

OPEN SPACE

newsletter



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

Volume 21, Issue 1, January-March 2020

35th Anniversary in Review

Honoring our Past and Building Our Future Stewards

In 2019, we celebrated the City of Albuquerque Open Space's 35th anniversary with a slate of programming to help citizens know and appreciate Albuquerque's public lands. The entire year of programming correlated around this major achievement. May we all continue to be stewards of this land and Open Space as we continue to add to the foundation that our predecessors have paved.

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From the left: David J. Simon, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department . Rex Funk, was the first Superintendent of Open Space and served in that position from 1984 - 1994. The man to his right is Jay Hart, he was the Assistant Superintendent from 1984 - 1994, the Superintendent from 1994 - 2001, then Director of the Parks and Recreation Department from 2001-2007.



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!



Photo Credit: Bill Pentler

35th Anniversary in Review



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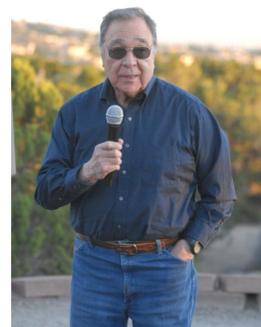
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1. Photo Credits: Bill Pentler

2. Photo Credits: Kyle Bality

A Letter from The Albuquerque Radio Control Club

Congratulations on 35 years of service to the citizens of the greater Albuquerque Area and those who visit this great City. The term “Open Space” does not do justice to what it really is and what it provides.

Protecting the environment while allowing citizens to experience this space that enriches our daily lives. Protecting the environment while allowing citizens to experience a space that enriches our daily lives is an important part of the Open Space Division. The many Open Space presentations offer an escape from stress. Thank you for maintaining some place to relax and enjoy life.

The Albuquerque Radio Control Club’s “Jet Fly-In” this past week (our last event for 2019) was a great success. It was dedicated to Rick Linden, a long time Club member and past president who passed away on September 9th.

We had some wind early in the week, but for the main day, Saturday, the weather was fantastic and the flying was great. We had 24 participating pilots from Arizona, Texas, Colorado, and of course New Mexico. The parking lot was overflowing with RVs, large 5th wheeler “homes” and lots of spectator cars.

The Club wants to thank you, James L. Lewis, (Assistant Superintendent) especially, for coordinating the maintenance of the field and especially the cleanup days. The club brought donuts to start the day’s activities. The club and the city crew, got a sugar fix before heading out to get the work done – and in short order. Great team work. Please pass a “Big Thanks” to those on the City teams.



Photo Credit: The Albuquerque Radio Control Club



Photo Credit: The Albuquerque Radio Control Club

Boosque on the Bosque

A Halloween Celebration

By:

Richard and Colleen
Volunteer Prospective



The wide-eyed wonder and excitement of children and their families was on full display at the 2nd annual “Boosque on the Bosque” event on October 28th held at the Open Space Visitor Center. Over two hundred delightful Ghosties, Ghoulies, Princesses, Pirates, Ninjas, Witches, and other fun characters took full advantage of the many activities.

The kiddos (and adults) enjoyed the many Boosque-themed arts and crafts including the face painting booth, and mini pumpkin decorating. Many were shown how to make colorful balloon animals, the favorite seemed to be the multi-colored “Spider on a Stick”. It was delightful seeing so many of the kiddos strolling around with their hand-made craft work and balloon animals, and munching on the provided snacks.

Richard and Colleen (Open Space Volunteer Stewards) led an enthusiastic and inquisitive group of kids and their families on an interpretive walk along the Wetlands, Agricultural Fields and ending at the “Tree of Life” sculpture. The children had many well thought out questions about local wildlife, the pueblos, and the many sights that were encountered while we explored the beauty of Open Space.

As a Volunteer, Trail Adopter, and advocate for the Open Space Alliance I must say: “Hats off to Kent Swanson (Visitor Center Manager), Reid Schmidtbauer (Environmental Education Coordinator) and the Open Space Visitor Center staff for coordinating this well-attended and successful event”.

So, please mark your calendars for next October’s 3rd annual “Boosque on the Bosque”. It’s sure to be a *scary* good time!



Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC)

Home Composting Basics

Home composting is recycling that produces a useful soil conditioner. Basic composting science will be presented with a special focus on useful practices for a high desert climate. A variety of home composting options will be covered.

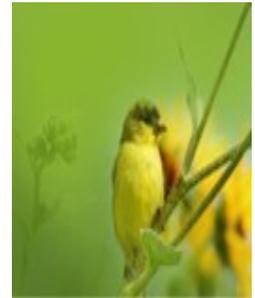


January 25, 2020 and February 15, 2020

9:30 AM– 12:00 PM

Bosque Wild: Guided Nature Walk

Enjoy the winter months observing migratory birds and looking for porcupines during this moderately strenuous guided hike along the banks of the Rio Grande and through one of the largest cottonwood forests in the world.



