

Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Annual Newsletter, September 2011



Friends of the Sandia Mountains
PO Box 1832,
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059
www.friendsofthesandias.org

Meeting Schedule
7:00 pm at Sandia Ranger Sta.

Tuesday, October 4
Mike Butterfield, Author of
Mountains of New Mexico

Tuesday, November 1
Karen Takai
Fighting Fires this Summer
In NM and AZ

No Meetings in
December, January or February

From the President

Anhydrous, arid, dehydrated, desiccated, moistureless, parched, waterless – Those are the synonyms listed in the Thesaurus for the word DRY. That is the word that will stand out in my mind when I look back on this year. Once again we have endured restrictions and even a three-week forest closure due to the lack of precipitation. Our snowfall was below average and at least as of this writing, our annual monsoon has failed to live up to expectations. Our usual profusion of wildflowers has been limited to pockets here and there and even those that have endured seem to represent dwarf varieties of their species. Lest we excessively bemoan the seemingly sad fate nature has bestowed upon us, we can at least take comfort in the fact that, at least so far, our beloved Sandias have been spared the historic conflagrations that have devoured so many hundreds of thousands of acres in other parts of the state.

On the positive side, this past year has been another great one for the Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) and our team of volunteers. If I had to choose the one accomplishment done by our group this year, that I

would place at the top of the list (and since I am the one writing this I will do that), it would be the completion of the Survey Trail re-route. This work was needed since the New Mexico Department of Transportation installed a three-foot high guardrail along the Crest Highway at the point where Survey trail crossed it. This created an unsafe challenge for hikers/skiers to cross and an impossible barrier for livestock. With the able assistance of FOSM's resident cross-country ski trail designer and Project Chair, Sam Beard, a re-route proposal was developed and submitted to Sandia Ranger District management on September 5, 2009. The proposal was endorsed by District Ranger Cid Morgan, who had herself hiked the suggested route and experienced the climb over the offending guardrail. Given the complexities of the Federal/USFS bureaucracies with their various rules/regulations which commonly move at almost glacial speed, the proposal was approved quickly. We were notified of the approval of our proposal on October 18, 2010 and our crew was out on October 27, 2010 to do the trail work on the 900 foot re-route.

Another highlight from the past year was

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FOSM's nomination by the staff of the Sandia Ranger District for the United States Department of the Interior's national Take Pride In America Award, which is given to outstanding volunteer groups. We received a letter from the Office of the Secretary which read in part; "Though you were not selected as the national award winner for 2011, it does not diminish the profound impact your contributions have made. Thank you for your commitment to the improvement and enhancement of our public lands. You have accomplished much in the past year; your achievements have not gone unnoticed." We also received a recognition certificate which can be seen in our office at the Ranger Station.

There is much more about the activities of FOSM in the following pages and I am certain you will enjoy reading about them.

Once again, my sincere thanks to the FOSM Officers and Board members for their support and guidance, to our volunteers for their dedication and hard work

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS	
President:	Bob Lowder
Vice President:	Gerry Sussman
Treasurer:	Tim Brown
Secretary:	Linda McDowell
Board Members	
Mike Coltrin	Don Carnicom
Jane Harrison	Anne Hickman
Sam Beard	Matt Bosquez
Dan Benton	Sally Lowder
Larry Littlefield	
Officers listed above are also Board Members.	

and to our friends and partners at the Sandia Ranger District for their cooperation and support.

See you on the mountain.
Bob Lowder

Sandia Ranger District Signage Program

Over a year ago the Friends undertook a major new initiative to inventory all signs on the Sandia Ranger District, evaluate which signs needed to be replaced, develop a plan for sharing the cost of new signs with the District, and purchase and install the signs on a timely basis. A program outline to carry out this initiative was generated.

Throughout 2011, signs were replaced based primarily on availability of existing replacements and the ability to repair and reinstall existing signs. The Signage Committee met every two or three months to further develop the program plan, work out the format for the District Sign Inventory, establish priorities for replacing signs with the greatest need and reviewing available manufacturing processes for the new signs.

