

OPEN SPACE newsletter Mayor Richard J. Berry

A Quarterly Newsletter ^{of the} Open Space Division ^{and the} Open Space Alliance

Volume 11, Issue 1, January - March 2010

A Message from Mayor Richard J. Berry

Greetings from the Mayor's Office! It is an honor to serve you as Mayor of the great city of Albuquerque, home to one of the best Open Space systems in the country and endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. Our family is very active in outdoor activities such as hiking and skiing, and we're so happy that the Open Space Division is here to offer over 29,000 acres of land for our community's enjoyment. I recognize the importance of preserving landscapes such as the Sandia Foothills and Manzano/Four Hills Major Public Open Spaces. In the coming years, we look forward to personally participating in the protection of this precious natural resource and we encourage all the citizens of Albuquerque to join us. The Open Space Division offers volunteer opportunities



year round. Starting in April with the Sandia Foothills Spring Cleanup, you can put on a pair of gloves and join my family and I as we help clean and protect our favorite Open Space areas together. You may contact the Open Space Division at 452-5200 to learn more about upcoming volunteer opportunities. Take care and we'll see you on the trail!

Hellos and Goodbyes...



Lloyd Lavato at the Visitor Center Photo by Jodi Hedderig

The Open Space Division would like to bid a fond farewell to Lloyd Lavato, a long time employee of Open Space. Lloyd retired this year, after 25 years with Open Space. He started working for the Division in 1984, the year the Division came into existence.

Lloyd helped define the Division by working as its first heavy equipment operator. Among his many duties, Lloyd took great care of the Open Space farm fields at the Visitor Center and Alamo Farm. He took his job seriously, worked long weeks (he often worked Saturdays) and took the time to care for and personally repair his equipment. He will be missed! In other news, we're happy to announce that Jay Lee Evans has rejoined the Open Space team this year as Assistant Superintendent. Jay has been a tireless advocate for Open Space throughout his career with the City of Albuquerque.

He has worked in various capacities at Open Space including as a Planner, Resource Management and Visitor Services section-head, and Assistant Superintendent. Jay served as the Deputy Director and then Director of Parks and Recreation from 2006 to 2009. Welcome back Jay!

Lastly, the OSD would like to welcome the new Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, Barbara Baca. Although Barbara is new in this position, she is a familiar face to the Open Space Division and a strong advocate for Open Space. Barbara started her career with the Department in 1983. She was part of the first Open Space team when the Open Space Division was created in 1984 by then Director, Orlie Sedillo. Barbara worked collaboratively with Open Space volunteers and advocates to develop the Rio Grande Valley State Park Management Plan to protect the Bosque.

Praising Our Awesome Volunteers!

~by Jodi Hedderig

Each year the Open Space Division honors its greatest resource – volunteers. We are fortunate to have a strong team of individuals willing to fill out tedious paperwork and report trail conditions, engage the public and encourage sustainable recreation, carve out beautiful trails from what sometimes seems like concrete, make our gardens grow, and orient guests to the unique and precious landscapes included in the Major Public Open Space system.

The following people earned a special award this year through steady accumulation of hours and notable commitment; however, the Open Space Division *wishes to thank ALL the volunteers* for everything you contribute to the success of the program.



Frank Ameduri, Bob Barr, Richard Beasley, Elsa Bumstead, Doug Calderwood, Dick Conway, Sandy Conway, Mike Deaton, Lori Floyd, Jerryl Galassini, Karen Gibbs, Jim Gore, Bill Groll, Lisa Hada, Rich Hada, John Hegber, Will Hoffman, John Holmes,



Verne Huser, Charles Jansen, Jeanice Jansen, Nancy Kassner, Toni Kingsley, Kathryn Krivitzky, George Lausier, Griff Lechner, Susan Leviton, Bob Martinson, Mike Means, Susan Noftsker, Regina Nordquist, Marilyn Oatway, Cheri Orwig, Jack Peel, Erik Peterson, John Peterson, Ric Alan Smith, Mark Spear, Mike Stark, Carol Stromberg, Dorothy Tiramani, Nina Trogdon, Carl Vikstrom, Kathy Warren, Steven Watson, Carl Weik, Marilyn Weik, Harriet Westman, Barbara Williams, Pat Willis, Rick Willis, Bob Wilson, Charlie Wood, and John Zarola.

Praising Our Awesome Sponsors!

2009 was an outstanding year for Open Space. For our 25th Anniversary year we had great attendance for annual events like National Trails Day and our April Spring Cleanup in the Foothills. National Trails Day broke records for volunteer attendance, with around 210 people helping build and maintain trails in the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area and surrounding Open Space and Forest Service lands.