February 2, 2020 and March 1, 2020

8:00 AM –10:00 AM

Trail Watch Trainings

Trail Watch Volunteers are the foundation of the volunteer program. Trail Watch is ideal for those volunteers who enjoy using the trails. These volunteers patrol areas of their choice and record observations, report problems and needs, and educate the public on proper resource use.



February 8, 2020

9:00 AM –12:00 PM

TAAS Star Party

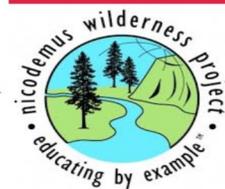
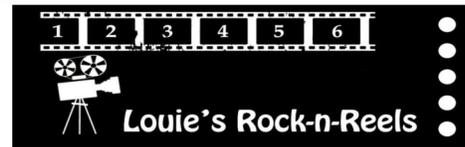
The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS) and the Open Space Visitor Center will co-host this popular, family-friendly annual event, which includes craft-making activities, an astronomy talk at 7pm, safe viewing of the sun at 5pm and night sky viewing with a variety of telescopes on the back patio.



To Register for any of the above programs, please call (505) 897-8831.



Please support our 2019 Dia del Rio & Make A Difference Day Sponsors!



Fall Volunteer Project Wrap up

El Duende recently took a vacation to visit some friends who bake cookies in a tree. It's an odd way to make a living if you ask El Duende, but they seem to enjoy it. Speaking of trees, El Duende had a great time working in the *bosque* for Dia del Rio. This year the Open Space Division teamed up with our friends at the BioPark to host Dia del Rio at Tingley Beach. Projects took place at both Tingley Beach and in the *bosque* along Tingley Drive. BioPark staff led projects to clean up old fishing line and to plant native plants around the main fishing pond, while Open Space staff led projects that included trash cleanup, new trail construction and trail maintenance. The BioPark staff was very generous in donating goodie bags to thank all the volunteers who participated, as well as donating other prizes for the free raffle held at the end of the project.



El Duende on vacation visiting his friend Ernie

On the heels of Dia del Rio was Make a Difference Day held at the Piedra Lisa Open Space, near the end of Candelaria Boulevard. Make a Difference Day has been a National event since 1992, but of course Open Space has been making a difference and contributing to the greater good of Albuquerque for 35 years! This year's project continued the ongoing restoration of this unique Sandia Foothills Canyon. Tasks included a variety of trail maintenance and improvements, as well erosion control and native shrub planting.

Thanks to everyone who came out to make these projects a success! Thanks also to all of our sponsors! If you missed out on these fun projects then you better mark your calendar and get ready for next year!

- March 28 – Route 66 Cleanup
- April 4 – Copper Cleanup
- April 11 – Indian School Cleanup
- April 18 – Menaul Cleanup
- April 25 Piedra Lisa Cleanup
- May 16 National River Cleanup Day
- June 6 – National Trails Day
- October 17 – Día del Rio
- October 24 – Make a Difference Day

There are lots of smaller trail projects to be a part of also. If you are interested in joining our East Mountain friends and neighbors for some trail maintenance projects at the Golden Open Space or the Milne – Gutierrez Canyon Open Space then please contact Jim Sattler at jsattler@cabq.gov for more information.

2019 OSD Employee of the Year!

Kent R. Swanson, OSVC Manager



Photo Credit: Bill Pentler

Please help our Division congratulate Kent on a spectacular year as the Visitor Center Manager, Programmer extraordinaire and sometimes Resident Therapist. The Planning department continued to flourish with his knowledge of contracts and his comprehensive techniques. It was easy for all to see that he was and is destined to be more.

Under his leadership, the OSD Visitor Center yearly counts have increased and so have the overall programming numbers. The rapport that he has built with the community, volunteers and other departments is prophetically admirable.

Sadly, Kent's last day with the Open Space Division will be **January 31st**. He has accepted a new position that will allow him to expand his work and love for fine arts. There is no doubt that our community and Department are lucky to have been in the presence of greatness. We are thankful for his willingness to share his expertise and create an environment where his co-workers and employees could exist without prejudice.

Leaving on a High Note: Kent Swanson to Take New Position With Bernalillo County!

While we celebrate Kent's achievement as employee of the year, we are also sad to announce that he will be leaving the Open Space Division at the end of January to take a position as the Public Arts Coordinator for Bernalillo County. "I feel this is a unique opportunity for me to expand the work in the fine arts that I have begun at the Open Space Visitor Center, and to promote the arts in diverse communities throughout the City and region", Kent said in his farewell message to staff. Open Space staff is sad to see our friend and colleague leave the Division, but we wish him well and appreciate all that he contributed to making Open Space a great place to visit and a great place to work!

