



Rockhound Ramblings

Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc.

April, May, June
2008

2nd Annual Bluegrass Festival

It was a foot stomping, back slapping great Memorial Day weekend. The weather was great, the music varied, good crowds and some truly terrific Friends and Park staff.

Nancy was the ring leader of our volunteer troops. She kept us in line in her own unique fashion.

Attendance last year was 85, this year over 250! Last years gate receipts were \$694, this year \$1841!

Bands were Pecos Valley Bluegrass, Desert Willow, Coyote Crossing, Salty Dog and the Duke City Swampcoolers.

Special thanks go to Greg Scarpella who acted as Master of Ceremonies for the 3 day event, Glenn Pelton for bringing her refreshing beverages and securing vendors, and George from Taco Mirasol for the tasty food.

Once again, All Things Created a special T shirt and Don and Janiece Huff provided their hand-crafted souvenir buttons.

Extra special thank you to Sharon, Steve and Saul over at All Things Created for donating the wonderful banner that you see in the picture.

Busy Bee provided porta potties at cost. A very necessary requirement when lots of people are expected. Thank you to them as well.

Hubbard's Music in Las Cruces donated a dobro for a drawing. Almost \$600 in ticket sales benefited the bands and the park.

So mark your calendar and plan to attend the 3rd annual Bluegrass Festival. Dates will be



Open Stage at the Festival

Ron Wolfe, photographer
May 22, 23, and 24, 2009.

We will be looking for sponsors and suggestions to make 2009 bigger and better.

We hope to publish a program with band bios, schedules and lots of Ron's pictures.

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- Annual Thank you
- Picnic 11:00 a m
- Wednesday, July 30th at Rockhound State Park group shelter.
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- This is our turn to say thank you to you, our wonderful members, the State Park staff and their volunteers.
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- RSVP's will be needed
- Postcards to follow
- with details
-

Changing of the Guard

It's official June 15th. Robert Apodaca is the new superintendent at the Park. Jesus has been promoted to a position at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. We shall miss him, but Robert is eager to work with us. He really enjoyed the Bluegrass Festival and has had only good things to say about "Friends" Jesus gave him some training in our care

and feeding so it will be a smooth transition.

Gloria is gone also—she has transferred to Ceballo to be closer to her home and husband.

So Art is no longer the "lone ranger" as Robert takes the

helm .The 5 YCC youngsters (Youth Conservation Corp) have been real helpers at the Park during all this transition. They were very helpful with unloading the truck for our native plant sale, watering the garden and a myriad of chores putting the Bluegrass Festival grounds in order.

Easter Egg Hunt



Part of our mission statement is to promote visits to the Park. When we decided to hold an Easter Egg Hunt the Saturday before Easter, we had no idea how many people would participate. From a humble beginning with 1,000 eggs, 2009 will require 4,000 eggs.

We have the continuing financial support of our friends at FIRST NEW MEXICO BANK.

Julie Orban (with Skruffy assisting) was again our able photographer of children with our very own Rockhound Bunny. (Hope Darnell) .

Sally Allen did the starter duties for the 2 age groups—megaphone in hand and a smiling face for all comers.

We again provided baskets for the many children who arrived without or had only a plastic bag.

Pinwheels and candy selections provided entertainment until Sally called “time.”

Each year we learn something new—have a first aid kit handy for the scraped knee, the hunts can be spaced closer together like 10:00 and 10:15. Never do youngsters move so fast as when Sally says GO!

Maybe the lunch bell at school brings the same response.

This years prize table was full of high drama as the youngsters had a choice of prizes -age and gender appropriate.

We may try the same prize for all girls and all boys next time.

Our super shoppers are already out buying for next years' event.

Desert Alive! Native Plant Sale

Sponsored by our friends at Edward Jones, Jimmy and Jill, this plant sale set another record in sales.

The Deming Garden Club provided information while Katha and Kaitlyn Brady shared their terrific face painting talents.

There was a myriad of information about creating your own butterfly garden in your yard and garden.

