

# OPEN SPACE newsletter



Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 16, Issue 1, January - March 2015

**Happy New Year!**

## **A Message from Mayor Richard J. Berry**

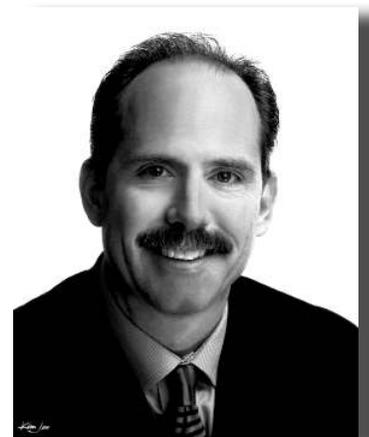
Greetings friends of Open Space! The New Year always brings reflection on things past and on the bright tomorrows ahead. Of the past, I hope everyone managed to find time to share the season with friends and family, and that the holidays were all that you wished for.

We're lucky in the fact that Albuquerque has so much to offer in the way of places to see with activities that will guarantee a point of interest, fulfil a curiosity, offer endless recreational possibilities to satisfy even the most stoic of individuals, generating smiles for the whole family.

The Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque Biopark, Petroglyph National Monument, State Museums, Cibola National Forest, and County and City Major Public Open Spaces all provide an outlet and make Albuquerque one of the top cultural and recreation destinations in the country. The New Year offers the promise of great things to come and experiences that will shine in your memories for years but it all comes down to individual desires and goals. How do you plan on seeing the year unfold? Is it through the long tradition of volunteering that Albuquerque holds to help maintain, clean-up, or build new trails? Will it be as a source of information, teaching skills and sharing experiences; or offering some of the innumerable talents that enrich the lives of many Burquenos; or would it be through personal exploration of many of the potentials listed above?

There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy Open Space in 2015. For example you and your family can help the Open Space Division with trail maintenance, graffiti removal and trash cleanup during our annual Spring Cleanups in the Sandia Foothills. See page 11 for more information. Of course, don't forget to stop by the Open Space Visitor Center for a variety of art and educational exhibits, programs, workshops, film screenings and more! And although the Holidays have officially passed us by, you can still support the Open Space Division and the Open Space Alliance by purchasing unique gifts from the Open Space Visitor Center Gift Shop. The Gift Shop is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

This is one of the absolute joys of living in a great town. The paths and trails are there for you to follow and it is my greatest wish that you will find the one that suits you best. Here's hoping the New Year finds you happy, healthy, and ready to explore!



## New Year's Greetings From El Duende



This season El Duende enjoyed all that the holidays had to offer. All of the celebrations, the gatherings, the family, the friends, and especially all of the turkey, ham, the matanzas, tamales, posole, latkes, sufganiyot and pfeffernussen.

Now it's time for El Duende to get a little exercise so he will be in shape in the spring so he can use the new Pulaski that he received as gift through a grant from REI. The grant was used to purchase shiny new tools for the Open Space Division to use during volunteer projects. Thanks REI!

What better way to lose some extra holiday pounds than to share the gift of nature with friends and family and to take a hike in Open Space? There are so many Open Space areas to enjoy, but El Duende especially recommends exploring the Golden Open Space. You can go for a 2 mile

hike on the Los Duendes Loop, or an 8.3 mile round trip hike that will take you to the south mesa.

After a brisk winter hike you'll need to warm up at the Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC) where you can enjoy the upcoming art exhibits "A Book of Cranes" and "The Three Sisters: Corn, Beans, and Squash." There will also be a variety of workshops at the Visitor Center this winter and spring. Page 4 has a brief summary of the types of activities you can enjoy at this jewel on Albuquerque's west side.

El Duende is also thinking positive about snow in the Sandias and has his skis all waxed up in anticipation of cross country skiing at the Elena Gallegos. In the spring, El Duende will be gathering with friends at various trail heads in the Sandia Foothills for our annual Spring Cleanups. The cleanups begin at the Route 66 Open Space on March 28th and continue each Saturday in April. See page 11 for details.

El Duende would also like to welcome back **James Lewis**, the original Duende and a newly appointed Assistant Superintendent of Open Space. James is returning to Open Space after working as the City's Trails Planner with Parks and Recreation. Welcome home, James!

