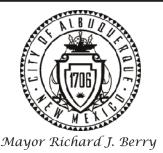


# OPEN SPACE newsletter Mayor Richard J. Berry



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

Volume 14, Issue 4, October - December 2013

## A Message from the Open Space Alliance by Sallie McCarthy

We could not have asked for a more perfect day on Sunday, September 15th, when we celebrated the Urban Farm and Harvest Festival at the Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC). This annual event happens every September. This year the weather was nice and sunny with a cooling breeze. Kids and families had lots of fun marching in a parade and wearing homemade masks. Andy Young, a remarkable juggler, wowed the people with tricks and colorful socks. Local harvest vendors sold delicious foods and the Visitor Center's Heritage Garden was in full flower.

Starting the end of September, we will have Food Forest Sundays. Thanks to a grant from PNM Foundation, the OSVC will hold weekly sessions September 29th through October 27th informing people how to make a forest that feeds people and



animals. See page 9. In addition, the OSVC offers Matinee Movies on Saturdays from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. In the OSVC Gallery, a new show has been hung. Colloquial Goods brings the artistry of traditional New Mexican arts and crafts. This show will be on until October 29th.

October and November will have various annual events to tantalize you. The Open Space Division (OSD) is organizing Make a Difference Day for October 26th, when community folks can participate in helping OS lands. Dia del Rio, taking place on October 19th, is another opportunity to work and help the river habitat which is so precious and unique in Albuquerque. See page 6 for more information. During Balloon Fiesta, Boca Negra Canyon gets an opportunity to greet visitors from foreign lands. Many visitors are looking for a close-up of the petroglyphs. We welcome volunteer help with any of the above events.

In my view, a rare and special event is the Day of the Dead table at the OSVC. It is a way to honor and remember past servants of Open Space. Come by during the first weekend of November to see the annual ofrenda. And finally, we look forward to the Return of the Cranes Annual Festival on November 16th and 17th. The sorghum has been planted and the birds will come. Page 3 has all the details.

Visit the www.cabg.gov/openspace and learn more. Also, please visit www.openspacealliance.org. Our website is beautiful but not current. We are on the lookout for a webmaster. We will soon be looking for a Gift Shop manager. Contact info@openspacealliance.org with your ideas and questions. Have a great fall and enjoy your favorite Open Space!

Sallie McCarthy, **OSA President** 

# Fall in Open Space A Letter from El Duende



It's hard to believe that summer is just about over and fall is creeping upon us. Once again we made it through fire closures and drought followed by over three inches of rain in July, with an epic storm blasting 90MPH winds. El Duende's Pulaski needs a good sharpening after having to deal with all those trees and branches that were blocking our *bosque* trails. Then another three inches of rain in one week of September and suddenly instead of a drought we're dealing with flooding and erosion on lots of our trails.

Now fall will be here soon along with the lingering scent of roasting chile wafting through the air. El Duende especially enjoys all the fall festivals that Open Space offers like last month's Urban Farm Festival and the upcoming Crane Festival, both held at the Open Space Visitor Center. There was also National Public Lands Day, which is our annual geocache event.

Volunteers at this year's "Cache In, Trash Out" (CITO) event which took place at the Manzano Four Hills Open Space, cleaned up a significant amount of trash and broken glass from the area.

Don't forget Dia del Rio, a day to give back to the *bosque* and river, which will be held in the South Valley at the Bernalillo County's Durand Open Space. See page 6 for details.

Then there's Make a Difference Day held each year at the Piedra Lisa Open Space in the Sandia Foothills, cosponsored by our friends at the Nicodemus Wilderness Project. Did you know that last year we won an award from USA Weekend Magazine and Newman's Own recognizing the Open Space Division's Make a Difference Day project for its "commitment to making a difference in the lives of others?"

If these events weren't enough, fall is just a great time to get out and explore different Open Space lands, such as the *bosque* and the Golden Open Space. Yes, so much to do in the fall. Sometimes El Duende has trouble deciding which events to attend. Where ever you choose to explore remember to enjoy what El Duende's father used to describe as (turn on your secret Duende decoder ring now), "Vis medicatrix naturae."

