



OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martín J. Chávez

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

Volume 10, Issue 4, October - December 2009

25 Years of Protecting Albuquerque's Natural Heritage

From a speech delivered by Dr. Matt Schmader, Superintendent, Open Space Division, during the Open Space Division's 25th Anniversary Celebration, which took place on August 8th, 2009

A score and five years ago, our city fathers brought forth a new division conceived for everybody and dedicated to the proposition that not all land is created equal. At that time our community was engaged in a great struggle to prevent the loss of its character to the wrecking ball or the bulldozer blade. And while there have been setbacks, the victories were greater and the result has been beyond impressive.

These fights always were and will always be about the land and about people. Each time it was intolerable to think about the loss of a place, it was the citizens themselves who stood up. For why should there be ranchettes on top of the volcanoes, or developments well up the face of the mountains? Why should we not have saved all the petroglyphs, or kept the bosque green and healthy? For the people, this has been a labor of love made up of equal parts: dream, sweat, and reward. And in prevailing, realize that every place that has been saved makes Albuquerque the unique and special place that it is. If it were not, fewer would chose to stay—that is certain.



While in the course of everyday life it is all too easy to live in the moment, on special days such as this it is fitting that we look back and take stock of where we are and how we got here. If not, we forget our way and the memory of those who gave to us fades more quickly. Most of us may not know that the idea of acquiring large pieces of land for what was then called regional parks began over 50 years ago and was the inspiration of two men, Ed Engel who was the City Manager, and Bob Burgan, who was the Parks Director. They tirelessly pursued obtaining lands from the federal government, even if those lands were on the far fringes of the city or even outside of Bernalillo County. They knew well that Albuquerque would soon enough need places where people could escape for relaxation and enjoyment. Within 10 years, by the end of the 1960s, this duo had procured 9,000 acres of land including Montessa Park, Gutierrez Canyon, San Antonito, Placitas, and the Shooting Range grasslands. Bob Burgan was the Parks director from 1954 until 1979 and I credit him with being the real father of the Open Space system.

The 1970s were a time of environmental activism and one of rapid growth in the city. Various threats to the volcanoes, the bosque, and the foothills spurred different groups to action. But it took the actions of Philip Tollefsrud to band all of the groups together into the Open Space Task Force, which then successfully worked for the betterment of all these areas. The volcanoes were purchased not long after. One of the greatest challenges facing our community came with the fight to save the Elena Gallegos in the early 1980s. This time the Task Force, along with numerous groups, faced the daunting challenge of trying to raise millions of dollars in a short time.

The call of the land proved too powerful in the end, however, and Mayor Harry Kinney and the City Council approved a special tax to acquire the entire face of the Sandia Mountains. This was the first of three times that the citizens have approved a tax for Open Space—proof that this community has always valued itself. It was during this fast-moving time that efforts to preserve the bosque came front and center, and in quick succession the Rio Grande Nature Center was built and Rio Grande Valley State Park was created.

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Albuquerque's Natural Heritage....continued from page 1

The City was named the Park manager but with no special agency to oversee this area, the Open Space Division was formed in January 1984. By that time the City already had a system of 22,000 acres—one of the largest in the country—and Rex Funk was named the first Open Space Superintendent. Rex sent along these words for us today:

"In the early years, many things got done because we didn't know we couldn't do them. Some of the ideas came from other programs, and some just presented themselves. Either way, we were inspired by what could be, while dealing with what actually was. The land spoke to us, but the people made it happen. That spirit remains the core of the open space experiment in Albuquerque."

Not long after the Division was formed, the focus shifted back to the west side with efforts to save the petroglyphs and volcanic escarpment. Even though we had already built Petroglyph State Park in 1973, rapid growth was threatening much of this ancient landscape. Our studies showed the area to be of world-class significance, and again the Open Space Task Force, along with many groups including the Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, led the fight for preservation. Another quarter-cent tax was passed and within a short time, a new monument—Petroglyph National Monument—was established in June 1990.

The great physical beauty of this place and its desirable way of life drew new residents and so by the end of the 1990s growth once again was at the doorstep of places such as Anderson Field and Four Hills. Mayor Martin Chavez proposed a third quarter-cent tax, which voters again approved, and lands continued to be added. In the process, the City acquired this property and built this fabulous Visitor Center where we are today. Efforts continue to this very day as we buy land from the West Mesa to the East Mountains.

