

# Friends of the Sandia Mountains

## Fall Newsletter, September 2007



**Friends of the Sandia Mountains**  
PO Box 1832,  
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059

### Remaining Meetings of 2007:

**7:00 pm at Sandia Ranger Sta.**

**Tuesday, October 2**

Jan Hayes, Pres. of Bear Watch  
*Status of Bears in the Sandias*

**Tuesday, November 6**

Dixie Boyle, author of *Between Land  
and Sky* will talk about her experi-  
ences as a lookout

**December: No meeting**

### From The President

When one looks back over periods of time, they are often marked by defining factors. For me, I will likely be reminded of this past year on our mountain whenever I hear the words "Hazard Trees." The aftermath of the various insect attacks and rust or fungus infestations on our forest have created no lack of work for our volunteer crews. A large proportion of our time was spent in removing dead trees that had been identified by the Forest Service as posing a danger to life or property. All was not bad news, however, as abundant winter snow (the annual snowshoe race was a great success) and adequate summer rains produced dazzling displays of flowers for all to enjoy. Best of all, we made it through the fire season with no forest closure this year.

There were many project days and hundreds of hours donated by Friends members this year in maintenance and improvement activities on the District. These will be enumerated in the following pages, but I would like to point out one that I consider to be (after all the time spent on hazard tree removal) of major importance. That would be replacement of the storm damaged roof on the upper Balsam Glade Picnic Area restroom. This project took almost a week to complete and required the skills of many hard-working volunteers. The building is now protected from rain and snow and is much more visually pleasing than before.

This past year the Friends also finally joined the "Internet Age" with the establishment of our new Web site located at [www.friendsofthesandias.org](http://www.friendsofthesandias.org). With the much appreciated assistance of our Web-

master and Board member, Mike Coltrin, we have an attractive, informative and easy to use site to get our message out to the whole world. News about our meetings and other periodic updates keep it fresh and worth visiting frequently.

Thanks to the persistence and hard work by our Treasurer Don Carnicom (who originated the idea) plus the contribution of material and labor by Friends members, along with the cooperation of our associates at SRD, we were finally able to publish our *Visitor Recreation Guide and Map to the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains*. This heavy paper, large format color handout provides useful information pertaining to area recreational activities and serves as a supplement to the more detailed Field Guide. It is available on a request basis at the Ranger Station, Visitor Centers and other select locations.

This year, through the generosity of our associates at SRD, the Friends were provided fully furnished office space in the Ranger Station. Telephone service and a computer with Web access and a printer were included. This handy resource has proven to be most useful and convenient. Our sincere thanks go to District Ranger Cid Morgan and her staff for this most welcome and appreciated gesture.

Due in no small part to the creativity and hard work of our Vice President and Speaker Coordinator Gerry Sussman, our Friends meeting attendance over the past year has been record breaking with average participation around 50 with nearly 90 on one occasion. This helps us reach more people with our message and has helped increase our membership. Thanks

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Gerry for a job well done.

My thanks also go out to our Treasurer Don Carnicom for keeping track of our books, our Secretary Margaret Furman for maintaining our records and our three e-mail groups, our Projects Chairmen Sam Beard for coordinating and reporting all the “stuff” we do, our webmaster Mike Coltrin for his valuable assistance with our site and to all our Board Members for all their work in keeping our organization strong and vital. Special thanks to our friends and associates at the Sandia Ranger District whose guidance and support are essential.

Most of all, my sincere thanks and appreciation go to all of you Friends members who have contributed in any way, whether through time or monetary support, to the mission of our organization. Without your help, the “Sandia Mountain Experience” would not be the same.

See you on the mountain. Bob Lowder

**OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS,  
AND CHAIRPERSONS**

President: Bob Lowder  
Vice President: Gerry Sussman  
Treasurer: Don Carnicom  
Secretary: Margaret Furman

**Board Members**

Mike Coltrin Don Peterson  
Bob Moore Anne Hickman  
Tim Brown Paul Stubbe  
Sam Beard Sally Lowder  
Dan Benton

Officers listed above are also Board Members.

**Committees/Chairpersons**

Finance: Don Carnicom  
Publicity: Open  
Projects: Sam Beard  
Education: Open  
Membership: Sally Lowder  
Don Peterson  
Fund Raising: Open  
Newsletter: Sam Beard  
Don Peterson

**Hazard Tree Removal Project**

As President Bob Lowder said in his introduction to this newsletter, the hazard tree removal project was our most demanding project during the past year. During FY2006, Rick Atwell, a forester and Sandia Ranger District recreation manager, identified many hazard trees in the developed sites along the Sandia Crest Scenic Byway. From September 2006 through July volunteers worked on 17 outings to safely fell, limb, and buck these trees. Volunteers worked in Balsam Glade Picnic Area, Capulin PA, Nine Mile PA, Ellis Trailhead, and along the Electronic Site fence parallel to the N. Crest Trail. The volunteers were accompanied by SRD employees Chris Michel, Louie Gonzales, or Manuel Chavez, as their schedule permitted.

