

# Friends of the Sandia Mountains

## Annual Newsletter, September 2008



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

### Remaining Meetings of 2008:

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

**Tuesday, October 7**

Bob Julyan, Author  
*Trekking through the Spanish  
Countryside*

**November: No meeting**

**December: No meeting**

### From The President

It has been my practice in these annual columns to review the previous year and begin my remarks with what stands out in my mind as an important event or factor. Last year the major topic was hazard tree removal. There is no doubt, to me at least, that this year's headliner has to be **HAZARD TREE REMOVAL**. That's right, caps and bold!! Sam Beard will report the details elsewhere in this newsletter, but our volunteer crews this year removed hundreds of these trees from our trails and recreation areas. I have been a member of the Friends for about nine years now and to the best of my knowledge this was the first time that removing hazard trees went from a seasonal to a year-round activity with our members taking out trees both in the hot summer sun and from snow drifts in winter. Many of our Wednesday work sessions have been dedicated to this work. Anyone who has visited our mountain lately has seen the result of drought and the related insect and disease onslaughts that have killed off so much of the forest. More and more of the dead trees are now starting to fall, lean low over trails or recreation sites, or simply pose a hazard to life or property. There are still many trees remaining that have been identified for removal as hazards by the Forest Service, and our own sawyers have been trained by USFS staff to identify such trees, so, sadly, although much progress has already been made, our work on these removal projects is likely to continue for some time.

On a happier note, after many, many months of preparation, coordination and working through the necessary maze of paperwork and approvals, the long awaited Four Seasons Bookstore, a joint project of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) and

the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo (FOTP), opened at the top of the Tram in July. It is co-located there with the USFS visitor center. Preliminary reports are that business has been brisk and sales excellent. The need for staff at the bookstore has provided another volunteer opportunity for the Friends group members. For more information or to sign up, contact Friends of the Sandia Mountains Vice President Gerry Sussman at [aguss@comcast.net](mailto:aguss@comcast.net)

Most of you are aware of, and many may have participated in, the Annual Sandia Snowshoe Race. For many years it was coordinated by Pam and Larry Walker. They decided that the 2008 race would be their last in that capacity and asked if FOSM would take it over. Our organization has always been the beneficiary of the proceeds from this race, so after careful consideration, your Board of Directors agreed to assume management of the race. FOSM Board member, Matt Bosquez and his wife, Joy, have graciously volunteered to assume primary management responsibility for the race, which will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Many Board members will be helping out, but more volunteers will be needed to make the race a success. This is now **OUR** race, so please feel free to contact Matt at [mboseq@comcast.net](mailto:mboseq@comcast.net) to learn more and help out.

Many thanks go out to FOSM Board member and Webmaster Mike Coltrin for his redesign of our Web site this year. It is fresh and new and an important tool for keeping everyone up to date on FOSM happenings. It is also a valuable aid in informing the general public about who we are and what we do. Please take a look at [www.friendsofthesandias.org](http://www.friendsofthesandias.org)

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As many of you might know, the Albuquerque Road Runners sponsor the annual La Luz Trail Run. As a token of their appreciation for the work volunteers do to keep the trail open and in a safe condition for the annual race and the public in general, club officials, Ed Heller and Rodger Sack, presented FOSM with a \$1000.00 donation at our August, 2008 meeting.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to our Officers, Board, and all our members who dedicated so much of their precious time, talent and treasure to our organization this past year. Without all this heartfelt generosity, the Sandia Mountain experience would be greatly diminished for everyone. My thanks also to our friends and associates at the Sandia Ranger District (SRD), without whose guidance and approval, our work would not be possible.

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 Matt Bosquez  
 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  
 Nominating: Dan Benton

**Volunteers Fell 250 Hazard Trees in Picnic Areas**

During the past several years, hundreds of trees in and adjacent to picnic areas along the Crest Highway have died due to disease and insect attacks. The Forest Service considers these dead trees to be hazardous to visitors and infrastructure such as picnic tables, restrooms, group shelters, and signs. SRD fire crews, visiting fire crews during the fire season, and FOSM volunteers fell these hazard trees. Volunteers also operate and feed cut tree branches into the large SRD wood chipper. Wood haulers collect the felled tree trunks and large branches for firewood through the Ranger District Fuelwood Permit Program. In the past the hazard trees were identified and marked for felling by USFS personnel. Due to the very large number of dead trees this year, Forester Alan Kelso on July 23 trained and certified eight volunteers to identify and mark hazard trees.

The table below shows the number of trees felled by volunteers at six locations and the volunteer days worked. Volunteers felled approximately 250 trees and chipped or scattered the slash in 165 volunteer days. They felled over half of these trees in Balsam Glade Picnic Area, and almost all the dead trees were white firs. Most trees were less than 18 inches in diameter, four were 22-24 inches, and the largest at 32 inches was felled with a crosscut saw.