This was not meant to be so much a history lesson as it was meant to be an object lesson. It has always been and will ever be about the land and about the people. When other cities call and ask me how to start an Open Space program and want to know how we did it, I tell them we started early. And we had the greatest community support you could have. I tell them to dream big and reach high. When somebody asks me what I do for a living, they always react that it sounds like a great job. And it is the best job you could have. These wonderful Open Space employees are engaged in the noblest of professions, along with those from all of our sister agencies. Together we have the honor of taking care of 29,000 acres of the most beautiful places for all of you. It has been a great gift from all of the people to all of the people, and we are but caretakers along the way. So celebrate today as a triumph of dreams, sweat, and reward in a place that could only be Albuquerque.



New Trails Booklet Adds to Autumn Destinations

*A Message from Steven Hamp,
President of the Open Space Alliance*

As the daytime temperatures cool, the days get shorter, and the freshness of fall fills the air, it's a wonderful time to enjoy Albuquerque's Open Space lands and go for a walk. There are a variety of prized trails to explore tucked away in and around the city. Access to these areas

can be remarkably easy and close by, but still there can be some hesitancy. That's where a new booklet published by the Open Space Division can be a useful guide. As part of the Division's 25th Anniversary celebration of Open Space stewardship, they have put together a new booklet outlining 25 outstanding trails in Albuquerque Open Space areas. This valuable resource will give you all the details you need to plan your next outing, and it will give you valuable background information as you explore the Sandia foothills, the west-side mesa and woodlands along the Rio Grande! The booklet, titled "25 Outstanding Open Space Destinations" will be available for purchase in late 2009 at the Open Space Visitor Center and at the Albuquerque REI store. Proceeds will benefit the Open Space Alliance. Fall is an enchanting season and a brilliant time to discover new areas of Open Space. *Let's go for a walk!*

The End of Summer: An Update on the Summer Series and Open Space Academy

~by Bill Pentler, Education Coordinator



In this, Open Space’s 25th Anniversary year, we’ve expanded our education and outreach programs ever further. The Summer Series populations were down slightly from last year possibly due to the economy, or limiting the Sunday Hike participants by request of presenters and transport constraints, but mostly, at least in my mind, by the lack of media coverage. I’ll do my best to correct this for next year. With both the Saturday Sunset Series and Sunday Hikes, I included a large event such as the 25th Open Space Anniversary Event and the Hound Hoedown, both of which took place at the Open Space Visitor Center. The elevated numbers from the 25th Anniversary celebration is listed separately in the averages. The Hound Hoedown wasn’t overly successful but not because of the idea, mostly because of the Labor Day weekend. We’ll attempt it again in the 2010 Series but this time at the Elena Gallegos fairly early on in the

Series. Please watch for it. Overall, even with numbers down, I feel the Series has been successful. We managed to introduce a number of new speakers, performers and topics plus the trips to the extended properties in the East Mountains were very well received by all who participated.

The 2010 Summer Series will continue exploring Open Space’s outlying areas such as the Milne/Gutierrez properties and the Northern Geologic Window in the Petroglyphs, include talks or performances on geology, rabbits, big snakes, wild animals, bonsai, story telling, and potentially include a puppet show, marimba band, guitar performance and a talk on beavers or badgers. I will aggressively try to lock down these speakers and performers for next year. I’m also endlessly asking for your input on topics you’d like to see covered or if you are, or know people, willing to give talks or perform, please contact me at wpentler@cabq.gov or call 452-5222 to speak with me directly.

The summer also brought out the inaugural sessions of the *Open Space Academy Summer Camp*. Our goal was to introduce young ones to the activities and areas we deal with on a daily basis with the hope of instilling an appreciation for the outdoors, introducing them to a number of Open Space areas, and eliciting a desire to enter this field or something similar as a career. It was a scramble and stretch to pull it all off but with the assistance of Paul Broome from the Mayor’s office, Annette Paez of City Transit and all of my co-workers, we managed to visit Elena Gallegos, Candelaria Farms, the Bosque, Boca Negra Canyon, and the Open Space Visitor Center and cover trail work, GPS, survival techniques, transplanting trees and shrubs to aid in Bosque reclamation, geologic and cultural history, natural resources and urban planning, the Bosque ecosystem and an overall view of what Open Space is and represents. We feel that the seeds have been well planted and time will tend to the rest in these questing young minds. Thank you all for your interest and continued support and please remember the Open Space Visitor Center for activities and events such as the Urban Farm Festival and Crane Festival plus the View With Room art event and endless other exhibits, hikes and learning experiences during the rest of the year. The summer has come to an end but the mission is ongoing.