Jim Hazelton provided his mounted thundereggs for sale along with his unique rattlesnake

vertebra earrings. Ron Wolfe's wonderful photography was captured on note cards created by him. Gary and June Loudon provided their polished gemstones for purchase. Sally Allen extolled the benefits of using energy beads to test your sunglasses and sunscreen. The beads do not lie!

Once again, Dr Carol Sutherland of NMSU and the USDA shared her collection of bugs, butterflies and information.

Gene Jercinovic provided a brief native plant tour of

the garden. With the lack of moisture (which still continues) the Florida Mountains were without their spring bloom.

Did anyone spot the Keep New Mexico mascot Dusty Roadrunner-our very own Derek Brady-provided information about litter prevention, along with free pencils!

Mountain States Wholesale Nursery delivers as YCC youth and Friends members unload 600 plants including a 24" boxed tree for member, Marion Good—the muffin queen

Joe Saenz

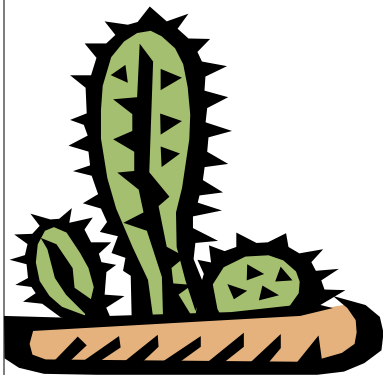
Once again Joe shared stories of the Apache. As we learned on his last visit, the Apache roamed from what is now known as Arizona into Mexico. They had a respect for the land, moving rather than depleting the resources of any one area. They created woven baskets from the native grasses rather than the pottery of less nomadic tribes.

The Apache has a true

respect for the family unit. The grandfathers and uncles helped in training the young men and women. The children were expected to be strong in mind and body, to do their chores without complaint and to be honest. The Apache valued honesty highly.

Joe is very active with the Red Paint Pow Wow held in Silver City each January. He will return again next year as we

always enjoy listening to his stories of the buffalo, eagle, wolf and coyote.





Gary and June Loudon

On May 1, 2000 an intentional error built into global positioning satellites was removed to make the use of civilian GPS devices much more accurate.

By Spring 2006, there were 240,000 caches hidden in 220 countries.

Gary and June shared their hobby, one of the fastest growing in the US, at our April meeting.

We all know them as the king and queen of polished gemstones. This involves trekking to find the raw material, packing it out sometimes a long

distance, then the use of various tumbling machines and a variety of sand and grit to attain the polished perfection we see in the store at the Visitor Center.

Along with this, these 2 have become very proficient with their GPS machines searching for caches all over the US and leaving travel bugs. These travel bugs are moved by other geocachers all around the world. They can be tracked by location via the internet.

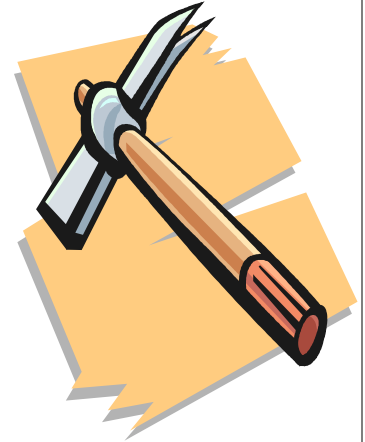
This year as NM State Parks celebrates their 75th year, they have placed caches at each of the 34 parks in the state.

Special prizes will be awarded to the person who visits all of them during 2008.

Each cache contains a logbook to sign, a treasure to take and a treasure you should leave for the next person.

What a great family outing—to search for treasure and share some time and nature together.

You may visit the web at www.geocaching.com for more tips and information or better yet, ask Gary and June when you see them next. Thank you both for sharing!



Dave DeWitt “Avenging Victorio”

He may be known to most of the world as the Pope of Peppers, but we will remember him from his presentation and reading from his recent book.

Dave became interested in the story of Victorio while doing research for the source of chiles in the Southwest.

Victorio was part of the Red Paint Apache tribe that roamed a vast area of the United

States and Mexico. He was a fierce and talented fighter when provoked trying to help his people. The Apache nation truly perfected guerilla warfare with their lightning fast attacks and retreats. It is said that an Apache never began a fight unless he felt sure he could win.