You will be sincerely missed!

Happy Trails,
Los Duendes

El Duende Onion



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

Rude Robots Unplugged

The Open Space Division recently took part in an experiment using robots as Park Attendants. The experiment was going along well until somehow the robots began making rude comments to visitors telling them that they were destroying the earth and that one day robots would rule over them. “The robots were very proficient in cash handling and enforcing Open Space rules and regulations, it’s very unfortunate that this didn’t work out”, said Andy Trigenta, the Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent.

Park Attendant Rescues Cat stuck in Tree!

Park Attendant Harvey O’Hanlon was credited with rescuing a kitten that had been chased up a tree by a coyote. The incident occurred at the Elena Gallegos when a kitten escaped from its High Desert home and was chased by a coyote up a juniper tree. O’Hanlon climbed up to the top of the tree and rescued the frightened little kitten. Unfortunately O’Hanlon sustained a scratch from the kitten’s claws. The scratch later got infected and he was diagnosed with Cat Scratch Fever. However after further examination at the Employee Health Center it was determined that the Cat Scratch Fever was not caused by the kitten scratch, but was instead was caused by O’Hanlon listening to too much Ted Nugent. Local reporter, Barbie Breton announced that she would like to interview the kitten.



Year in Review!

The Open Space Division had another busy year planning events and work days, which means the *Open Space Alliance* had a busy year helping to pay for some or all of those events and work days!

You may have seen us spreading the word about the *Open Space Alliance* at any of the events at the Open Space Visitor Center, Sandia Labs, Valle de Oro Build Your Refuge Day, REI or other events. Where we set up a table dedicated to our cause. Memberships help us fund OSD projects, along with generous donations from individual members and businesses, grants, fundraisers and limited Gift Shop sales. REI has been a great partner and supporter of the *Open Space Alliance* over the years. Last year they funded half the cost of trail counters so that the OSD could start collecting some hard data on Open Space land use. This year REI is helping us pay for half the cost of a plan to design new signs and kiosks for each of the Open Space properties. We look forward to a continued partnership!



Gift Shop sale during the NM Fiber Art Crawl in June.

We are also thankful to **Panera Bread** and **Bosque Brewing**, both of whom helped us through fundraising and donations this year.

In 2019, that funding helped pay for snacks and other supplies for 10 clean up and trail maintenance projects including the new Tijeras Arroyo Open Space that was added to the City's Open Space lands.



Trail maintenance on the Bosque Trail behind the Open Space Visitor Center, adopted by the Open Space Alliance.

The *Open Space Alliance* was also involved in funding the NM Fiber Art Crawl, printing and mailing costs for the OSD newsletter, honorariums for speakers and bands (think moonlight concert series), archery equipment at the Shooting Range Park, and a host of other projects.

We are so appreciative of all of the folks that provide financial support for the Open Space Division events and projects through your support of the *Open Space Alliance*. And a big thank you to the OSD volunteers as well. We wish you all the best for the year to come!

The Open Space Alliance Board

Steve Glass
Monica Yaple
David Belford
Marsha Dunlap



Sunset from the Open Space Visitor Center during the OSD Campfire and Storytelling Celebration in September.

Get involved in the Open Space Alliance today and contribute to the future of YOUR Open Space!

Gift Shop sale during the NM Fiber Art Crawl in June.

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 _____

HOME PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 FAMILY | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 SUSTAINING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 SENIOR | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 FRIEND OF OSA | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 BUSINESS |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 INDIVIDUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 NEIGHBORHOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 LIFE MEMBER |

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Albuquerque, NM 87103



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- Jim Satter, Assistant Superintendent
- Cesar Arredondo, Park Attendant
- Kyle Bailey, Education Coordinator
- Frank Carrillo, Rangemaster
- Enrique Chavez, Equipment Operator
- Jonathan Donovan, Park Attendant
- Stan Duran, Construction Worker
- Dionne Epps, Volunteer Coordinator
- Mike Felten, Shooting Range Master
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- Aaron Gonzalez, Equipment Operator
- Berilo Gonzalez, Heavy Equipment Operator
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- Amarda Romero, Sr. Administrative Asst.
- Cheryl Ruscelli, Sr. Office Assistant
- Raid Schindlbauer, Education Coordinator
- Kimberly Seving, Administrative Assistant
- Miguel Serrano, Rangemaster
- Kent Swanson, Visitor Center Manager
- Steve Glass, Open Space Alliance Pres.

HOURS OF OPERATION

OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE

OFFICES

3615 Los Picaros 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*

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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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at Elena Gallegos and Boca Negra
\$30.00