



# OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martin J. Chávez

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

Volume 7, Issue 3, July - September 2006

## **OPEN SPACE: A VIEW WITH ROOM** ***The Open Space Visitor Center Art Exhibition***

Artists have always been inspired by the beauty of nature, and with over 28,000 acres of protected Open Space lands in and around Albuquerque, there's plenty to be inspired about. Join the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department's Open Space Division and artists from Plein Air New Mexico on Saturday, September 16 2006, for ***Open Space: a View with Room***. This inaugural art exhibit is one of a series of events that will celebrate Open Space lands and the opening of the City's new west-side Open Space Visitor Center. The public is invited to view the exhibits, purchase artwork and tour the Visitor Center on Saturday, September 16 from 10:00am - 4:00pm. Music, light refreshments, educational activities and guided walks of the Piedras Marcadas Pueblo Village will also be part of the festivities. A special, invitation-only preview of the exhibit will take place Friday, September 15 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm.

"The Open Space Visitor Center is where Albuquerque's citizens will go to learn about their precious Open Space lands," says Mayor Martin J. Chávez. "This special art exhibit is a fantastic way to collect fine art and support the Open Space program at the same time".

Coordinated by the Open Space Division, Plein Air New Mexico and the Open Space Alliance, the exhibit's theme ***Open Space: A View with Room*** will feature oil, pastel and watercolor paintings of some of our most scenic areas by a select group of award-winning artists. Lorenzo Chavez, Deborah Paris, and Charles 'Bud' Edmondson are among 13 fine artists who have been selected to participate in this exciting exhibit. Plein Air New Mexico signature member Lee McVey and artist member Marilyn Drake are both event organizers and participating artists for the exhibit, commenting,

"We are so thrilled to have such talented, dedicated artists exhibiting their work in this show to benefit the City's incredible Open Space lands".

In addition to showcasing great art, the art exhibit is also a fund-raising event for the Open Space Alliance, the friends group of the Open Space Division. A tax-deductible portion from each purchase will go to help support Open Space environmental education programs, habitat restoration projects, and future phases of the Visitor Center. Open Space Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Schmader says, "We are honored that the Plein Air artists have chosen to exhibit their work at our new Visitor Center. It is a perfect way for the public to appreciate fine art and their Open Space lands." Open Space Alliance President, Stephen Hamp adds, "The funds raised from this exhibit will help us with future projects at the facility."

The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd, NW and is destined to become Albuquerque's premier west-side cultural and natural history facility. In addition to the art gallery, the 8,000 square-foot center has four museum exhibit rooms, a video room, gallery, bookstore, information area, and conference room. ***"Open Space: A View with Room"*** runs through October 13.

For more information, contact Bonnie Schmader with the City's Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division at 768-5308 or [bschmader@cabq.gov](mailto:bschmader@cabq.gov).

Visit <http://www.pleinairnewmexico.com/> to view artists featured in this exhibition

## *Message from the Open Space Alliance*

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual National Trails Day (NTD) in Albuquerque was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and was the best ever! The event was a huge achievement with over 180 people participating in a variety of trail projects at the Elena Gallegos Open Space Area. The Open Space Alliance was a proud sponsor, along with a host of other organizations, including Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Friends of the Forest, Sportz Outdoor and U.S. Forest Service.

The Open Space Alliance would like to thank all of the volunteers that participated in the NTD event for their great willingness to make a difference to the outdoors and to Albuquerque's open space. Thank you for helping to make it a great success!

There are more improvements on the way for the Elena Gallegos/Albert G. Simms Park. REI has selected the area as one of 100 community parks in the country to receive a \$10,000 National Community Parks Grant. The Open Space Alliance will administer the grant for its intended purpose of preservation and maintenance. More specifically, the money is planned to be used for improvements at the Elena Gallegos Double Shelter Picnic Area and Amphitheater. Improvements include purchasing and installing 2 new picnic tables, putting in a new sign for the picnic areas, purchasing and installing up to 21 new benches, trail and retaining wall repair, and other miscellaneous construction efforts. The Open Space Alliance will be working with the City's Open Space Division in developing the plans and organizing volunteers to help with the work.

