

OPEN SPACE newsletter



Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 18, Issue 1, January - March 2017

Superintendent Dr. Matthew Schmader Retires!

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It is with a mixture of sadness and gratitude that we wish Matt ("Doc") Schmader a happy retirement. Matt has a long history with Open Space that goes back to his days as a member of the Open Space Task Force from 1983 to 1991, then serving as Chairman from 1988 to 1989. His employment with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division began in 1991 when he was hired as the Visitor Services Program Manager. Matt moved up to Open Space Assistant Superintendent in 1994, and finally became the Division's third Superintendent in 2003. Matt has also been the City Archaeologist since 2012.



*Dr. Schmader at the Piedras Marcadas Pueblo site
Photo by Bill Pentler*

A man of many hats and talents, Matt has excavated pit house sites, researched petroglyphs and rock images, connected the history of the Piedras Marcadas Pueblo site in Albuquerque to the Coronado expedition, written numerous reports and professional papers, authored a book on the history of Albuquerque Parks and Open Space, and helped obtain and protect thousands of acres of Major Public Open Space. Perhaps one of his greatest achievement for the Open Space Division was the creation of the Open Space Visitor Center. He is also a tinsmith, a Duende and Duende whisperer, a musician, a poet and a mentor.

Matt's expertise and guidance will be sorely missed, but the Division looks forward to his continued involvement with Open Space as a volunteer and a Duende Emeritus.



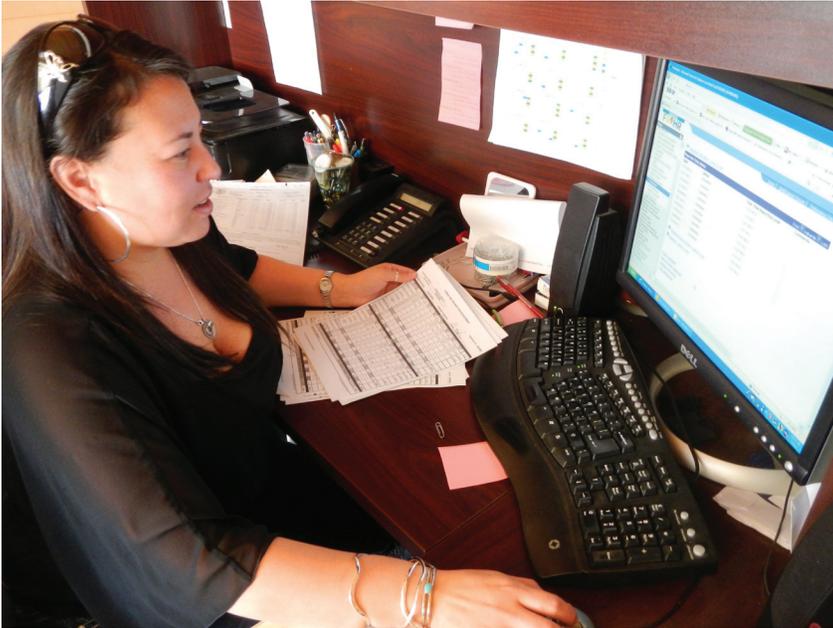
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tkeffer@cabq.gov.

www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space
Visitor Center online!



Office Manager Nicole Trujillo Retires!



This December, Office Manager Nicole Trujillo also announced her retirement. Nicole has been with the Open Space Division for ten years and has been responsible for numerous activities that have kept the Division functioning. Nicole's knowledge and expertise have come into play on a daily basis, from managing the Division's contracts to helping Open Space employees get their paychecks on time, to serving as the secretary of the Open Space Advisory Board. Her great sense of humor and laugh always served to lift people's spirits around the lunch table in the dark dungeon of Montessa Hall.