Picnic Area	Trees Felled	Vol. Days.*
Balsam Glade	168	104
Nine Mile	40	8
Cienega Can.	20	19
10K Trailhead	18	12
Sulphur Can.	1	20
Capulin	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>165</b>

\* Volunteers worked on felling and chipping slash.

The many volunteers listed below worked many days felling trees and chipping slash in a timely manner to make the picnic areas safe for visitors. (Carl Smith, Matt Bosquez, Walter Kearns, Bill Metz, Rosie Preston, Karen Leach, Linda McDowell, Don Carnicom, Rav Nicholson, Jim Biese, Larry Littlefield, Sally Lowder, Bob Lowder, Bill Savage, Chris von Huene, Mark Hyman, Tim Brown, Tom Dieterle, Bob Moore, Sam Beard, Bill Geck, Dan Benton, and Jane Harrison) (Sam Beard)

### Over 350 Trees Removed from Trails

Trail maintenance in the form of fallen tree removal was one of the major Friends projects this year. As shown in the table below, members removed approximately 350 logs from 13 trails or trail groups on 33 outings, and the total number of person-days was about 125. Many of the larger trees had diameters of 15 inches to 20 inches, and the maximum diameter was 24 inches (1 log). In order to keep trails clear for winter activities, volunteers on snowshoes or skis or in boots worked in snow and temperatures as low as 17° F ten days between Dec. 5 and May 11. A massive windfall occurred in early December, and on Dec. 5 and 13 a dozen volunteers removed 111 trees from 10 trails on the upper mountain. Logs removed from trails in the wilderness, especially Survey, 10K, and Crest Trails, were cut manually with crosscut saws.

Trail or Area	Logs Removed	Days	Vol.-Days
Crest Area*	121	6	21
Survey	66	7	33
N. Crest	33	6	28
N. Area**	31	1	6
10K South	30	3	7
10K North	23	2	8
Tree Spring	10	2	5
Canoncito	10	1	3
S. Crest	5	1	3
Tecolote	5	1	2
Bart's	3	1	3
Embudito	2	1	3
La Luz	1 Rock	1	2
Totals	339	33	124

\* Crest Area Trails: Two Nature Trails, Crest Trail, Switchback, Buried Cable, Gravel Pit, Kiwanis Meadow Road, and Rocky Point.  
 \*\* North Area Trails: 10K North, Osha Loop, North Crest, and Survey.

Most of the trees were removed on scheduled volunteer workdays, usually Wednesdays. Several logs included in the table were cut by volunteers on un-

scheduled Emergency Trails Crew outings. The very large number of fallen trees this year was greater than the small Emergency Trails Crews could handle; therefore, log removal was scheduled for **over 20 days**. Next year the trail work done on scheduled and unscheduled outings will be combined in one report.

The dedicated and skilled volunteers listed below work in all weather conditions year-round to assure that the trails are clear of trees for visitors to enjoy. (Bill Metz, Don Carnicom, Rav Nicholson, Jim Bi-ese, Larry Littlefield, Sally Lowder, Bob Lowder, Bill Geck, Dan Benton, Tim Brown, Chris von Huene, Bill Savage, Rich Besser, Mark Hyman, Tom Dieterle, Sam Beard, John Thomas, David Wegner, Matt Bosquez, Carl Smith, Bob Moore, David Tinker, Frank Larson, and Karen Leach) (Sam Beard)

### Forest Road 462 Fuelbreak Project

As part of a long-range program to reduce the spread of wildfires along the wildland-urban interface on the SRD, USFS and inmate crews have been working on the FR462 Fuelbreak Project for the past few years. The goal of this project is to protect the Village of Tijeras and adjacent private areas and the National Forest. The fuelbreak is 300 feet wide and 6 miles long and is located east and southeast of the Ranger Station.

During March and April volunteers worked on the FR 462 Project for four days. After a briefing and training by Fire Crew members Todd Lerke, Jon Boe, and Michael Williams, they began thinning the dense pinyon-juniper forest to form the fuelbreak. Approximately 95% of the trees were felled to obtain a distance of about 25 to 30 feet between the remaining trees which were limbed up five feet from the ground. The slash (cut branches) was piled and will be burned after about two years of drying. Trees tagged for a study had to be identified and avoided.

The Friends worked 36 person-days, thinned about three and one-half acres with chain saws, and quickly learned that thinning is very strenuous work. They enjoyed the chocolate chip cookies and banana bread baked by Sally Lowder and Pat Benton. (Bill Metz, Carl Smith, Dan Benton, Sam Beard, Bill Savage, Tim Brown, Rosie Preston, Don Carnicom, Tom Dieterle, Bob and Sally Lowder, Matt Bosquez, Chris von Huene, Rav Nicholson, and Dick Baumann) (Sam Beard)

