

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

July, August,
September 2006

Editor: MaryKay Brady

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Our third Saturday programs from 6:00-8:00 p m have really been great and well attended. In June we enjoyed Joe Lara, July was the Happy Five aka Alegro Cinco; and in August our very own Greg Scarpella sharing his acoustic guitar talent and story telling.

September closed our season with mariachis and folkloric dancers. An added attraction was the use of a portable lighted stage provided by NM State Parks.

Jerry and Art tended the snack bar providing water, soft drinks, popcorn, granola bars and newly added-slices of pizza!

This program will resume from May through September, 2007. We hope to apply for REDTT funds to partially defray the costs.

DUCK RACES

We had a booth at the Duck Races for the first time this year. Art and Brenda donated a terrific canopy. Gary and June donated a huge amount of polished gemstones that we sold 3 for \$1.00. We also had our T shirts, caps, and visors available, but sales were slow. Energy beads were a big hit-go Sally go! She is one super saleslady. Our duck necklaces, worn by the Friends, were a big hit, but not for sale.

FIRST FRIDAY

Our mixer for the Chamber of Commerce was a success. We had 38 chamber members and 22 Friends. One of the most talked about features was the red bead chili necklaces we gave to each guest. Greg entertained and shared his recently written song entitled "Land of Enchantment." We purchased food from Amigo's and a fruit wheel from Pepper's. We featured wines from Luna Rossa Winery with Sylvia serving. She later turned the corkscrew over to Jim & Sandy. A big thank you to all the Friends who made this a success! When we go to the local businesses to ask for donations and sponsorships, it should be just a bit easier. The Friends made themselves known that September 1st Friday.

HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL

Joan Day-Martin and her crew were able to capture 4 ½ birds for banding. While we had all hoped for more, it was a great occasion marking 18 months of planning, planting and filling feeders. Her health will not permit her to return in 2007, so we are looking for other sources as we do not wish this event to falter-10,000 brochures reflect the program to be the third weekend in August as well as many recurring ads.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The scheduled meetings are always the last Wednesday of each month. The Board meets at 9:00 a m, followed by the General meeting at 10:00 a m. Everyone is welcome to attend the Board meeting-get first choice at the donuts Art brings.

We have enjoyed programs presented by Karl Laumbach about the Warm Springs Apaches and Buffalo Soldiers, Julie shared the New Mexico state symbols, and MaryKay provided information about native plants.

October's meeting will feature James Bear about reptiles.

In November we will make luminarias for our annual program that will be held December 9th.

NEWSLETTER

We are always open to guest writers for the newsletter. If you have a subject you think others would enjoy reading about, please feel free to submit it to jmranch@vtc.net.

SWNM STATE FAIR

Once again, Jesus, Gloria and Art will be providing the opportunity for fairgoers to make pinecone feeders. Gloria gathered the pinecones. The fun is watching the children—October 6th from noon to about 3:00 p m when the ingredients and the energy run out.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes dedicated Friends to host a native plant sale. Especially when we had to unload the 18 wheel tractor/trailer rig at 6:00 a m in the dark and cold on a TUESDAY-not Thursday or Friday as planned. Jesus and Art handed plants to eager hands they could barely see!

The Park staff and volunteers helped with watering to keep our nearly 600 plants in good shape until Saturday.

Nancy provided over 80 cacti she has gathered and nurtured a project she started after our spring plant sale. She is

really good at it. Her cacti have thrived under her care.

Sale day greeted us with chilly winds and the threat of rain. Our sturdy friends were right there to help our customers with their purchases. We had 30 preorders, plus a bonus of ocotillo's, fishhook barrels, hedgehogs and pincushions to sell.

Another new tradition begun this year is the serving of coffee and homemade cookies for our guests (and us). Kudos to Jim, Sandy, Marion, Shelley, Wanda, Nancy and Marie. (Hope you got to try one of Marion's muffins-they are the best)(Thank you also her contribution of pomegranate's from her garden.)

We had some plants leftover that Les and Mary are taking to the Garden Club on October 2nd. Julie sent an e mail to all the members.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Once again, we have been awarded a \$1,500 grant for advertising. \$300 was spent on the Horizon magazine ad. Sally, Gary, June, Les and Mary are working on ideas for the remaining funds.

DID YOU KNOW?

That Julie provides the sugar for the hummingbird feeders?

That Serge & Vivian Leduc donated 50 photo note cards that we sell for \$2.50 each?

That Nancy donated a Mexican Fire aka Mexican Flame plant for our Native Garden?

DID YOU KNOW? Continued

That many people said “keep the change” at our native plant sale?