On August 6 and 13, Friends Bill Metz, Sam Beard, and Dan Benton accompanied Acting Recreation Staff Jessie Scott as he identified current dead trees that are hazardous to people and property in and adjacent to picnic areas and other sites along the Crest Highway. The volunteers marked and documented about 300 trees at the sites below Dry Camp and about 200 trees on the upper mountain from Balsam Glade PA to Sandia Crest. During August and early September, volunteers have been working on the upper mountain in picnic areas and near the Crest to fell as many trees as possible before winter. Most of the trees are white firs killed by the tussock moth.

Volunteers who have worked on this project are Bill Metz, Bob and Sally Lowder, Dan Benton, Bob Moore, Bill Geck, Don Carnicom, Chris von Huene, Ryan Bermel, Sam Beard, Newton Garland, Dean Tooley, Tim Brown, Frank Larson, Anne Hickman, Merrill Callaway, and Rav Nicholson. We were very fortunate to have the following new volunteers, and some worked almost every week: Larry Littlefield, Bill Savage, Karin Stenaee, Carl Smith, Linda McDowell, Mark Hyman, Tom Dieterle, and Jim Biese. (Sam Beard)

**Balsam Glade Picnic Area  
Restroom Roof Project**

A few years ago high winds during a storm removed about one-third of the shingles on the roof on the south side of the upper Balsam Glade PA restroom. The removal of the metal shingle roof and the installation of a new Fiberglas shingle roof was a major project for the Friends who worked five days at this

site. Bill Metz was the roof installation supervisor, and Sam Beard scheduled volunteers to work certain days.

On Tuesday, July 7, seven volunteers removed the metal shingles from the south side of the roof, nailed felt to the wooden sheathing, and began installing new shingles with a pneumatic powered nailer. On Wednesday, six volunteers completed installing shingles on the front side of the roof. On Thursday, eight members removed the old shingles from the north side of the roof, nailed the felt in place, installed several rows of shingles, and quickly packed up the equipment as a thunderstorm approached. On Friday, seven volunteers worked until 8 p.m. finishing the north side, because installing shingles around a vent pipe and completing the rows of shingles forming the ridge cap was very time consuming. On Saturday morning, five members moved the four scaffolding sections, 12 aluminum panels, and unused nails and shingles from Balsam Glade to the SRD shop area.

The new shingles are 30-year asphalt-impregnated Fiberglas, and the pattern design is architectural or dimensional with two layers of material in places for a heavier appearance. The SRD provided the materials, an air compressor, scaffolding, hard hats, and one body harness for safety. Bill Metz provided the power nailer, a safety harness, and ropes. Volunteers also provided hand tools, a ladder, and cordless power tools. The volunteers who worked on this project were Don Carnicom, Tim Brown, Bob/Sally Lowder, Bob Moore, Dan Benton, Tom Dieterle, Rav Nicholson, Larry Buck, Bill Savage, Larry Littlefield, Louie Gonzales (USFS), Mark Hyman, Frank Larson, and Ken Nicholson. Thanks to these hard working volunteers, this restroom now has an attractive and sound roof. (Sam Beard and Bill Metz)

### **Ranger Station Grounds Maintenance**

FOSM members worked three days on the Sandia Ranger Station grounds to improve their appearance and control weeds. On September 26, 2006, members worked a half-day cutting and pulling many ragweed plants up to 4 feet tall along the curb of the north parking lot. Mary Voldahl had earlier confirmed that the plants were ragweed. The volunteers hauled a pickup load of plants to the brush pile near the shop.

On March 28 after completing the Tijeras Pueblo

Trail, volunteers did spring cleanup around the Ranger Station. When the new Ranger Station was built, low-water landscaping consisting of gravel over landscaping fabric was installed with numerous native shrubs on a drip irrigation system. As usually happens with this type of landscaping, grass and weeds grow in the gravel areas and leaves and debris collect around plants; therefore, the volunteers always find many weeds to pull. The other tasks completed by the workers were cutting elm branches and brush, pruning several large shrubs into the traditional vase shape, mowing dead grass and weeds, raking leaves, cleaning flower beds, and pruning shrubs for better visibility at the shop road at the south parking lot.

On August 15 the group focused on removing tall weeds along the outer curb, pruning shrubbery and trees in the island, pruning shrubs between the south lot and the highway, in addition to some of the above tasks. On both days the cut vegetation was hauled to the brush pile near the shop for chipping later. Bill Metz and Modesto Sanchez began the maintenance and repair of the chipper for use this fall.

The volunteers helping improve the appearance of the grounds in FY2007 were Bob Lowder, Bob Moore, Bill Metz, Bill Savage, Linda McDowell, Rav Nicholson, Anne Hickman, Newton Garland, Larry Littlefield, Chris Michel, Dave Weaver, Tim Brown, Sally Lowder, Chris von Huene, Sam Beard, and Dan Benton. We were especially happy to have three new volunteers and one returning volunteer working on these projects. Everyone worked diligently and enjoyed the outdoor activity. One person said that she thought that this was the best work session that we have had. As District Ranger Cid Morgan, Interpretation Manager Dana Howlett, and Pueblo Site Manager Sean Gantt said, "THANK YOU." (Sam Beard)