### **Posting Fire Restriction Signs and Patrolling during the Partial Closure**

Many Friends posted fire restriction signs during both the Stage II Fire Restrictions period and Partial Closure and also patrolled during the closure. **Stage II Fire Restrictions** – On April 28 five volunteer teams posted fire restriction signs at about 200 locations on the SRD. Bill Metz and Sam Beard: 50 locations south of I-40; Bob and Sally Lowder and Don Carnicom: 50 locations at the south end of the Sandia Mountains, on the east side of the mountain, and in Sulphur and Cienega Canyon picnics; Jane Harrison, Rikkie Barrett, Sara Morlan, and Phyllis Grein: 45 locations along the Crest Highway from Doc Long PA to the Crest; Mark Hyman and Bill Geck: 45 locations on the west side of the mountain; Dan Benton and Jerry Grayson: 25 locations at the north end of the mountain. **Stage III Partial Closure Signs** – On June 30, many of the above volunteers and the following people installed fire restriction signs throughout the SRD: Frank Larson, Karin Stenaee, Orman Paananen, Tim Brown, Dick Baumann, Anna Graves, Mike Silbert, Jim Deal, and Carol Mochel. **Partial Closure Patrolling** – South end and east side: Don Carnicom and Dick Baumann; Crest Highway sites and Crest area: Jim Deal, Carol Mochel, and Anna Graves; West side: Andy and Marion Simon, Pearl Burns, Paul Stubbe, Dick Traeger, Orman Paananen, Jerry Grayson, Don Smiset, Kitsie Hilaire, Mark Hyman, Dan Benton; North end: Frank Larson and Terry Wolfe. (Sam Beard)

### **Friends Worked Nine Days on Elm Eradication Project**

In FY2007 District Ranger Cid Morgan initiated the Elm Tree Eradication Program in the the Ranger Station – Shop Administration Area. The Fire Crew felled most of the trees, volunteers felled some late in the program, and a tree service cut the large branches from the trees near the Ranger Station and north parking lot so that the shortened trunks could be safely felled. Volunteer chain sawyers limbed the trees and bucked the trunks to stove fuelwood lengths. East of Cedro Creek the volunteers moved the heavy green fuelwood pieces and slash from Cedro Arroyo and the Storage Yard Arroyo to the road by wheelbarrow and carrying. This work was repetitious and extremely strenuous.

Several cords of fuelwood were stacked and eventu-

ally delivered by church volunteers to needy families. The slash was chipped. Near the north front parking lot, the Friends moved the fuelwood out of the arroyo by forming a human chain and handing the pieces from person to person so that the volunteers were not required to move his/her weight and the wood weight up the arroyo side each trip. Volunteers worked 60 person-days on this project. The volunteers working on this project were Bob Lowder, Sally Lowder, Bill Savage, Tim Brown, Dan Benton, Don Carnicom, Bill Metz, Chris von Huene, Sam Beard, Mark Hyman, Matt Bosquez, Larry Littlefield, Anne Hickman, Tom Dieterle, Bob McMain, Marlin Gilbert, David Tinker, and Rav Nicholson. (Sam Beard)

### **Cleanup in Ranger Station Administration Area**

The grounds maintenance in the Ranger Station administrative area can be divided into two parts: (1) the spring cleanup around the Ranger Station scheduled by District Ranger Cid Morgan and the late spring thinning and cleanup north of the north parking lot, and (2) the late summer clean-up of the parking lots. Everyone on this project enjoyed the refreshments and food provided by Anne Hickman, Joy Bosquez, Nancy Peterson (USFS), Bob and Sally Lowder, and Dan and Pat Benton.

**(1) Cid's Cleanup Days and Thinning between the North Parking Lot and NF Boundary** – In March and April Cid scheduled two cleanup days around the Ranger Station. On the first day volunteers and employees pruned shrubs, native plants, and small trees at the south parking lot, behind the Station, and in the north parking lot island. Slash and prunings were chipped, and needles and leaves were hauled away by Moe Sanchez to an eroded area. On the second and third days, pruning in all areas continued, volunteers felled five elm trees topped by a tree service, fuelwood was stacked, and the slash was chipped. Matt and Joy Bosquez painted stripes in the parking lots. On two days in May, volunteers thinned and pruned in the area between the north parking lot and the National Forest Boundary. The vegetation here was a thicket of large one-seed junipers, large pinyon trees killed by bark beetles, medium size elm trees, a few live pinyons trees, and several small junipers and pinyons. The dead trees, small elms, and one large one-seed juniper were felled, the slash was chipped, and the fuelwood was stacked. This area is now open with several native shrubs and trees and is

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much more attractive than before the thinning. Twenty volunteers donated 58 person-days over five work days on this project. (Bob Lowder, Sally Lowder, Tim Brown, Larry Littlefield, Bill Metz, Sam Beard, David Tinker, Anne Hickman, Jane Harrison, Chris von Huene, Dick Baumann, Tom Dieterle, Mark Hyman, Matt and Joy Bosquez, Bill Savage, Rav Nicholson, Pat and Dan Benton) (Sam Beard)

