

Rockhound Ramblings

Friends of Rockhound
State Park, Inc.

July, August, September
2008

Jim Brady

A great loss has fallen upon us. One of our leaders left this garden on earth September 13th to tend a larger garden.

Your editor is torn by how to explain this loss.

He never wanted to be the focal point, but rather the fulcrum to balance the needs of the organization with individual member needs.

We must put aside our sadness and hold close the memories we each have of him—the bear, the teacher, the man in touch with Mother Nature.

His accomplishments were many, but I think he would have been most pleased with the “small” memorial service held at the Park on September 17th. Both Derek, our son, and I were awe-

struck by the outpouring of love and caring. What we thought might be a group of maybe 20 swelled in ranks to over 100.

One of our leaders has fallen, but we must pick up the pieces and forge forward. That is what he would have wanted.

Do not dwell on the past, but rather get on with it!

Mountain States Wholesale Nursery has donated a 15 gallon Desert Willow aka *Chilopsis linearis* ‘Bubba’ to be planted in the Native Garden. Robert, Park Manager, Art formerly known as the lone ranger and Gabriel, the new man, dug the really big hole and have planted it.

To date we have received \$145 towards the purchase of a marker to say simply

IN MEMORY OF JIM BRADY,
A GARDENER AND A FRIEND



MaryKay and Derek

Photo by Ron Wolfe

Thank you to all of you who helped make this so special, including but not limited to: Marion and the Park crew, Guitar Greg, Veronika Barnes, Cyndi Longoria and all of you who spoke, brought cards, and shared with us. We are truly grateful.

Really great signs

Okay, it was great in the beginning. We (that is Sally) painted on rocks—no no not graffiti, but the names of the plants in the Native Garden. But the sun faded it away and we just plain ran out of markers soooooo with the help of the Luna County Master Gardeners donation of \$303, we have purchased 48

permanent signs that contain the Latin and common names on easy to read, weather proof signs. Do check this out on your next visit to the garden. New members, Gene and Betty have offered to help with future sign orders to get the names correct..

READER'S DIGEST

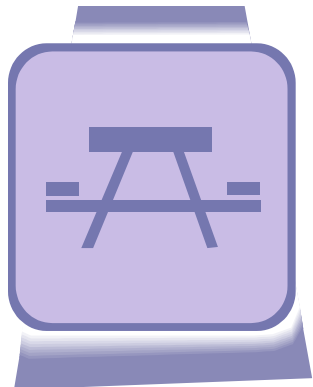
Watch for the next issue of “Off The Beaten Path” Rockhound State Park has been selected to be included. This travel guide has been published since 1987 showcasing unusual and often little-know treasures all over America.

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There will be no meeting in November.

- Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 10th at 10:00 a m
- It's time to make 1,152 luminarias for our
- Holiday Lights program held Saturday, December 13th from 6-8 p m



July-It's Annual Picnic Time

This year was a change of pace. No traditional picnic for this bunch! No we had the entire affair catered, yes catered by local business Amigo's Mexican Foods. There was plenty of rice, beans, tamales (both red and green) enchiladas (both red and green), chips and salsa, and gordita's. Friends supplied the lemonade (folks were invited to bring something stronger if they liked) along with donut holes for dessert. We met at the Group Shelter at Rockhound this time. We had a great time trying out new foods for some of us. Chile rellanos do not have to melt the fillings in your teeth. Comments

abounded, mostly to the good side, but a few diehards would like to see us return to hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad and baked beans.

What say we vote on it next year? We might be able to get Taco Mirasol to do the job—wow the limonades they create!

Stop by their location on Pine Street for a great torta and beverage..

Once again we dipped into the

party box furnished by Justin down at State Farm. Thank you for the plates, cups, napkins and silverware.

We had a few leftovers to share with the Park staff, volunteers and the YCC crew that was doing some work at the park.

It was a great time to enjoy the Park and visit with friends and Friends!

Join us next year—last Wednesday in July, 2009

Museum of New Mexico provides educational trunks on a wide variety of topics—we selected two of them for our August meeting

Barbara O'Leary Thomas and Jimm Thomas helped with a great program about the Apaches. They shared the items in the trunks by display and description of how the items were used. Did you know the Apache had playing cards? Made out of leather they were intricately painted.

The Apache were highly skilled

at making baskets rather than the pottery of other Native Americans. As nomads the baskets were lighter and easier to carry. They used pine pitch to seal the baskets to make them water tight. Several styles were displayed showing the coil forms. It could take as much as 8 hours to make one layer of these intricate baskets. Many fibers from yucca and desert spoon were used along with roots for creat-

ing colors. Often when finding wild fruits, Indians would quickly make a basket to carry the treat back to their camp.

