentler)

The Open Space Division is happy to announce the promotion of Benito Gonzales to Heavy Equipment Operator. Benito has been with the Open Space Division for fourteen years and was formerly serving in an Equipment Operator II position with the Division's Maintenance Operations. Benito began his City career nearly 25 years ago with the Solid Waste Division. Benito is also known for his diverse musical talents and may be seen around town playing a rhythmic beat on the drums. Please welcome Benito to his new position.

Charlie Wood Hits 4,000 Volunteer Hours!

Congratulations to Charlie Wood for contributing 4,000 hours (and counting) as an Open Space volunteer! Charlie started as a Trail Watch Volunteer in 2007, but quickly became a trail adopter and a volunteer at the Open Space Visitor Center. Charlie serves as a crew leader for National Trails Day and also regularly leads hikes for other volunteers. His favorite part of being an Open Space Volunteer is working on his adopted trail, the Pino Trail, during late afternoon as the sun is starting to set, reflecting on the clouds with the winds dying down, and enjoying the peaceful quiet of the Elena Gallegos.

Charlie said, "Two things I wanted to mention about volunteering: it is easy to spread joy - if I was working on my trail and a hiker was going by, I would keep on working, glance up, smile, and say 'Beautiful day, do you have any questions about any of the trails?' If they stop, I stop my work and answer their question (and smile). One other thing is about working at the reception desk (at the Visitor Center). Our (former) Manager, Jodi Hedderig, asked me just to try the reception desk. I honestly didn't think that I can handle it, so I told her and she said: 'Try it - one time!' So, I listened to what other volunteers said to the visitors. Practiced it with experienced volunteers listening and I loved it!! Jodi was right."



Charlie at National Trails Day this June
(Bill Pentler)

Save the Date!

Annual Fall Volunteer Days:

Dia del Rio, October 21, 2017

Make a Difference Day, October 28, 2017



Open Space 2017 Summer Series

Bill Pentler

Cicada songs and calls aren't the only ones that herald the start of summer in Albuquerque; the Open Space Summer Series has begun and offers a world of diverse talent and talks for the whole family to enjoy.

On Saturdays we have old favorites including Scott and Johanna Hongell-Darsee performing Medieval and Traditional Ballads; and evening with Bonnie Schmader and her vast pool of talent; and the Blues Jam from the Southwest Blues Network, honed to perfection and excited to play with anyone who'd like to join in with their own instruments and a favorite tune. Other new music and storytelling performances will include a fun evening with the ABQ and Southwest Edition Barbershop Quartets; the Rio Grande Players, who will take us back to yesteryear with an old-time radio performance; East Mountain K9 bloodhound search dogs; Alice Blumenfeld doing Flamenco; a night of sketching with Leo Neufeld; and a truly rare performance by Mayling Garcia playing the glass armonica, a unique instrument designed by Benjamin Franklin.



At this year's Wildflower Hike with Dick Frederiksen and Vicki Farrar (Bill Pentler)

Sundays we will provide hikes and information involving a number of our outlying properties. History will be on parade when Roland Penttila tells tales of Little Beaver Town at the Route 66 Open Space and Matt Schmader leads us through a little-traveled area of the Petroglyph Monument. There will be an overview of Wilderness First Aid, plant and bird hikes, a

joyful morning of dance with Nia led by Kate Davis and Anna Pentler, Qigong, photo tips from Jerry Goffe, and instruction on how to maintain your bike and pack it for overnight outings.

This is a taste of the events we're sure you'll enjoy while we nudge you and your family to expand your views and begin a lifelong ritual of returning to your newly-discovered, soon-to-be favorite Open Spaces. Please check the full schedule on our website at cabq.gov/openspace, or contact Bill Pentler (452-5222, wpentler@cabq.gov) with questions or suggestions for talks or performances for future Series.

Again this year, and for the past number of years, the Series has ended with a Day of Mindfulness which has taught me to know and be aware of all the wonderful and incredible things that come our way. So on that note,



Albuquerque Academy's Roots Music Club performing in June (Bill Pentler)

I ask you to join me in discovering offerings from astounding local talent and scholars, seeking new areas to explore, and a line-up of diverse options to entice you escape into incredible new worlds that exist right next door.