**(2) Late Summer Cleanup** – During the late summer cleanup in four days in August and September, four volunteers pruned shrubs, cut 25 elm clumps, pulled weeds, and cut weeds with a USFS Stihl trimmer with three plastic blades in and adjacent to both parking lots. The volunteers also mowed the area between the north parking lot and highway with the new SRD Snapper heavy-duty lawn mower. (Larry Littlefield, Jane Harrison, Rav Nicholson, and Matt Bosquez) (Sam Beard)

### **FOSM Purchases for Field Projects**

The SRD provides the bar lubricant and gasoline/2-cycle engine oil mixture for the chain saws used in the FOSM projects. FOSM purchased a few containers of bar lubricant and engine oil once when the SRD supplies were low. The SRD purchased chain saw parts, two fuel/bar lubricant containers (Dolmers) and six pairs of leg protection chaps for use by volunteers and employees. The Friends purchased the following equipment and supplies to support our projects on the SRD: Stihl lightweight MS260 chain saw with 18-inch bar for trail maintenance, \$500; Cant hook for moving logs, \$75; Dozen 10-inch rifled felling wedges, \$75; 5-lb axe for driving wedges, \$25, Chain saw bar lubricant and 2-cycle engine oil, \$71; two long handle loppers, \$61; chain saw files, \$13; gasoline for saws, \$18; and parking lot paint, \$180. (Don Carnicom and 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 again this year as many diseased trees continued dropping across many of our frequently used trails. Forest Service Staff, Adopt-A-Trail groups 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. We decided this year to absorb the Emergency Trail Maintenance

activities into the regular weekly projects, switching back and forth as required. Almost every week somebody is out there. One of the most active trails volunteer is Bob Galloway. In FY2008, Bob worked from 1 hour to 4.5 hours on 31 outings on almost every trail on the east side of the mountain. In addition to removing trees from the trails, Bob also did trail tread maintenance and pruning. Other Emergency Trails Crew volunteers are Bill Geck, Don Carnicom, Sam Beard, Bob Lowder, Bill Metz, Bill Savage, and Rosie Preston.

Keep your trail condition reports coming in via the Cibola Trail Rangers Egroup and also report your individual, unscheduled trail work by the Cibola Trail Rangers e-mail group. If you would like to join in on the fun, call or e-mail me at 281-3421 or [d-mcarnicom@msn.com](mailto:d-mcarnicom@msn.com) or Sam Beard at 828-0673, [samgbeard@msn.com](mailto:samgbeard@msn.com). (Don Carnicom and Sam Beard)

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

This year the Adopt-A-Trail Program added three new members; the Albuquerque Hiking and Outdoor Meetup Group adopted the North Crest Trail, The Friends of Tinkertown Museum adopted the Cienega Horse Bypass Trail, and Leach/Welford adopted Bart's and Canoncito Trails. Twenty eight trails are now included in the program. So far this year, all of the groups together have contributed a total of 893 volunteer hours. Lynn Bender, one of our members, continued to make more AAT signs for a number of the organizations. We have now included all of the information describing the Adopt-A-Trail Program in detail and the forms required to adopt a trail and report trail maintenance on our web site, [www.friendsofthesandias.org](http://www.friendsofthesandias.org) under Projects. The forms can be completed on the internet and returned to [adoptatrail@friendsofthesandias.org](mailto:adoptatrail@friendsofthesandias.org). (Don Carnicom)

### **Visitors Recreation Guide to the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains**

Last year we published the Visitors Recreation Guide, which includes information about such things as picnic areas, camping, volunteer work, parking fees and passes, wilderness restrictions, temperature

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and precipitation information, a map of the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains, a list of trails (length and difficulty), Leave No Trace policy, etc. Many articles and pictures were prepared by individuals from throughout the community covering most of the recreational opportunities available on the Sandia Ranger District such as bicycling, skiing, hiking, horseback riding, climbing, hang-gliding, etc. 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. Of the 5000 copies we printed, we distributed about 4000 copies this year. We will likely go into reprint next year. (Don Carnicom)

### **FOSM Records Retention**

Throughout the year we continued to get our corporate records collected and filed. Now all electronic files and hard copy records are stored in a locked cabinet in the FOSM office at the Ranger Station. The electronic files are stored on a flash drive which is updated about once a month. I also keep a duplicate set of files on another flash drive and on my hard drive. Any director issuing a document they wish to have retained can copy it to the email address, [fosmrecords@friendsofthesandias.org](mailto:fosmrecords@friendsofthesandias.org) and it will end up on the flash drive. We plan to scan all of the hard copy records and add them to the electronic records when we can find somebody available to do it. (Don Carnicom)

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

10/07 Jan Hayes - status and outlook for bears in the Sandia Mountains  
11/07 Dixie Boyle - Dixie is the fire watch at the lookout on Caballo Peak in the Manzanos  
12/07 no meeting  
1/08 no meeting  
2/08 Mike Coltrin - hiking in the Sandias  
3/08 Mike Coltrin - his trek around Mt. Blanc  
4/08 Dave Weaver - his trek in Mustang (in northern Tibet)  
5/08 Bob Julyan - his walking tour in southwest England