# A BIG THANK YOU! TO OUR WONDERFUL URBAN FARM AND HARVEST FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS ~Jodi Hedderig

I must admit, I was fearful that we would not be able to pull off Urban Farm & Harvest Festival this year without a scenario that involved two or more automobiles and a crunching sound, angry visitor voices, and police. But, oh my golly! even with a significant portion of parking out of commission, this event was fantastic! Parking was smooth and rhythmic, people were happy and enjoying the event, and I was impressed with our extraordinary volunteers who gracefully and confidently carried out the logistics for the day. I knew I could relax after seeing the volunteers in action.



So, on behalf of the Urban Farm & Harvest Festival planning committee, vendors, presenters, and guests, THANK YOU, to the following volunteers for your priceless contributions to another fabulous farm festival (in no particular order):

Carole Everton, Charlie Wood, Amy M, Barbara Eberhart, Diane Stovall, Rudy Arnold, Tom St. Aubin, Sari Jensen, Carl Litsinger, Sheila Litsinger, Judy Dale, Renee Robillard, Lisa Costrow, Mary Worthen, Linda Dell Baltzley, Adam Dimas, Pansy Stone, Beata Sanchez, Karen Brown, Joelle Collier, Vivian Griego, Doug Calderwood, Ann Calderwood, Janice Powell, Jill Greene, Peggy Minich.

What: Connected Webs: Las Arañas Spinners

and Weavers Guild

Where: Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd NW, 87120. 505-897-8831

When: November 2nd through December 28th

#### **OPENING RECEPTION:**

November 2nd, 3 - 5 p.m.



Weavings that exhibit the connections existing between technique, plant, animal, people and place. The Spanish word for spider is "araña." These weavers have drawn from the lands of the Southwest for their hand dyed colors, hand spun threads and their woven patterns.

Las Arañas is a 42 year old fiber arts organization delivering education, community and resources to members. Local wool and natural dyes are foundational features to most weavings produced in the Guild. Learn more on the Las Arañas website: www.lasaranas.org.

## Return of the Cranes Celebration

**WHAT:** In Albuquerque in the fall we celebrate one of our most beautiful and cherished seasonal visitors, the Sandhill Crane. Join us for a variety of activities that honor this unique creature.

WHEN: November 16th and 17th.

WHERE: Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Rd. NW, 87120

One of the best places for watching the Sandhill Crane is the Open Space Visitor Center, which is located adjacent to farm fields managed by the Open Space Division as wildlife habitat. Since its official opening in 2006, the Visitor Center has become a haven for wildlife enthusiasts, as it allows for unique views of Sandhill Cranes and other bird species, with the spectacular backdrops of the Sandia Mountains and the Cottonwood forests of the Rio Grande.

See www.cabq.gov/openspace for full details.

#### Sandhill Crane Fun Facts

- •The Sandhill Crane could be the world's "oldest bird." In Nebraska, a crane fossil estimated to be about 10 million years old was found to have the identical structure as the modern Sandhill crane.
- •Mated pairs of cranes stay together throughout the year. They migrate south as a family unit with their offspring.
- •The average life span of a Sandhill Crane is 20 years.
- •An adult crane can measure up to four feet tall!

### OCTOBER 2013

\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30am. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*. Registration is recommended one month in advance.

**Every Sunday, 9:00am - 10:30am.** *Yoga with a View.* Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominque. \$15.00 donation. A portion of the donation benefits the Open Space Alliance.

**Sunday, October 20th.** *Waterfalls of New Mexico*. A presentation by the author, Doug Scott. Time to be announced.

Saturday, October 26, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Contemplative Collage. Call 897-8831 for details.

**ONGOING through October 27th:** *Colloquial Goods: Traditional New Mexican Arts.* Wool, sculpture, tin punch arts and potter will be on display.

October - Time to be announced. Permaculture Sponge-Building Workshop with Jim Brooks.

### **NOVEMBER 2013**

\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30am. Guided Bosque Nature Walk. See October listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am - 10:30am. Yoga with a View. See October listing.

November 2nd through December 28th. Connected Webs: Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers Guild. See page 3 for details.

**Every Saturday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.** *Movie Matinees:* Ponyo: October 5th. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea: October 12th. Pacific Rim: October 19st. Finding Nemo: October 26th. FREE!

November 16th and 17th, Return of the Sandhill Crane Celebration Weekend. See page 3 for details.

### **DECEMBER 2013**

\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30am. Guided Bosque Nature Walk. See October listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am - 10:30am. Yoga with a View. See October listing.