### **Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains**

UNM Press and we have sold almost 8,500 copies, and UNM Press has scheduled a reprint of 5,000 additional copies. Bob Julyan has asked for and received corrections from virtually all of our contributors and hopes to wrap this up in a few days. The price of the Field Guide has been raised to \$21.95. Thanks again to all of our many contributors for their help on this wonderful and much needed project. The reception of the Field Guide by the community is a tribute to your hard work. (Gerry Sussman)

### **10K North Trail and Oso Corredor Trail Bridge Projects**

On May 2, volunteers replaced the 10K North Trailhead 10-foot bridge which had been severely damaged by snow removal equipment last winter. The new bridge was constructed with two sections of a 12-inch diameter spruce tree which was lying near the trailhead. Bill Metz used a chain saw to cut a slab from one side of each log to form a flat surface on the timbers. The timbers were bolted to the existing bridge bases. Volunteers: Bob Moore, Sam Beard, Chris von Huene, Tim Brown, Dan Benton, Bill Metz, and Bob and Sally Lowder.

On May 2 and July 5 at the Oso Corredor low bridge, an existing wide board was turned over and rebolted to expose the best side of the board and reduce the center gap in the bridge. Also, on July 5, at the Oso Corredor Trail high bridge, a broken board was replaced with a thick slab cut from the side of the Engelmann spruce timber installed earlier on the 10K North Trailhead bridge. On the low bridge over a spring runoff wetland area, one rotten plank was replaced with a pressure-treated 2 x 12 left over from the amphitheater bench project. Volunteers: Chris von Huene, Pat and Dan Benton, Rav Nicholson, Bob and Sally Lowder, and Sam Beard. (Sam Beard and Dan Benton)

### **Pruning and WIS Training for Volunteers**

On July 7, three new volunteers, Mark Hyman, Rosie Preston, and Karin Stenaee, accompanied Sam Beard and Bob and Sally Lowder on an outing for pruning instruction, trail familiarization, and trail maintenance. While hiking parts of the N. Crest, Osha Loop, and Survey Trails, the trainees practiced with loppers, a pruning saw, and a crosscut saw. Nine fallen trees and a few leaners were removed. Sam presented a display of nine hand tools used in trail maintenance. On July 28, Sam Beard and Bob and Sally Lowder led five new volunteers (Karin Stenaee, Linda McDowell, Mark Hyman, Merrill Callaway, and Tom Dieterle) on a back-country hike from Capulin Picnic Area to Media Spring. The leaders presented information on wild flowers, tree identification, and fire cycle. Participants saw aspens with bear claw marks and names from the 1930s and 1940s. On August 11, Sam Beard and Bob and Sally

Lowder led a group of seven new volunteers over parts of the 10K, Ellis, Survey Trails, and Challenge Trails. Sam, Bob, and Sally made short presentations on tree identification, wildflowers, mushrooms, and the fire cycle. Sam demonstrated a crosscut saw, and we removed two fallen trees. The new volunteers were Tom Dieterle, Matt and Joy Bosquez, Mark Hyman, Larry and Mary Ann Buck, and Karin Stenaee. Volunteer Walter Kearns and USFS employee Louie Gonzales also attended. (Sam Beard)

### **Reconstruction of Tijeras Pueblo Trail**

On March 21 and 28, during the rebuilding of 150 feet of the Tijeras Pueblo Trail, volunteers moved about 80 wheelbarrow loads of dirt to fill erosion ruts and constructed six dips and berms for water drainage. Dana Howlett had about 9 tons of Santa Fe Brown crusher fines delivered. Volunteers moved this material to the trail with wheelbarrows, others spread it over the trail about 2 inches deep, and the crusher fines were then packed with a water-filled roller. Volunteers working on this project were Bob and Sally Lowder, Bob Moore, Dave Weaver, Dan Benton, Sam Beard, Tim Brown, Bill Metz, Don Canicom, Newton Garland, Chris von Huene, Andy Rutkiewicz, Bill Geck, and Bill Savage. Dana Howlett and Sean Gantt, USFS, also worked with us. (Sam Beard)

### **Kiwanis Meadow Fence Maintenance**

On June 6 volunteers repaired the north section of the Kiwanis Meadow buck-and-pole fence along the road to Kiwanis Cabin. Bill Geck, Don Canicom, Bob Moore, and Dan Benton replaced eight poles, set a brace to straighten a buck, and replaced two interpretive signs.

On July 18 Sally Lowder led a crew to repair the south section of the fence. After a wonderful lunch in the trees “serenaded” by Downy Woodpeckers, Newton Garland, Larry Littlefield, and Sally repaired one buck, straightened one buck and placed it on rocks to reduce rotting, and replaced five poles. They also transported recycled poles from the Electronics Site to Kiwanis Meadow and blocked a user path around the end of the fence with deadfall and a new USFS Carsonite “Closed Area” sign. It was a wonderful, sunny day, and the clouds did not come in until we had completed our work. (Sally Lowder)

## National Trails Day

On Saturday, June 2, over 100 volunteers gathered at Elena Gallegos Picnic Area for the 2007 National Trails Day event. The Albuquerque Open Space Division coordinated the event and major sponsors were the Sandia Ranger District, Friends of the Sandia Mountains, and REI. Several businesses donated food and drinks. T-shirts were given to the first 100 volunteers who registered at REI. Representatives of the various organizations welcomed the volunteers, and then the participants selected a project to work on from the dozen or so available. During the early afternoon, everyone met at the covered picnic area for lunch and door prizes.