6/08 Jessica Hall - being on the fire line in the summer of 2007 in the Rocky Mountains  
7/08 Mike Coltrin - his trek in Patagonia  
8/08 Sean Gantt and Nancy Woodworth, FOTP – tour of the new FOTP education center building and information about Tijeras Pueblo  
9/08 Alan Kelso – a backpack trip at the Philmont Scout Center (Gerry Sussman)

### **Four Seasons Visitor Center Bookstore**

The Bookstore opened on July 23 after more than three years of planning, many Memos of Understanding between FOSM and FOTP, and Operating Plans and Business Plans. Members of each organization put in many hours of work, as did the Forest Service Staff to get the final approval from the Regional Office. Many thanks to Dotty Bender, Andy Rutkiewicz and Nancy Woodworth (FOTP), Tim Brown, Dan Benton, Don Carnicom, Sam Beard and so many others for their help in moving this from a plan to a reality. Dana Howlett was the prime mover for the Forest Service and Mary Voldahl, Sean Gantt and Susan Johnson all worked hard to see this through. After setting up orientation and training meetings for Bookstore staff and each Friends group putting \$2500 into this joint venture, we initially started the bookstore with a light inventory to see which items sell best. Our season runs from Memorial Day to the end of Balloon Fiesta, and we are open from 9:00 - 4:00, Wednesday through Sunday. During the Balloon Fiesta we will be open every day of the week. Many thanks to the volunteers who are staffing the Bookstore, some of whom work a half-day and others a full day. We need additional volunteers, so if you can help us as a regular or a substitute, kindly let me know. We hope to see you on the mountain! (Gerry Sussman)

### **Eagle Scout Project**

This year we agreed to monitor an Eagle Scout Project at the request of the SRD. This involves working with a Boy Scout, Jason Aldaz, who is designing and will build a pedestrian crossover in Cienega Canyon. His crossover will replace one built many years ago, which has fallen into disrepair. Construction and assembly by Jason and other scout members is scheduled for October. FOSM will purchase all of the materials he will need. (Don Carnicom)

## Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains

Our Field Guide continues to sell well with total sales of over 9,000 copies since initial publication. The price is \$21.95, and UNMPress reprinted 5,000 copies, showing their support for this wonderful and unique contribution to all of us who love the Sandia Mountains. (Gerry Sussman)

## Paint Crew Projects

The Paint Crew managed by Jane Harrison painted one restroom and several signs on five outings on both sides of the Sandia Mountains during FY2008. Jane reported that the crew worked a total of 106 hours on 26 volunteer-days. **Sept. 13** – Doc Long Picnic Area (PA) BBQ brown middle restroom with blue doors: Jane Harrison, Sara Morlan, Rikkie Barrett, Phyllis Grein, Shirley Lambert, Carol Alf, and Gerry Furtan. **May 30** – Large brown and white Cibola NF sign under the cables and a small trail sign at the Lower Tramway Terminal: Sue Isley, Phyllis Grein, and Jane Harrison. **June 6** – Entrance sign to Sulphur Canyon and Cienega Canyon PAs in brown, white, and blue paint: Rikkie Barrett, Jane Harrison, Phyllis Grein, and Gerry Furlan. **August 22** – Large brown entrance sign in La Cueva PA: Kayreen Sargent, Sara Morlan, Rikkie Barrett, Phyllis Grein, and Jane Harrison. **August 29** – Red letters on large La Cueva /Juan Tabo entrance sign and completed La Cueva sign with white paint; in the Juan Tabo PA – Entrance sign and two small trail signs, gray wilderness information sign, and gray paint over graffiti on interior of gray stone restroom, and at La Luz Trailhead, replaced two paper signs in plastic taped on blue pole and red box: Jane Harrison, Joy Bosquez, Sara Morlan, Rikkie Barrett. (Jane Harrison and Sam Beard)

## Financial & Physical Audits

In November, Art Arenholz completed an audit of the financial records. He reported the records to be accurate and in good shape. Don Peterson completed a physical audit of all of the FOSM physical assets, the value of which when combined with the financial assets showed a net worth of \$34,135.41 at that time. Our physical assets mainly include tools, t-shirts, books, guides, patches and badges. (Don Carnicom)

## Junior Ranger Program

The Junior Ranger Program got off to a late start this year. Due to late snowfall and cold weather not allowing the snow to melt, the two nature trails were deemed unsafe for children and families to hike. Therefore, the program began about the second week in June 2008. With the high gasoline prices this year, many of our very faithful volunteers opted to work at the Four Seasons Visitor Center so they could ride the tram. With this happening, we were short volunteers at the Crest Visitor Center. We also had our Sandia Ranger District closed for eleven days in July with all trails being closed during that period of time. We have managed to provide approximately 612 children with the Junior Ranger Patch or Badge as of 8/22/08. (Sally Lowder)

## 2009 FOSM and NMVFO Trail Maintenance Workshop

Bill Velasquez, N. M. Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO) and FOSM member, prepared a proposal for an REI grant of up to \$5000 to fund a **Trail Maintenance Workshop** sponsored by VFO and FOSM. The grant was approved, and he will accept it on September 27 at REI after the Scratch and Dent Sale. In addition to trail maintenance training, the workshop will include a “Field School” where participants would practice skills. These will include pruning, tree identification, conservation and preservation activities, an appreciation for the outdoors, and nature walks for family members/children of the volunteer students.