November 2nd through December 28th. Connected Webs: Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers Guild. See page 3 for details.

Sunday, December 15, 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Wanagi Wolf Fund Holiday Fundraiser. Call 897-8831 for details.

See www.cabq.gov/openspace or visit the Open Space Visitor Center Facebook page for an up-to-date calendar of events.

\*This event requires pre-registration. Call 897-8831 or e-mail openspace@cabq.gov to register.

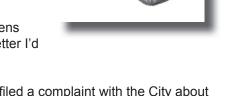
## "La Cebolla del Duende" News from Duende Country

*El Duende* continues his pursuit of the next Pulitzer Prize in Yellow Jouranlism in this edition of the Open Space News! Chomp on these delicious morsels of oniony goodness!

**Summer Series News:** Slight confusion arose at a Summer Series hike when a high school health class showed up to a herpetological hike. "I thought I was going to learn how to avoid herpes" said 16 year old Lyle Aldridge. "The lizards were really cool though," Lyle added.

**Mountain Lion Shot in the Foothills:** State Game and Fish officers responded to a report of a mountain lion incident at a home near the Foothills Open Space at 5:00AM on May 27. According to officials an unidentified man living near the Piedra Lisa Open Space called 911 saying he had just shot a mountain lion in his pajamas. "How the mountain lion got in the man's pajamas we'll never know", said Game and Fish spokes person Nadia Garza.

**The Sky is Falling:** 311 calls were pouring in throughout the month of July from citizens concerned about a mysterious wet substance falling form the sky. "If I didn't know better I'd say this was rain", said Foothills resident Jerry Savannah.



**Bosque News:** Carol Calyx, spokesperson for the Not In My Open Space Coalition, filed a complaint with the City about too many children laughing and enjoying the *bosque* during summer vacation. "These children should be at home watching TV or playing computer games and not disturbing our use of Open Space", exclaimed Ms. Calyx.

### **Food Forest at the Open Space Visitor Center**

~By Jodi Hedderig

It all started with this crummy field.  $\rightarrow$ 

Heavy clay, poor drainage, and a high concentration of lime prevented crops we planted from growing. Instead, grasses that baffled the local horticulture extension agent thrived (sure, it looks great, but it isn't what I planned for). For several years I kept right on planting the same rotation of crops we had traditionally grown for wildlife (alfalfa, sorghum, millet and corn) and with the same results: strange volunteer plants flourished while crop plants perished. What is that Einstein quote describing insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Yeah, that was me.





And then, I became involved with bees -- honeybees at first, but they led to my awareness of all pollinators and their sharp decline worldwide. I began to think about how to increase pollinator habitat throughout the facility grounds.

← Not long after my shift in thinking about expanding pollinator forage, I met these lovely ladies (from left to right: Mona Angel, Anne Carpenter, and Patty Parks-Wasserman) and the crummy field became an opportunity. Together we started to hatch a plan to convert the field into a food forest/pollinator garden.

Continued on page 8. . .

## Fall Volunteer Opportunities with the City Open Space Division



19th Annual DIA DEL RIO, October 19th, 2013

to celebrate and protect our unique local landscapes.

Join the Open Space Division, the Open Space Alliance, Bernalillo County Open Space, REI and other local organizations for a variety of conservation projects that nurture and protect the *bosque* and river, including trail work, re-vegetation, and trash clean up. There will be ac-

During the month of October, join the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division and other local organizations for two special events that serve

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 19th from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Please arrive promptly at 8:30am to sign in and enjoy snacks provided our other generous sponsors. Make sure to stick around for a fabulous prize drawing

at the end of the event!

**WHERE:** The Bernalillo County Durand Open Space in the South Valley. 4812 Isleta Blvd, S.W. 87105. (South of Gun Club on Isleta.) Parking is limited so PLEASE CARPOOL!

tivities appropriate for all ages.

**BRING**: Gloves, sun protection, plenty of water, and a sack lunch. Free snacks will be provided during morning sign in.

**REGISTER**: Registration is required. Register online with REI at www.rei.com/albuquerque or by calling 247-1191. The first 80 people to pre-register will receive a free t-shirt the day of the event, courtesy of REI!