Nana was 74 when he sought revenge upon the killers of Victorio. In 1881 this ragtag group of Apache's led the Ninth

Cavalry and Buffalo Soldiers into a running war across the deserts and mountains of Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico.

Dave shared his research, photographs and respect for the Apache that morning.

He autographed both this book and his cookbooks for the audience.

Remember to bring your aluminum cans to the Park on Garden Care or meeting days. Let's do our part to Keep Luna County Beautiful!

GARDEN CARE

Calling all helpers

We meet in the Native Garden at 8:00 a m the third Wednesday of each month during the summer (daylight savings time) to tend the garden, learn about the plants and visit with each other.

All are welcome!

REGULAR MEETING

SCHEDULE

8:30 am Board Meeting

10:00 a m General Meeting

10:30 a m Program/Speaker

Meetings are the last

Wednesday of each month.

Meetings are open to all comers

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Summer Series

July 19th 6-8 pm

Gary Hart Take 2!

August 16th 6-8 p m

Veronika Barnes

September 20th 6-8 p m

Mariachi & Folkloric

Gene Jercinovic and Betty Griffith could use your helping hand. They lost their entire home and contents to the fires raging in the mountains of Albuquerque.

They were able to save his books, computer and microscopes only.

They could use a chest of drawers, bookcases, size 10 women's clothing, size medium men's clothing (especially winter attire).

Please contact them at

E mail: gjercinovic@earthlink.net to help out!

Asombro Institute
Home to the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
in Las Cruces

Rink Somerday joined us for our June meeting to discuss the "Creepy Crawly Critters of the Desert Southwest." Many of our desert dwellers have special adaptations to survive.

It was so nice of her to share her knowledge and experiences with us—saved us the cost of gasoline to go see her in Las Cruces at the park! (It is a great place to visit)

Jack rabbits are really not rabbits, but hares. Their long ears provide air conditioning. Clyde was a very friend millipede.

Canines like coyotes pant to stay cool through holes in the roof of their mouths.

Bats eat loads of mosquitoes so invite them to your next outdoor evening party.

FYI

We extend our deepest sympathy to Everett Hassman whose wife passed away recently. We will always remember her support especially of our annual Easter Egg hunt. She and Everett wanted to be sure all the children had a REAL basket, not just a Wal Mart sack!

Donations

Thank you's go out to:

Ellen Pelton:

Easter Bunny stuff for 2009

Janet Pursley

Hand made stepping stone

Ramon at K Mart

For our two new tables

All Things Created

Friends/Bluegrass banner

Ron Wolfe

Special pictures

Art & Brenda Vasquez

Bluegrass sales at Peppers

Sally Allen

For all the good publicity

Nancy Grinnell

For keeping us in line

Jim Hazelton

For earrings and thundereggs

Gary & June Loudon

For polished gemstones

To all of you Friends

(you know who you are)

For all the time you volunteer with our projects.

Sally Allen and Jim Hazelton have taken over the responsibility of the store inventory and ordering for the items in the Visitor Center. The park volunteers handle the sales on behalf of Friends as they are all honorary members.

Say thank you when you see Marion, David, Norma and Charles.

Board of Directors

Jim Brady President
 Art Vasquez Vice President
 MaryKay Brady Secretary/Treasurer
 Sally Allen Publicity
 Nancy Grinnell Native Plant Garden & Sale
 Jim Hazelton PR/Fundraising

Committee Chairs

Art Vasquez, Fundraising, membership

Supporters:

Be sure to say thank you when you visit these locations:

Baca's Funeral Home
 Sam Baca
 Edward Jones
 Jimmy Enriquez
 Jack Key Motors of Deming
 Jim Schuyler
 Tinley Tee Tire
 G G Gore
 Pepper's Supermarket
 First New Mexico Bank
 Deming Headlight
 KOTS Radio
 All Things Created
 Busy Bee