Several FOSM members were present. Gerry Sussman sat at the Friends table and provided information to the volunteers. Dick Traeger helped with the general set up for the event. Manny Chavez, USFS, delivered a pickup load of USFS tools of all types. The first five National Forest projects below were planned and led by FOSM members.

\* **Maintenance of Domingo Baca Route** - Project Leaders: Bob and Sally Lowder, FOSM, and Manny Chavez, USFS. Crew members: Becky Bowen, Rose Doub, and Karin Stenaae. Cutting vegetation, mostly bear grass, encroaching upon the trail tread. Crew repaired rock bars and rolling dips.

\* **Repairing Horse Gates at Wilderness Access Points** - Project Leader: Bob Moore. Crew Members: Richard Jones and Lisa Stewart. Installed sliding board latches in three gates and bolt handles in four gates. Replaced missing bolts and nuts and tightened bracing wires. Gate locations: Domingo Baca Trail, Pino Trailhead, gate south of the Pino Trailhead, and Embudito Trailhead.

\* **Maintenance of North Foothills Trail 365** - Project Leader: Sam Beard. Crew of four hiked from Simms Park Road to about the mid-point of the trail south of the tramway terminal. We dug about 140 drainage dips to drain water off the trail.

\* **New Shingle Roof on the South Crest Trailhead 130 Portal Sign** - Project Leader: Don Carnicom. Crew Member: Bill Geck. Installed 30-pound felt, new wooden shingles, and a galvanized steel ridge cap.

\* **New Shingle Roof on the Embudito Trailhead Portal Sign** - Project Leader: Dan Benton. Crew Members: Tim Brown and two volunteers from Kirtland AFB. Felt stapled to plywood, three overlapping shingle courses fastened with deck screws, and a

metal ridge cap attached across the joint of the two roof halves.

\* **Construction of Trail Tread around a Tree on the Crest Spur Trail** - Crew Leader: Jessie Scott, Acting Recreation Staff on the Sandia Ranger District. Constructed short section of trail tread on upper side of tree for safer passage at very narrow place.

## Painting Projects

Volunteer painters were especially busy this year. SRD employees requested that the following structures be painted: Cid Morgan, District Ranger: Doc Long PA entrance sign and large NF boundary sign; Karen Takai, Fire Information and Public Affairs, brown sign boards; and Jessie Scott, Acting Recreation Staff: graffiti on interior walls of 10K Trailhead restroom. **Spring** - Many brown information sign boards at Scenic Byway sites from the NF boundary to the Crest: Walter Kearns and Jane Harrison's crew. **May 23 and 30** - 8000-foot elevation and vegetation sign: Bill Savage and others. **July 14** - Doc Long entrance sign, 10K Trailhead restrooms interiors, and N. Crest TH portal sign: Matt Bosquez, Anne Hickman, Margaret Furman, and Sam Beard. **July 21** - Eight sign board PA name boards in Cienega and Sulphur PAs: Jane Harrison and Rikki Barrett; **August 11 and 18** - Large Cibola NF boundary sign: Jane Harrison, Phyllis Grein, Margaret Furman, Rikki Barrett, and Sara Morlan. **August 14** - Second restroom exterior walls and doors in Doc Long PA: Phyllis Grein, Jane Harrison, Sara Morlan, Carol Alfs, and Shirley Lambert. (Jane Harrison and Sam Beard)

## Maintenance of Kayser Mill Trail in Mountainair Ranger District

On June 27, Bill Metz, Dan Benton, Bill Savage, and Sam Beard, SRD volunteers, removed about 40 trees from the Kayser Mill Trail #80 on the Mountainair Ranger District (MRD). The original request for this volunteer work was made by Bill Falvey, zone wildlife biologist on the SRD and MRD. At a road junction near the trailhead, we met Karen Lessard, the new district ranger, who welcomed us to the MRD and thanked us for coming. Patrick Luna, who works on trails in the MRD, then drove us up a rough road to the trailhead. We divided into two crews with Patrick, Bill Metz, and Bill Savage hiking up the trail into the wilderness and to the Crest Trail. Sam and Dan cut a couple of trees with a chain saw outside

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

the wilderness and then continued up the trail. Both teams used cross cut saws to cut fallen trees and a few leaners in the wilderness. We enjoyed working with Patrick, whose favorite tool is the Pulaski. (Sam Beard)

### **Maintenance of Tecolote and Cienega Nature Trails**

Volunteers performed maintenance on both of the trails adopted by FOSM. On June 19, nine Intel volunteers met volunteers Sam Beard and Dan Benton and USFS employees Manuel Chavez and Louie Gonzales at Dry Camp Picnic Area for a safety briefing and instruction on safe tool use. Everyone then hiked the trail, cleaned water bars, cut brush, and pruned branches.