As a result of this planning, a proposal was made to the FOSM Board in February to replace many of the signs in the Sandia Crest, Kiwanis Meadow, Kiwanis Cabin and Tram areas. None of these signs had a digital data base so, whenever possible, a data base was created by scanning existing formats but where that was not possible, the signs had to be created (replicated) from scratch. Two graphic designers were hired to do this with the Signage Committee providing them all of the information (text, pictures, and diagrams) that was collected from many sources. Dana Howlett was an enormous help in moving that along as were a number of other FOSM

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members. That task has essentially been completed, and 27 new signs are on order to be delivered by late August. Soon you will be able to see these new signs at the Sandia Crest Observation Deck, the lower Crest parking lot, the Crest Nature Trail, around the Kiwanis Meadow, at Kiwanis Cabin, and at the Peak Nature Trail. Not every sign will be replaced, but we think you will be able to identify and enjoy the new signs along with the older ones. After these signs are installed we will continue to look at other signage issues such as missing maps on some of the trailhead information portals and not having a digital data base for the signs on the other nature trails.

The sign inventory for the entire Sandia Ranger District continued throughout 2011 and most of the raw field data and photographs have been collected. This involved taking two pictures of each sign, taking GPS (longitude and latitude) data for each sign, determining the sign material, and assessing the signs condition. Linda Kearns, Lynn Ruger, and Bill Geck all contributed to this effort. Currently all of these raw data are being put into a format whereby any required information can be easily extracted in a simple, understandable way. Approximately 250 signs have been identified.

Replacement Trail Map Signs for Sulphur, Doc Long, and Cienega Picnic Areas were procured and installed. FOSM purchased and installed the original signs in 2003.

We still have a limited supply of Scenic Byway signs and replacements are installed as ultraviolet degradation, vandalism, and disappearance take their tolls. Eventually, new signs will have to be ordered.

You may recall that early in the program we

explored replacing some of the large highway signs along the Crest Highway but decided that that task was best left to the Forest Service Supervisors Office and the New Mexico Department of Transportation. We then decided to redirect our efforts to the interpretative education signs.

Individuals interested in participating in this program can contact Don Carnicom at 281-3421. (Don Carnicom,)

Adopt-A-Trail Report for FY2011

Through the end of August 2011, fourteen Adopt-A-Trail groups spent a total of 1082 hours maintaining their adopted trails. The leader in total hours was the New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club with 324 hours. The Southwest Forest Service Amigos and Rav and Ken Nicholson, with eight apiece, jointly held the record for the number of separate outings. It is through the dedication of folks such as these that the trails in the Sandias remain safe and in good repair for our many visitors. (Dan Benton, Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator)

FOSM Monthly Meeting Schedule Changed

Over the past years, the winter weather so often experienced in the Tijeras area, has resulted in the postponement or cancellation of our monthly meetings on a number of occasions. The FOSM Board of Directors discussed this matter at their August meeting. Factors such as icy roads, snow-covered walkways and the like do pose a hazard to our members and speakers, particularly when our meetings begin and end in winter's darkness. We have traditionally had no meeting in December due to the holidays, so the problems occurred in January and February. It

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was decided that our monthly meeting schedule will be as follows; Monthly meetings will be held March through November. **There will be no monthly FOSM meetings in December, January and February.** (Bob Lowder)

Junior Ranger Program

Once again this past year, perhaps due to the forest closure and fewer numbers of visitors to the Crest and Tram (continuing poor economy?), those visitor centers had fewer than 100 Junior Ranger participants. We will continue our efforts to encourage those children who do come by to participate in this worthwhile program. (Sally Lowder)

Volunteers Fell 225 Danger Trees

Volunteers continued felling danger trees in picnic areas and at trailheads during FY2011. Silviculturist, Paul Tidwell, used the Southwestern Region Danger Tree Evaluation Form to designate trees with the following defects as danger trees: dead, dying, dead branches, exposed roots, cracks in trunk, lightning scar, leaning, insect damage, dead top, trunk wounds, forked trunks, cankers, bole (trunk) decay, cavities, and disease.

The number of hazard trees felled in the picnic areas and at trailheads from September 2010 through August 2011 is given in the table below. Please note that these numbers include numerous small trees felled in order to safely fell the marked hazard trees. The number of outings reflects the number of days or partial days in which trees were felled at a site. The total number of felled trees was 225 in these outings. Most trees were less than 18 inches in diameter, and the

maximum diameter was 28 inches.