Members

Allen, Bill & Sally
 Barnes, Veronika & Charles
 Bass, Les & Mary
 Brady, Derek & Katha
 Brady, Jim & MaryKay
 Clark, Betsy & Wayne
 Damron, Lovie
 Dunn, Diana & Sarah
 Elmore, David & Kathleen
 Foster, Larry & Joan
 Good, Marion
~~Grinnell, Nancy & Greg~~
 Art Padilla
 Hanson, Bob & Barb
 Harrison, Ray & Pat Jones
 Hassman, Everett
 Hays, Jess & Debbie
 Hazelton, Jim & Sandy
 Howell, Craig & Russ
 LeMaster, Dale & Charlene
 Loudon, Gary & June
 Orban, Armand, Julie, Skruffy
 Owens, Jerry
 Pelton, Ellen
 Pelton, Glenn
 Perkins, Shelley
 Peterson, Gene & Joyce
 Purinton, Alan & Carole
 Scarpella, Greg & Sandy
 Schwarzer, Keith
 Seale, Ed & Joyce
 Shepherd, David
 Sherman, Skip & Pat
 Smith, Keith & Ruth
 Story, Ted & Melinda
 Sundin, Norm & Mitzi
 Teague, Susan
 Thomas, Jimm & Barbara O'Leary
 Vasquez, Art & Brenda
 Walsh, Mike & Barbara
 Williams, Diane
 Wolfe, Ron & Sue
 Wootton, Dick & Carol
 Zahn, Armand & Janet

Welcome to our New Members:

Fred & Susan Beaman
 Will & Marty Willis
 Patty Floyd
 Patty Salesses
 Polly & Peter Edmunds
 Cynthia Tiger
 Carol Seebruch

We are so glad you joined!

Where did this line come from? No idea and cannot make it go away.

Friend (\$25)

Nan Molchan Fitzgerald
 Dr & Mrs. Kenneth Soulsby
 Delbert & Princess Thompson

Good Friend (\$50)

Luna Rossa Winery

Best Friend (\$100)

Baca's Funeral Chapel
 Daniel & Moira Moga

Special Friends-over \$100

Jerry Owens
 Howard & Patty Roth

Honorary Members

Green, Chris & Beverly
 All the Park Volunteers

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

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Our mission is to promote, preserve and protect Rockhound/Spring Canyon State Parks through education and sharing.



Upcoming meetings:

- Apache village
 - Basket weaving
 - lbex
 - Rattlesnakes
 - Geology
 - Owl Pellets
 - Astronomy
 - Sipping Stations
 - Pollination
 - Native Plants
- Your suggestions are always welcome

Music in the Park with Gary Hart

Well, your editor learned a new word-HABOOB.

That is what happened to the hardy souls who ventured to the Park on Saturday, June 21st.

Nancy, Diana, and Sarah greeted Jim and me. Gary Hart had his stage set and was ready to play. Several minutes later Gary and June arrived followed by Sally.

This merry bunch scurried about setting things up along with Art, the lone Ranger.

At about 5:15 the sky turned brown, the air gritty. The ladies dashed into the visitor center with skirts a flying. The rest of us hardy and daft souls stuck it out while the chairs went flying, the popcorn machine was moved 15 feet by a

gusting wind. Jim complained of gritty teeth.

Finally, we all adjourned to the quiet of the visitor center.

Gary's friend, Fred Williamson local KOTS radio host joined with Gary and they played until 8:30 p m for a select group of his followers and this hardy band of Friends, joined later by Jerry, who surveyed the damage to the popcorn machine.

The next day, I learned that we had survived our first haboob-an intense sandstorm commonly observed in the Sahara desert.

June 21st

My vote-let's keep them over there. We had to literally wash our house the next day. The water ran brown. The house-well that's another story.

Gary will be back July 19th, so keep a song in your heart and have a talk with Mother Nature.



COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR BASED UPON A BOOK ABOUT NATURE DEFICIENT DISORDER

When an 8 year old boy was asked why he was in the house on a fine cool summer morning, he replied that's where the electricity is. Are we raising a nation of children with no appreciation or understanding of nature and the outdoors? Inside was where we went when it got dark (if our moms could get us in).