*Nicole hard at work at Montessa Park
Photo by Bill Pentler*

Open Space Welcomes New Faces

Brandon Gibson Acting Superintendent

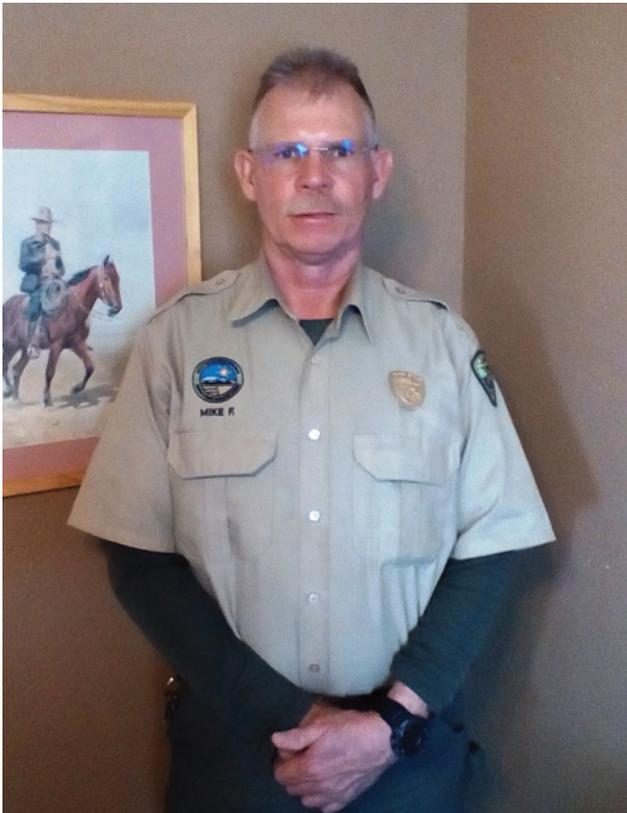
Open Space welcomes our new Acting Superintendent, Brandon Gibson! Raised in Albuquerque, he began his tenure with the City's Parks and Recreation Department at a young age in 1998. Since then Brandon has performed numerous functions within the Aquatics Division before becoming Division Manager in 2010.

In addition to his work at Parks and Recreation, Brandon studied Emergency Medicine at the University of New Mexico. He also enjoys backpacking, boxing and swimming.

Although it won't be easy to fill the shoes of Dr. Schmader, whom he considers a mentor, the folks at Open Space can see that Brandon's up for the challenge and are excited to see what he'll bring to the Division.



*Acting Superintendent Brandon Gibson
hiking at Golden Open Space*



New Shooting Range Manager Mike Felten

Mike Felten Shooting Range Manager

Mike began his career with the City of Albuquerque in August 1999 as a temporary Safety Aid at Shooting Range Park, working under the direction of Rick Vernon. He served in that capacity until 2003 when he became a Department Armorer for the Albuquerque Police Department Academy, maintaining various department firearms and eventually becoming an LE certified Firearms Instructor. As an Instructor his duties included running qualification shoots and training police cadets at the APD Firearms Training Complex located at Shooting Range Park. In 2008, he returned to the Open Space Division as a Range Master where he worked with various facets of the program, including the public line, trap and skeet, and special events. He was promoted to Shooting Range Manager in December 2016.

Congratulations on your new position, Mike!

New Caretaker at Las Cebollas Canyon Picnic Area

As we say goodbye to Matt and Nicole, the Open Space Division welcomes Norman Baitz as the new caretaker at Las Cebollas Canyon Picnic Area. Norman will be taking over for his mother who had been the previous caretaker. "Mother hasn't been well lately, so I thought I'd step into her role," said Norman. Norman also said he hopes to have showers installed at the overnight camp area in the coming new year. "I've always loved a good shower," Norman added.



New Farmer at Las Cebollas Fields Announced

John Barleycorn, an associate of the Associate Planner who oversees agricultural operations, announced that Arno Pahrump will be the new farmer at Las Cebollas Fields. Mr. Pahrump promised to improve the conditions at the Fields and make everyone happy. "I have so much manure to spread, I'm gonna spread manure all over the place! I'll make Las Cebollas Fields great again you see. We're gonna have plenty of corn for the birds, we're gonna have corn coming out of our eyes, corn coming out of our ears, corn coming out of wherever!" promised Pahrump.

Fall Projects Wrap Up

As 2017 begins, we take a moment to thank all of last year's volunteers and sponsors who made our events fun and productive. Our annual fall projects, Dia del Rio and Make a Difference Day, were well attended and accomplished a great deal of trail building and maintenance.

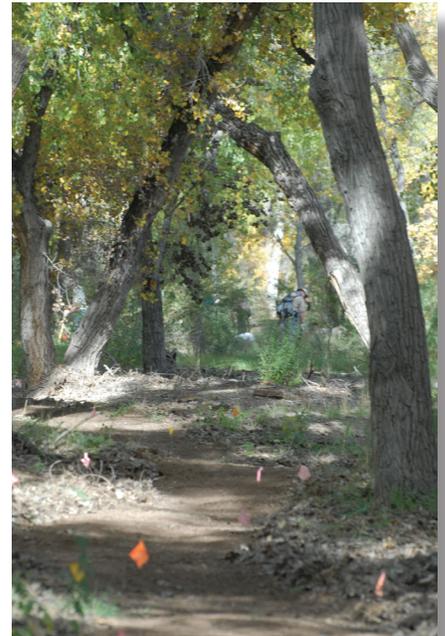
This year's Dia del Rio was held near Tingley Beach, north of Marquez Road. Volunteers built 4,000 feet of new trail to replace an old road that was badly eroded. In addition to the trail building, volunteers planted over 60 native shrubs and cleaned up a pickup truckload of trash and recyclables.