The Workshop will be in April or early May. VFO will concentrate their efforts in the City Open Space, and FOSM will focus on projects on the National Forest. The grant will fund tools, supplies, box lunches, t-shirts, snacks, cold drinks and various door prizes. Providing carry-away box lunches will allow more time for projects on the east side of the mountain than we have on National Trails Day. Participants will meet at the end of the day for awards and progress reports. This will likely be at the Elena Gallegos group shelter. This should be a worthwhile project and good outreach opportunity for both VFO and FOSM. (Bob Lowder)

### **Grounds Maintenance in Three Large Picnic Areas**

Volunteers did spring and late summer grounds maintenance in Cienega Canyon, Sulphur Canyon, and Doc Long Picnic Areas (PAs) and improved the driver sight distance at the intersection of the Crest Highway and Cienega Road.

**March 19, Cienega Canyon PA:** Volunteers removed rocks, dirt, and other debris from the wheelchair-accessible Nature Trail and the sidewalk at the upper end of the PA. They also felled, limbed, and bucked a tree leaning over a sidewalk.

**Sulphur Canyon PA:** Near the entrance to this PA, the volunteers cut several large willow clumps along the road; felled, limbed, and bucked a fir tree at the gate; removed a fallen tree from a PA road; and piled slash and bucked trunk rounds from a large fir tree felled earlier by a fire crew.

**At Crest Highway and Cienega Road:** Shrubs and trees were trimmed or removed to improve the sight distance and turning safety in both directions at this busy intersection. (Bob Lowder, Sally Lowder, Tim Brown, Bob Moore, Larry Littlefield, Chris von Huene, Matt Bosquez, Jane Harrison, Phyllis Grein, Joyce Simonds, Bill Savage, Dan Benton, and Bill Metz).

**March 26, Crest Highway Intersection:** Eleven volunteers extended the sight distance from 150 feet to 300 feet in the uphill direction. About 8 small box elder and elm trees were felled and limbed, and several large clumps of willows were cut. All the slash was chipped and 3-inch or larger trunks were hauled to the Ranger Station for needy family firewood. Don Carnicom and Bill Geck did maintenance on a short trail in the area. (Jane Harrison, Bill Savage, Dick Baumann, Karisa Koepp, Tom Dieterle, Dan Benton, Bill Metz, Anne Hickman, and Sam Beard).

**August 20, Doc Long PA:** Dan Benton, Matt Bosquez, Sam Beard, and Don Carnicom mowed the area around the two group shelters, cut about 2 dozen small elm trees, and cut weeds in the rocky areas with a trimmer using three plastic blades. (Sam Beard)

### **Sixth Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race**

The Sixth Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race was held on January 26 at the Crest. The race was a big success again, with excellent snow conditions that resulted in a winning time of just over 29 minutes for Willie Richardson. This was about three minutes better than last year's winning time. Eighty-five hardy souls managed to finish the race, the proceeds of which are donated to the Friends of the Sandia Mountains. Special thanks go to Larry and Pam Walker who have coordinated this event for the past few years. They have decided to "retire" from these duties, and FOSM will manage the race in January 2009.

Thanks also to the volunteers who helped with race set-up, timing, recording, race marshals, etc. Those assisting included Art Arenholz, Dan Benton, Matt Bosquez, Joy Bosquez, Bill Geck, Anne Hickman, Sally Lowder and Bob Lowder. If you helped and we missed your name, sorry, and thank you too! Thanks also to our friends at the Sandia Ranger Station, without whose help and approval, this race would not be possible. (Bob Lowder)

### **Plans for Seventh Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race**

The planning for the Seventh Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race is off and running. On Saturday, January 24, 2009, it will start and finish at the traditional location, the Sandia Crest parking lot. It is a 4-mile race, starting at 10 am, and will follow portions of Switchback, Buried Cable, Rocky Point, Gravel Pit, and South Crest Trails. It is open to novices, intermediates, and experts. All participants will receive T-shirts with a logo commemorating the Seventh Annual Snowshoe Race. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest female and male racers. This is the first year that Friends of the Sandia Mountain will be the race coordinator. Pam and Larry Walker have done a wonderful job of organizing the race in past years and have made us the benefactors of the race proceeds. The Race is a terrific fund raiser for FOSM, and many volunteers will be needed to make this year's race a great success. Volunteer rosters will be available at the next FOSM monthly meeting. Mark your calendar and plan to attend and volunteer. (Matt and Joy Bosquez)



## **Crest Parking Lot Cleanup**

### **2008 National Trails Day Project**

The planned Sandia Ranger District/Friends of the Sandia Mountains National Trails Day Projects were to dig postholes at four locations for new fee signs in the Juan Tabo/La Cueva Area. Project Coordinator, Bob Lowder, reported that only one non-SRD/FOSM volunteer signed up for this project in the heat at an elevation of about 6000 feet. Bob e-mailed the following report to me.