Volunteers worked on the Cienega Picnic Area Nature Trail on four outings last year:

\* March 31 – Volunteers swept the Nature Trail and prepared and painted benches and Braille sign posts. Volunteers: Larry Littlefield, Bill Savage, Rav Nicholson, Ron Hayenga, Walter Kearns, Don Carnicom, and Sam Beard)

\* April 25 and May 3 – Two sections of the post and pole fence at the Group Area gate were reconstructed, the fence along the stream was rebuilt and painted, the hand railing was painted, and a four-foot section of concrete curb was poured. (Volunteers: Tim Brown, Newton Garland, Bob and Sally Lowder, Bill Metz, Bob Moore, Anne Hickman, and Chris von Huene)

\* August 18 – Washed-in soil and rocks were removed from the concrete trail, grass and weeds along the trail and around the benches were cut, and drainage problems were addressed. Also, branches along the picnic area road and around signs were pruned. (Volunteers: Bob and Sally Lowder, Tim Brown, Anne Hickman, Matt and Joy Bosquez, Jane Harrison, Don Carnicom, Mark Hyman, and Louie Gonzales, USFS. (Bob Lowder and Sam Beard)

### **Visitor Recreation Guide and Map to the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains**

The Recreation Guide, which has been underway for over a year and a half, was completed and published in May. Gerry Sussman, Sam Beard, Dan Benton, Paul Stubbe, Don Carnicom, and Dana Howlett working with 26 volunteer authors, photographers, a

cartographer and a graphic designer, put their final touches on the document, and our contractor printed 5000 copies. We included information about picnic areas, camping, volunteer work, parking fees and passes, wilderness restrictions, temperatures, precipitation, trail lengths and difficulty, and Leave No Trace policy. Individuals from throughout the community prepared many articles and pictures covering most of the recreational opportunities available in the Sandia Ranger District such as bicycling, skiing, hiking, horseback riding, climbing, and hang-gliding. Much of the information is also available on the Friends web site, [www.friendsofthesandias.org](http://www.friendsofthesandias.org), under Recreation. Copies of the Guide are available at no charge at the Ranger Station, Four Seasons Visitor Center, Crest Visitor Center, REI, Albuquerque Convention and Visitor Bureau and Tinkertown. On June 30, a celebration of the publication was held at Doc Long Picnic Area. All Guide contributors, the USFS Staff, and FOSM members were invited, and forty-six attended. Bob and Sally Lowder's elk burgers were the highlight of the picnic. (Don Carnicom)

### **Adopt-A-Trail Program**

This year the Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) Program added two new members; the Sasquatch Watch Group adopted the Embudito Trail, and the Faulty Mountain Bikers adopted a section of Faulty Trail from Cienega to Bill Spring. Also the Friends of the Sandia Mountains adopted their second trail, the Cienega Nature Trail. Twenty-seven trails are now included in the program. So far this year, all of the groups together have contributed a total of 847 volunteer hours. Lynn Bender, one of our members, continued to make more AAT signs for a number of the organizations. (Don Carnicom)

### **Junior Ranger Program**

After a wonderful snow year in the Sandia Mountains, we started the Junior Ranger program on Memorial Day weekend. We have had a forest of wildflowers and mushrooms, and the Junior Rangers have been very busy, especially at the 4-Seasons Visitor Center at the Upper Tramway Terminal. We have given a total of **714** badges and **440** patches to date for a total of **1154** Junior Rangers. We still have about 1½ months left for the program, so it looks to be another good year. (We had 1266 in 2006). We have redesigned the tests and the certificate that we

give the children. They are being used at the Crest Visitor Center at this time and will be used next year at the 4-Seasons when current supplies are exhausted. The new tests allow the Visitor Center staff to have some one-on-one discussion with the children concerning weather and other things the Junior Rangers see. Thanks to all the volunteers and USFS summer interns who help administer the program at the two visitor centers. (Sally Lowder)

### **FOSM Web Site**

The Friends of the Sandia Mountains has now joined the internet age! We have a new Web site at <http://www.friendsofthesandias.org/>. The Web site explains the organization's purpose and describes the variety of our activities. The site always has many photographs from recent FOSM field projects. There is an extensive Recreation page summarizing the opportunities for hiking, biking, rock climbing, and horseback riding in the Sandias. Turn to the Current Events to find the time, date, speaker, and topic of up-coming FOSM meetings. Information on how to join the organization is also available. Check it out (and "bookmark" the page for return visits) to keep up to date on our activities! (Mike Coltrin)

### **Installation of SRD Amphitheater Benches**

On May 23 and 30 the Friends installed new benches in the SRD amphitheater on the south side of the shop road. We set pressured-treated posts in the ground and screwed 2x6 lumber to the sides of the posts. We then installed wide 2x12 lumber over the posts and horizontal supports with deck screws. The volunteers working on this project were Lynn Bender, Tim Brown, Chris von Huene, Rav Nicholson, Bill Savage, Dick Baumann, Dave Weaver, Bill Metz, Sally and Bob Lowder, Sam Beard, Anne Hickman, Dan Benton, and Bob Moore. (Sam Beard)