The slash (branches) of the felled trees was chipped with the large Sandia Ranger District chipper. The volunteers working on felling and chipping outings were Jim Lunn, Bob and Sally Lowder, Bill Metz, Sam Beard, Bill Savage, Rav Nicholson, Bob Moore, Larry Littlefield, Don Carnicom, Jane Harrison, Linda McDowell, Jim Peaslee, Tim Brown, Larry Moore, Carl Smith, Dan Benton, Anne Hickman, Paul Torno, Jerry Peka- rek, Jim Loner, Bill White, Ric Farrell, Dennis Crowther, Lou Romero, Ezchiel Bussell, Dan and Pat Benton, Katherine Liden, Beth Corwin, John Ashcraft, and Tim Martinez. (Sam Beard)

Picnic Area or Trailhead	Trees Felled*	No. of Outings**
Sulphur Can.	16	5
Sulphur-Cienega Road	19	3
Cienega Can.	24	3
Doc Long	12	7
Doc Long-Sulphur Trail	24	1
Tree Spring	4	1
Dry Camp	2	2
Balsam Glade	11	6
Nine Mile	40	4
Dan's Loop	15	5
Las Huertas	24	4
5 Other Loc. on Crest Road	13	10
South of I-40	21	6
Total	225	57
* No. of trees felled includes large and small trees felled in order to safely fell the marked danger trees. ** No. of volunteers on each outing varied from a few people to a maximum of 18 people.		

330 Trees Removed from Trails By CTR Individuals, by AAT Program Participants, and on FOSM Outings

The volunteer trail maintenance program managed by FOSM is divided into three parts – maintenance by individual Cibola Trail Rangers (CTR) e-group members, maintenance by volunteers on scheduled FOSM outings, and maintenance by AAT (Adopt-A-Trail) groups or individuals.

Cibola Trail Rangers (CTR) E-group – The CTR E-group is a very efficient program for reporting trail conditions and conducting timely year-round trail maintenance. The members of this e-group hike, mountain bike, cross country ski, snowshoe, and horseback ride most of the trails in the Sandia Mountains. They report trees across the trails to the e-group, and the information goes to all members of the e-group. Usually within one or two weeks CTR members will remove most of the trees under 12 inches in diameter year-round in all weather conditions with hand tools on unscheduled outings. Large trees are usually removed on scheduled FOSM outings with crosscut saws or chain saws. During FY2011, CTR members not associated with the AAT Program removed about 138 trees. Sam Beard maintains a record of reported and removed trees in a Word table. Almost every week somebody is out there, so keep your trail reports coming in via the Cibola Trail Rangers e-group. If you would like to join in on the fun, call or email me. (Sam Beard, 505-828-0673, samgbeard@msn.com)

Scheduled FOSM Trail Outings – The FOSM officers and Projects Chair schedule volunteer outings to remove fallen trees or do trail tread maintenance when either a large number of trees and/or large diameter trees are reported on a trail. Crosscut saws and/or chain saws may be used on these outings. This year FOSM volunteers removed 159 trees. (Sam Beard)

Adopt-A-Trail Groups – Volunteers reported to the CTR e-group that 32 trees were removed on AAT outings by individuals or groups. All the trees removed by AAT groups were probably not reported to the CTR e-group.

Pine Cone Collection Project

In August volunteers worked three days on the pine cone collection project with Silviculturist Paul Tidwell at the Horse Trailer Parking Area between Sulphur Canyon Picnic Area and Cienega Canyon Picnic Area. Twenty trees with diameters between 10 and 21 inches selected by Paul were felled, and nine bushels of green cones were collected and placed in burlap bags. The seeds will be extracted by heating and tumbling at a USFS facility and stored in a seed bank for use in reforestation needs resulting from management activities or environmental events such as wildfires or insect and disease outbreaks. Paul and the forestry group designated \$750 for USFS equipment and supplies to be selected and used by FOSM. A new Stihl 362R chain saw for felling medium size trees was purchased. In September the volunteers will be collecting Engelmann Spruce cones from 20 trees near FR488 (Service Road) that leads from Ellis Trailhead to the Upper Tram Terminal. The volunteers working on this project were Jerry Pekarek, Ric Farrell, Bill Metz, Linda McDowell, Rav Nicholson, Bill White, Sam Beard, Jim Lunn, Carl Smith, Dan Benton, Lou Romero, Paul Torno, and Larry Littlefield. (Sam Beard)

Chipping Slash at a Dozen Sites

Every year slash (branches from felled trees) is chipped with the large Sandia Ranger District chipper at numerous sites on the district including the Ranger Station and Shop. Slash