Thank you Shelley, Thank you Everett
Thank you to others

That Jim H donated 20 pairs of earrings he made out of rattlesnake vertebrae and turquoise to sell at \$5.00 each?

That we have a website? Visit NM State parks, Rockhound State Park, and then Friends? Lynn Eubank is our guru!
Thank you so much, Lynn ☺

That we may get to see the Parks’ new 5 year management plan in November or December?

SOLICITED AND SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Sandy and I are new members of Friends of Rockhound and we moved from Arizona to New Mexico in April of this year. Even though we have been city dwellers we were raised on the Great Plains of Colorado and looked forward to returning to a rural life style. We have enjoyed the breathtaking sunsets, quiet morning walks and the wonderful clean air of New Mexico. Our first few months were filled with wind and dust on a daily basis. We were constantly cleaning in the battle against the dirt invasion. I fought back by caulking around the windows, weather stripping around the doors and sealing unnecessary vents. This was nothing compared to what we were to encounter next. On the first of July we discovered how life on the desert floor is as enchanting as it is hostile. The monsoon season started and for the first time in about two years the ground was covered with a half inch of rain. It felt good to have some relief in the battle with dust.

The morning after was cool but by afternoon the sun and wind had dried the desert floor leaving the air very humid. I stepped outside just before dinner that evening and heard a faint clicking noise coming from the ground around our deck. As I looked around the rest of our back yard it seemed to be moving and glistening in the sunlight. There was a buzzing sound in the air and flying ants were everywhere. The sky was full. At the foundation of the barn swarms of ants covered the concrete in a blanket of activity. I slowly backing into the house and quickly closed the door. After some research on the internet I learned that we were experiencing Flying Ant Day. Just after the first heavy rainfall when the ground was becoming dry and humidity is high hoards of flying ants emerge from their nests to mate and create new colonies. This is an annual event and the ants burrow back into the ground within forty-eight hours. Sure enough, the next morning the ants were gone and there were holes everywhere. I was glad that nature took care of the situation and it was not another battle I was going to wage, quite frankly, I’m simply out numbered. The flying ants have not returned but the dust, well, that’s a different story.

Greg Scarpella

GARDEN CARE

Please help us keep the Native Plant Garden looking the way it should. We gather the third Wednesday of each month-bring your favorite tools and gloves at 9:00 a.m. We have newly discovered Butterfly Weed growing as well as several Hyssops and a few zinnias. We have added 3 Red Yucca, 4 blue flax, fishhook barrel, Russian Sage as well as the Mexican Flame/Fire donated by Nancy.

Board of Directors & Officers

Jim Brady	President
Julie Orban	Vice President
MaryKay Brady	Secretary/Treasurer
Marie Cardenas	Events/Programs
Art Vasquez	Fundraising
Sally Allen	Publicity

Members

Brady, Jim & MaryKay
Gottschalk, Mim & Betty
Orban, Armand, Julie, Scruffy
Cardenas, Marie
Bertrand, Marilyn & Conrad
Scot, Erik
Moore, Diane J
Allen, Bill & Sally
Owens, Jerry
Gifford, Fred & Wanda
Darnell, Hope aka Easter Bunny
Utterback, Floyd & Janice
Vasquez, Art & Brenda
Loop, Bonnie
Loudon, Gary & June
Moga, Moira & Daniel
Pelton, Ellen
Hassman, Everett & Veronica
Sherman, Skip & Pat
Bass, Les & Mary
Grinnell, Greg & Nancy
Arthur Padilla
Walsh, Mike & Barbara
Fuller, Eleanor
McClure, John & Jonni
Scarpella, Greg &
Sandy Zalecki

Welcome new members

Tatera, Judy
Smith, Keith & Ruth
Seale, Ed & Joyce
Hazelton, Jim & Sandy
Elmore, David & Kathleen
Good, Marion
Perkins, Shelley
Brady, Derek & Katha

Sponsors:

FRIEND (\$25)

Nelson, Jean
Turner, Jack (JT's Auto)

BEST FRIENDS: (\$100)

Howard & Patty Roth
Jerry Owens

SPECIAL FRIENDS: (over \$100)

Mountain Equipment
Larry Ceranski & Nora Devlin
County Club Estates
Jim & Barbara Reedy

HONORARY MEMBERS:

All the Park volunteers
The souvenir sales continue to be
outstanding! Thank you, Thank you--
We could not do it without you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc.
A public benefit 501 C3 organization
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E mail: jmranch@vtc.net

Our mission is to promote, preserve and
protect the Parks.

Remember: You are a stranger only
once, after that you are a Friend!