### **Emergency Trail Maintenance Crew Activities**

This volunteer trails crew removes fallen trees from hiking and cross country ski trails during all seasons of the year. The trail clearing continued this year,

reaching nearly epidemic proportions, as hundreds of diseased trees started dropping across many of our frequently used trails. Forest Service Staff and many of our Friends managed to keep all of the major trails open. As you may guess, the trail clearing and weekly Friends projects frequently overlapped so there were too many individuals involved to single anybody out. Almost every week somebody is out there, so keep your trail reports coming in via the Cibola Trail Rangers Egroup. If you would like to join in on the fun, call or email me at 281-3421 or [dmcarnicom@msn.com](mailto:dmcarnicom@msn.com). (Don Carnicom)

### **Scheduled Volunteer Trail Maintenance**

Volunteer trail maintenance for removing fallen trees and pruning was scheduled for the following dates: **January 18** – Parts of S. Crest, Faulty, and CCC Trails; Removed 17 trees; Sam Beard, Bob Moore, Herman Jottman, and Bill Metz. **June 13** – Challenge, 10K N., and 10K S Trails; 41 trees; Don Carnicom, Sam Beard, Art Arenholz, Larry Littlefield, Chris von Huene, Tim Brown, Bill Savage, Carl Smith, John Thomas, and Karen Leach. **June 20** – 10K N. and Survey Trails; 42 trees; Dan Benton, Frank Larson, Chris von Huene, Sam Beard, Sally Lowder, Bob Lowder, Bill Metz, Bill Savage, and Larry Littlefield. **July 21** – Ellis Trail; four trees; Sam Beard and Karin Stenaee. **August 25** – S. Crest Trail from the Tram to Cienega and Cienega Canyon Trail; 4 trees and much pruning; Dan Benton, Don Carnicom, Karin Stenaee, Mark Hyman, Sam Beard, and Louie Gonzales. (Sam Beard)

### **Sandia Crest Highway Signs**

The Friends got into the highway sign business this year. The two Scenic Byway signs on the Crest Highway near NM14 were replaced. These two signs mark the beginning of the Sandia Crest National Scenic Byway, and the old signs had become so faded over the years they were barely legible. The new ones look great; be sure and check them out. The two Dry Camp Picnic Area signs disappeared many years ago so we replaced them also. Dana Howlett asked the Friends to help purchase three interpretive signs for the new kiosk at the highway pull-out just before you enter the National Forest. These also turned out very well. Remember, as you see these signs while driving the Crest Highway, YOU helped make all of them possible. (Don Carnicom)

### **Clearing Brush under I-40 Bridges for Safe Wildlife Passages**

The Tijeras Canyon Safe Passages Coalition (TCSPC) sponsored three outings to clear brush under two I-40 bridges so that large mammals will use them to go under the highway. At the western-most bridge site on September 23, the volunteers cut brush and small trees on the east side of Tijeras Creek under four bridges – east and west lanes of I-40, an exit ramp, and a frontage road. We cut brush under two bridges at the next site on October 14. N. M. Department of Transportation personnel sprayed the stumps with herbicide to prevent regrowth. On November 4, the volunteers returned to the first site to extend the brush cut to the west side of the stream. Volunteers working on this project were Carl Smith, Sam Beard, Bill Metz, Don Carnicom, Jane Harrison, Rickey Richardson, Dennis Crowther, Phyllis Grein, Geraldine Furlan, Tim Brown, Ann LeBeau, Chris von Huene, Dan Benton, Ron Hayenga, and Bob Moore. (Sam Beard)

### **Snowshoe Race Benefits FOSM**

The 2007 Sandia Snowshoe race was a big success. The Friends of the Sandia Mountains is a sponsor and the beneficiary of this race with all proceeds going back to the mountain through Friends' projects. The conditions were ideal with clear skies, crisp temperatures, and tons of snow. About 90 runners participated. Larry and Pam Walker organized the race again this year. The Walkers took over the reins a few years ago from race founder Jeff Young. The winning time this year was 32 minutes and 30 seconds with second place a mere 3 seconds later. At the April FOSM meeting, Pam presented us a check in the amount of \$1044, the proceeds of this year's race. This will be a great help in meeting the many needs on "our" mountain.

FOSM thanks Larry and Pam Walker for all their work in once again putting this race together. Thanks also to FOSM Treasurer Don Carnicom for coordinating the Friends' participation. Other FOSM staffing participants were Sally Lowder, race timer and photographer; Bob Lowder race course setter and race marshal; Bill Geck, race marshal, and Art Arenholz, race marshal. (Bob Lowder)

### **Installation of Two Wildlife Water Drinkers**

On September 26 and 27, 2006, volunteers assisted Project Leader Bill Falvey, SRD/MRD Wildlife Biologist, with the installation of an eight-foot diameter and six-foot high steel drinker tank at a site east of Oak Flat Group Picnic Area. The volunteers rotated the tank onto its base and attached 22 sloping steel panels to the tank to form an inverted "umbrella" to enlarge the rain collection area. The group also drove to the Juan Tomas Road drinker site and prepared the site for installation of a drinker there. On October 4, 2006, eight volunteers and four agency employees moved the drinker to the site, painted tar on the bottom, installed the tank and collector panels, the plastic pipe, and the float-controlled water dispenser. Volunteers: Dan and Pat Benton, Bob Moore, Newton Garland, Chris von Huene, Don Carnicom, Dean Tooley, Bill Metz, Ann LeBeau, and Tom Baker. (Sam Beard)