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was chipped at Oak Flat Group Picnic Area, Pine Flat Picnic Area, and Cedro Group Campground during the fall and winter. During the summer, slash was chipped at the following sites: Dan's Loop, 6 piles; 10K Trailhead, 2 piles; Nine Mile PA, about 2 dozen piles from 40 felled trees; Balsam Glade PA, 12 piles; Dry Camp, 2 piles; Curve up the highway from Doc Long PA, 4 piles; Doc Long PA, 2 piles; Cienega Road and Crest Highway, 7 piles; and Cienega Canyon PA, a few piles. Chipping the slash improves the appearance of the sites and reduces the wild-fire fuel loads. (Sally Lowder)

Albuquerque Roadrunners Contribution to FOSM

Each year the Albuquerque Roadrunners running club sponsors and coordinates the annual La Luz Trail Run. Several years ago, the club designated the Friends of the Sandia Mountains as the beneficiary of the proceeds from the race in recognition of our work to maintain the trails in the Sandias. On September 7, 2011, at their monthly meeting, Roadrunners President Ed Zeller presented a check for \$2000 to FOSM President Bob Lowder. (Bob Lowder)

9th Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race

The 9th Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race was held on Saturday, January 22, 2011. It was a cold and windy day, but the race was still a huge success! We reached our limit of 150 registrants several days prior to the race. REI was once again a wonderful partner and provided assistance with in-store registration, donation of merchandise, and help with publicity. Thanks to the generosity of Heart and Sole and many other community sponsors, we were able to give some wonderful prizes in 14 different age categories. The

Snowshoe Race was a financial success, as well, with a net profit of \$2,841.76 .

FOSM volunteers really are the ones who made this event a success! Our thanks to Jean Payne who did an excellent job of publicizing the event, to Anne Hickman and her helpers for organizing and serving the delicious food, to Jane Harrison and her timing crew for their hard work on a bitterly cold and windy day, to Bob Lowder and all of the marshals for preparing the course and conducting a safe race, to Sally Lowder and her team of photographers for capturing all of the excitement, to Vicki Farrar for her help with soliciting prizes, to Mike Coltrin for managing www.SandiaSnowshoe.com and posting results and photos, to Don and Kitzie Smiset for creating order in the parking lot, and to every volunteer who helped to make the Snowshoe Race run smoothly....thank you! (Matt and Joy Bosquez)

10th Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race Plans

The 10th Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2012. This has always been a very successful event enjoyed by participants and volunteers. We hope to make the 10th Annual Race the best one yet! The 5-km Race through the Cibola National Forest starts and finishes at the Sandia Crest House lower parking lot. Prizes will be awarded by age category and refreshments will be available for all racers and volunteers. We encourage early registration as the Race is limited to 150 snowshoers and has filled in years past. The registration fee of \$30 provides the participants a long sleeve commemorative T-shirt.

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Our helpful FOSM volunteers are essential to the success of this Race...plus, it's a lot of fun. If you wish to volunteer, contact Joy or Matt Bosquez, Race Coordinators, by email (JBosq@comcast.net). (Matt and Joy Bosquez)

Planting Pine Tree Seedlings in Balsam Glade and Cienega Canyon Picnic Areas

On April 6 volunteers planted 350 ponderosa pine seedlings in areas where hazard trees had been felled in Balsam Glade and Cienega Canyon Picnic Areas. The seedlings were extra ones from an earlier planting on the Mountainair Ranger District. Paul Tidwell showed the volunteers how to plant the seedlings and place them to the northeast of an object so that the seedlings would be shaded to avoid drying by the sun to the southwest of the seedling. The volunteers planting the seedlings were Bob Lowder, Carl Smith, Dennis Crowther, Sally Lowder, Rav Nicholson, Bill Savage, Jim Loner, Linda McDowell, Larry Littlefield, Dan Benton, Larry Moore, Tim Brown, Sam Beard, Don Carnicom, and Lou Romero.

Silviculturist Paul Tidwell visited the planting sites in August and reported that, unfortunately, the seedlings at Balsam Glade looked mostly dead, as did the ones on the south and southwest aspects in Cienega. However, those seedlings planted on the steep north-facing slope where the trail starts up Cienega Canyon looked very good. Paul estimate 80% to 90% survival there and growing well. (Paul Tidwell and Sam Beard)

Maintenance of Two Trails Adopted by FOSM

1. Tecolote Trail -- FOSM scheduled an outing on Saturday, 3/19/2011, to remove trees

reported on FOSM'S adopted Tecolote Trail. Volunteers Linda McDowell, Lou Romero, Bob Lowder, Dan Benton, Jim Loner, Pat Benton, Carl Smith and Sally Lowder removed three trees ranging from 10 inches to 18 inches in diameter. We also did routine trail maintenance for the spring. The trail was in good shape. (Sally Lowder)