Of course, whatever way you wish to enjoy the outdoors and which ever area of Open Space you choose to explore this year, you must remember (turn on your secret Duende decoder ring now) "virtue of laughter under nature's tree extols extra rapture."



The Duende Family Gets its Twinkle On at the Twinkle Light Parade in Nob Hill. Photo by Erik Z.

## The Open Space Visitor Center Presents: A Book of Cranes - A Convocation of Artists, Poets & Cranes



**BOOK OF CRANES: A CONVOCATION OF POETS, ARTISTS AND CRANES**

**ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER – JANUARY 3-MARCH 29, 2015**

**RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2-4 PM**

**OPEN MIC POETRY READING: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1-3 PM**

[bookofcranes.wix.com/bookofcranes](http://bookofcranes.wix.com/bookofcranes)



### ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

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[www.cabq.gov/openspace](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace)

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RICHARD WOLFSON

Join us for the opening reception on **January 10th, 2015, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**. The show runs through March 29th. The Open Space Visitor Center Gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Entry is free. A Book of Cranes is a collaboration between 12 New Mexico artists and poets. The project took place in 2012 in Albuquerque over a year's time. The poet artists awaited the cranes' arrival, watched them in the fields and along the Rio Grande, and witnessed their departure. Throughout the year they exchanged poetry in a Japanese form called renga.

*Autumn in New Mexico  
early snow on the Sandia Mountains  
morning glories bloom all day –  
a season for Cranes.*

A Book of Cranes is a large, accordion style folding screen book that measures 24" x 32" x 5" with a 16' open, extended length. The original art is a variety of silk paintings, watercolors, and woodcut prints. Japanese style renga poetry by the artist poets is written in brush calligraphy on handmade paper. Participating artists and poets are: Vicki Bolen, Geraldine Brussel, Deborah Cole, Dale Harris, Stephanie Lerma, Lou Liberty, Margy O'Brien, Ginger Rice, Judith Roderick, Mary Sweet, Linney Wix, and Richard Wolfson.

OPEN SPACE  
VISITOR CENTER



## WINTER AND SPRING OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER (OSVC) EVENTS

### JANUARY 2015

**\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 9:00 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** Free. Registration is recommended one month in advance. Join us for a guided walk into the riverside forest and discover this world away from the city.

**ONGOING: Sundays 9:00am -10:30am. *Yoga with a View*.** Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique.

January-March 29th, 2015. *The Book of Cranes, A Convocation of Artists, Poets, & Cranes*. See page 3 for details.

\*January 10th, 10:00am - 1:00pm. *Training for Visitor Center Volunteers*. Call 897-8831 for details.

\*January 17th, 10am-Noon. *Calligraphy Workshop*. Learn basic calligraphy. Call 897-8831 for full details.

\*January 24th, 10am-3:00pm. *Open Space Alliance Annual Meeting*. Call 897-8831 for full details.

### FEBRUARY 2015

**\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 9:00 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** See January listing.

**ONGOING: Sundays 9:00am -10:30am. *Yoga with a View*.** Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique.

January-March 29th 2015. *The Book of Cranes, A Convocation of Artists, Poets, & Cranes*. See page 3 for details.

February 14th, 2015. *Open Mic Poetry Reading. A Program to Compliment the Book of Cranes*. See page 3 for details.

February 21st, 11:30am-1:30pm. *Pruning and Tree Care Basics*. Call 897-8831 for details.

### MARCH 2015

**\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 9:00. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** Free. See January listing for details.

**ONGOING: Sundays 9:00am -10:30am. *Yoga with a View*.** Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique.

January-March 29th 2015. *The Book of Cranes, A Convocation of Artists, Poets, & Cranes*. See page 3 for details.

**\*This event requires pre-registration. Call 897-8831 or email [openspace@cabq.gov](mailto:openspace@cabq.gov) to register.**

*The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd NW between Montaño and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.*

# Happy Trails to You....In Memory of Trail Watch Volunteer Dick Traeger

The Open Space Division is sad to report the passing of long time Trail Watch Volunteer Dick Traeger. Dick passed away on November 19, 2014. Dick was an avid hiker and also enjoyed mountain bike riding and had served as a Trail Watch Volunteer since January 2000. He was also a member of the Open Space Alliance and had been a board member of the Alliance. Dick was also active in Open Space volunteer events such as National Trails Day and Spring Cleanups in the Sandia Foothills. In addition to Dick's involvement with the Open Space Division he was also a docent at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. The Traeger family invites friends and colleagues to make a donation in Dick's name to either St. Luke Lutheran Church or the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. (Photo courtesy of French Funerals.)