Saturday Evening Programs

	2007	2008	2009	2009 plus 25 th Anniversary
Number of Programs	14	15	15	16
Number of Participants	605	800	690	940
Average per Program	43	53	46	59

Sunday Hikes

	2007	2008	2009
Number of Programs	11	15	16
Number of Participants	138	363	172
Average per Program	13	24	11

Rio Grande Community Farm Brings Innovative Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI) System to the Los Poblanos Fields Open Space

By Minor Morgan, Executive Director of Rio Grande Community Farm



In December, 2007 Rio Grande Community Farm received a commitment from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service through its EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) program to partially fund a drip irrigation system on northwest section of the City of Albuquerque Los Poblanos Fields Open Space.

Work began immediately on this project and in April, 2008 Phase 1 of the project was successfully completed. This consists of construction of a water control box to direct the incoming irrigation waters from the Gallegos Lateral ditch located at the North end of the property. A designated turnout was included to allow diversion of ditch waters for use in the drip system.



Funds have been raised to complete the project from the following sources: McCune Foundation, Kerr Foundation, Albuquerque Community Foundation, New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the USDA. Besides these direct sources of cash, RGCF has solicited several community partners who are donating over \$25,000 in goods and services for the project.

These sponsors include: Vulcan Materials, Franks Supply, Sierra Irrigation, Mueller Inc, EDI Architecture, Anne Lopa, B and D Electric, Alpha Southwest, Khalsa Plumbing, and T and P Pump.

Basic System Design: The RGCF SDI system will consist of 7 plots ranging from 2-2.5 acres. Currently we use flood irrigation in the northwest part of Los Poblanos Fields and will continue this capability. Having flood is an important asset in the operation of SDI because it can assist in germination as well as be used to flush salt accumulations back in to the soil.

Each plot will exist as a "Zone" and can be operated independently of the other zones. This will allow us to grow several different crops requiring differing water needs at the same time, as well as leave plots fallow or grow cover crops. We will have 2 water sources: surface water from the Gallegos Lateral and subsurface water from an existing well.

The City has determined that the well can be used for crop production up to the limit established by the State Engineer. Water use on both the surface ditch and subsurface well water will be measured and reports made to Open Space and the State Engineer. RGCF will not exceed the allowable limit of subsurface water. Growing operations will occur year round.

The hub of the system is a series of sand media filters, a booster pump for the surface water, the well pump for the subsurface water and valves, gauges, controls, etc. The system will include an injection system for the addition of nutrients through the lines. The sand media filters will backflush to clean themselves. Backflush water will be channeled in to a french drain adjacent to field 4.

Field permeability tests indicate no issues with the water percolating in to the ground. This equipment will be housed in a 24' X 24' metal building located adjacent to the well pump. The filtered water will flow in to an 8" buried pipeline that will feed each zone thru an electric valve that can be remotely operated from the pumphouse. Drip tape will be buried 6" below the ground.

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15th Annual Día del Río Celebration!

"The Rio Grande is one of the most vital natural resources in New Mexico from which we all benefit," says Mayor Martin Chávez. Join the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, REI and the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park for a variety of conservation projects that nurture and protect the Bosque and river, including trail work, revegetation, and trash clean up. There will be activities appropriate for all ages. Enjoy educational tables from area organizations working to protect and enhance the Rio Grande and bosque.



When: Saturday, October 17th, 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Arrive promptly at 8:30am to sign in and enjoy snacks provided by our generous sponsors. At 1:00pm enjoy a *fabulous prize drawing!*

Where: The Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. 2901 Candelaria NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

Bring: Gloves, sun protection, plenty of water. Free snacks will be provided during morning sign in.

Register: Starting September 15th at REI at 1550 Mercantile Ave NE or call 247-1191. The first 80 people to pre-register will receive a free t-shirt the day of the event, courtesy of REI!

Have a raft or canoe? Boaters are encouraged to participate and help clean trash from the river! Call 452-5200 to RSVP. (Boaters must follow all NM State Parks regulations. Call 1-888-NMPARKS for full regulations) Do you have a favorite area of the bosque you'd like to clean up during Dia del Rio? Call us and we'll provide the trash bags and haul out the trash at the end of the day! Call 452-5216 for more details.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2009

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

At the Piedra Lisa Sandia Foothills Open Space (East end of Candelaria Road)

(Sign in begins at 8:30am, projects from 9:00am – 1:00pm)

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. Volunteers will meet at the parking area east of Tramway on Camino de la Sierra, just south of the east end of Candelaria.