Men made baskets as well as the women particularly for special occasions or celebrations of life events.

Male ibex weight about 200 pounds and are 2 1/2' at the shoulder. Females are about 1/3 smaller or 66 pounds,

Ibex were first released in the Florida's December 8, 1970.

September-Ibex of the Florida's

We can now answer our visitors question-What time do the Ibex come by? Listening to Dennis Kauffman was a real learning experience. There are about 300-350 ibex in the Florida's. Dennis was here scouting for a hunt and saw several groups of 70 or more. They see 7 times better than us with very acute hearing as well. His partner, Cecil Hass, describes them as having suction cup feet with

flypaper. He shared some extraordinary photos that he has gathered in the 25 years he has been visiting here. He brought along a set of horns from a Billy that were immense compared to the size of this goat like animal. If you missed this program, not to worry as Dennis and his charming wife, Mary will be back again. They have so much to share. All 3 of them were so pleased to find an audience with

a true desire to learn and understand.

Dennis and Mary also do some remarkable work with spotted owls.

Gene joined Dennis and Mary for a hike the day after our meeting. Yes, there are bigtooth maples. Some have trunks a foot or more in diameter and thirty or more feet tall; also a cherry tree of similar size.

Recycle those cans-we need the money and the landscape needs the removal

Native Plant Sale-Fall Version

This was a hard year to plan. Many people were discouraged by all the rabbit, hare and bunny damage in the spring, then came the monsoons which grew weeds chest high overnight, rising fuel and food costs shared this mix.

How to plan for a sale! We ordered more ocotillo's than ever and could have sold them several times over. Other cacti

sold well, including a huge group that our own Nancy had gathered, potted up, and babied for a year. We ordered a bit less from Mountain States. All in all, the sale was a success, but down about 10% from others. We had some truly terrific volunteers who unloaded the truck, priced the plants, arranged, sorted, watered and were great sales-people for the plants and Friends. We need more wagons on sale day——

We also found that once again we have some really good cooks in our membership. The home-made cookies and goodies flowed along with the hot coffee. This table was kept active with about 11 pots of coffee served by Katha.

The remaining cactus and plants will get new homes in the Park.

A few special specimens will be added to the Native Garden.

Mariachi Music Resonates in the mountains

With perfect weather our finale of the 2008 Music in the Park series ended with a performance by Mariachi Corazon Del Desierto. This group of former Deming High School students has gotten better every year. They have just returned from a very successful international competition in Guadalajara.

Our thanks to First New Mexico Bank president **Teresa Molina** for her continuing support and sponsorship of this traditional program.

There was a last minute health issue that kept the folkloric dancers from joining us.

Once again the additional parking was used. We can truly draw a good crowd with the varied events we offer to the public.

First New Mexico Bank has given us another 50 chairs and a storage rack.

Be sure and say a big THANK YOU when you are doing business at the bank.

They are very supportive of our community.



MEMBERSHIP LIST

To this point we have not shared our membership list with anyone except the Park. Several folks have asked if we could share member information like telephone numbers and e mail addresses. Let us know your thoughts at: 575 531 2776 or E mail jmranch@vtc.net

Grants, Grants, who has the \$\$\$\$\$\$

Constance Albrecht gave a short presentation about her skills as a grant writer/fundraiser to the Board in September.

She has had good success in this area. For every \$1 she has been paid, she raised between \$6-\$10 for the non profit.

We may have something good going on here. Thank you, Jerry for the introduction.

NATIVE GARDEN BOOKLET

Our native garden booklet is getting a much needed facelift. We have many new plants to add and a few to say goodbye.

With the help of Gene and Betty the new booklet will feature black and white line drawings as well as colored pictures of most of the plants in the garden.

David has offered to assist in creating a DVD of the booklet complete with sound.

Bluegrass Festival

Work goes on behind the scenes for May, 22, 23, and 24, 2009. Roy has signed up the bands to include Pecos Valley Bluegrass, Desert Willow, From the Heartland, Salty Dog and the Foley Family. We are awaiting the schedule now.

Ron is ready to work on the booklet with photographs of past festivals and Park features.

The TDC (Tourist Development Committee) has awarded us \$1,700 for advertising as long as it is done more than 100 miles from Deming.

These funds come from the Lodger's Tax they collect so it makes sense to attract people who will need to spend at least one night here.

All Things Created has come up with a wonderful sign combined with a stand. We plan to use them rather like the Burma Shave ads of the past.

