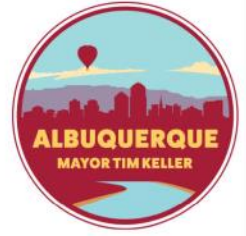


OPEN SPACE

newsletter



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

Volume 20, Issue 4, October-December 2019

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Want to go paperless and full color?

E-Mail Dionne at depps@cabq.gov

www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space

Visitor Center online!



Happy Trails to You:

A Thank you to Domecindo (Cindo) Griego

Matthew Peterson

Heavy Equipment Operator, Cindo Griego, is set to retire at the end of October. During his tenure with the City of Albuquerque, Cindo has left quite the legacy upon the Open Space Division. The majority of Cindo's career with the Open Space Division was spent as a heavy equipment operator with the Bosque Reclamation crew. Cindo has been involved extensively with supporting the Division's cottonwood pole planting efforts in the Bosque, constructing habitat restoration sites, and operating heavy equipment to maintain and improve many Open Space properties.



Photo by: *Bill Pentler*

Upon retirement, Domecindo looks forward to spending more time with family and friends, enjoying a tasty craft beer and sitting on his front porch waving at folks on their way to work. The Open Space Division would like to thank Mr. Domecindo Griego for his commitment to loyal service and friendship.

Special “Thank You” to our Open Space Youth

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in action at Milne – Gutierrez Canyon

This summer marked the Open Space Division’s fifth year in its collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) at the John A. Milne – Gutierrez Canyon Open Space. A crew of eight college-age youths worked hard building a half mile reroute of an old road on the west side of the Arroyo Loop Trail. The old road had some serious head cut issues that threatened the safety of trail users as well as the health of the land. One head cut was undermining the trail tread and the trail was being held up by the roots of nearby trees. The reroute was planned by Open Space staff according to the Division’s trail standards and was designed to minimize erosion and maintenance needs. Staff worked with crew members to train them in proper trail construction techniques including dry laid rock retaining walls and erosion control techniques.

The RMYC is based out of Taos New Mexico, with a local Albuquerque program that works out of the Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge. The mission of the RMYC is to “inspire young adults to make a positive difference in themselves and their communities. Through training and service, Corps members discover their potential for healthy, productive lives”. RMYC offers trainings focused on skill building, teamwork and responsibility, leading a healthy lifestyle, and civic engagement and service ethics. Working with local partners like the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, high school and college-age youth have the opportunity for experiential learning while providing the community with a valuable service.

The Open Space Division looks forward to our continued partnership with the RMYC for the summer of 2020. The Division is proud to be a part of this collaboration which helps provide meaningful employment for New Mexico’s youths while helping to improve our trail system and the health of lands that we manage.



Left to right: Dillon, Amy, Zack, Natasha, Keaton, Alana and Theo, missing from photo is Kanum

Photo by: John Keliiaa

Open Space Division Summer Series

The Summer Series has come to a close, and this summer brought some fantastic performers to the Elena Gallegos!

Saturday evenings were filled with music from some of the series favorite returners, such as Sol Calypso Steel Drum and Marimba Band, Last Call, and Medieval Ballads from Hongell-Darsee! The 2019 season also brought in some new experiences for the Series! Being taken away with a Galactic Sound Bath with the Chinos, to mesmerizing Middle Eastern Sword Dancing from Catt and Neve, and beautifully inspiring performances from Eileen and the In-betweens, and Casey Mortensen!

Sundays were filled with lots of exploration and education! The returning favorites were the Medicinal Herb Hike with Dara Saville, and the Day of Mindful Meditation with Dug Corpolongo! This summer, Jack Boynton brought a new flair to the series teaching a group how to spin poi (no not the mashed root dish in Hawaii, but a popular flow art originating from the Maori). 2019 hosted a fantastic 35th

Anniversary edition for the Summer Series! Stay tuned for a 2020 summer schedule!