Behind the Scenes at the Open Space Division

Kim Selving

Whether it is at the parks, where park attendants are fixing trails, setting up and breaking down for events, and taking fees; at the Open Space Visitor Center, where computer keys and scissors are wielded with efficiency and urgency in preparation for a program or special event; or at Montessa Park, home of the administrative offices of the Division, where clerical staff is neck-deep in Excel spreadsheets and Outlook calendars; there are activities afoot that are critical to the fulfillment of the Open Space mission. In order to keep the gates open at the



Ben Swari and Cesar Arredondo cleaning graffiti at Piedra Lisa in the Foothills, one of their many "behind the scenes" duties (Bill Pentler)

parks, fees must be counted and deposited. In order for family reunions and weddings to go off without a "hitch," supplies must be replenished and lunch crumbs from the 100-member school group from the day before swept. And in order for all those visitors to appreciate the latest gallery show or learn about pollinators, countless hours of designing, printing, communication, and pre-event to-dos must be completed.

Within the last year our administrative and clerical staff at Montessa Park has seen many changes. Kim Selving, normally a familiar face at the

Open Space Visitor Center, now works at Montessa to assist with park fees and reservations. Temporary staff, who are really more like cornerstones, are Mike Dias and Lindsay Gillenwater. We want to thank Yvonne Saacedra and Dorrie Zamora in Parks and Recreation for their help in keeping operations on an even keel.

At Elena Gallegos and Boca Negra Canyon, Cesar Arredondo, Jacob Maestas, Jonathan Donovan, and Ben Swari are the face of Open Space to nearly 6,000 visitors every week. At times, they are called upon to go above and beyond; Ben was recently nominated for a Bravo Award for his professional response to a medical emergency at the park. Special thanks to our dedicated park volunteers Mike Deaton and Tom Saint Aubin!

With those activities in mind, we invite our volunteers and Open Space Alliance members to stop by and say hello when you are in the neighborhood. Let us know what you did in Open Space this week and we will share our stories.

Next issue of "Behind the Scenes": The Bosque Crew.

The Duende Onion

Open Space Division Contracts with Environmentally Friendly Pest Control Service

Due to an increase in mice populations at the Open Space Visitor Center and Montessa Park offices, the City has contracted with "Fleet Street Pest Control," an environmentally friendly pest control company based out of Rio Rancho. While caressing a shiny, stainless steel mousetrap, Mr. Todd, the owner of the company, stated in a recent interview, "We use only the most humane devices to control the vermin." After displaying a slightly disturbing smile, Mr. Todd continued in his British accent, "We also take great pains to dispose of the mice in a most tasteful manner."



Local guest contributor to your most reliable source of fake Open Space news

New Trails Day Sponsors! Mrs. Lovett's Catering

A new catering company, Mrs. Lovett's Delectables Catering, recently approached the staff of the Open Space Division, offering to serve a variety of unique foods for annual volunteers entirely for free. "Yeah, we's a-tryin' to drum up sem biznez, eh?" Mrs. Lovett said in a thick British accent. "You'll love our meat pies!" When asked if they could offer vegetarian or vegan options, Mrs. Lovett responded, "Yeah, we's a-workin' out the kinks on that one."

UFO Club Works on Trail Project

Twenty members of the New Mexico Unidentified Flying Object (NMUFO) Club turned out for a trail project at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area in March. The trail project was actually sponsored by the New Mexico Volunteers For the Outdoors (NMVFO), but a typo in the Alibi called for volunteers

from the NMUFO instead. "They worked great for the first two hours, and then they all put on aluminum foil hats and hiked up to a hilltop waiting to be beamed up," said Open Space Trail Specialist Jack Hammond.

Bureau of Abandoned Mimes

Fifty would be adoptive parents who happen to be mimes attended a recent Summer Series talk about what should have been "Abandoned Mines on Open Space"; unfortunately due to a typo the advertisement listed the talk as "Abandoned Mimes on Open Space." "They were a very quiet crowd, and seemed to be very interested in the talk," said Park Attendant Rudolfo Pino. "All the red and white stripe shirts were a little hard to look at though," Pino added. "It also took a while to close the park that night since first they had to find their way out of imaginary boxes and then they had to fight a strong imaginary head wind on their way to their cars."