In April, Don Carnicom and Lou Romero removed a 6-inch dead white fir top from Tecolote Trail. (Don Carnicom)

2. Cienega Nature Trail -- In August volunteers completed summer maintenance on the Cienega Handicap Access Nature Trail. This trail is concrete lined for use by individuals in wheelchairs, and the interpretative signs have also been done in Braille for the benefit of visually impaired visitors. The recent rains had encouraged the vegetation along the lower portion of the trail to make its annual attempt to overgrow both the trail and the trailside benches. All the excess growth was trimmed back into a more civilized condition with FOSM's Stihl MS-450 brush cutter. Those same rains washed a considerable amount of soil onto the trail, being many inches thick in some areas. This soil was removed with a flat-bottom shovel and large broom. The crew consisted of Linda McDowell, Tim Brown, Rav Nicholson, Jerry Pekarek, Tom Baker, and Bob Lowder. (Bob Lowder)

National Trails Day Projects on Sandia Ranger District

The 2011 National Trails Day event on June 4 was held at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area and in the surrounding City Open Space and the adjacent National Forest. The lead organization was the City Open Space Divi-

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sion, and primary sponsors were the Open Space Alliance, Friends of the Sandia Mountains, Sandia Ranger District, and REI. FOSM contributed \$300 for T-shirts. The event started at 8 am with volunteer sign-in and food provided by various businesses. After welcoming remarks by representatives of the sponsors, the volunteers went to project sites near Elena Gallegos PA. At about 1 pm the volunteers gathered at the Group Shelter for lunch and door prizes. The Friends of the Sandia Mountains thank the Sandia RD for supporting this annual event.

New Roofs on Two Large Trailhead Kiosks – Don Carnicom, Bill Geck, Larry Littlefield, Don Partridge, and Sam Beard repaired the plywood sheathing and nailed felt and shingles on the large gray kiosk roofs at the base of the Tram and at Piedra Lisa South Trailhead. FOSM purchased the roofing materials. (Sam Beard)

Embudito Canyon Water Troughs - The volunteers working on the project were Mark Frauenglass, Lynn Storey, Linda McDowell, Susan Ostlie, Megan Hardy, Curtis Twitchell and Tim Brown. The crew did maintenance on the Embudito Canyon water troughs, which included the shoveling out of gravel and removal of rocks from the troughs, clearing the drain tubes and removing gravel and rocks from beside the troughs so it would not be washed or kicked into the troughs. (Timothy Brown)

E-mail Groups

The Friends assist with management of the Sandia Ranger District volunteer program by maintaining the Cibola-Trail-Rangers and Sandia-Volunteers-and-NMFOF e-mail groups for faster, easier, and less expensive communication with volunteers. A third e-mail group, Friends of the Sandias, is pro-

vided for FOSM members. FOSM utilizes Yahoo Groups who provide e-mail group service free of charge.

Sandia Volunteers and NMFOF (SVANMFOF) E-mail Group -- The SVANMFOF e-mail group provides convenient e-mail-based communication among the USFS employees, Sandia Ranger District volunteers, and members of FOSM. The types of information to be transmitted to the SVANMFOF e-mail group network includes newsletters, emergency messages, schedules of activities, announcements, last-minute schedule changes, and other information of interest to the members of the group. Volunteers may learn of schedule and other changes quickly through the e-mail group mailings. There are currently 357 members in this group. This e-mail group is moderated – that is, designated members of the group must approve all messages before the message is sent out to everyone. The approvers or moderators are FOSM Board members. This group consists of official SRD volunteers (including AAT group members) and members of FOSM. The SVANMFOF e-mail group is coordinated by the e-mail group owners Bob and Sally Lowder. Margaret Furman also assists with the management of this e-group.

Cibola Trail Rangers (CTR) E-mail Group --The Cibola Trail Rangers is an e-mail-based group of hikers, bikers, cross country skiers, snowshoers, and horsemen who frequent the trails in the Sandia Ranger District and are interested in exchanging information on trail conditions on a continuing basis. This e-mail group is not moderated – messages sent to the group will be posted. If you would like to join the CTR e-mail group, please send a message to the e-mail group owner, Don Carnicom, dmcarnicom@msn.com. There are currently

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126 members in this group.

Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) E-mail Group -- The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM) has established this e-mail group for the routing of information that is appropriate for members only (such as election data). This 99-address e-mail group is moderated. Designated moderators of the group must approve all messages before the message is sent out to everyone. (Margaret Furman and Sally Lowder)

Barrow Wildlife Water Maintenance

In about 1992, Beverly deGruyter installed the Barrow Wildlife Water as a Habitat Stamp Project near a section of the Old Crest Road between Doc Long Picnic Area and Tree Spring Trailhead. The fiberglass dome of the rain collection tank is 14 feet in diameter. Water flows through a pipe to a concrete water trough about 60 feet from the collector.

In August 2009 Bob Galloway found this system and reported it to SRD volunteers. After it was checked by FOSM members, District Ranger Cid Morgan gave permission for FOSM to prune along the road and for a SRD fire crew to take a fire engine to the site. In October volunteers cleaned the collector with water from the engine, unplugged the water pipe, and cleaned the water trough. Don Carnicom and other volunteers installed strainers at the tank drain and a float valve at the trough.

After the flexible steel conduit installed in June 2010 was damaged, Don Carnicom totally rebuilt the float valve assembly and housing in May 2011 to better protect the vulnerable parts damaged earlier by bears or unknown persons. (Don Carnicom and Sam Beard)

Crosscut Saw Certification Class

The crosscut saw certification classroom sessions were conducted on August 13 and during the morning of August 14, 2011. The instructor was Bill Metz, C Certifier Sawyer, the highest sawyer rating. Bob Lowder, Sally Lowder, and Sam Beard assisted with the presentations. Kit-sie Smiset had presented the required First Aid, CPR, and Blood Borne Pathogens classes earlier in the summer. On the afternoon of August 14, Bill and Sam certified the following volunteers for intermediate bucking (B sawyers): Keith Ferguson, Linda McDowell, Jerry Pekarrek, Carl Smith, Paul Torno, Bill White, Rav Nicholson, and Dave Gabel. On August 19, Bill certified Rav and Carl for felling with the assistance of Linda McDowell, Jim Lunn, and Sam Beard. (Sam Beard)

FOSM Publications

Recreation Guide to the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains -- This year we continued to distribute the Visitors Recreation Guide which includes information about picnic areas, camping, volunteer work, parking fees and passes, wilderness restrictions, temperature and precipitation, a map of the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains, a list of trails (length and difficulty), and Leave No Trace policy. Many articles and pictures were prepared by individuals from throughout the community 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, under Recreation. Copies of the free Guide are available at the Ranger Station, Four Seasons Visitor Center, Crest Visitor Center, REI, Albuquerque Convention and Visitor Bureau, and Tinkertown. (Don Carnicom)

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Sandia Crest Scenic Byway Guide – This guide presents local history and information at all the Scenic Byway signs along the Crest Highway. FOSM took delivery of our order of the then long out of print Sandia Crest National Scenic Byway Auto Tour booklet on March 31, 2006. We resurrected this booklet from the archives of Aiken Printing Company here in Albuquerque and were told the last printing was “before 1997”. We ordered 2500 copies and received those plus 260 more as an overrun at no cost. As of this date, we have sold 1440 copies. (Bob and Sally Lowder)

Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains – Our Field Guide was published in 2005 when 10,000 copies were printed, and UNMPress reprinted 5,000 copies in 2009. The Guide continues to sell slowly, but steadily. Current sales have edged up to just under 12,000 copies. Copies of the Guide are still in many local bookstores. UNMPress sent FOSM a royalty check for \$539 on September 28, 2010. (Gerry Sussman)

Programs at Monthly Meetings

Over the past year, Vice-President Gerry Sussman scheduled diverse and interesting speakers for our monthly programs.

Oct. - Bill Pentler of Albuquerque Open Space talked to us about the mammals of the Sandias and had lots of pelts and skulls to show.

Nov. - Bob Julyan gave us one of his continuing descriptions of the European treks he and his family take each year. This one covered their 10 days in southwest France.

Jan. - Ruthanne Hamrick took us on her ultra-marathon run of the Leadville 100. This gut-wrenching run took her 21 hours.

Feb. – Cancelled due to snow.

Mar. - L. Greer Price, editor of the **Geology of Northern New Mexico**, gave us some fas-

cinating information about some of the spectacular sites in our state.

April - Ray Berg talked about his wonderful two-week trek in the Alps.

May - Gerry Grayson and Bob Julyan took us on their bike ride across a large part of Missouri.

June - Chris Modelski, N.M. Natural History Center, showed us some wonderful wildlife photos taken at ponds in the Sandias.