A great way to take advantage of the Albuquerque Open Space is to get involved. The Rio Grande Community Farms, along with the Open Space Alliance will be hosting the annual Corn Maze at the Los Poblanos Fields Open Space from September 3 through October 30. You can get more information at <http://www.cabq.gov/openspace/CornMaze.html>

Also, don't miss the new Open Space Visitor Center, which is scheduled to have its grand opening in September. The facility has been completely renovated and is spectacular. The visitor center will have educational exhibits on open space, a bookstore, and trails to the Bosque and to the pueblo site.

For more information about the Open Space Alliance, I invite you to check out our new web site at <http://www.openspacealliance.org/> If you are interested in volunteering, the Open Space Alliance is seeking to fill two Board positions, Vice-President and Treasurer. Please contact me for more information at [president@openspacealliance.org](mailto:president@openspacealliance.org)



Steven Hamp  
OSA President



### **THANK YOU BOSQUE <sup>AND</sup> EAST MOUNTAIN PATROL VOLUNTEERS!**

Thanks to an army of fire patrol volunteers and some much needed rain, the bosque and East Mountain Open Space areas had a safe July 4th holiday. From July 1 to July 5, nearly 130 trained volunteers from Open Space, City Emergency Response Team (CERT), retired Albuquerque Fire Department officers, and Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department Search & Rescue team patrolled all areas of the bosque to educate visitors on fire conditions and closure, and to report violations. Volunteers also patrolled East Mountain properties to protect them from in an unprecedented effort.

***Many thanks to all the people who contributed to this year's tremendous effort to protect our local public lands and their precious resources.***

## NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2006



**THE BEST EVER!** That is what the 14<sup>th</sup> annual National Trails Day event in Albuquerque was - the best ever. Each year surpasses the previous one.

On the morning of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, **183** volunteers (our greatest turn out, yet!) arrived at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area in the Sandia Foothills to acknowledge their appreciation for the hundreds of miles of trails available to them just in the Albuquerque area. The first 100 registered volunteers received a National Trails Day commemorative t-shirt. After checking in, volunteers helped themselves to fresh breads, hot coffee and snacks for the trail. Volunteers then shopped around for the perfect project. There were fifteen projects to choose from, assembled by the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division and Cibola National Forest. Each project contributed to the integrity, sustainability and safety of our beloved recreation trails.

After setting to work, volunteers were grateful to see that the man with the cold beverages pedaling toward them wasn't a mirage. He was from The Way church, pulling a small trailer behind his bicycle with a cooler full of bottled water.

In the afternoon, volunteers gathered for a catered picnic and a chance to win one of many excellent outdoor gear raffle prizes. But the best part was the companionship between the sweaty, blistered, dirt-smearing volunteers, swapping trail stories and sharing a common adoration for the outdoors.

Open Space would like to thank all the volunteers who spent the better part of a sizzling hot Saturday working to improve trail conditions on our public lands.

We are also grateful for the tremendous support from local businesses and organizations. Their contributions helped illustrate to volunteers how much their hard work and commitment to sustainable trails is valued.

Next year's Trails Day is June 2, 2007. Mark it on your calendar because you don't want to miss it.