### **Volunteer USFS Certified Chain and Crosscut Sawyers**

In April 2007 Alberto Lara, SRD Fire Crew and C Sawyer, certified the following volunteer chain sawyers: Intermediate (B) Sawyers, Bill Metz and Sam Beard, and Apprentice (A) Sawyers, Don Carnicom, Carl Smith, and Dan Benton. At the Wilderness Ranger Rendezvous in Ghost Ranch, the following volunteers were certified crosscut sawyers: Advanced (C) Sawyers, Bill Metz and Sam Beard, and Apprentice (A) Felling Sawyer and Intermediate (B) Bucking Sawyer, Bill Savage. The Sandia RD sponsored Bill Savage, and Phyllis Martinez, Jemez RD, sponsored Bill Metz and Sam. (Sam Beard)

### **News Notes**

\* The approximately 40 USFS Job Hazard Analysis forms completed in FY2007 indicate that FOSM sponsored an average of one project each week for the ten months of field activities.

\* Presentation of FOSM Information at Public Events during FY 2007 - Wildfest: Bob and Sally Lowder; Rio Rancho Rotary Club: Sam Beard, and



Bear Fair, Don Carnicom and Gerry Sussman.

\* Volunteers cut brush at the intersection of the Cienega PA Road and Crest Highway for better driver sight distance.

\* Gerry Sussman, Nancy Woodworth, Andy Rutkiewicz, Mary Bean, Dana Howlett, and Susan Johnson traveled to Sedona, Arizona, to attend the Conference on Partnerships between the U. S. Forest Service and government and private agencies.

\* Visitors and local residents purchased 323 copies of the Sandia Crest Scenic Byway Auto Tour Guide which was republished by FOSM.

\* Margaret Furman and Don Carnicom manage three email groups for FOSM and the Sandia RD. The current number of addresses in each group is: Sandia Volunteers and N. M. Friends of the Forest, approximately 350, and Cibola Trail Rangers and Friends of the Sandia Mountains, about 100 each.

**Anne Hickman has been Refreshments Coordinator for several years and would like to know if someone else would enjoy finding people to provide refreshments.**

### **Speakers and Topics at the FOSM Monthly Meetings**

October: Cid Morgan – Meet the new SRD District Ranger.

November: Bob Julyan - Mountains of New Mexico (Bob's new book).

January 2007 - Canceled due to heavy snow.

February: Mike Smith - Towns of the East Mountains.

March: Bill Baxter - Gold of the Ortiz Mountains.

April: Don Bullis - Law and order in Territorial N.M. (1850-1912).

May: Mary Diecker - Strange but true stories of N.M.

June: Mo Palmer - Albuquerque Then and Now

July: Frank Titus - Our water future

August: New Mexico Railroad History

September: George Boyden - History of the Sandia Peak Tramway. (Gerry Sussman)

### **Refreshments for the Monthly FOSM Meetings**

Anne Hickman, Refreshments Coordinator, reports that the following members provided refreshments at the monthly FOSM meetings: November, Anne Hickman; February, Sue Mann; March, Frances Robertson; April, Jeanice Janson; May, Dan Benton; June, Sally Lowder; July, Anne Hickman; August, Margaret Furman; and September, Don Peterson. The meeting attendees enjoy the refreshments very much, and they are an important part of the social period when the members talk with the evening's speaker and discuss FOSM business. (Anne Hickman)

#### **Letter of Condolence to Richard Becker's Family**

President Bob Lowder wrote the following letter of condolence to the family of Richard Becker on June 1, 2007.

Dear Ms. Chavez and family,

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of our dear friend and colleague Richard. As a founder, first President and Board member of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains he was certainly the cornerstone of our group's foundation. We know that he was justifiably proud of what the Friends represented and also for the kind of organization it became over the years with the help of his wise counsel.

It is our hope that you will find comfort in knowing that through his selfless application of time, treasure and plain hard work in furtherance of the public good, that Richard left the world a better place than he found it.

We are thankful for the opportunity to have known and worked with him. He will be missed.

For the Officers and Board,

Bob Lowder, President  
Friends of the Sandia Mountains

### Membership Report

We now have 107 members compared to 82 last year at this time. We have added 32 new members this year.

Bob & Betsy Galloway	Melissa Howard	Dallas Anderson
Linda McDowell	Larry & Julie Littlefield	Tom Hoehn
Orman Paananen	Bill Savage	Mike Smith
Marcia Malcomb	Mark Moll	Betty & Jerry Lehnus
Dick Baumann	Boone & Carolyn Birdsell	Don Smiset
Robert Collins	Louis Herrera	Ken & Janice Samuelson
Mike Madden	Jane Harrison	Betsy Davis
Temple & Dorothy Woolls	Pam Beachum	James Good
Mark Hyman	Mary & Larry Buck	Tom Dieterle
Richard Miller	David & Celia Klaus	Bruce & Chris Budagher
David & Lucinda Williams	Diana Black Kennedy	

Welcome aboard everybody. (Don Carnicom)