Projects include: trail maintenance, trail building, trash cleanup, and graffiti removal. Trail tools, equipment, snacks and water will be provided. This day of spirited volunteerism is an enjoyable event for the whole family. Volunteers should dress in layers, wear sun protection and hiking boots, and bring work gloves.

The Nicodemus Wilderness Project is a worldwide organization based in Albuquerque and 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 about Make a Difference Day please call 452-5200 or email jsattler@cabq.gov. **RSVP for the event to: mail@wildernessproject.org or call 505-363-0693**

THE OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER PRESENTS: Ancient Drawings

What: Ancient petroglyph rock images photographed by Walter Wollert. Curated by Joshua Willis. *Free Admission.*

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

When: November 1st – 29th, 2009.

Opening Reception November 14th 1:00 – 4:00 pm



Humanity has always searched for ways to express the perfection that is inherent in the natural world: art, architecture, and even mathematics do it. Mankind is a product of nature and our contribution to the natural world is our ability to emulate its' beauty though the manipulation of geometry.

We can track this contribution through history. The Greeks created the Doric Column; The Romans perfected the use of dome architecture; the Native Americans used geometric shapes to express our ties to nature as depicted on their pots and rock images.

The black basalt rocks which decorate the West Mesa escarpment are remnants of volcanic activity. This basalt is not only evidence of the geologic events that have shaped the unique place we call Albuquerque, but it is also the canvas on which the Native Americans of the Middle Rio Grande Valley chose to render their rock images and prayers to the earth.

Walter Wollert takes the technical nature of digital photography very serious. This is evident in his desire to "immerse the viewer into these local images," and to "draw the viewers into feeling they were there." He has taken care to show not only the beauty of the geometric rock image, but also to render the surrounding scene with care.

The Open Space Visitor Center invites you to come enjoy these works through the month of November 2009. They will be on display November 1st – 29th.

We will have an Open House reception on November 14th from 1pm – 4pm. Come participate in our continued partnership with the natural world.



Return of the Sandhill Cranes Celebration Weekend November 14 & 15

The Open Space Visitor Center prepares 24 acres of agricultural fields as wintering grounds for a variety of migratory birds including Sandhill cranes. The Rio Grande Valley area has been and continues to be the ancestral winter home of the Whooping crane (*Grus Americana*), nearly extinct from the valley today, and the Sandhill crane (*Grus Canadensis*). On any given day, up to 400 Sandhill cranes can be observed foraging for food in the fields while hawks, kestrels and eagles hunt for food from the sky. These animals are charming to watch as they posture and assert their dominance or as they play in courtship. They are wary of people and rarely allow onlookers closer than 50

feet, so it is wise to bring binoculars. You say you don't have binoculars? The Visitor Center lends them to visitors with a valid driver's license. Join us November 14th and 15th to celebrate the Sandhill cranes show-stopping and graceful presence with a variety of events designed to compliment and celebrate the cranes' arrival.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please visit www.cabq.gov/openspace/calendarofevents for program updates

Saturday, 14th

All Day: Origami Cranes. Vicki Van Vynckt, instructor.

9:00 am: Local naturalists lead you into the Bosque and discuss the Rio Grande and surrounding floodplain.

1:30 pm & 3:00 pm: Love in the Bosque, the original musical play by Phil Bock. A story of love, jealousy and deception told by a family of Sandhill cranes with a supporting cast of coyote, duck and goose.

Sunday, 15th

All Day: Origami Cranes. Vicki Van Vynckt, instructor.

9:00am: Yoga with the Cranes. Instructor, Jenny Dominique. \$15.00

11:30am: Life of Sandhill Cranes: Tim Mitchusson, Crane Specialist, NM Game and Fish

1:30pm: Cottonwood String Quartet

(Crane illustration by Dr. Matt Schmader)



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARDS DINNER!

It is our sincere hope that through the annual volunteer banquet that we communicate our staff's gratitude for the immense effort and varied services Open Space volunteers donate, because they are our greatest resource.

Please join us **Thursday, October 22, 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm** for a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Awards at the Open Space Visitor Center and help celebrate one another's extraordinary efforts to protect Open Space.

Please call Jodi Hedderig at 897-8865
to RSVP no later than October 15.

