



Rockhound Roundup

Friends of Rockhound
State Park

January, February, March 2010

Editors: Sandy and Greg Scarpella

Friends of Rockhound Back in Business

Due to the outrage of some of the people in the Friend's organization over the lack of a Cooperative Agreement, the state quickly acted on their complaints. On January 13th, 2010 three people from New Mexico State Parks met with the board of directors to hash out a new agreement. Rolf Hechler, Darcie Schalip, and Charles Ulm were at Rockhound Park from the state and Cheryl Bada, a lawyer for the state, was on hand via telephone to answer questions. After a long meeting the two sides were able to come to an agreement. The new Cooperative Agreement was signed on February 10, 2010. It will allow the Friend's group to operate for another four years with a possible extension to eight years.

Most of the activities that the Friend's group sponsor will continue. Those include the Desert's Alive in the spring, the Music in the Park in the summer,

and the Luminaries in December. A Special Use permit will be required for each event. The insurance was prohibitively expensive for the Bluegrass Festival and the Mariachi events. However, the Lion's Club has stepped up and offered to let us use their insurance for those events. The board decided to accept their generous offer for the Mariachi event, but will not renew the Bluegrass Festival. The Bluegrass Festival has been permanently cancelled because of budget issues and the use of "gospel" music.

A new activity will be added this year and that is our participation in the first ever Deming Home and Garden Show. The group will have a booth there to feature the Native Plant Sale and solicit new members.

Other changes occurred during the annual meeting on February

24th, 2010. New board members were elected. Art Vasquez will retain his position as president, Sally Allen will continue as vice-president, and Shelley Perkins will still be the secretary. MaryKay will remain on the board but has stepped down as treasurer. Donna Whitten will take that position. Nancy Grinnell will remain a board member. Jerry Owens has stepped down from the board, but Jim Hazelton and Derek Brady will be Directors at Large. Both Jim and Derek are extremely involved in the Friend's organization, but they are unable to attend the meetings on a regular basis.

Thanks to all that made the Cooperative Agreement happen. Without you we would no longer have an organization. We look forward to a great year this year and continued success throughout the years to come. Without active, participating members we would not have such a successful group.

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Special points of interest:

- Volunteer needed
- Rockhound Park approved for recreational trail project
- Volunteers needed to unload the truck for the Native Plant Sale
- Jay W. Sharp joins us in April
- Rockhound Park hosts First Friday event
- Yolanda Martinez entertains

Opportunity Calling You!

Now is your opportunity to volunteer. Do you have organizational and social skills that you would like to use to better the Friend's group and the park?

One of the things that sets Friends apart from other groups is the diversity of our membership along with a diversity of

interests. We need a Program Chairperson to plan our meetings and scheduling programs.

It is really an eight month job as February is always our annual meeting, July is our picnic, we have no meeting in November and December.

The Board and Officers will assist as will MaryKay who has been doing the job. Most of 2010 is already scheduled!

Questions? Call MaryKay at 575 546 1931 or e mail jmrancho@gmail.com

Thank you.



Around the Park

This summer will be very busy for Park Ranger Robert Apodaca. He is going to lose one of his staff as Daniel is going to train to become a law enforcement official at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Robert will have to run the park with the help of a seasonal worker and he will also have access to inmate labor. Current inmate projects include painting the shelters at Spring Canyon and raking the paths at Rockhound. Rockhound has been approved for federal funding on the multiyear Recreational Trail Project. This will allow for the upgrading of trails in both Rockhound and

Spring Canyon. Robert talked about perhaps working on the closed road at Spring Canyon by providing a trail and signage. Cynthia Lovely from the Santa Fe office will visit in the summer to look over this project.

Rockhound Park will host 7th graders from Red Mountain Middle School on April 21, 2010. Barb will be asked to give a lecture on geology, Sally Allen will talk on astronomy and the labyrinth, Nancy and David will speak on owl pellets, and Robert will discuss animal tracks.

The Desert Alive program is coming along well. It will be a

two day event this year on April 10th and 11th. Some of the speakers will include Steve Cary, Kevin Hanson, and Rob Y. Larry Malone has been confirmed and Laura Simmons will be back again this year with her raptors.