Our project was not popular with NTD volunteers. We got one outside volunteer, a young man named Ben. (I don't recall a last name. I gave him a Friends brochure as he seemed interested in what we do.) We had Karin Stenaee and our crew leaders Tim Brown, Don Carnicom, Bill Geck and myself. SRD staff included Manny Chavez, Moe Sanchez, Eloyce Promenschenkel and Tina Chavez. We installed four posts at the new Juan Tabo/La Cueva pay station site and four more at the site of the old pay station where we also tore out the old money tube (much excavation, a large chain and Carnicom's Jeep were helpful) and adjacent signage. There will be a large new interpretive display there. We found that rock bars were necessary to make any progress in the hard packed decomposed granite that passes for soil there. "Quickerete" was used to secure the pots for all eternity. (Bob Lowder)

### **Chris von Huene Removes Graffiti**

Chris von Huene is the "go to guy" for graffiti removal on the Sandia Ranger District. He is involved in many volunteer projects, but graffiti removal is his specialty. He has collected a number of potions for removing the nasty stuff and also has a good collection of paints for covering up the stuff that solvents will not remove. His e-mail address is tikaalik@qmx.com, and his phone number is 385-0055. In your report to him, please be specific about where the graffiti is, the extent of the damage, the background color, etc. Thanks Chris for taking on this never ending job. (Don Carnicom and Sam Beard)

On May 21, twelve volunteers and SRD employees Modesto Sanchez and Manny Chavez cleaned up the Crest area by picking up trash and sweeping the lower parking lot, upper parking lot, Crest House Plaza, sidewalks, and steps to remove the red cinders put down for traction and to melt ice and snow last winter. This work was one of our more fatiguing projects due to the repeated motion of using push brooms to move the cinders over the large, rough asphalt surfaces. Fortunately, Bob Lowder used the SRD blower to remove the cinders from the center section of the large lower lot. Other volunteers working on this project were Jane Harrison, Tim Brown, Sam Beard, Mark Hyman, Anna Grover, Tom Dieterle, Larry Littlefield, Chris von Huene, and Matt Bosquez. (Sam Beard)

### **Cutting Brush under I-40 Coyote Springs Bridge for Wildlife Passage**

On October 20, 2007, FOSM members participated in the last of the underpass clearance projects coordinated by the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition in conjunction with the NMDOT to encourage wildlife to use the bridges under I-40 west of Deadman's Curve. We had another good turnout with FOSM members accounting for about half of the volunteers and all the sawyers. As the exotic trees (Siberian elm, salt cedar, Tree of Heaven) were cut, NMDOT employees immediately hand sprayed the stumps with herbicide to prevent re-growth. Native trees (willow, cottonwood, box elder) were trimmed of their lower branches to provide line-of-sight for deer and other species that might otherwise be hesitant to use the passages. Clearing went from the bridges to the edge of the right-of-way previously surveyed and marked by NMDOT. In addition to pruning and swamping for the sawyers, volunteers bagged and hauled up enough trash to fill the back of Bill Metz's USFS pickup. Thanks to the good turnout, the work was finished shortly after lunch. Were it not for all the noise of the truck traffic overhead, it wouldn't be a bad spot for a picnic! Other FOSM members working on this project were Steve Ginsberg, Mark Hyman, Newton Garland, Jane Harrison, Don Carnicom, Tim Brown, Rosie Preston, Gerry Furlan, Phyllis Grein, Shirley Lambert, and Carol Alf. (Dan Benton)

## News Notes

\* In June David Hammack reported a large rock on the upper part of the La Luz Trail. On June 25 Frank Larson and Dan Benton moved the rock about eight feet down the trail to a wider spot and rolled the rock onto its side, leaving about two feet of clearance for passing hikers. Moving the rock completely up and off the trail tread will require a lot more horsepower, and might eventually be desirable, but for the time being the rock is stable. (Dan Benton)

\* Margaret Furman and Don Carnicom manage three e-mail groups for FOSM and the Sandia RD. The current number of addresses in each group and approximately the number of e-mails per month are: Sandia-Volunteers-and-NMFOF, 376 members, about 20 messages/month; CibolaTrailRangers, 113 members, about 10 messages/month (30 during fire season); and Friends\_of\_Sandias, 111 members, about 1 message/month.