July - Dave Weaver described their fascinating trip around the perimeter of Iceland.

Aug. - David Ryan gave us some very helpful information about the kind of things to look for in the wild that indicate early Native American sites.

Sept. - Pearl Burns and Larry Littlefield showed us slides and told us about their beautiful and informative new book **Wildflowers of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains**. (Gerry Sussman)

Other Projects

1. Cienega Fence Posts Replaced – Volunteers replaced 21 fence posts that had decayed just below the surface in Cienega Canyon Picnic Area. Two poles were replaced in Cienega PA, and one was replaced in Sulphur Canyon PA. New posts, recycled posts from La Huerfias PA, and used sign posts were installed in this project led by Dan Benton.

2. The following items were purchased with FOSM funds to support projects on the SRD: Sign design and fabrication, \$4634; 24-inch bar for the Stihl 460 chain saw; materials for two kiosk roofs; and miscellaneous chain saw parts and project materials, \$580.

3. In August, volunteers cut willow brush at

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the entrance to Sulphur Canyon Picnic Area and at the intersection of the Crest Highway and Cienega Road to improve the sight distance for vehicle drivers.

4. Fuel Wood for East Mountain Wood Ministry – Volunteers in cooperation with the SRD provided several pickup loads of fuelwood to the EMWM of the Mountain Christian Church. This wood had been behind locked gates and not available to the public or had not been collected by the public during the fuelwood permit collection periods. Church members John Ashcraft and Tim Martinez hauled most of the wood that was distributed to needy families in the East Mountain area.

5. Fee Signs Assembled for Three Recreation Sites -- Volunteers assembled 4-ft by 4-ft fee signs for the La Cueva, Juan Tabo, and Piedra Lisa areas at the request of Lisa Jones, Sandia Ranger District. This project was originally planned by Eloyce Promenschenkel. A contractor dug the holes and installed these signs at the pay station in each area.

Paint Crew Report

During FY2011, the paint crew completed paint projects in all parts of the Sandia and Mazanita Mountains. These projects included painting the following structures: five brown bathrooms, two gray wilderness kiosks, two brown tables and benches, fifteen brown bench sets, and twelve assorted brown signs with white lettering.

During the winter months the crew painted the multi-colored Smokey signs that the FOSM crew and Manny and Gunny, USFS, were kind enough to bring down from the mountain for us. The new signs made by FOSM for Juan Tabo and La Cueva were painted BBQ brown with white lettering.

The crew also painted some of the parking stripes and the handicap signs at Cienega, Sulphur, Nine Mile, and the Crest. Although we are not the graffiti team, we did remove some graffiti at the Crest.

One whole day was spent cleaning up the bathrooms and trail signs which were covered from top to bottom with graffiti. Nine volunteers spent about 102 hours each on the painting projects. Volunteers were Joy Bosquez, Rikki Barrett, Jane Harrison, Amanda Torbett, Jean Payne, Phyllis Grein, Sara Morlan, Anne Hickman and Sara Adams. (Jane Harrison)

Sustainable Recreation Case Study of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains

The USFS has a program to record a few national examples of cooperation between a citizen group and a Ranger District to help promote sustainable recreation by turning collaboration into long-term Citizen Stewardship. At the request of former Sandia District Ranger Floyd Thompson, Patty Burel (Communication Team, USFS Independent Resources) did a telephone interview with Sam Beard, FOSM Project Chair. Before retiring from the USFS on December 31, 2010, Floyd was the National Program Leader for Sustainable Tourism, Recreation Planning, and Scenic Byways in Washington, DC.

Patty wrote a four-page report based on Sam's responses to the following questions related to FOSM: How did you start to work with Sustainable Recreation?, What have you been doing?, Who is participating?, What have you learned?, and What do you need?. Sam was given an opportunity to edit the final report.

Thanks to retired USFS employee and FOSM member Lou Romero for his helpful comments related to this case study. (Sam Beard)

Outdoor Expo 2011

Each year, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMG&F) sponsors a free outdoor family event that they call the Outdoor Expo. Among the various activities offered are archery, shooting (small bore rifles/pistols and air rifles), skeet shooting, muzzle loaders, rock climbing, kayaking, spin fishing and fly casting instruction, a fish pond for youngsters and numerous other displays and information booths. This year there was even instruction on how to use an Atl-Atl, a prehistoric spear throwing device. The outdoor activities are staffed by NMG&F Game Officers, other department staff and Youth Hunter Education Instructors and volunteers. It is aimed at people and families who have an interest in any number of outdoor activities. FOSM has had a booth at this event for about five years, and we were represented there once again in 2011.