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## News From the Far Side (of Open Space)

~ by Jim Sattler



The Duendes have been working hard at the Golden Open Space! A half mile of new trail was recently completed this season. That half mile was a crucial link of a 2.65 mile trail across a rugged series of arroyos that completes a connection between the 2 mile Los Deundes Loop on the north mesa and a 1 mile loop on the south mesa. It is now possible to do an 8.3 mile round trip hike or ride beginning at the La Madera Trailhead. Along the way visitors can experience sweeping views of the Sandias, San Pedros and Ortiz Mountains. As visitors descend 260 feet down into the rugged arroyo complex they can see the geologic history of the area as displayed through tilted and folded layers of gray, yellow and red sedimentary layers of rock. The trail twists and winds with the contours and bottoms out at the Arroyo Seco, then climbs up 240 feet on to the south mesa for more incredible views.

One of the most frequently asked questions about the Golden Open Space is how did the City get this land that is so far away from the city limits? The City obtained the Golden Open Space back in 1963 before there even was an Open Space Division. In the 1960's the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department, under the directorship of Bob Burgan obtained thousands of acres of former Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land through a Federal program called the Recreation and Public Purposes Act at the bargain price of \$2.50 an acre! This land was part of program that was called the Regional Parks Program. The intent was to ring the city with areas set aside for nature study, picnics and camp grounds. This land became Open Space with the creation of the Open Space Division in 1984. The Open Space Division finalized the Resource Management Plan for Golden in 2006 and trail work began in 2007 with the help of dedicated volunteers from the San Pedro Creek Estates, Trail Partners/Foo MTB, TWVs, and other trail enthusiasts.

If you are visiting the Golden Open Space for the first time be prepared for rugged terrain and steep rocky trail sections that drop into 2 large arroyos. Use caution your first time visiting the Golden Open Space and follow these helpful tips: Bring your cell phone for emergencies, print a map from the Open Space website, bring plenty of water, dress appropriately for changing weather and check the weather report before you start your hike or ride because once you drop down into the arroyos it is hard to see storms as they roll into the area. Most important, enjoy the Open Space! But stay on the designated trails; otherwise you'll have to explain yourself to *El Duende!*

## 2014 Fall Volunteer Projects Wrap Up

~Jim Sattler and Kent Swanson

On behalf of the Open Space Division, we would like to thank all the volunteers who contributed to the success of this year's volunteer projects. Now that winter is here, we can take a break and spend some time enjoying our accomplishments.

A special thank you goes out to REI, who awarded the Open Space Alliance a grant to purchase trail building tools for a variety of projects. The major stewardship accomplishments so far with the funds provided by REI were the construction of 2.0 miles of new trail and the maintenance of a total of 6.25 miles of trails within the Rio Grande Valley State Park (RGVSP), the Sandia Foothills Open Space, and the East Mountains/Sandoval County Open Space. Additionally, the Alliance used REI funds for reforestation and restoration projects in the RGVSP's cottonwood forest habitat, including closing unofficial "user trails" that lead to erosion and landscape degradation. Trail work and reforestation projects in these areas will continue throughout 2015.

All projects funded by REI in 2014 were completed by volunteers, assisted by the staff of the OSD. There were a total of 37 volunteer projects using tools funded by REI in 2014, with 615 volunteers participating. 202 youth were involved in these projects, and 413 adults contributed. A variety of community groups were involved in the work, including primary and secondary students from public and private schools in the Albuquerque area, local businesses, Boy Scout Troops, Eagle Scouts, churches, Open Space Trail Watch Volunteers and Open Space Adoption Groups. Mountain bikers, day hikers and horseback riders have benefited from the maintenance and construction of these sustainably designed trails and restored habitats.

In the RGVSP, there were a total of 25 native cottonwood trees and 86 native shrubs planted by volunteers in 2014. Additionally, volunteers maintained about 2 miles of trail and constructed 0.5 miles of new trail in the RGVSP. In the Sandia Foothills Open Space, volunteers worked on preserving 2.25 miles of existing trail and completed the construction of 0.5 miles of new trails. In the East Mountains/Sandoval County Open Space, from June through November 2014, volunteers worked a total of twelve work days building 1.0 miles of trail. Additionally, volunteers worked to maintain 2.0 miles of trail in the area.