Other Ways to Help on Dia del Rio: Do you live near the bosque? Or do you have a favorite area near the river? Organize your own clean up the day of the event. Open Space will provide trash bags and haul off the collected trash. Call 452-5216 or email kswanson@cabg.gov to sign up your group for your own cleanup.

#### Make a Difference Day, October 26th

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.

When: October 26th, starting at 8:30 am and ending at 12:30pm.

Where: The Sandia Foothills parking area east of Tramway on Camino de la Sierra, just south of the east end of Candelaria.

**REGISTER:** Registration is required and space is limited! Register at www.centerfornonprofitexcellence.org.

The Nicodemus Wilderness Project is a worldwide organization based in Albuquerque and are 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 <a href="https://www.wildernessproject.org">www.wildernessproject.org</a>.

For more information about Make a Difference Day please call 452-5213 or email jsattler@cabq.gov.

## **Rio Grande Community Farm Fall Events**



It's fall again, and time for the Rio Grande Community Farm's 2013 Fall Festival & Mini-Maze! We've got all sorts of fun lined up, so be sure to attend each event and get in on all the action. From pumpkin games and activities to barnyard animals and getting dirty on the farm, you name it-we've got it!

Due to the drought of the past few years, we haven't had water from the acequia to irrigate our corn, and the maze is going to be a little patchy and shorter than in years past. Nonetheless, during all Fall Festival events, visitors are welcome to

explore and get lost in the maze as part of the fun.

On top of the Fall Festival, if you want to support us even further (with awesome "Thank You" prizes in return), go to our IndieGoGo fundraising campaign! See our website www.riograndefarm.org for more information.

Admission donations for our festival events are \$5 a person, and the 5K registration costs are \$25 until September 28th, after which the run is \$30.

Be sure to Like us on Facebook and share the fun with your friends and family!

Saturday, October 5th (from noon to 5 p.m.): Sustainability Day & Drought Resistance on the Farm

Come out to learn about how farms like ours handle the drought, and enjoy a number of activities centered on sustainable living! Demonstrations and activities include backyard farming/gardening, renewable energy demonstrations, foraging and wilderness education, arts and crafts, and many more.

Saturday, October 12th (beginning at 8 a.m.): First-ever Farm 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run!

Join RGCF in our first-ever 5K around the farm! This year's Maze may not be as intricate as years past, but that doesn't mean it won't be cool to run through it! Registration for the run is here and prizes to the top finalists include gift certificates to a variety of local businesses.

Saturday, October 26th (from noon to 5 p.m.): Pumpkin-Palooza and Costume Contest

Our closeout event on the farm is just in time for Halloween: Pumpkin-Palooza will feature activities such as pumpkin cooking & carving competitions, Pumpkin Olympics and Pie Eating races, and a Costume Contest (with a dog category for all you canine lovers).

### **Get Into Open Space With Bosque Pole Planting**

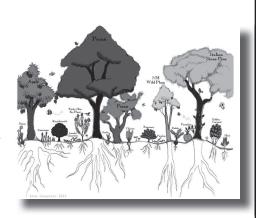


Pole planting is part of our reclamation and maintenance of the bosque but what is Pole Planting? "Poles" are long straight branches from cottonwood and black willow trees that we can harvest or recycle from downed trees or cut from existing ones. The poles are planted into the ground and then grow into new trees. Pole plantings make great service learning projects for school classes and groups. This gets everyone 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. To get more information about these projects and to schedule a date, please contact Bill Pentler, 452-5222. Pole planting season begins in January and lasts

through March. These are popular events and dates fill up quickly with only a set number of trees planted per area so call now.

#### ... Food Forest, continued from page 5

I know what you're thinking. This is a food forest and one could look like the picture on the right. No one waters, weeds, or feeds wild forests, but they grow and reproduce on their own for hundreds of years. Aiming toward that self reliance and resilience, food forest gardens are designed to create environments that mimic ecosystems found in natural forests. Food forest gardens are filled with plants providing not only food, but also many other types of valuable products, while expanding habitat for wildlife and bees. Working with nature, rather than against it, makes less work for gardeners and farmers and a healthier environment for all.



