

MEETING IN JANUARY

Bill Anderson was our speaker. He kept us all fascinated by his enthusiasm and knowledge of the geology of Rockhound State Park. Even non rockhounds were inspired to grab up the rock hammer! While detailed enough for true rockers, Bill explained in layman terms what makes the park so special. It all started eons ago with various volcanic action, cooling, heating and then the tilting of these various layers. It makes the geodes so unique. The inside of the eggs reflect this tilting. Bill also explained how it is important to mark the position of the egg so when it is time to cut that you do it to secure the best “insides” possible to reflect this tilt. Thank you so much, Bill for your time. The samples from your collection were terrific to see!

MEETING IN FEBRUARY

Our second annual meeting got underway with a review of our income statement and balance sheet for the year. With income of \$15,200 we were able to provide Jesus with \$2,283 for the needs of the park! We reviewed 2006 with its wide variety of programs and events. It was with sadness that we had to replace board members, Marie Cardenas who moved to Las Cruces, and Julie Orban who resigned due to other volunteer commitments. Elections were held; see back page.

Rolf Heckler, Jesus’ boss, came prepared this year. He brought two bodyguards for what he anticipated as another roasting like in 2005! Kevin Hansen is a new interpretive ranger for our region along with Alex Mares from the new park in Las Cruces each had comments to make. All three men said how impressed they were with the professionalism of our Friends group. They are eager to assist us in learning more about the cultural history of our area.

Rolf brought some amazing facts about the parks:

Visitors to Rockhound in 2001	13,000
Visitors to Rockhound in 2006	63,000
Visitors to Spring Canyon in 2001	880
Visitors to Spring Canyon in 2006	15,889

Our still long awaited 5 year plan is in rough draft form awaiting a person to write the final draft. It will include provisions to convert the garage into a classroom, add more sites and rest rooms. Spring Canyon will be upgraded to provide space for a camp host. The park will remain day use only. The new trail at Rockhound is approved with work to commence immediately.

Our parking concerns will be addressed by a special project and completed within six months.

MEETING IN MARCH

As you read in the postcard, we NEED your help at our next regular meeting, March 28th at 10:00 (Board meets at 8:45-all are welcome) in the garage.

We have 15 dozen pinwheels to assemble, a treasure chest full of special prizes to prepare and sign up sheets for the Easter Egg Hunt **Saturday, April 7th**.

Our Native Plant Sale will be **April 14th** during Desert Alive! We will have a truck to unload, pre orders to put together and displays to be made.

All hands on deck for the activities of Desert Alive! A flyer is included with the details---what would you like to help with??? The opportunities abound from set up to put it away.

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR NEWSLETTER?

17 have no way to get the staple out, so they just lay it down and forget it,
that leaves 37

7 powerful ones rip the newsletter apart, that leaves it torn, wrinkled, not worth reading
that leaves 30

10 open it, don't have their glasses handy, so that ends that,
that leaves 20

5 look at the first page; they aren't mentioned there, so they chuck it
that leaves 15

5 glance through it, and then lay it down where it gets buried in a pile of other stuff
that leaves 10

2 exchange with other editors to see if they can find something for their newsletter
that leaves 8

6 members read it because they are interested
that leaves 2

1 is a relative so reads out of loyalty to the editor
that leaves 1

The editor reads it to admire the work.

Author unknown

DID YOU KNOW?

We are a group whose goals are many. We help to promote, preserve and protect the Parks through education and sharing to improve the health of the planet and our quality of life.

We practice the 3 A's: awareness, appreciation and action.

You are all part of a group that understands:

*We conserve only what we love
We love only what we understand
We understand only what we are taught*

Treasures of the Florida Mountains
By Greg Scarpella

Southwestern New Mexico's Rock Hound State Park is known for the hidden treasures of agate and geodes. Folks from around the world enjoy the beautiful setting and cleanliness of the park but what many visitors don't know is the hidden talent of those who work there. Like finding the park's riches it takes a little poking around, some prodding, and just the right circumstances to discover the concealed ability.

My first encounter at the park's visitor center was with a lady in state uniform that smiled, gave friendly directions, and sold me a year park pass. I wasn't intending to buy a pass but the more I talked with her the more I wanted to get involved and supporting it through these funds would be a start. I learned her name was Gloria and that she was the Ranger of the park. Our brief meeting was memorable because I indicated that I was a performer and asked if there was any entertainment at park. Gloria's countenance changed a bit as if she was thinking, "Oh, no. Not another entertainer!" She politely gave me the information to contact Friends of Rock Hound and we parted company. My wife and I became members of the organization to further help promote the park and keep it a vital destination for visitors to experience the beauty and enchantment of southwestern New Mexico. I performed last summer and was delighted to see Gloria and her husband, Larry, attend. Larry had brought his guitar and I asked him to play and sing while I took a short break. Everybody enjoyed his singing of many of Marty Robbins' songs. Larry and I would meet again during a visit to The City of Rocks north of Deming and at one of the Sunday "Jam Sessions" at Morgan Hall during the winter.

This past February the Deming Performing Arts Theater put on its third annual *Grand Ole Opry Deming Styling* production featuring local talent singing songs made famous by Opry stars. For three nights the sold out crowd cheered performances that honored Hank Thompson, Wynona Judd, Porter Wagoner, Glenn Campbell, Hank Williams, Sr., Marty Robbins, and Loretta Lynn to mention a few. Everyone that participated, from the house band to each act, put forth a professional effort but there was one in particular of interest to Friends of Rock Hound.

When I was approached to head up the music for this year's Grand Ole Opry Deming Style I was glad to hear that Larry would be performing two of Marty Robbins' famous songs. In the course of preparing the show one of the acts bowed out just two weeks before dress rehearsal. Having talked with both Gloria and Larry I knew that their daughters could fill in a moments notice but getting them here from Albuquerque would be difficult at best. Then the producer of the show, Joann Crook, asked Gloria to try a song on stage at one of our practices. Like the discovery of a beautiful agate her voice stunned everyone present. With Larry at her side she dazzled the audience at each performance and left the entire cast in awe of the gift she possessed. The Florida Mountains have amazed me from the first time I visited the area but now I look at them with a different perspective and wonder what other treasures lay beneath the surface of the land and its people.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Nancy has been helping the Easter Bunny with more special treats for the redemption booth. She has donated kites, jump ropes, neat race cars and fun squirt guns to name just a few. Thank you, Nancy!

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Greg Scarpella Music in the Park
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2007 SPONSORS

GOOD FRIEND (\$25)

Jean Nelson

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SPECIAL FRIENDS

(Over \$100)

Daniel & Moira Moga
Jerry Owens
Howard & Patty Roth

HONORARY MEMBERS

Barnes, Veronika & Charles
All the Park volunteers

IF YOU NAME IS NOT LISTED IT
MUST MEAN YOUR DUES ARE NOT
CURRENT FOR 2007

CONTACT INFORMATION

Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc.
A public benefit 501 C3 organization
4335 Salvador Rd SE
Deming NM 88030
505 531 2776
E mail: jmranch@vtc.net

Let's recycle our cans! Bring them to
our Wednesday meeting, please.