Announcing the 2017 lineup of the Open Space Visitor Center Moonrise Concert Series!

Lone Piñon kicks off a dynamic series of full moon concerts July 8, 2017, at the Open Space Visitor Center. Bring your own lawn chair, picnic blanket, and feast, or grab a bite from a fabulous local food truck and cool off with a frozen treat from Pop Fizz. Arrive early to enjoy the exhibits at the Visitor Center! Doors open at 5:00pm.

About the musicians:

July 8, 2017, Lone Piñon – Lone Piñon will visit us from Northern New Mexico to celebrate and share the diversity of their region's cultural roots. Using violin, accordion, guitar, guitarrón, upright bass, and harmony vocals in Spanish, English, and Nahuatl, the group has revived and updated the Chicano stringband style that once flourished in New Mexico, bringing a devoted and explosive musicianship to Northern New Mexican polkas and chotes, virtuosic Mexican huapango and son calentano, and classic borderlands conjunto.

August 5th, 2017, Felix Y Los Gatos – Felix Y Los Gatos is a New Mexico based band with over fifteen years of stage

experience and an improvisational style that is uniquely their own. Their sound is crafted through the cultural influences of Zydeco, Tex-Mex, Blues, Gypsy/Jazz (think Django Reinhardt), Swing, and a dash of Outlaw country. This toe tapping band has shared the stage with acts such as Big Bad VooDoo Daddies, Tab Benoit, BeauSoleil, Ozomatli, Wayne "The Train" Hancock, Fishbone, Dikki Du & the Zydeco Krewe, and featured John Popper of Blues Traveler on their album "OCHO." One thing is certain, Felix Y Los Gatos is sure to get you out of your seat and dancing the night away!

September 2, 2017, Le Chat Lunatique - We are ending with a bang! Albuquerque's own Le Chat Lunatique began prowling the nightspots of Albuquerque - that secret haven of hot jazz - back in 2005. From their earliest gigs, Le Chat Lunatique has offered swinging originals with ear-snagging hooks and stories to tell - well-constructed little gems that propagate earworms for ongoing pleasure. Devilishly clever lyrics offer insight into l'amour ("Falling in love is like eating tacos"), a louche paean to a dotting millionairess ("Buy me a Cadillac, buy me a yacht / Buy me everything that I haven't got"), minatory observations on fate ("The bus of God will run you over"), and the inevitable bitterness of a broken heart ("Miss Lady . . . please do me the courtesy of drinking in some other gin joint"). Come out and enjoy their irreverent humor, intensity, and expert musicianship!



6500 Coors Blvd NW Albuquerque, NM 87120

between Montañito and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.

Tuesday - Sunday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm **897-8831**

Open Space Visitor Center on facebook @ABQOpenSpace on twitter

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At the Gallery

The Open Space Gallery is free and open to the public Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-5pm.

Scribes 8 Trees

The multi-media artists of Scribes 8 offer a delightful exhibit celebrating trees and the diverse wildlife they shelter. The artists, who are among the top calligraphic artists in New Mexico, have been working as a collective since 1990.

(Right: *Trees, Diana Stetson*)



Birds of a Feather Woven Together

The artists of Las Aranas present an exhibit of exquisite woven pieces in two and three dimensions and colorful tapestries.

(Right: *Birds, Mary Colton*)



Insects Magnified

Artist Kelly Eckel, who is also a licensed art teacher, takes photographs of magnified insects as part of her process of collaging them into hybrid compositions. Kelly's work on display at the Visitor Center are the original photographs before they are turned into collages. The project serves to educate the public about the complexity and beauty of a variety of pollinators, and is part of a collaboration with the 516 Arts' "Cross Pollination" series of exhibits.

(Right: *Insects, Kelly Eckel*)



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 Glass, OSA Board President, at: president@openspacealliance.org.

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