The success of these events couldn't have been possible without the support of our many sponsors. The following is a list of businesses and organizations that have contributed to Open Space events during 2009. Make sure to support them and give them a personal "Thank You!" when you do!

REI, I Scream Ice Cream, General Mills, The Way Church, Sports Systems, Trader Joe's, La Montanita Coop, Walmart (on San Mateo), Sophia's Place, WeCAN (West Central Alliance of Neighbors), Starbucks Rio Grande, Sunflower Market, Wolfe's Bagels, Stoneage Climbing Gym, Theobroma Chocolatier, Frito Lay, Fat Tire Cycle, Great Harvest Bakery, Whole Foods, Satellite Coffee, 2 Wheel Drive, Rio Grande Community Farm, New Mexico Biopark Society, Los Poblanos Organics, City of Albuquerque Aquatics, Chocolate Café and Bakery, Rolling in Dough Bakery, La Dolce Vita, House of Bread, Babba's Bagels. Special recognition goes to the Open Space Alliance for being one of the most valued supporters of the City of Albuquerque Open Space program.

15th Annual Dia del Rio a Great Success!

This year's Dia del Rio was a hugely successful day! On October 17, 2009, about 90 dedicated volunteers and eight local conservation organizations came together to honor one of New Mexico's most precious natural resources, the Rio Grande.

After enjoying snacks donated by General Mills, Starbucks Coffee, La Dolce Vita Bakery and Cafe, the House of Bread, and the Open Space Alliance, the volunteers headed out to various projects in and around the Rio Grande Nature Center. During the day we:

- •Collected over 20 bags of trash in addition to large miscellaneous debris from the Bosque and from under the I-40 Bridge.
- •Hauled off two trash compactor loads of tumble weeds, trash, and invasive plants from the Nature Center grounds!
- •Planted 200 native shrubs along the high flow channel west of the Nature Center.
- •Cleared weeds and non-native plants from the new Aldo Leopold Interpretive Trail.

After the hard work, everyone gathered for raffle prizes that included a cool REI day pack, Maize Maze tickets, an organic food basket, gift certificates from local bakeries, water bottles and sports equipment donated by General Mills, natural skin care products from La Montanita Co-op, and Open Space annual passes.

Thanks to the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park for hosting the event, and to the Army Corps of Engineers for organizing the tree and shrub planting!





Open Space Employee Jim Sattler in his "Den of Oddities"

Lost (and Found) in Open Space

March and April 2010 at the Open Space Visitor Center Gallery.

Lost (and Found) in Open Space is an upcoming "art" show that will feature unique, strange, and fascinating relics from the recent past found throughout Open Space properties by Open Space employees and volunteers.

Albuquerque is a dynamic city whose boundaries are always shifting. As Albuquerque has grown, the city's limits have moved along with it. Often at these isolated places, people found it convenient to dump all sorts of trash. Ironically, some of these spaces that were once the city's edges and dumping grounds (the Bosque, the West Mesa, the Foothills) have subsequently been protected as Major Public Open Space. In the process of restoring these areas, oddities are unearthed. These relics tell the often forgotten story of our city and its evolution.

Join us in March 2010 at the Open Space Visitor Center for what will be an unforgettable tour of the hidden side of Open Space. For more details call 505-897-8831 or email jrwillis@cabq.gov.

Pole Planting 101

~by Bill Pentler, Open Space Education Coordinator



Many people know that pole planting is part of our reclamation and maintenance of the Rio Grande's *Bosque*, but what exactly is "Pole Planting?" "Poles" are long straight branches from cottonwoods and black willows that we can harvest or recycle from downed trees or cut from existing trees.

We choose this time of year because the trees and branches are dormant through the winter and aren't harmed by our activities.

For planting, we select an area which has burned or that we've recently cleared of invasive and exotic species. We drill down sometimes as deep as 9 feet to reach the water table and "plant" the poles.

If we do everything properly, then a fresh crop of cottonwoods and willow trees will thrive to enhance the area.

We follow this up with the plantings of shrubs, such as golden currant, wolfberry, sumac, and varied natural grasses. Before too long we have a natural, diverse Bosque that supports a wide range of wildlife and allows us to view these areas as they used to be prior to man's intervention.

Winter 2010 Pole Planting Volunteer Opportunities

Open Space manages almost 30,000 acres of land which includes 17 miles of the river corridor. We wouldn't be able to manage it all without the help of numerous, dedicated groups of volunteers, some of whom have adopted particular areas and others who want an educational experience and to assist with our activities.

