

Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc. is a public benefit nonprofit 501C3 New Mexico corporation.

Our purpose is to promote, preserve and protect Rockhound and Spring Canyon through education and sharing. Since forming in 2004 members have created a Native Pollinator Garden filled with plants and an accessible walking path. Plants are marked with both Latin and common names. A classic 7 circuit labyrinth was built last year just west of the gardens. Trails at both parks have been improved and enhanced. Music in the Park is held the third Saturday from May through September from 6-8 pm with a wide range of musical entertainment provided. Donations are encouraged. The second Saturday in December brings Holiday Lights featuring 1,152 luminarias from 5-7 pm.

One of our special events (and only fundraiser) is our **Spring Native Plant Sale**. This event is held annually the second weekend in April in conjunction with the annual **Desert Alive!** event. This year's sale will be Saturday, April 9th beginning at 8:00 a m until all the plants are sold.

Customers are invited to place orders in advance to help insure availability. Orders may be placed at the Luna County Cooperative Extension office located at 215 Popular, Suite A, 575 546 8806. Friends members will be available on Thursday-March 10, March 17, and March 24 from 9-11 a m.

The Friends group brings in between 300-600 trees, shrubs, flowers and cactus. Plants will be available in 1, 3, and 5 gallons sizes. Larger sizes will be made available by pre ordering only. Costs will be from \$6 to \$25 depending upon size and growth rate. All plants are natives or adapted to our Chihuahuan Desert environment requiring less water, fertilizer and tending once established. Planting tips are provided to assure success. There are a wide variety of colors, shapes and sizes that will add a sense of place to your yard and garden areas. Various brochures will be available including: A 5 step guide to creating a water-wise landscape, Xeriscape 101, The Enchanted Xeriscape and Zero Tolerance: Native Plants that Survive 0 Degrees and Below.

Friend's monthly programs are held the third Wednesday of each month for garden, trail and labyrinth care. Starting times are 9:00 am in the winter and 8:00 am during daylight savings time. All hands are welcome as we work and share information.

Our other monthly programs are held the last Wednesday of each month. Our Board meets at 9:00 am followed by the general meeting at 10:00. Special speakers and programs are featured that have included topics covering Native Americans, geology, botany, history, birds, bats, conservation and pollination. Speakers planned for 2011 include information about Columbus NM history as well as native Apaches. Membership is open to all. Guests are always warmly welcomed. Please visit our web site at www.FriendsofRockhound.org. We advertise in the Deming Headlight, KOTS radio and the Deming Luna County Chamber of Commerce. Look for our brochures at local businesses, library, RV parks and the Senior Citizen Center.