\* Several times each year volunteers clean and perform routine maintenance on the FOSM chain saw and approximately five USFS saws. Each saw is partially disassembled and cleaned with a solvent flowing through a brush attached to a hose and pump. The solvent is blown out with compressed air, the drive shaft bearing is lubricated, the chain is sharpened, and the saw is reassembled and tested. Bill Metz repairs the saws with parts purchased by the SRD. (Bob Lowder, Sally Lowder, and Sam Beard)

\* On Sept. 17, 2007, Bob Moore and Sam Beard shoveled most of the gravel from the lower concrete wildlife water trough at the mouth of Embudito Canyon near Glenwood Hills at the east end of Montgomery Blvd. Heavy rains in 2006 filled both water troughs with gravel (decomposed granite). Rains in 2007 had eroded a trench beside the lower trough. We shoveled the gravel from the trough into the trench. (Sam Beard)

\* Larry Littlefield prepared a manual of full-page color photographs and text descriptions of 14 common trees and shrubs, 9 lichens, 10 parasitic plants, forest insects, diseases, and wildlife damage to plants in the lower and mid-elevations on the Sandia Moun-

tains. Julie Hall at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center also contributed to the manual. The public may use the manual at the Ranger Station. (Larry Littlefield)

\* The deposition of wood chips on the Tijeras Pueblo Cultural Site is no longer permitted. In November 2007 volunteers moved and chipped the large pile of brush from the site corner near the shop. Moe Sanchez, Shop Supervisor, approved piling brush near the storage yard until it is chipped. (Sam Beard)

### **Volunteers Remove Three Dozen Trees from Crest Highway Ditch and Shoulder**

Trees frequently fall into the ditch or onto the shoulder and cut bank beside the Crest Highway. Trees that fall onto the travel lanes are often moved to the ditch also. In addition to being a hazard to vehicles, these trees are unsightly. During FY2008 volunteers removed fallen trees from beside the highway on three days and placed fuelwood-sized pieces on the cut bank and scattered slash in the adjacent forest.

**May 21** – 3 trees including a large one near Nine Mile PA (Bill Metz, Dan Benton); **June 18** – 10 trees in a one-half mile stretch of highway between Ellis Trailhead and Survey Trail crossing. (Bob Lowder, Matt Bosquez, Bill Savage, Jane Harrison, Linda McDowell, Larry Littlefield, and Sam Beard); **August 28** – 20 logs in upper sections of highway (Bill Metz, Bob Moore, Sam Beard) (Sam Beard)

### **Refreshments for Monthly Meetings**

Anne Hickman, Refreshments Coordinator, reports that the following members provided refreshments at the monthly FOSM meetings: Sally Lowder, Anne Hickman, Lynn Ruger, Dan Benton, Don Peterson, Tim Brown, Margaret Furman, and Gerry Sussman. 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)

### Membership Report

We now have 120 members compared to 103 last year at this time. We have added 17 new members this year.

Richard Buss & Pauline Ho  
Sue Pelletier  
Terry Wolfe  
Roxanne Parker  
Cliff Matthews  
Don Hoke  
Sara Morlan  
Paul Torno  
Albuquerque Road Runners

Dianne & Ken Reese  
John Remaly  
Alan Kelso  
Laurie Marnell  
Robert Julyan  
Phyllis Grein  
Roger & Connie Sack  
Ed Heller

Welcome aboard everybody. (Don Carnicom)

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### Treasurer's Report

We began FY 2008 on October 1, 2007 with a balance of \$ 8246.62 and on August 31, 2008 the balance was \$ 11,723.49. In addition we have two \$10,000 CDs which rollover every 12 months. The largest expenses were \$ 3404.76 for project costs which included \$2500 for the Four Seasons Bookstore startup and \$833.56 for tools and supplies for weekly projects, \$500 for National Trails Day T-

Shirts and \$447.78 for Field Guides for resale. The largest income sources were \$1359.55 from Field Guide sales and royalties, \$3356.76 from donations including \$1358.69 from the Snowshoe Race, \$1000 from the Albuquerque Road Runners (LaLuz Race), and \$500 from Sunwest Silver (Jr. Ranger Program), and \$ 2760 from memberships. If you would like a detailed Treasurer's Report, call or email me. Don Carnicom 281-3421 d-mcarnicom@msn.com. (Don Carnicom)

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## BALLOT: OCTOBER 7, 2008, ANNUAL MEETING

We appreciate the contributions of those board members whose terms are expiring at the end of September: Tim Brown, Sam Beard, Anne Hickman, Bob Moore, and Matt Bosquez. The continuing board members are: Dan Benton, Mike Coltrin, Sally Lowder and Don Peterson. 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 Dan Benton, Nominating Committee Chair, at 797-1941.

#### 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 five)

1. Tim Brown \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sam Beard \_\_\_\_\_
3. Anne Hickman \_\_\_\_\_
4. Matt Bosquez \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jane Harrison \_\_\_\_\_
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.

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



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