The plantings make great service and 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 or to schedule a date, please contact Bill Pentler, 452-5222 or Martin Martinez, 452-5211. Planting season begins in January and lasts until about mid-March. These are popular events and dates fill up quickly with only a set number of trees planted per area, so call now!

JANUARY 2010

ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk.* Open Space Visitor Center. A 1.5 hour guided walk into the riverside forest. Drinks and snacks after the hike provided by the Sunflower Market. FREE. Space is limited to 20 people, 7 years old and above. Call 897-8831 to register. Registration is recommended one month in advance.

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am, Every Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominque. \$15.00 donation. A portion of the donation benefits the Open Space Alliance. Call 897-8831 for more details.

ONGOING through March 1st, 2010. Placitas: A Place for Horses, Wildlife Photography by David Cramer. Open Space Visitor Center Gallery. The Placitas Open Space is home to a small population of wild horses, portrayed in these beautiful photographs by renowed photographer David Cramer. For more details call 505-897-8831 or email jrwillis@cabq.gov.

FEBRUARY 2010

ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. Guided Bosque Nature Walk. See January listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am, Every Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm. Yoga with a View. Open Space Visitor Center. See January listing.

ONGOING through March 1st, 2010. Placitas: A Place for Horses, Wildlife Photography by David Cramer. See January listing

MARCH 2010

ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. Guided Bosque Nature Walk. See January listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am, Every Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm. Yoga with a View. Open Space Visitor Center. See January listing.

ONGOING through May 1st, 2010. Lost (and Found) in Open Space. Open Space Visitor Center Gallery. See page 3 for more details.

ONGOING through May 1st, 2010. *Katy Cannon, MFA Thesis Show.* Open Space Visitor Center Gallery. Sculptures which consider the way a human being sees and emotionally responds to nature and offers an aesthetic manifestation of the experience. For more details call 505-897-8831 or email jrwillis@cabq.gov.

Saturday, March 20th, 2010 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. "Upcycle Art Fair." Open Space Visitor Center. Trash becomes treasure at this unique art show and sale. For more details call 505-897-8831 or email openspace@cabq.gov.

March 20th, 10a - 1pm. Trail Watch Volunteer Training (Date subject to change). Trail Watch Volunteers are the foundation of the Open Space volunteer program. Ideal for those volunteers who enjoy using the trails. For more details call 505-897-8831 or email jhedderig@cabq.gov.

APRIL 2010

ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. Guided Bosque Nature Walk. See January listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am, Every Wednesday, 5:30-7:00pm. Yoga with a View. Open Space Visitor Center. See January listing.

ONGOING through May 1st, 2010. Lost (and Found) in Open Space. Open Space Visitor Center Gallery. See page 3.

ONGOING through May 1st, 2010. *Katy Cannon, MFA Thesis Show*. Open Space Visitor Center Gallery. See March listing. Each Saturday in April, 9:00am-1:00pm. *April Cleanup in the Sandia Foothills*. See page 6 for a full schedule. Call 452-5216 for more details.

April 3rd, 10am- 3pm. OSVC Volunteer Training. Open Space Visitor Center. For more details call 505-897-8831 or email openspace@cabq.gov



Outstanding!

Outstanding Adoption Groups Announced

~by Jim Sattler

The Open Space Volunteer Program gratefully acknowledges the hard work and contributions of B.O.M.B. and FooMTB as adoption groups of 2008 (sorry, we're a little late on this one) and 2009.

Each year Open Space selects an adoption group that stands out above and beyond our expectations. The Outstanding Adoption Group award of 2008 goes to B.O.M.B. (Believers On Mountain Bikes). B.O.M.B. is an active adoption group that hosts an annual trail maintenance project on their adopted section of Trail 230 at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area.

In addition to their annual workday, Chris and Ann Stageman also serve as crew leaders for National Trails Day and lead a second work project on their adopted trail. Chris and Ann also hosted an introductory Mountain Biking Clinic as part of the Open Space Summer Series. BOMB members are also active Trail Watch Volunteers who patrol Open Space trails on their bikes. But wait, that's not all! In addition to their hard work with Open Space they have also adopted a trail in the Jemez Mountains, where they also organize an annual work day with the Forest Service.

The 2009 Outstanding Adoption Group award goes to FooMTB (Friends of the Outdoors Mountain Biking) Trail Partners. FooMTB was extremely active this past year and organized two maintenance projects on their adopted section of Trail 365 in the south Foothills. They also worked with Open Space to plan out a set of switchbacks on a hill just north of I-40 which replaces a severely eroded road.

They then organized at least 6 work projects to construct the switchbacks. In addition to these accomplishments, members of FooMTB also participated in 5 work projects at the Golden Open Space.

