

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

July, August, September 2007

Editor: MaryKay Brady

It's Award Time!

The Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc., were recognized at the annual meeting of NM State Parks held at the Elephant Butte Inn October 3rd and 4th. Art Vasquez along with his wife, Brenda, Nancy Grinnell with her guest Diane Williams, attended the banquet and accepted a plaque commending our group as the BEST FRIENDS group in the state. Come visit with them and see the plaque at our next regular meeting 10/31. You are the reason we won this honor—all of our active members and sponsors—it is truly YOUR award. It takes a TEAM! Thank you to everyone who made this award possible.

July Meeting/Annual Picnic July 25th

Our picnic was held at Spring Canyon group shelter this year. 45 people enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, and brauts. Jesus provided the grills, Bill and Sally cooked. We had potato salad, cole slaw and 2 kinds of beans. A bit hit were the “soft” cookies homemade by Pepper’s. We had plenty of food and were able to make food donations to 1st Christian Church, Knights of Columbus along with the Rockhound State Park staff and volunteers. It was a great opportunity to just relax, eat and visit with fellow members. Spring Canyon is a wonderful spot any time, but with the Friends and Park staff it was even more enjoyable.

Music in the Park-July 21st

Our very own Guitar Greg entertained 80 members and guests. The weather cooperated once again with clear skies and mild temperatures. Greg sang several original tunes including one about New Mexico.

Hummingbird Festival & Silent Auction August 18th & 19th

Once again, 1st NM Bank sponsored our second annual program. Dr George West and his wife Ellen were real troupers teaching all of us the ropes. Jim Hazelton earned the title “trapper” for his expertise in catching these quick critters—even trapping 2 at the same time. We had 4 times the birds as last year. The public truly enjoyed the event. Our silent auction was well received and made a few dollars for the coffers. Thank you to all you great volunteers!

Music in the Park-August 18th

Local resident, John Surra, entertained an audience of 50 on another pleasant evening. We have been able to provide some really good, talented musicians this year. Mother Nature has provided clear skies and breathtaking sunsets to accompany the musical sounds of our various performers. John wrapped up our Music in the Park 2007 schedule. What will Greg have for us in 2008?

Popcorn/Refreshments

Special thanks to our great crew of Jerry, Art, and Jim H for keeping our members and guests happy with the great smell of fresh popcorn and the drinks to wash it all down. Skip, you really started something!

August Meeting August 29th

The lapel pins for Rockhound State Park are in! They were given to members, park staff and volunteers. We want to see that all our members and sponsors receive them, and then will make them available for sale to the public. This completes a year long project to find a vendor that did not have a minimum order of 1,000 +.

MaryKay presented a program entitled “Where are the Pollinators?”

Special Music in the Park September 15th

Mariachi Corazon del Desierto performed thanks to the support of 1st NM Bank, especially its president, Teresa Molina. If Greg has a few grey hairs, it is from the arranged groups of musicians and dancers who cancelled out with NO notice just weeks before the scheduled events. Only through the personal efforts of Teresa Molina was the event a success. Park staff and volunteers went way beyond the call of duty setting up the portable stage and tent. The grounds were immaculate for this special event that was attended by over 200 people. The extra parking was truly a great addition.

September Meeting September 26th

Our special guest speaker was Laura Simmons of New Mexico Raptors. She brought along her charges: a Peregrine Falcon and a Harris’s Hawk. Our members and guests were in awe of the information she shared and the opportunity to see wild birds up close and personal. Each had its own story to tell. We will not soon forget any of them.

Native Plant Sale

Truck, truck where is the truck? It will be here September 20th at 4 p m—no, not until September 21st at 6 a m—no, it could not find the sign to Rockhound State Park and was on the way to Columbus—stopped at Sunshine Road to meet Gloria, Park ranger who was waiting at Rockhound Road. Oh, there’s the truck-it’s not yellow. Finally at 9:30 we were able to unload the truck. We had the pre-sale order people help unload and find their plants. It was another wild time. But the bottom line is we sold or found homes for all the plants! You all deserve a BIG THANK YOU-for working, waiting, selling and purchasing. Even eating MaryKay’s weird cookies.

SWNM State Fair

Okay, some of the plants did not sell so we trucked them out to the fairgrounds (Keith, Les, Mary, Nancy, Greg) \$400 in sales! Wow

Garden Club

Okay, some of the plants did not sell so we trucked them to the Senior Citizen Center for their regular meeting (Nancy). \$97 in sales! Wow!

New Plantings at the Park

Okay, some of the plants did not sell so we trucked them back to the Park. Jim “Trapper” H headed up a team of Jimm Thomas, Jess Hays and Les Bass. who got the last bunch planted in the garden.