Above: Dia del Rio volunteers constructing a trail
Below: The final product, a new trail near Tingley Beach
Photos by Bill Pentler

Make a Difference Day was held at Piedra Lisa Open Space in the Sandia Foothills. Staff and volunteers tackled a variety of tasks including graffiti removal from boulders, trail maintenance, trash cleanup, installation of directional signs, and planting of native shrubs and cacti.

Trail work also wrapped up on the East Mountain properties of the John A. Milne-Gutierrez Canyon Open Space and Golden Open Space. Volunteers at the Milne-Gutierrez Open Space built .4 mile of new trail to complete a section that wraps around the Sierra Vista neighborhood. The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps also built .7 mile to replace a steep heavily eroded trail. Volunteers and Duendes at the Golden Open Space built 1.5 miles of new trail forming a third loop on the south mesa. Visitors can now do a 10-mile round trip hike or ride.



Volunteers on the graffiti cleaning crew at Make A Difference Day
Photo by Bill Pentler

Thanks to all Sponsors who make our fall projects possible: REI, Stone Age Climbing Gym, I Scream Ice Cream, B2B Bistronomy, Kaktus Brewery, Rio Grande Community Farms, Two Wheel Drive, the Nicodemus Wilderness Project, Michael Thomas Coffee Roasters, Sergio's Bakery and Café, House of Bread, and Prosum Roasters. A special thanks to the Open Space Alliance for providing snacks and prizes, REI for their help with registration and donating prizes, and the Greenside Café for donating breakfast burritos for our East Mountain workdays.

Winter Pole Planting Underway

Pole planting is part of our reclamation and maintenance of the Bosque, but what is Pole Planting? "Poles" are long straight branches from cottonwoods and black willows that are harvested or recycled from downed trees, or cut from existing trees. This unique family of trees has the ability to root from cut branches, an amazing survival trait. We plant this time of year because the trees and branches are dormant through the winter and aren't harmed by our activities. Locations are chosen strategically and are usually areas which have burned or recently been cleared of invasive species or weeds; they are also areas we know will be affected when the river rises with the winter run-off, normally beginning in March and peaking in May. Planters drill down five to nine feet or more to reach the water table and "plant" the poles. If done properly, a fresh crop of cottonwoods and willow trees will root and thrive. We follow this with shrub plantings, such as golden currant, wolfberry, and sumac, and varied natural grasses. This enables a natural, diverse Bosque that supports a wide range of wildlife and allows us to view these areas as they were prior to man's intervention.

Open Space manages almost 30,000 acres of land which include 17 miles of the river corridor. This wouldn't be possible without the help of numerous, dedicated groups of volunteers, some having adopted particular areas and others wanting an educational experience and to assist with our activities. The plantings make great service learning projects for school classes and



*Students participate in pole planting in the Bosque
Photos by Bill Pentler*



groups because it gets participants outside, teaches an appreciation for some of our amazing natural resources, and promotes a bond with the land that we hope will be carried on through future generations.

For more information about these projects or to schedule a date for your group, please contact Bill Pentler, 452-5222. Annual planting season begins in January and lasts through March. These are popular events and dates fill quickly, so we encourage registration as early as possible.

Boca Negra Canyon Trail Project: Volunteers Needed

Registration Required

The Open Space Division will be holding a volunteer trail building day at Boca Negra Canyon in the Petroglyph National Monument on Saturday, May 6, starting at 8:30AM. This project is sponsored by a generous grant from REI in coordination with the Open Space Alliance. Volunteers are needed to help build a new section of trail approximately .3 mile long which will connect the existing Cliff Base Trail within the main part of Boca Negra with the existing Upper Canyon Trail. This project will create a new opportunity for visitors to take an extended hike into the Upper Canyon for additional petroglyph viewing. Morning snacks, refreshments, and lunch will all be provided. Volunteers should dress appropriately for changing weather, wear long pants, hiking or work boots, and bring work gloves, hats and sunscreen.

Space is limited, so registration is required; please visit www.centerforprofitexcellence.org/volunteer-connection/boca-negra-trail-building.