What we offer to students/adults

Our program on Wednesday, October 29th will feature an Opportunity for you to see what Happens when we have students/ Adult group learning programs.

**Daytime astronomy, geology, Rockhounding, sipping stations
Pollination, NM state symbols, owl pellets and energy
Beads to name but a few learning stations.**

**Program begins at 10:30 following the general meeting
At 10:00 and the Board meeting at 9:00.**

Sally Allen

Submitted to the Glenwood Gazette

Summer has come to a close and with it the Friends of Rockhound State Park are wrapping up another successful season of promoting the park. It was a year of music, activities and interesting meetings. It was also one of sad endings with the loss of one of Friends' founders. Spring saw a flurry of activity with our Annual East Egg Hunt:

Three thousand candy filled eggs for our local children to find. After that came a ritual of spring at Rockhound: A Desert Alive Festival and Native Plant Sale, with over 700 native plants and cactus sold. Next was a foot stomping, toe tapping Memorial Day weekend filled with Bluegrass Music. Our Music in the Park series began in June and ended with the internationally acclaimed Mariachi group, Corazon del Desierto, in September to honor Mexico's Independence Day.

We do have one more special activity planned: Our Annual Luminarias Festival on Saturday, December 13th starting at 6 PM.

Friends' monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of the month are always a treat. This year we had a number of fabulous guest speakers, including well-known author Dave DeWitt, who spoke about his new book, Avenging Victorio. Local Apache historian Joe Saenz visited the group. Ibbex hunter and outfitter Dennis Kauffman brought some stunning pictures of the elusive creatures and had some interesting stories to tell as well. Speaking of creatures, we were also visited by Creepy, Crawly Critters of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park from Las Cruces.

Our season has ended on a sad note: One of our founders, Jim Brady, passed away recently. Jim, ever the fellow who just wanted to stay in the background, didn't want a funeral. But he was so instrumental in creating Rockhound's Native Plant Garden that it was thought he wouldn't mind if we had a Celebration of Life for him there. Over one hundred friends, family and admirers gave him a lovely send off. We think he would have approved. For more information about Friends, please visit our website at FriendsOfRockhound.org

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

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Phone: 575 531 2776
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Our purpose is to preserve, promote and
protect Rockhound/Spring Canyon
State Parks

We are on the web at:
www.Friendsof
Rockhound.org

What happens when you plant cardinal climber seeds each year:



You get hummingbirds!

Board of Directors

Art Vasquez President
pending Vice President
MaryKay Brady Sec/Treas
Sally Allen Publicity
Nancy Grinnell
Jim Hazelton

Welcome to our new members

Gene Jercinovic
Betty Griffin

Welcome to our new sponsor

Constance Albrecht

We are so glad you joined!!!

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
Moiria & Daniel Moga

Special Friends-(over \$100)

Jerry Owens
Howard & Patty Roth

Honorary Members

Chris & Beverly Green
All the Park Volunteers

SUPPORTERS

Jimmy Enriquez
Edward Jones
Jim Schulyerf
Jack Key Motors Deming
Pepper's Supermarket
Deming Headlight
KOTS Radio
All Things Created
Teresa Molina, President
1st New Mexico Bank

El Ray Meat Market
Don & Janiece Huff
Dona Irwin

1st New Mexico Bank
Justin Alonzo
State Farm

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

WE COULD NOT DO IT WITH-
OUT YOU.

MEMBERS:

Allen, Bill & Sally
Barnes, Veronika & Charles
Bass, Les & Mary
Beaman, Fred & Susan
Brady, Derek & Katha
Brady, MaryKay
Clark, Betsy & Wayne
Damron, Lovie
Dunn, Diana & Sarah
Edmunds, Polly & Peter
Elmore, David & Kathleen
Floyd, Patty
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
Salesses, Patty
Scarpella, Greg & Sandy

Schwarzer, Keith
Seale, Ed & Joyce
Seebruch, Carol
Shepherd, David
Sherman, Skip & Pat
Smith, Keith & Ruth
Story, Ted & Melinda
Sundin, Norm & Mitzi
Teague, Susan
Thomas, Jimm & Barbara O'Leary
Tiger, Cynthia
Tinley Tee Tire
 G G Gore
Vasquez, Art & Brenda
Walsh, Mike & Barbara
White, Bradley
Williams, Diane
Willis, Will & Marty
Wolfe, Ron & Sue
Wootton, Dick & Carol
Zahn, Armand & Janet

Typos and errors are the property of the finder.

Membership dues:

All memberships, active or sponsor are valid until 1/1/2009. After September of each year, membership dues paid continue to the following year or 1/1/2010.