Photo by: Kyle Bality



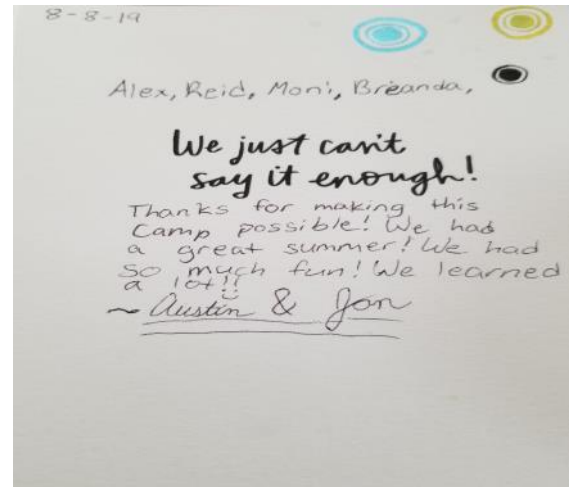
Photo by: Kyle Bality

Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC) Summer Camp

Reid Schmidtbauer

This summer the OSVC hosted Explorer Camp Program for the second time. This year we had over 125 campers outside enjoying, learning about and playing in Open Spaces around Albuquerque. Hats off to instructors Brianda, Alex and Monie who all did an excellent job facilitating activities, crafts and games for the campers. Parents interested in fall family outdoor activities can participate in our Family Nature hikes on October 11, and November 27th (signup is online at play.cqbq.gov) and our Halloween themed event "Boosque at the Bosque" on October 27th from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Teachers interested in outdoor learning and getting their classes out to Open Spaces for field trips can contact Reid Schmidtbauer at

rschmidtbauer@cabq.gov.



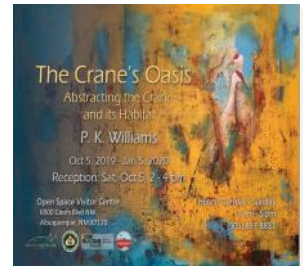
Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC)

Fall and Winter Events at the Open Space Visitor Center

The Cranes Oasis, Abstracting the Crane and Its Habitat, Art by P.K. Williams

October 5 2019 through January 5 2020

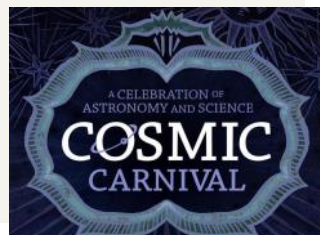
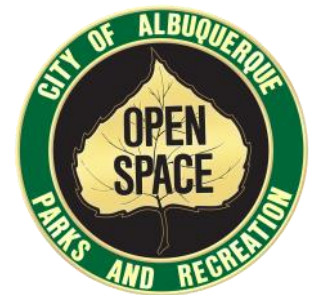
In this art exhibit P.K. Williams explores the habitats of the Middle Rio Grande Valley and the beauty of the Sandhill Crane. P.K. Williams is a mixed media artist. She is also a Master Gardener and often uses plants and animals as inspiration for her work. She is a member of the New Mexico Art League, the Rio Grande Art Association, New Mexico Women in the Arts, The Corrales Art Center, The Albuquerque Museum and a Signature Member of the New Mexico Watercolor Society. She has shown at three different galleries in Albuquerque and has participated in various solo and group exhibitions in New Mexico. In 2017 she won First Place for Mixed Media at the Texas & Neighbors Regional Exhibition in Irving, Texas and most recently received First Place in Mixed Media at the National Greeley Art Exhibition in Colorado.



City of Albuquerque Open Space Anniversary Celebration

November 2 from 12 – 4 p.m.

The 35th Anniversary Celebration is a great way to learn more about the Division and the varied lands we manage, while taking in a festive environment of music, birthday cake, and family activities at our beautiful Open Space Visitor Center.



Cosmic Carnival and Star Party!

Saturday, November 9, 1:00pm - 9:00 pm.

The Albuquerque Astronomical Society and the Open Space Visitor Center offer this astronomically fun event for kids of all ages! During the day we'll have interactive exhibits with Explora! Science Center, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science, and other local organizations. There will also be Portable Planetarium shows on the hour! As night arrives, participants can enjoy a variety of telescopes on the back patio and observe many planets, stars, galaxies and more!

Visit www.taas.org or call 897-8831 for more information.



Return of the Sandhill Crane Celebration

Saturday, November 16, 9:00am–5:00pm. FREE! The Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC) invites the citizens of Albuquerque to help us welcome the Sandhill cranes back to their winter habitat along the Middle Rio Grande valley with this annual family-friendly event. This event features presentations, children's activities, musical performances, viewing scopes, crafts, workshops, and more! See www.cabq.gov/openspace for a full schedule of activities, or call 897-8831 for more details.

Continued on next page

Winter Solstice Seed Mandala

Sunday December 22, 10:30am – 12:00pm.