Contact Jim Sattler, 452-5213 or jsattler@cabq.gov for more information.



*Boca Negra
Photo by Bill Pentler*

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Mark your calendars for this spring's volunteer events!

Spring Clean-ups:

(Volunteers should arrive at 8:30AM, projects last until noon)

March 25 – Rt 66 Open Space

April 1 – Copper

April 8 – Indian School

April 15 – Menaul Picnic Area

April 22 – Piedra Lisa Open Space

River Cleanup:

(Volunteers should arrive at 8:00AM, project lasts until 1:00pm)

May 20 - NE corner of Central Ave Bridge



*Graffiti crew at last year's
Rt. 66 clean-up
Photo by Bill Pentler*

Note that parking is limited at all locations, so please car pool if you can. To make arrangements for groups of five or more, please contact Jim Sattler at 452-5213 or jsattler@cabq.gov.

The Duende Onion

New Year's Fun Run Gets Off Course

A New Year's Day 5k fun run went awry when the organizers used Mutt Mitt bags to mark their course. Unfortunately the runners got steered off course by a series of Mutt Mitt bags left behind by the owner of a sick St. Bernard named Otto. "He got into some spoiled Christmas turkey and got food poisoning, so I thought a long walk up the Pino Trail would help him," said dog owner Milo Sanchez. The runners expecting a mellow 5k fun run through rolling terrain around the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area ended up following a series of Mutt Mitt bags which led them up the Pino Trail all the way to the Crest Trail, a detour of about four miles and an elevation gain of about 4,500 feet. "I was in the zone and wasn't paying attention and just kept following those poop bags until I caught up to the St. Bernard. At that point I hit the wall and didn't know where I was or how I got there," said exhausted runner Douglas Phurr.

"Empty Spaces" Art Installation Opens

The Open Space Division is excited to announce the opening of a new interactive modern art exhibit at the Montessa Park Administrative Offices. Titled "Empty Spaces," the art installation features clean, white, empty office cubicles with no employees and no furniture. Visitors are encouraged to place colorful post-it notes on the walls for the imaginary employees, and to leave messages on the "endless maze voicemail" phones, which will never be answered. The mysterious artists collective known as "Mouse Coyote" is claiming responsibility for the exhibit. "Empty Spaces" is expected to last until the end of the next fiscal year, or when the cubicles can be filled with actual employees.



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

Possums in Open Space

Mayhem erupted at the Piedra Lisa Fall Cleanup when an animal rights group showed up to protest against animal cruelty. The protest was organized after a typo in the Daily Tribune accidentally listed an Open Space sponsor as Possum Roasters, when it should have been Prosum Roasters, a local coffee house. The event was further complicated by a group of visiting Southern Culinary Arts students who were expecting roast possum to be served. For those of you who are roast possum fans, the students recommend this recipe: www.food.com/recipe/stuffed-roast-opossum-107969.

Fowl Play at Embudo Canyon

Elena Gallegos staff reported finding a dead duck and a dead chicken on the access road leading to the Embudo Canyon trailhead. Investigators suspect fowl play. "The most vexing part of this investigation is why that chicken was trying to cross the road in the first place!" said lead investigator Hieronymus Johnson.

Photos Around Open Space

Fall at the Visitor Center

Clockwise starting at left:

Cranes and geese foraging in the Wildlife Fields (Kent Swanson)

Winter Solstice Seed Mandala creation (Kent Swanson)

Wildlife Rescue brings live raptors and birds to the Return of the Sandhill Crane Festival (Bill Pentler)

Crane Festival view (Bill Pentler)

Dia de los Muertos altar (Tricia Keffer)



Photos Around Open Space

Featured Reader Photos

From Paul Ordogne, with photos below and right:

On the December 2016 Bosque Wild! hike we chanced upon a bulky mass in one of the partially-clad cottonwoods on the Open Space Canopy Trail. It was first identified as a monkey (in jest, I hope) but upon binocularification it turned out to be a quill pig – or as we know it, a North American Porcupine. I'll call this one Blondie, her name is apparent from my pictures.

Upon direction from Charlie I waded across a sea of tumbleweed, which snagged at my pants and socks the whole way, to get a closer look.

Blondie was aware of my noisy approach and opened her eyes to see what was disturbing her daytime slumber. She had no fear, as you would expect from a rodent with 30,000 quills ready to be employed against



any predator (dogs have reported that they go in easy but are very painful to extricate).

Blondie mentioned that she is a very solitary animal and only ventures out after darkness surrounds her neighborhood. She enjoys the native cottonwood and willow branches and has a special digestive tract to process the cellulose of the twigs.