**Visit page 7 for our humble thanks to all the fantastic sponsors.**

## AUGUST

- 5** <sup>1ST ANNUAL</sup> **SPLASH-N-DASH RAFT RACE AT TINGLEY BEACH**  
**Saturday ● 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
 Enter your raft, canoe, kayak or homemade watercraft in the Splash-n-Dash race at the newly renovated Tingley Beach. Music, food and a "Fly-Ball Dog" agility-demonstration and show. The event is free for spectators. To register for the race go to [www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov) for information.
- 5** **SUNSET SERIES: CELEBRATING ALBUQUERQUE'S STORIES**  
**Elena Gallegos Double Shelter ● 7:00 PM**  
 This is a Tricentennial Event with Mary Mortensen Decker from New Mexico Humanities Council.
- 6** **SUNDAY HIKE: POND ECOLOGY**  
**Elena Gallegos Cottonwood Trailhead ● 9:00 AM**  
 Discover the diversity of life in a mountain pond. Sampling and identification of critters in the Elena Wildlife Pond. Please wear appropriate clothes for getting wet and a little muddy.
- 12** **SUNSET SERIES: THE MUSIC OF CHRIS NOLAN**  
**Elena Gallegos Double Shelter ● 7:00 PM**  
 Chris Nolan performs original guitar and vocal songs
- 13** **SUNDAY HIKES: MAP AND COMPASS FOR FAMILIES**  
**Elena Gallegos Double Shelter ● 9:00 AM**  
 Learn how to navigate using a map and compass. Maps and compass provided by the trainer for the class.
- 19** **ALBUQUERQUE WORLDWIND QUINTET**  
**Open Space Visitor Center ● 7:00 PM**  
 The Open Space Division will be hosting performances, educational and enrichment programs at the new Open Space Visitor Center on Albuquerque's west side. The Albuquerque Worldwind Quintet plays eclectic woodwind music. Call 768-5308 for information and directions.
- 19 & 20** **WILDERNESS SURVIVAL WORKSHOP SERIES: NATURAL LIVING AND SURVIVAL SKILLS**  
**Various Locations ● 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM**  
 Flintknapping, tying cordage, basketry, herbal medicinal walk, friction fire, and primitive shelter building are what you could learn at this 1 - 2 day workshop. Limited to 20 people. Locking or sheath knife required. \$30 a day or \$50 for both workshops. Call Mike Bochnia 232-9193 to register.
- 26** **WILDERNESS SURVIVAL WORKSHOP SERIES: ADVANCED CAMOUFLAGE AND STALKING**  
**Elena Gallegos Picnic Area ● 1:00 PM**  
 Mike Bochnia, student of Tom Brown, teaches you how to get closer to animals for observation. This class limited to 20 people. \$10 fee. Call 232-9193 to register.
- 26** **SUNSET SERIES: FOLK MUSIC, STORYTELLING AND DANCE**  
**Elena Gallegos Double Shelter ● 7:00 PM**  
 An evening of ancient tales and original music on guitar, fiddle and flute with Johanna and Scott Darsee.

## Maze in the Maize!

The fun and AMAIZING maze is back at Los Poblanos Fields in 2006! . This year's Maize Maze was designed by Shawn Stolworthy of MazePlay in Idaho. The 8 1/2 acre maze is precisely hand-cut and contains over 2 1/2 miles of deceptive paths for all age groups to enjoy. This year, the theme will be *Lizards in the Lane* and informational signs will be placed throughout the maze trails to help "the lost" learn about lizards, corn, and mazes. The journey through the maze will take about one hour depending on your decision-making abilities. The maze will operate **Fridays from 6:00-8:00PM, Saturdays from 10:00AM-8:00PM, and Sundays from 12:00AM-6:00PM, beginning Saturday, September 2 and ending on Sunday, October 29.**

Admission to the MAIZE MAZE is \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children ages four to 12 years. Children under four years are free. Field trips for school classes, after-care groups, scouts, service and corporate groups, and home-schooled students may be arranged by reservation. Free parking is available at the gravel parking lot west of the entrance to the Community Farm on Tierra Viva on the north side of Montano Road, one mile west of Fourth Street.

Open Space would like to thank Rio Grande Community Farms, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization formed in 1997, for putting on the event and the Open Space Alliance for their sponsorship. Please call the RGCF with any questions at (505) 345-4580.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BBQ  
AUGUST 25TH  
Open Space Visitor Center ● 5:00 PM



Join the Open Space Division in celebrating Open Space Volunteers for thousands of hours of contributions to the conservation of our municipal public lands. From trail patrols to educating the public to opening park facilities to trail repair, volunteers are a key ingredient in Open Space preservation. Bring your family, bring your friends -- everyone welcome. But please RSVP to Jodi Hedderig at 452-5210.



## New Elena / Foothill Trail Map READY!

It is here! A brand spankin' new trail map that includes both Foothill trails and Elena Gallegos trails in a convenient fold-up-fit-in-your-shirt pocket format. They are crisp, colorful, and detailed. And if you use your Elena / Foothill map a lot, you may choose to spring for the super durable, water proof, non-tear paper version. They are only \$1.00. Gee, what costs a dollar anymore? The regular paper variety is free. Both versions are available from your friendly park attendant at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area.