FREE! The Solstice Seed Mandala creation is an annual community art-making event to celebrate the coming of the winter season. The seeds of the mandala serve to feed migratory songbirds and the mandala remains in place for about a week. Participants contribute to the design and help to build the Mandala. The New Mexico Storytellers will be on hand to weave tales of the Solstice for families.



Photo By: Kent Swanson

Volunteer Opportunities

Dia del Rio

Saturday, October 19, 2019



This year's event will be a collaboration with the BioPark and will take place in the Tingley Boulevard area of the Bosque with projects also going on at Tingley Beach itself. Projects will include trash cleanup, trail maintenance, new trail construction and native shrub planting.

Photo By: Bill Pentler

Time: Volunteers should arrive at 8:30AM

Where: Please park at the northern most parking lot at Tingley Beach.

Registration: is required and can be done through REI: www.rei.com

Make A Difference Day

Saturday, October 26, 2019

This event will be held at the Piedra Lisa Open Space in the Sandia Foothills.

Projects include trash cleanup, trail maintenance, graffiti removal, and native shrub and cactus planting.



Photo By: Bill Pentler

Time: Volunteers should arrive by 8:30AM, parking is limited so please carpool

Where: Located on Camino de la Sierra just south of the east end of Candelaria Boulevard.

Registration: is required and can be done through the Center for Non-project

Excellence www.centerfornonprofitexcellence.org

Volunteers should be prepared to work outdoors and wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots, a hat, sun-screen, water, and work gloves. If anyone has questions please contact John Keliiaa at 768-4209 or

jkeliiaa@cabq.gov

Staff Changes at the Open Space Newsletter!

For the last three years Tricia Keffer has been at the helm of the Open Space Newsletter bringing readers exciting coverage of Open Space events from all corners of the Division. It was recently announced that Tricia would be relinquishing her position as editor of the Open Space Newsletter to pursue a career in writing Pulitzer Prize worthy Resource Management Plans for the Division. Tricia is also an avid fan of mysteries, so look for exciting plot twists and unexpected endings in her upcoming plans.

Newsletter circulation sky rocketed under Tricia's editorship and spread far and wide with subscribers ranging from San Francisco to Pittsburgh. Tricia brought many personal touches to the Newsletter including, *Open Space: A View With Room*, showcasing a variety of nature photos sent in from staff and volunteers. Another innovative touch was her collaboration with El Duende to present "Little Known Facts" about El Duende's involvement in important historical events and making the Duende Onion a regular and recognizable section. Tricia was also responsible for an overall redesign of the newsletter layout which included a consistent and professional format. Another important addition to the layout was a focus on Open Space staff to help readers get to know who we are and what we do. Tricia also worked with the Open Space Alliance to create their own section and also encouraged volunteers to submit articles.

While readers will miss Tricia as the newsletter editor, she will still continue to collaborate with El Duende to make sure readers are presented with all the news, photos and "facts" that are worthy of being printed and she will also have a role in helping the new editor, Dionne Epps get started. Many of you know Dionne as our Open Space Volunteer Coordinator. Please welcome Dionne in her new role as Editor.

Please wish Tricia well as she dives into the exciting world of Resource Management Plans .



El Duende Onion

Bigfoot Sighting in the Foothills!



Photo by: Shirley Shipley



Conspiracy theorist Nancy Nuttel claims to have found evidence of Bigfoot in the Sandia Foothills. Ms. Nuttel submitted the above photo as “indisputable” evidence that Bigfoot is roaming the Open Space trails near the end of Menaul. When asked why there was only one footprint, Ms. Nuttel replied, “Because he’s hopping mad that he stepped in dog poop and got it between his toes”. Ms. Nuttel also requested signs be posted warning visitors of Bigfoot’s presence.

El Duende

Plooping Event Announced!

Based on the wild popularity of Plogging, the Swedish fitness craze that combines jogging and picking up trash, the Division announced it will be hosting its first annual Plooping event. Plooping of course, is a Swedish fitness craze that combines jogging and picking up dog poop. Andy Trigenta, the assistant to the Assistant Superintendent announced that the Plooping event will take place on October 19th as part of the annual Make a Difference Day event held at Las Cebollas Canyon in the Sandia Foothills. “Come out and help us Ploop! It’ll be loads of fun!” added Trigenta.

El Duende Onion



Dr. Werner von Braun tries to coax El Duende down from a rocket engine as President Eisenhower looks on.



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

Little Known Fact: El Duende, NASA and Open Space!