Join Charlie, Claude and Paul for the monthly Bosque Wild! hikes. You will learn much more about the quill pig and many other flora and fauna of our wonderful Bosque. Visit our website or contact the Open Space Visitor Center for dates.

From Charlie Wood, photo right:

This picture was taken this year from The Pino Trail in the Sandia Mountains. This is the reason I adopted this trail!

If any of the Open Space Volunteers have not been there, I can give them a personalized hike.

Interested in adopting a trail? Contact Jim Sattler at 452-5213 or jsattler@cabq.gov.





OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER



Crossing Paths: Exploring New Mexico Landscapes from Two Perspectives

ONGOING through March 19th

Discover the Open Space Gallery with Crossing Paths, an exhibit featuring two artists who work in different media but explore similar themes of landscape and identity. Jennifer Pretzeus and Monique Belitz had never met prior to this exhibit, but their artistic trajectories intersected naturally as they explored the landscapes of New Mexico. Jennifer incorporates clay, earth and minerals into her stark, encaustic paintings and Monique gives voice to similar elements through intricate mark-making on paper. The Open Space Gallery is free and open to the public Tuesday-Sunday from 9am-5pm and is located in the Open Space Visitor Center.

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Composting with Worms

Saturday, January 28th 10:00am-Noon

FREE! Presented by Mel Chavez of Bernalillo County Extension Master Composters. Worm composting is recycling that produces a useful soil conditioner. The class will include the selection of an appropriate worm species and creating a healthy environment for that species. Take-home information will cover all aspects of setting up and managing a worm composting operation. Call 897-8831 to reserve your place.

Winter Wildlife Walk

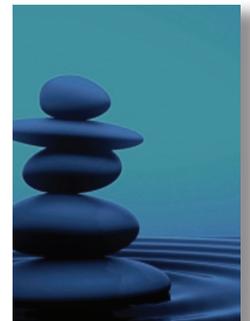
Saturday, January 28th, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Enjoy a free guided nature hike with trained naturalists and look for winter migratory wonders such as the Sandhill crane and the Bald Eagle. You may even get a chance to see native bosque residents like the porcupine. Register at 897-8831.

Dragon and Tiger Medical Qigong

Sunday, January 29th 1:00pm-2:00pm

Improve health and energy in seven simple movements with instructor Marcy Pincus, Energy Arts Certified Instructor. Dragon and Tiger is useful in easing the pain of chronic illness and helping cancer patients build energy after radiation and chemo treatments. It can be done while sitting, lying, and/or standing. Call 897-8831 to register. Suggested donation. See instructor for details.



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

www.cabq.gov/openspace



Recycled Art Fair

April 29-30, 10:00am-4:00pm

Celebrate the annual spring clean-ups in the foothills with recycled art! The Eighth Annual Recycled Art Fair will inspire you with the works of upcycle artists at the Open Space Visitor Center. Browse vendor booths where artists give new life to discarded items and sell their wares. Also enjoy music, workshops, contests, kids’ art market, kids’ activities, and educational booths. Visit www.cabq.gov/openspace for a complete schedule of events – coming soon. To get involved, e-mail abqrecycledartfair@gmail.com.



Gila Monsters!

Saturday, February 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Jerry Tuttle of Zoo Crew Kids will give a presentation of America’s most legendary lizard, including a live presentation of a Gila monster and a Mexican beaded lizard. The talk will include a PowerPoint presentation and a feeding demo after the talk.

Yoga with a View with Grateful Life Yoga

Sundays 9:00am

Enjoy a guided yoga class in a unique setting overlooking 18 acres of agriculture fields. The first class is \$5. The subsequent class fee is \$15 and includes a donation to the Open Space Alliance. Buying in bulk offers a discount. All abilities are welcome.

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.

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

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

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- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 SENIOR | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 FRIEND OF OSA | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 BUSINESS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRAILS DAY | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 INDIVIDUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 NEIGHBORHOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 LIFE MEMBER |

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Open Space News

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STAFF & NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mayor Richard J. Berry

Director, Parks & Recreation

Department: *Barbara Taylor*

Acting Superintendent

Brandon Gibson

Assistant Superintendent

James Lewis

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Jim F. Sattler

Operations & Maintenance

Manager

Richard Rodriguez

Environmental Education

Coordinator

Bill Pentler

Open Space Forester

Matthew Peterson

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Manager, OSVC

Kent Swanson

OSVC Coordinator

Noel Chilton

Senior Office Assistant

Kim Selving

President

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Steve Glass

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