We frequently share our space with the Sandia Ranger District (SRD), and this year we were joined by Karen Takai, the SRD Fire Information Officer. This has been a good venue for FOSM, and we have been able to get a lot of information out to the public about our group and, starting this year, had a chance to sell some of our publications. We also were able to distribute a lot of USFS fire and forest information materials. Everybody from the youngsters to the oldsters is drawn to anything about Smokey Bear so those materials flew off our table. After this summer's disastrous fires, everyone was quite receptive concerning fire information.

Our new FOSM digital projector, with its looping photo presentation about our activities on the District, did a great job of getting the attention of passersby. The Expo broke all attendance records this year with over 3000 attendees over the weekend. We were too busy to get an accurate count of the numbers that stopped to see us, but it was many, many hundreds. We were especially pleased by the many folks who stopped by our table and said, "Hey, we've heard about your group!" (Bob and Sally Lowder)

Community Outreach

1. The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department holds an annual New Mexico Conference on Aging which attracts a large number of people potentially looking for volunteer activity when they retire. The 2011 conference was held at the Isleta Casino during August 23-24. On Tuesday, August 23, volunteer organizations had the opportunity to set up a table to publicize their organization; Don Peterson displayed FOSM material along with about two dozen other organizations. Some potential contacts were made, and goodwill was generated by people learning about FOSM. (Don Peterson)
2. Don Carnicom staffed a booth at Wildlife West for their Harvest Festival and Wildlife Celebration on Saturday and Sunday, August 27 and 28. (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 that 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, 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)

Refreshments at Monthly FOSM Meetings

The FOSM Board thanks the following members who contributed refreshments for the monthly meetings: January, Larry Littlefield; February, No meeting; March, Anne Hickman; April, Tim Brown; May, Dan and Pat Benton; June, Joy and Matt Bosquez; July, Jean Payne; August, Margaret Carrol; September, Anne Hickman; and October, Linda McDowell. (Anne Hickman, Refreshments Chair)

2011 Financial and Physical Audits

In December, Art Arenholz and Don Peterson completed an audit of the financial records. They reported the records to be accurate and in good shape. In December, Don Peterson completed a physical audit of all of the FOSM physical assets. The physical assets mainly included tools, t-shirts, books and patches. (Timothy Brown)

for the Crest Signage Project, and \$2,530.20 for Fundraising/Publicity that included \$2,425.55 for Snowshoe Race expenses. The largest income sources were \$3,967.66 from donations, \$5,266.98 from the Snowshoe Race and \$2,205.00 from memberships. (Tim Brown)

Treasurer’s Report

We began FY 2011 on October 1, 2010, with a Checking Account balance of \$23,846.43 and on August 12, 2011, the balance was \$25,947.25. In addition, we have two CDs which total \$21,162.90 and rollover every 6 months. The largest expenses were \$7,068.22 for tools and supplies for weekly projects that included \$4,634.00

Membership Report

We now have 110 memberships compared with 124 last year at this time. We added 7 new memberships this year. but dropped a large number of the new memberships we picked up in 2010 from the Albuquerque Journal brown-paper inserts. New members are Jerry and Judy Pekarek, John Ashcraft, James Lunn, Bill White, Tom Fisher and Diana Schroen, Bet Gendron, and Keith Ferguson. Welcome aboard everyone! (Tim Brown)

BALLOT: OCTOBER 4, 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

We appreciate the contributions of those board members whose terms are expiring at the end of September: Dan Benton, Don Carnicom, Mike Coltrin and Sally Lowder. The continuing board members are: Sam Beard, Matt Bosquez, Jane Harrison, Anne Hickman and Larry Littlefield. 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 Sam Beard, Nominating Committee Chair, at 828-0673.

President:

- 1. Bob Lowder _____
- 2. _____

Vice President:

- 1. Gerry Sussman _____
- 2. _____

Treasurer:

- 1. Tim Brown _____
- 2. _____

Secretary:

- 1. Linda McDowell _____
- 2. _____

Board members: (Vote for four)

- 1. Dan Benton _____
- 2. Don Carnicom _____
- 3. Mike Coltrin _____
- 4. Sally Lowder _____
- 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.

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

www.friendsofthesandias.org

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

Friends of the Sandia Mountains

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Friends of the Sandia Mountains
PO Box 1832,
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