The Memorial stone for Jim Brady is back at the park. It was delivered on Friday, February 26, 2010.

Some good news is that the park will remain open on the furlough days by rotating staff.

Thanks Robert for all your hard work in keeping the park looking great!!!



Jerry Eagan speaks on Apaches and the Florida's



Jerry Eagan was the featured speaker at our January meeting. He spoke to us on Apaches and the Florida's. Jerry has extensive knowledge of the Florida's because he has hiked them for many years. Because of his years of hiking experience he brought a treasure of pictures that he had taken in the Florida Mountains.

Florida means "Little Flower." Jerry had many pictures of the

Florida's when there had been abundant rain. These pictures show that our mountain lives up to it's name in the wet years and graces us with an overflowing array of flowers.

He amazed us with his pictures of rock formations that he said were used by the Apache as cover. The Apache would erect rock formations, hide behind them, and shoot arrows from them.

He also pointed out that the Apache used rock formations called Tinajas. These Tinajas held many gallons of water that were used for drinking and irrigating crops.

Jerry was also able to amaze us with his knowledge of the many battles fought by the Apache in the Florida Mountains. The Apache were able to hold their own with the white man until after the Civil War. They did not have a chance because of the influx of people.

Future Events

The Desert Alive and Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 10th and Sunday, April 11th. We will need volunteers for this event. If you wish to volunteer, call MaryKay Brady.

The general meeting in April will be held on April 28th. We have a very special guest speaker that day. Jay W. Sharp will join us. His resume includes having written 250 documentary motion pictures that ran in 111 markets

for three years. He is a published author who has written books about the historic trails of Texas. His career has covered travel, history archaeology, natural history, and humor.

The May 26th meeting will feature a presentation on "Bee-Tales from a Hive." There will be a discussion on pollinators, pollination, and how our future flies on the wings of pollinators.

The June 30th meeting features the return of Rink Somerday from the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. Rink's topic this time will be "A Bug Thing." She has always been one of our favorite presenters.

The 2010 summer season of Music in the Park will resume on June 19th. Please stay tuned for information on the performers for this every increasingly popular event.

*"Thank you"--
Shelley & Perk
Perkins for
donating a very
generous garden
of seeds from
Plants of the
Southwest.*

Two Events for the Friend's Group

Friends of Rockhound Park were involved in two separate events in February and March. The first event was hosted by the Deming Chamber of Commerce. It was their First Friday event. The first Friday of every month they feature a business or group. This is a great opportunity for businesses and groups to show the community what they do and also how they contribute to our community. On February 5th it was the Friend's groups time to impress.

The event was held at the visitor center at Rockhound Park. It was quite well attended. There were nearly 75 people in atten-

dance. Luna Rosa Winery of Deming provided the food and drink and Guitar Greg provided the entertainment. It was a great time to mingle with friends and acquainted with new people.

The second event that the Friend's group was involved in was the 1st Annual Deming Home and Garden show held on March 20, 2010. This event was held at the Deming Learning Center. It was the first of it's kind in Deming and featured builders, real estate companies, constructions companies, heating and cooling companies, and other businesses or groups that are involved in home are garden

activities. The booths cost \$150.00 to rent, but it was a great way to advertise. There were over 750 people at this event. The Friend's group was able to sell the native plants left here by Janet Redemacher. They also sold Native Plant Books, Wildflower DVD's and other items. They made a total profit of \$3.00 off the event. They were also able to enroll one person as a member and gave out five new member application forms.

These events are only a couple of ways that the Friend's group participates in the community to help us thrive as an organization.



Janet Redemacher visits us from Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

Every spring we have a Native Plant sale the month of April. These plants are supplied by the Mountain States Nursery in Phoenix, Arizona. This year a representative of that nursery paid a special visit to us to teach us about some of the native plants that the nursery has for sale and what plants be on sale for our Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 10th.