Mountain Biking Etiquette on Open Space Lands

By Doug Young, Friends of the Outdoors Trail Partners (FooMTB)

I wanted to bring up an issue that has recently reared its ugly head. Last fall there was an incident involving a horse and a mountain bike on the Foothills trails in which the horseback rider was thrown off the horse after an encounter with a bike rider, and after only a brief apology, the bike rider sped away. It really saddened me to read this. There are lots of people on the trails in the cool fall weather and we need to really check our headset. Courtesy on the trails absolutely must be our number one priority. Here are the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Rules of the Trail for those who may not be familiar with them. Please read them and abide by them.

We have a responsibility to make sure that the “Mountain Bike Community” is considered “part of the solution and not part of the problem”. Incidents like this one give everyone a black eye and it literally takes years to repair the damage. We need to all understand that riding your Mountain Bike in the Foothills, or anywhere for that matter isn’t a right, it’s a privilege. These guidelines for trail behavior are recognized around the world. IMBA developed the “Rules of the Trail” to promote responsible and courteous conduct on shared-use trails. Keep in mind that conventions for yielding and passing may vary, depending on traffic conditions and the intended use of the trail.

- 1. Ride On Open Trails Only:** Respect trail and road closures — ask a land manager for clarification if you are uncertain about the status of a trail. Do not trespass on private land. Obtain permits or other authorization as may be required. Be aware that bicycles are not permitted in areas protected as state or federal Wilderness.
- 2. Leave No Trace:** Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage than dry ones. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don’t cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.
- 3. Control Your Bicycle:** Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations, and ride within your limits.
- 4. Yield to Others:** Do your utmost to let your fellow trail users know you’re coming — a friendly greeting or bell ring are good methods. Try to anticipate other trail users as you ride around corners. Bicyclists should yield to all other trail users, unless the trail is clearly signed for bike-only travel. Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to ones headed uphill, unless the trail is clearly signed for one-way or downhill-only traffic. Strive to make each pass a safe and courteous one.
- 5. Never Scare Animals:** Animals are easily startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement or a loud noise. Give animals enough room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses, use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders (ask if uncertain). Running cattle and disturbing wildlife are serious offenses.
- 6. Plan Ahead:** Know your equipment, your ability and the area in which you are riding — and prepare accordingly. Strive to be self-sufficient: keep your equipment in good repair and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

See www.fooMTB.org for more information about the **Friends of the Outdoors Trail Partners**

OCTOBER 2009

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. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique. \$15.00 donation. A portion of the donation benefits the Open Space Alliance. Call 897-8831 for more details.

ONGOING through Sunday, November 1. *Maze in the Maize.* Enjoy wandering in a giant corn maze cut in the shape of a Monarch Butterfly. Fridays from 6 - 9pm, Saturdays from 10am - 9pm, and Sundays from 11am - 6pm. Special Days: Moonlight Maze: September 4-5 and October 2-3 open sunset until 10:00 pm. Haunted Maze: October 30 and 31st: open till Midnight. For more information call 345-4580 or see www.riograndefarm.org.

ONGOING through October 29, 2009. *4th Annual Open Space: A View with Room Art Exhibition and Sale.* Open Space Visitor Center. For more details call 505-897-8831 or email jrwillis@cabq.gov.

Sat- Sun, October 3 & 4, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. *Pinch Pot Workshop with Michael Kanteena.* Open Space Visitor Center. The art of pinch pots is deeply rooted in the Southwest. Michael Kanteena will teach you how to make these ancient vessels and then fire them for you. Call 897-8831 to register.

October 11th, 12:30 - 2:30 pm. *Meet A Friendly Wolf with the Wanagi Wolf Fund.* Open Space Visitor Center. Call 897-8831 for more details.

October 11th, 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm *"Lords of Nature" Film screening with panel discussion.* Open Space Visitor Center. "Lords of Nature": Life in a Land of Great Predators tells the story of science now discovering the great carnivores as revitalizing forces of nature. Call 897-8831 for more details.

October 17th, 9:00am - 1:00pm. *15th Annual Dia del Rio Celebration.* Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. See page 5 for more information.

October 24th, 9:00am - 1:00pm. *Make a Difference Day.* Piedra Lisa Open Space Area (End of Candelaria Road). See page 5 for more information.

October 31, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. *Open Space Visitor Center Volunteer Training.* Help Connect People to Place at the Open Space Visitor Center. Call 897-8831 for more details.

NOVEMBER 2009

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

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. See October listing.