These maps are the result of many, many months of hard work from our "GPS Guy," Erik Zsemlye. Thanks Erik!

## SOCIO-CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF TRASH

~by Jim Sattler

Just as the Valley of the Kings in Egypt periodically gives up a long forgotten tomb of a pharaoh, so do the Sandia Foothills continue to yield clues of its cultural history. Just when we thought all of the really interesting trash had been found, we find yet another important object. The item that has recently stimulated our interest was originally identified as the chrome center piece of a 1950 "Bullet Nose" Studebaker. But upon closer inspection in our lab we determined it was actually a chrome center piece for the front grill of a

1949 Ford. It is of course shot full of holes, as we would expect it to be. Other associated objects from the area include shot up "church key" beer cans, broken bottles and spent shell casings. These are very similar to previous

foothill finds. How do we interpret these finds? There appears to have been a cultural phenomenon in which personal objects of an individual were carried into a natural setting. These acts were often associated with automobiles or automobile parts. The beer cans and broken bottles appear to be part of a ceremony which ended with everything being shot full of holes.

J. Michel, Garbologist, of Rocky Mount, North Carolina has documented an eye witness account of similar activity taking place in 1990 in a cranberry bog of New Jersey involving a 1972 Chevrolet, Brookwood. He has postulated that acts such as this are an extension of our post-war, automobile culture. The acts of shooting select parts of an automobile, such as a hub cap, or in this case the chrome grill, reflect a sense of pride that is taken to the extreme. It is an expression that says, "This was a fine automobile that served me well. Now I will destroy what is left of it so that nobody else may possess it."

This of course is only a garbologist's theory to help us try and explain why people of the past have left automobile parts and other trash in such a beautiful, natural setting as the Sandia Foothills. Of course these acts have not stopped completely and today people are leaving behind smashed computers, bowling balls and dead chickens instead of automobile parts. You can draw your own conclusions about the cultural implications of these objects being dumped in Open Space and ask yourself, "How will those living in the future view the actions that we take today?"



[www.hfmgv.org/exhibits/showroom/1949/photos](http://www.hfmgv.org/exhibits/showroom/1949/photos)

## The Willis Warbler

~by Joshua Willis

Lately, my attention has shifted while walking in the Open Space of Albuquerque. I find that there is a constant stream of sounds which draw my bird observation endeavors. Generally, I will scan the canopy of the Bosque Cottonwoods looking for some small and colorful bird searching for bugs in the bark of the trees. Likewise, I may comb the banks of the Rio in order to see what water friendly birds may be wading around. Currently though, there is a bird in town that has far more to say than to show.

The Northern Mocking bird, aptly named, has made many symphonic appearances of late in the Albuquerque Metro area. This bird, if you are not familiar, can easily be deciphered from other songbirds due to the huge

vocabulary of sounds rolling effortlessly from their beaks. If you have any doubt about what you are listening to, simply wait for three minutes. The Mocking bird will roll through its vocabulary

like it is reciting poetry. Though the sounds are not always pleasant to the ear, especially at five A.M., one will easily be amazed at this bird's vocal ability. The Mocking bird will often copy other song birds, but it has plenty of personalized notes as well.

I have found these birds to be stealthy, choosing to say more than to show. If you do happen to see one, they can be recognized by their over all gray appearance, with a few distinguishing markings. The Mockingbird in flight will have white wing patches surrounded with hints of black, and a long black tail with white on the outer edge.

The Mockingbird is an interesting species to have migrating through the area. Their presence marks the seasons of Spring and early Summer. The bountiful vocabulary of the Mockingbird can be likened to the bounty of events that occur in all our lives as the warmer seasons set in. More traffic, more phone calls, more heat, more greenery, more clouds, and more rain!



Scott, S. (1994). *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*.

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**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](mailto:shamp7@comcast.net), or 247-2523.

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

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# OPEN SPACE news

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873-6620

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\$3 vehicle / \$15 van or bus

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