Garden Care

All hands are needed this month, October 17th at 9:00 a m. The garden really needs tending to get ready for winter. Let’s get the Russian thistle aka tumbleweeds out before they get a chance to spread their seed. Time to do a light bit of pruning also. So grab your gloves and favorite tool and join us.

October meeting-10/31

Board meeting 8:45 a m

General meeting 10:00 a m

Special guest **Gene Jercinovic**, botanist and native plant expert, will join us at 10:30. He has prepared a plant talk and we will take a garden walk. Here is a chance to ask all those questions like what is it? Bring fresh samples of "stuff" in your yard too.

Win a \$25 gift certificate from El Rey Meat Market. Tickets are \$1 each. We sold them at the September meeting. We will sell them at the October meeting. The final drawing will be at the end of our October meeting. YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR ALUMINUM CANS FOR RECYCLING TO GARDEN CARE OR MEETING WEDNESDAY'S.

Contact information

Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc.

4335 Salvador Rd SE

Deming NM 88030

575 531 2776

E mail: jmranch@vtc.net

A 501 C 3 public benefit

NM corporation

Web site:

www.newmexicorparksandcampgrounds.org

Membership lists

We must provide a membership list to the Park each April and October this allows them to verify visits to the Park as needed. Please keep us up to date with address, telephone or e mail changes.

Special Thank You's

State Farm provided a picnic box filled with plates, napkins, silverware, hot and cold cups. Thank you, State Farm!

Border Pest, thank you, Jim, for your recent donation.

Chamber of Commerce 1st Friday

We will host a mixer from 5 to 7 p m on November 2nd. The Visitor Center will come alive with food, music and conversation. Volunteers will be needed to help set up, serve, and clean up. What a great time to meet business owners and staff. Really helps when we go out and ask for financial support to have showcased the Park and all the neat things the Friends contribute to the community and tourism.

What's Coming Up

At the November meeting (Wednesday, November 28th) we will be playing in the sand, folding bags and adding candles. Yes, it is time to make 1,152 luminarias. Join this noisy meeting. Remember, many hands make a job easy and fun.

Holiday Lights

This year it will be Saturday, December 8th from 6:00- 8:00 p m. It's time to wear your Santa hats and big holiday smiles. Volunteers will be needed to serve hot cocoa, coffee, and cookies. This should be our best year ever as the Electric Light parade will be held December 1st so Deming will have one less choice to make.

We will also have the beautiful nativity scene in the garden. Our thanks to Art and Chris for sharing their talents.

Board of Directors

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

Committee Chairs

Art Vasquez, Fundraising, membership
Greg Scarpella, Music in the Park

2007 Members

Allen, Bill & Sally
Bass, Les & Mary
Brady, Derek & Katha
Brady, Jim & MaryKay
Butz, Phillip & Jenny
Clausen, Rich & Lucy
Cook, Robert & Dianne
Ehlers, Maria
Elmore, David & Kathleen
Foster, Larry & Joan
Good, Marion
Grinnell, Nancy & Greg
 Art Padilla
Hanson, Bob & Barb
Hassman, Everett & Veronica
Hays, Jess & Debbie
Hazelton, Jim & Sandy
LeMaster, Dale & Charlene
Loudon, Gary & June
Miller, Donald & Stephanie
Moore, Diane J
Orban, Armand, Julie, Skruffy
Owens, Jerry
Pelton, Ellen
Pelton, Glenn
Perkins, Shelley
Peterson, Gene & Joyce
Purinton, Alan & Carole
Scarpella, Greg & Sandy
Seale, Ed & Joyce
Sherman, Skip & Pat
Smith, Keith & Ruth
Soulsby, Dr Kenneth & Cindy

Sundin, Norm & Mitzi
Teague, Susan
Thomas, Jimm & Barbara O'Leary
Thompson, Delbert & Princess
Utterback, Floyd & Jan
Vasquez, Art & Brenda
Walsh, Mike & Barbara
Williams, Diane A
Woodcox, Mary & Jerry
Zahn, Armand & Janet

Good Friend (\$50)

Jean Nelson

Best Friend (\$100)

Special Friends-over \$100

Daniel & Moira Moga
Jerry Owens
Howard & Patty Roth

Honorary Members

Barnes, Veronika & Charles
Green, Chris & Beverly
All the Park Volunteers

New Members

Harrison, Ray & Pat Jones
Damron, Lovie
Dunn, Diana & Sarah
Schwarzer, Keith
Story, Ted & Melinda
Wolfe, Ron & Sue

Sponsors:

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

Broken Arrow Realty
 Jim & Barbara Reedy
Tinley Tee Tire
 G G Gore
Baca's Funeral Home
 Sam Baca
Luna Rossa Winery
 Sylvia D'Andrea
El Rey Meat Market
 Ramon & Marta Sanchez