El Duende went to Washington DC in 1958 to speak with President Eisenhower about establishing a National Open Space Administration. Unfortunately Eisenhower was a little hard of hearing and thought El Duende said a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The President enthusiastically signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act on July 29, 1958. On October 1, 1958 NASA began operations.

El Duende was a little disappointed and in December of 1958 he went to Albuquerque and spoke with Parks and Recreation Director Bob Burgan about creating an Open Space Division for the City of Albuquerque. Bergan was thrilled with the idea and called the new program The Regional Parks Program and in the early 1960's began buying surplus federal land from Bureau of Land Management through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Some of these properties included Golden, Placitas, San Antonito, Gutierrez Canyon, Via Posada and land on the West Mesa. These original purchases were rolled into the Open Space Division when it was created in 1984.



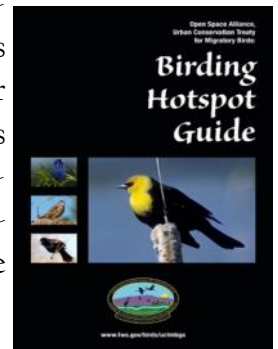
What We've Been Up To

On a warm Saturday morning in June, Open Space Alliance Volunteers, along with a large Bosque Brewing staff contingent, spent the morning removing invasive species, clearing brush and relocating small portions of the Bosque Trail. This event was part of OSA's commitment to adopt the portions of the Bosque Trail behind the Open Space Visitor Center as part of the City's Adopt-An-Open Space program. Afterwards, the crew headed off to Bosque's Restoration Pizza for a free lunch and refreshments! Thank you to the Open Space Volunteers and to Bosque Brewing for working with us!

Originally designated as an Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds (UCTMB) city in 2014, Mayor Keller re-designated Albuquerque as a UCTMB city this past spring. In recognition of the Mayor's proclamation, the OSA has reprinted the popular *Birding Hotspot Guide*. "During (then to page 11) Valle de Oro's Build Your Refuge day in September,

the OSA hosted a table to encourage everyone to visit open spaces around the county by searching for Burque Birding GeoFlight caches and enjoying one of twelve collectible bird cards. Please see our website and click on "Events" for more information.

Meet the OSA Board of Directors



A Board member since 2008, Steve Glass is currently serving as President of the OSA. Steve graduated from NM State University in 1976 with an MS in Environmental Science and pursued a career in water and wastewater resources, until retiring from Bernalillo County in December 2011 to become a biology instructor at CNM. He continues to represent Bernalillo County on the Water Protection Advisory Board, serves as Chairman of the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District and has been an Open Space Trail Watch Volunteer for several years.

Monica Yaple, CPA, has served as the OSA Treasurer since 2015. She holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. Monica has been an Albuquerque resident since 2001 and enjoys hiking, biking and running in Albuquerque's Open Space areas.



David Belford has been on the Board since 2016 and is OSA's Vice President. David received his undergraduate degree in Forestry .



Continued on next page

David was a private consulting forester for 10 years in southern New Hampshire, where he also served as vice president of his local conservation commission. In 1990, David went back to school to receive a degree in social work and has served as a therapist, program manager, supervisor, national presenter and consultant. He is a firm believer in the connection between time we spend in nature and our well-being, and is an avid stroller of mountain tops and open spaces.



Marsha Dunlap has been a Board member since 2018. Marsha serves as Secretary of the OSA. Passionate hikers, she and her husband chose to move to Albuquerque in 2013 drawn by the amazing sky and the vast landscape. After graduating with a BS degree in Clinical Science from San Francisco State University, Marsha worked for 30 plus years primarily for Stanford Hospital and UC Berkeley in the clinical laboratory setting. She is also a 2016 graduate of the Bernalillo County Master Naturalist Program and has been a Trail Watch and Garden Volunteer for Albuquerque Open Space since 2015 while continuing to work part-time for the UNM School of Medicine.

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 the experience of all users of Albuquerque Open Space lands by providing financial support for Open Space Division programs, advocating for sustainability and expansion, and encouraging increased public involvement and use.

To become a member, please visit us at the openspacealliance.org or fill out the form below.

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

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- NEW MEMBER
- \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER)
- \$30 FAMILY
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- RENEWAL
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P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103



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Steve Glass, Open Space Alliance Pres.

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OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

3615 Los Picosos Rd. SE
8:00 am to 4:30 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
per car*

BOCA NEGRA CANYON

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT
8:30 am to 4:30 pm, all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
per car*

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

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

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

242-COPS

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\$30.00