November 7th & 8th, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. *POETRY IN PLACE Poetry Workshops and Presentations.* A variety of poetry styles will be taught by local respected poets, such as Danny Solis, Adán Baca, Merimee Moffitt, Zachary Kluckman, Priscilla Baca y Candelaria, and Bill Nevins along with Daniel Steven Crafts. Call 897-8831 for more details.

November 1st - 29th. *Drawings Ancient and Contemporary.* A comparison of ancient petroglyph rock images (photographed by Walter Wollert) and the contemporary drawings of artist Ben Meisner. Opening Reception November 14th 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Call 897-8831 for more details.

Nov 14th and 15th, *Return of the Sandhill Cranes Celebration Weekend.* Join us to celebrate the return of the cranes! See page 7 for more information.

DECEMBER 2009

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

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. See October listing.

December 6, 2009, time TBA. *Billy Goat Ballad* by Loren Kahn Puppet Object Theater. Open Space Visitor Center. Billy Goat Ballad is a theatrical puppet adaption of the French novel La Ballade de Cornebique by Jean Claude Mourlevat. Call 897-8831 for more details.

SUBSURFACE DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM....Continued from Page 4

This project is unique and is on the cutting edge of irrigation research. This program will establish New Mexico and the City of Albuquerque as leaders in water conservation and advanced farming technology. The system will consist of drip irrigation lines permanently buried below the surface (sub surface drip irrigation or SDI) and operated in a manner consistent with the USDA National Organic Program.

This system will be the only Certified Organic SDI system in New Mexico. It is this fact that has generated such interest and excitement among the various agencies that are collaborating on this project.

Those agencies include:

- ◆ U.S. Department of Agriculture
- ◆ City of Albuquerque Open Space Division
- ◆ Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- ◆ New Mexico Organic Commodities Commission
- ◆ New Mexico State University, Extension Service
- ◆ University of New Mexico, Sustainability Studies Program
- ◆ Mid Rio Grande Counsel of Governments Agricultural Initiative
- ◆ Albuquerque Public Schools

Another big Duende “Thanks!” goes to Cheryl Newman and

High Desert Bicycles

in Rio Rancho for providing lunch to staff and volunteers during the trail building projects at the Golden Open Space. Make sure to visit them at their newest location on 8110 Louisiana NE in Albuquerque!



Please call Jim Sattler at 452-5213 if you're interested in joining the famous Los Duendes Trail Building Crew!

Open Space Alliance Receives \$2,500 PNM “Reduce Your Use” Grant

The “Reduce Your Use” Grant was awarded in July, 2009 to the Open Space Alliance for use at the Open Space Visitor Center, host of many of the organization’s educational programs.

Through the assistance of *PNM Reduce Your Use Grant* funds provided by the PNM Foundation, the Open Space Alliance in partnership with the Open Space Visitor Center will adopt methods to achieve greater energy efficiency and to promote energy-efficiency throughout the community.

The goal of the PNM Reduce Your Use Grant program is to provide nonprofits with resources to implement measures that will reduce energy costs.

The PNM Foundation Reduce Your Use Grants fund building upgrades and equipment and appliances as well as environmental education encouraging public participation and awareness.

The improvements made at the Visitor Center will not only reduce the energy use of the entire facility but will act as an example of sustainable practices easy and cost-effective to implement at the homes and businesses of our visitors, thus supporting the Open Space Alliance mission to promote public awareness and conservation of public lands. In addition, both staff and volunteers will experience easy energy efficiency steps to take home as well as to share in their interactions with the public.

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PNM Grant.....Continued from Page 10

The grant request specified practical ways to incorporate technologies into homes and businesses:

- **Solar tubes** will be installed in heavy use areas of the facility where the staff depends solely on electric lighting.
- An **energy efficient refrigerator** will replace the current appliance in the curriculum building, supporting both staff and volunteer operations.
- **Water heater insulation** using the latest available technology will be installed.
- Staff and volunteers will collaborate to create a "Did you know?" **educational display** in order to engage the public, from every age group, to consider energy efficiency and its importance in ways they may not have done before coming to the visitor center.

"The grant is an ideal fit for Open Space Alliance programs at the Open Space Visitor Center as there are projects in place (1) demonstrating and engaging the public in sustainable agricultural techniques in our Traditions Garden and (2) promoting water conservation both through on-site practices and in our core curriculum. We are very pleased to be able to add energy efficiency to the list." - Kim Selving, grant applicant and Open Space Division employee.

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 money order.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

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