The idea is to plant guilds, or groups of mostly perennial plants that include a central fruiting tree and complimentary plants suitable for the conditions. The plants will provide habitat for wildlife and edible and/or useful products for people. We designed and planned and soon we had a proposal suitable for a grant request, which we made to the PNM Foundation 30th Anniversary Grants. Our project was among 32 other recipients state-wide and parts of Texas to receive an award up to \$10,000! Yippee! The funding will pay for plants and materials, but more importantly, it will pay for instructors to lead hands-on workshops that will teach youth and adults in our community how to design and build a food forest of their own. Courses and workshops are starting right now.

Interested in learning more about upcoming food forest classes, workshops, and volunteer opportunities? Sign up for the Open Space Visitor Center's monthly calendar of events e-mailed to your inbox or like the Food Forest at the Open Space Visitor Center Facebook page. You are invited to contact me at (505) 897-8865 or jhedderig@cabq.gov to learn more. People and nature in partnership for a common habitat!



# Food Forests: Growing the Way Nature Does It

Who waters, weeds and feeds our forests? Can we design our gardens and farms to be as carefree as our wild forests? What can we learn from natural forests to create more sustainable farms, gardens and local communities and support our wildlife?

A food forest garden creates an ecosystem that mimics the same environment that would be found in a natural forest. A food forest is filled with edible plants providing food and valuable products for people while expanding wildlife and bee habitat. Food Forestry has been in practice for 2000 years and is an ideal technique for conditions in Albuquerque.

The City of Albuquerque's Open Space Visitor Center introduces a course specifically designed for those new to food forestry. Both novice and more experienced gardeners can join in any of the classes in the series. Join us in creating a food forest for Albuquerque while designing one specifically for your own home or farm. Courses are offered in partnership with the non-profit Open Space Alliance. Fees are payable to the instructors.

Where: Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120 www.cabq.gov/openspace. Please Register by calling (505) 897-8831

When: Sundays from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

- September 29, Session One: Intro to Food Forestry: Benefits and Basics (\$35)
- October 6, Session Two: Food Forestry Foundations: How Wild Forests Inspire Food Forest Design (\$35)
- October 13, Session Three: Food Forest Design, Part One (\$130 for two-part class)
- October 27, Session Four: Food Forest Design, Part Two

#### **About the Instructors:**

Mona Angel: Co-Owner, Laughing Turtle Farms, Founding Director, Fairfield Growers Cooperative, Master of Arts, UNM Community & Regional Planning

Anne Carpenter: Co-Owner, Laughing Turtle Farms, Founding Director, Fairfield Growers Cooperative, Permaculture Design certificate

Patty Parks-Wasserman: Permaculture Diplomat, Educator, K-12 Schools 14 years, Instructor of Permaculture, University of New Mexico

# thank you URBAN FARM AND HARVEST FESTIVAL Sponsors







## **BOOKWORKS**

































## TRAIL WATCH AND ADOPT AN OPEN SPACE TRAINING



() TRAILS DAY

When: December 21, 2013, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Where: Open Space Visitor Center

6500 Coors Rd. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120

Registration is required and space is limited! Call Jolynn Maestas at 452-5207 or email jmaestas@cabq.gov for information. Join the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division volunteer team and support a community-based commitment to promote conservation and appreciation for the integrity of our local public lands.

The Major Public Open Space System includes over 29,000 acres of diverse lands, including the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area, Rio Grande Valley State

Park, parts of Petroglyph National Monument, and select areas in the East Mountains. Effective management of these special areas is enhanced by public involvement through volunteering.

Trail Watch Volunteers are the eyes and ears of Open Space. Volunteers report conditions and problems on trails, educate the public on extraordinary natural and cultural resources, direct visitors to practice good land and trail use ethics, and lend a hand on conservation projects such as trail building. Adopt-an-Open Space volunteers, in addition to Trail Watch responsibilities, maintain trails or areas through hands-on conservation projects.

# 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

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

NAME:

DATE:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

HOME PHONE:

E-MAIL:

NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE:
() E-Mail () Printed Version Mailed to My Address () Both () No Newsletter

() NEW MEMBER
() \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR
() \$250 SUSTAINING
() RENEWAL
() \$20 INDIVIDUAL
() \$500 CORPORATE

() \$30 FAMILY

() \$1000 LIFE MEMBER



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Phone: (505) 452-5200 (voice/relay) I FAX: 873-6628 and funded by the OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE www.cabq.gov/openspace

pen Space News

# Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm Winter: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm all week

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\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends (505)857-8334

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242-COPS

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