FooMTB is a registered affiliate of the International Mountain Bicycling Association. Foo's goal is "to bring people together in mutual friendship to promote the role that Mountain Bikers play in maintaining and improving the trails for everyone's enjoyment."

Other adoption groups who deserve recognition and thanks include the Albuquerque Homebuilders Association, Asbury Wronosky and Seaborn, Bosque del Rio Neighborhood Association, Bosque School, Charlie's Crew, Craig Jensen, Diane Goodman, Earthweb, FBOMB, High Desert Residential Owners Association, the Kickstand, Las Placitas Association, Four Hills Neighborhood Association*, Mountain bikers for Trail Maintenance*, Mountain Top Cycling/Sportsystems, Nicodemus Wilderness Project*, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Sagebrush Community Church, the Sandall Family, WeCan, and the WOMBATS*.

* Indicates previous Adoption Group of the Year winners.

SPRING CLEANUP IN THE FOOTHILLS

Join us for our annual Spring Cleanup in the Sandia Foothills every Saturday in April from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. Tasks include trash cleanup, graffiti removal, and trail maintenance.



Meet at the following areas and bring water,

work gloves, and dress for the weather.

Arrive early for snacks and registration.

Call 452-5200 or email kswanson@cabq.gov for more information about the event.

- ◆ April 3 Copper Trailhead
- ◆ April 10 Embudo Canyon (Indian School)
- ♦ April 17 Menaul Picnic Area
- ◆ April 24 Piedra Lisa Open Space (south of the east end of Candelaria)

......Continued from Page 1....Goodbyes and Hellos

Barbara was the co-author of the Northwest Mesa Escarpment Plan which led to the creation of Petroglyph National Monument. She also worked for the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for 3 years in Washington, D.C.

"I am overjoyed to have been given this opportunity by Mayor R.J. Berry to serve as the Parks and Recreation Director," said Baca. "The Parks, Open Space and Trails System gives Albuquerque its sense of place. From the Sandias on the east to the volcanic escarpment and ancient petroglyphs on the west, we are surrounded by beauty. The Rio Grande Bosque is the heart of Albuquerque and our arroyos and trails system connect us to it.

"Open Space defines us as a city and gives us a connection to nature for which we all yearn. I will work hard to protect our Open Space and promote the message that Parks and Recreation is a basic service that is essential to our quality of life." Barbara is a native of Albuquerque graduating from West Mesa High School where she ran track, and played volleyball and basketball. She attended U.N.M. on an athletic scholarship and played volleyball for four years earning a Bachelors Degree in Recreation. She also holds a Masters degree in Recreation Administration from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

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 Hamp, OSA Board President, at shamp7@comcast.net, or 247-2523.

To join, please fill out the information and return the form with your check or mo		•	
	State <u>:</u>		
HOME PHONE:	E-MAIL:		_
() NEW MEMBER () RENEWAL	() \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR () \$20 INDIVIDUAL () \$30 FAMILY	() \$250 Sustaining () \$500 Corporate () \$1000 Lies Member	

Non-Prof. Org U.S. Postage PAID Permit #297

Albuquerque, NM 87199

Open Space Alliance

P.O. Box 91265

RESIDENT

CURRENT OR

Open Space News

is a quarterly publication of the City of Albuquerque, Parks & Recreation Department, Open Space Division P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103 Phone: (505) 452-5200 (voice/relay) 1FAX: 873-6628 www.cabq.gov/openspace and funded by the OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE

STAFF & NEWSLETTER **CONTRIBUTORS**

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mayor Richard J. Berry

Director

Parks & Recreation Department Barbara Baca

Superintendent

Matthew Schmader, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent

Tony Barron

Assistant Superintendent Jay Lee Evans

Resource Management & Visitor

Services Program Manager

Jim F. Sattler

Operations & Maintenance

Manager

Chris Tavasci

Associate Planners

James Lewis

Kent Swanson (Editor and Layout)

Park Specialist

James Marmon

Environmental Education

Coordinator

Bill Pentler

Manager, Open Space Visitor

Center

Jodi Hedderia

Open Space

Visitor Center Coordinator

Joshua Willis

*** **President Open Space Alliance**

Steven Hamp

OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE. 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday (505)452-5200

ELENA GALLEGOS PICNIC AREA

Winter:7:00 am to 7:00 pm Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm all week \$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends (505)857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT **BOCA NEGRA CANYON**

8:00 am to 5:00 pm. all week \$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends (505)897-8814

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

6500 Coors Blvd. NW (505)897-8831 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Tuesday - Sunday

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

8:00 am to 6:00 pm, all week (505) 452-5206 (voice/relay) OR **242-COPS**