This representative was Janet

Rademacher. Janet is a horticulturist that has worked for MSV Nursery for nearly 25 years. The nursery itself was founded by Ron Gass over forty years ago. He is still very active in the day to day activities of the nursery. Most of their plants are grown in Arizona, either in Glendale or near the Wilcox area. Mountain States grows mostly plants native to the southwestern desert, however, they also grow plants that are from Aus-

tralia and South Africa. All of their plants are adaptable to the desert southwest.

She brought an array of plants that will be on sale at our plant sale and explained a little about them such as water requirements, maximum growth, and lifespan.

Thanks for coming Janet. All that attended were educated by her extensive knowledge of native plants.



Yolanda Martinez portrays Lozen the female Apache Warrior

It was standing room only for Friends of Rockhound's March presentation of singer/dancer/master drum maker Yolanda Martinez of Las Cruces. She captivated her audience with song, music, and drums. After a short break, she changed costume and portrayed Lozen, Apache warrior and sister of Victorio, as a child, teen, and warrior through music and dance.

Yolanda was born in Carlsbad

where she spent 15 years. She moved to Alaska as an adult where she was the first female commercial fisherman. She finally moved back to the desert of New Mexico where she loves. Yolanda is an accomplished Native American drum maker. You can find her drums on www.yolandasdrums.com. She also gives drum making workshops. She won a Native American Grammy Award for her song "Native Heartbeat" and provided

the background music for the PBS special, "Voices of the Ancients."

Her encore performance was a musical rendition of the female warrior Lozen. Lozen was the sister of Victorio. She was a medicine woman, holy woman, and member of the tribal council. She negotiated with the U.S. Army for the surrender of Geronimo. Lozen died of TB at Mr. Vernon while in captivity.

**Friends of Rockhound
State Park, Inc.**

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Friend of Rockhound Park, Inc. is a
non-profit 501-C3c New Mexico
Corporation



Members 2009-Yes, it's time to pay

Albrecht, Constance	Seebruch, Carol
Boardman, Patricia	Shephard, David & Ruth
Edmunds, Polly & Peter	Story, Ted & Melinda
Fitzgerald, Nan Molchan	Tiger, Cynthia & Riley
Foster, Larry & Joan	Willis, Will & Marty
George, Donna & Todd Baumgardt	
Loudon, Gary & June	
Luna Rossa Winery	
McDaniel, Sherry	
O'Donnell, Ruth	
Pelton, Ellen	
Pelton, Glenn	
Salesses, Patty	
Seale, Ed & Joyce	

2010 Dues Paid

Thank you!

Allen, Bill & Sally
Barnes, Veronika & Charles
Bass, Leslie & Mary
Brady, Derek & Katha
Brady, MaryKay
Clark, Betsy & Wayne
Cornfoot, John & Marilyn
Goble, David & Marilyn
Grinnell, Greg & Nancy
Art Padilla
Hanson, Bob & Barb
Harrison, Ray
Patricia Jones
Hawthorne, Gary & Nancy
Hazelton, Jim & Sandy
Hays, Jess
Debbie Gwyn-Hays
Howell, Craig & Russ
Jercinovic, Gene
Betty Griffin
LeMaster, Charlene & Dale
Morss, Jeen
Mueller, David & Judy
Noury, Helen
Dan Ryan
Orban, Armand & Julie
Owens, Jerry
Perkins, Shelley & Perk
Peterson, Gene & Joyce

Scarpella, Greg
Sandy Zalecki
Schwarzer, Keith & Mary
Smith, Keith & Ruth
Thomas, Jimm
Barbara O'Leary-Thomas
Vasquez, Art & Brenda
Walsh, Mike & Barbara
White, W Lowell
Whitten, Donna
Williams, Diane
Peggy Wion
Wootton, Dick & Carol
Wolf, Ron & Sue

NEW MEMBERS

Fender, Leroy &
Sherry Pryor
Jim & Joanne Silverthorne
Pete & Mickey Vincken

SPECIAL FRIEND

Baca's Funeral Chapel

GOOD FRIEND

Skip & Pat Sherman
Tinley Tee Tire Company
Delbert and Princess Ruck-
Thompson

FRIEND

Floyd, Robert & Patty