October 2014 marked the 20th Anniversary of **Día del Río**. At one time this event was celebrated in dozens of communities from the headwaters of the Rio in Colorado, to Juarez, Mexico. Now, only a few communities take time on this day to recognize the river and its importance to our lives. This year the Open Space Division teamed up with the Rio Grande Valley Nature Center State Park and the local chapter of the National Audubon Society to improve habitat on the Nature Center Grounds as well as to perform much needed trail maintenance on the Aldo Leopold Interpretive Trail north of the Nature Center.

On **Make a Difference Day**, which takes place the last Saturday of October each year, volunteers joined the Open Space Division and our partner organization the Nicodemus Wilderness Project once again to work on improvements at the Piedra Lisa Open Space located in the Sandia Foothills at the end of Candelaria. Special thanks go to the Open Space Alliance for cosponsoring the event!

*Thank you all for your participation and we look forward to working with you next year!*

## ***Open Space History: The Route 66 Open Space and Little Beaver Town***

~Erik Zsemlye

Several years back, the City acquired a parcel of land south of Route 66 to be set aside as Major Public Open Space. That parcel, now appropriately named the **Route 66 Open Space**, was the former site of Little Beaver Town, a short-lived and Western-themed amusement park that operated in the early 1960's.

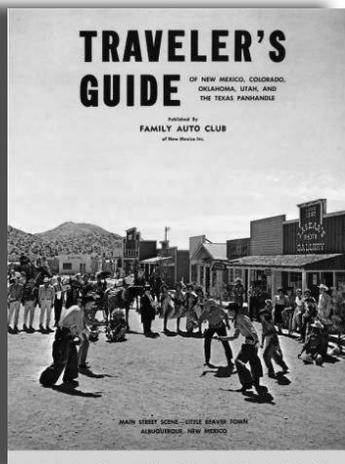
The park was named for Little Beaver, the sidekick of Red Ryder, both of whom were characters created by Albuquerque-based writer and illustrator, Fred Harman. Harman had the idea of creating a tourist attraction to rival Disneyland just east of Albuquerque.

Unfortunately, Harman's vision did not pan out, and Little Beaver Town went bankrupt and closed in 1964. The site was used occasionally for movie sets and for bands playing a new form of music called "Rock & Roll". Fires and vandalism closed the site for good, and after that, the property was abandoned.

All that remains at the site now from its heyday are a few concrete pads, some old electrical junctions, and a few metal pipes. However, some records remain, including old newspaper clippings, historic photos from the site (including aerial photos showing the building footprints), and even a video posted on YouTube from a visitor to the park when it was open to the public. Using these records and the existing structures, we have been able to digitally recreate the park's features, and identify the vantage point of the photos and video.



Open Space Division Staff Discuss the History of Little Beaver Town with Local Resident Sam Pillsbury



Center for Southwest Research, University Libraries, University of New Mexico

The Open Space Division continues to make improvements to the land to restore it to a more natural state. Due to the amount of illegal camping and ORV riding that had historically taken place on the site, this is a long and ongoing process. On **Saturday, March 28, 2015**, we will kick off our Spring Foothills Cleanups with a volunteer event at the former site. We are hoping to present many of the recent findings with the public at that time.

In preparation for the event, we would love to track down any Albuquerque residents that may have first-hand memories of Little Beaver Town. If you went there as a kid, or have anything you'd like to share about the old amusement park, please contact Erik Zsemlye at (505) 452-5208, or [ezsemlye@cabq.gov](mailto:ezsemlye@cabq.gov).

## La Cebolla del Duende (The Onion of the Duende)



### Open Space Division Victim of North Korean Cyber Attack



A suspected North Korean Cyber Attack left the Open Space Division without access to phones, email or the internet for several days prior to the Christmas Holiday. Experts suspect North Korea is retaliating for its Dear Leader Kim Jong Un being snubbed by the Open Space Division and not receiving an invitation to the Division's 30th Anniversary Celebration. North Korean Hactivists are also suspected of stealing Open Space Management plans. The North Korean People's Democratic Parks and Recreation Agency denied the theft, but recently release a five year plan it says will "leave Albuquerque's Open Space program to choke on the dust of its own trails." The 5 year plan bears a striking resemblance to the City's own Open Space Facility Plan.