### Treasurer's Report

We began FY 2007 on October 1, 2006, with a balance of \$ 10,087.05, and on July 31, 2007, the balance was \$ 28,197.52. The largest expenses were \$ 3575.73 for the Visitor Recreation Guide, \$1459 for interpretive education kiosk signs along the Crest Highway, \$1415.62 for Junior Ranger badges and patches, \$783.28 for Scenic Byway and picnic area

signs, and \$ 500.00 for National Trails Day T-shirts. The largest income sources were \$17,820 from the National Visitors Use Monitoring Project, \$ 2687.73 from Field Guide sales and royalties, \$3510.14 from donations including \$1044 from the Snowshoe Race, and \$ 1904.82 from memberships. If you would like a detailed Treasurer's Report, call or email me. (Don Carnicom)

## BALLOT: OCTOBER 2, 2007, ANNUAL MEETING

We appreciate the contributions of those board members whose terms are expiring at the end of September: Dan Benton, Mike Coltrin, Sally Lowder and Don Peterson. The continuing board members are: Tim Brown, Sam Beard, Anne Hickman, Bob Moore, and Paul Stubbe. The members listed below have been nominated for officer and board member positions. (Officers are also members of the board.) Other nominations are encouraged. If you are interested in serving as an officer or board member, please contact Tim Brown, 296-3360.

#### President:

1. Bob Lowder \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Vice President:

1. Gerry Sussman \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Treasurer:

1. Don Carnicom \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Secretary:

1. Margaret Furman \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Board members: (Vote for four)

1. Dan Benton \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mike Coltrin \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sally Lowder \_\_\_\_\_
4. Don Peterson \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Notice to members of FOSM:** If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, you may vote by mailing this ballot to:

Friends of the Sandia Mountains  
P. O. Box 1832  
Tijeras, NM 87059

# FRIENDS OF THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS

If you hike, bike, ride a horse or use the Sandia Mountains in any way, we know you enjoy what nature has given us. As you know, all this traffic takes a toll on our forest lands. Working in conjunction with the **United States Forest Service** as a volunteer organization, we provide many services in support of the Sandia Ranger District.

## WHO WE ARE

Friends of the Sandia Mountains is a non-profit organization of local volunteers. We are dedicated to working in partnership with the USFS, other groups, and individuals to maintain, protect and restore the natural, cultural and scenic resources of New Mexico's forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. Our focus is conservation and education within the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest and adjacent lands.

## WHAT IS THE NEED

This uniquely beautiful land can't wait another minute. It truly needs our help! As USFS funds are inadequate to handle the increasing demands on the forest land by the public, the Friends of the Sandia Mountains will work to help meet the forest needs. Learn more about how you can be a part of this vital effort.

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## WHAT WE DO

Conservation  
Education  
Restoration  
Site Stewardship  
Wildlife & Habitat Monitoring  
Trail Construction & Maintenance  
Junior Ranger Program  
Visitor Services  
Fundraising  
Adopt-A-Trail  
Co-publisher of **Field Guide to the Sandia Mtns.**

## YOU ARE INVITED TO **JOIN OR RENEW**:

You can be part of this effort; work with friends, visitors and USFS personnel.

Tell us briefly how you would like to Participate & we will get back to you.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone & Email

### Dues:

- \$10 Student
- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$30 Sustaining
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$100 Benefactor
- \$250 Life Sponsor
- \$500 Corporate Sponsor

Please make your check payable to:  
**Friends of the Sandia Mountains**

Mail To:

Friends of the Sandia Mountains  
P. O. Box 1832  
Tijeras, NM 87059

FOSM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Dues and donations are tax deductible.

Friends of the Sandia Mountains  
 PO Box 1832,  
 Tijeras, New Mexico 87059



**IN THIS ISSUE**

President’s Message.....Page 1  
 Officers, Board Members, and Chairpersons.....Page 2  
 Hazard Tree Removal Project.....Page 2  
 Balsam Glade Picnic Area Restroom Roof Project.....Page 2  
 Ranger Station Grounds Maintenance.....Page 3  
 Status of Sandia Mountain Field Guide.....Page 4  
 Kiwanis Meadow Fence Maintenance.....Page 4  
 Trail Maintenance Projects.....Pages 4, 5, 6 and 7  
 Training Sessions.....Pages 4 and 8  
 National Trails Day Projects.....Page 5  
 Painting Projects.....Page 5  
 Visitor Recreation Guide and Map.....Page 6  
 Adopt-A-Trail Program.....Page 6  
 Junior Ranger Program.....Page 6  
 FOSM Web Site.....Page 7  
 Installation of SRD Amphitheater Benches.....Page 7  
 Sandia Crest Highway Signs.....Page 7  
 Clearing Brush under I-40 Bridges for Safe Wildlife Passages.....Page 8  
 Snowshoe Race Benefits FOSM.....Page 8  
 Installation of Two Wildlife Water Drinkers.....Page 8  
 News Notes.....Page 8  
 Speakers and Topics at the FOSM Monthly Meetings.....Page 9  
 Refreshments for the Monthly FOSM Meetings.....Page 9  
 Becker Letter of Condolences.....Page 9  
 Membership Status.....Page 10  
 Treasurer’s Report.....Page 10  
 Ballot for October Elections.....Page 10  
 Membership Application.....Page 11