### Extra Terrestrial Spotted in Open Space

Conspiracy theorist Nancy Nuttel called Open Space dispatch to report the sighting of an extra-terrestrial at the Golden Open Space. "He had a strange contraption on his back that was helping him contact his home world!" exclaimed an excited Ms. Nuttel. Upon investigation Open Space Police confirmed the "extra-terrestrial" was actually Open Space employee Erik Zsemlye who was using Google Trekker equipment to take images of the trails at Golden which will translate to views of the trail similar to those of city streets in Google Streetview. When informed of the Google Trekker project Ms. Nuttel went on a tirade claiming, "It's all part of a cover up! Don't believe what the government tells us! Open Space knows the truth, but they're afraid to tell us. The truth is out there!"

### Elf Spotted in Foothills

A man claiming to be an elf was spotted by Open Space Park Attendants sticking candy canes in people's stockings throughout the Foothills area. "Ordinarily stuffing candy canes into stockings might be acceptable at this time of year, but we felt to do so while folks were hiking in Open Space was not appropriate." said Open Space spokesman Nick Krampus.



An Open Space Trail Watch Volunteer Discusses Trail Etiquette with a Hiker in the Sandia Foothills. Photo credit: phubb.blogspot.com

### Group Hug Event Ties Up the Elena Gallegos

An unauthorized event caused major problems at the Elena Gallegos when a group known as the Organization of Nature Observers (OONO) wanted to get into the Guinness Book of World Records by holding the world's largest group hug. The event's coordinator, Toni Guy became extremely disappointed when Open Space staff shut the event down. "I'm going to call the Mayor and tell him that Open Space staff needs more hugs!" threatened Guy.

# THANK YOU 2014 DIA DEL RIO SPONSORS!



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Alien Technology or the Google Trekker.  
You decide! Photo credit: Nancy Nuttel

## *The Open Space Division Teams with Google to Provide a Virtual Tour of Open Space Trails*

In 2014 the Open Space Division was approved to take part in the GoogleTrekker Partner Program. The Trekker is a backpack mounted, GPS-enabled camera that allows Google's Street View (360-degree panoramic) capability to be extended to places not accessible by the cars that usually record the data. This will allow us to capture high-quality, georeferenced images of Open Space.

Soon, you will be able to take a "virtual hike" using Google Maps to places such as Los Poblanos Fields, the Sandia Foothills, and Boca Negra Canyon. Albuquerque is one of the first places in New Mexico to use this technology so we're very excited by this opportunity! This fall the Division sent off the data from the Trekker to Google and we will announce when the maps are up on running.

Check out [www.google.com/maps/about/behind-the-scenes/streetview/treks](http://www.google.com/maps/about/behind-the-scenes/streetview/treks) to get a sense of what will be coming in 2015!

## **Volunteer with the Open Space Division!**

**Become a vital part of Open Space -  
become a volunteer!**

### **TRAIL WATCH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (TWV):**

**Trail Watch Volunteers are the foundation of the volunteer program - essentially, all volunteers are trained to be Trail Watch. Trail Watch is ideal for those volunteers who enjoy using the trails. Often referred to as Open Space "eyes and ears", these volunteers patrol areas of their choice and record observations, report problems and needs, and educate the public on proper resource use.**

**Contact *Jolynn Maestas* at [jmaestas@cabq.gov](mailto:jmaestas@cabq.gov) or call 452-5207 to find out more!**



## 2015 Spring Volunteer Cleanup Projects

Join the Open Space Division for our annual Spring Cleanups. We will be cleaning trash and graffiti, as well as working on trail improvement projects. And don't forget Bill's ever popular dog poop patrol!

**Route 66 Open Space Cleanup, March 28th 2015:** Help the Division clean up our newest Open Space, located in Tijeras Canyon near Four Hills.



### Annual Spring Cleanups in the Foothills:

**April 4th:** Copper Trailhead

**April 11th:** Indian School Trailhead

**April 18th:** Menaul Trailhead

**April 25th:** Piedra Lisa Trailhead (the end of Candelaria at Camino de la Sierra)

See the Open Space website [www.cabq.gov/openspace](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace) or call 452-5200 for more details!

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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; and providing financial support.

For information about our current activities, contact Sallie McCarthy, OSA Board President, at [mccarthy\\_sal@hotmail.com](mailto:mccarthy_sal@hotmail.com)

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Open Space News

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