

Friends of the Sandia Mountains Annual Newsletter, September 2017



**Friends of the Sandia Mountains
P.O. Box 1832,
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059**

October Monthly Meeting

**7:00 pm at Sandia Ranger Station
Tuesday, October 3**

Value of Outdoor Recreation In the Economy

**Joe Meade, National Forest Service Director,
Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer
Resources (Recently Retired)**

Nov. through March, No Meetings

From the President

Here we are once again looking back over another year in our little piece of the history of the Sandias. We were reminded, as always, that Nature is in charge as lightning brought forth the first significant fire in our high elevation area in many years, burning five acres before being quickly contained, bears declaring some of our lower mountain picnic areas as theirs to obtain needed food for winter hibernation and the unwelcome return of the tussock moth caterpillars that promise to change the look of some of our mid-mountain areas. We were also reminded of the fragility of life as we lost long-time volunteer and flower expert, Pearl Burns at the age of 94.

There was also much to celebrate as good winter snow contributed once again to the success of our Annual Snowshoe Race, summer rains that helped to produce a display of wildflowers and animals that call

the mountain home appearing to be going into the autumn months in a well-fed and healthy condition. And, as has always been the case, our cadre of dedicated and hard-working volunteers have done so much to enhance the enjoyment of our visitors through the many things they do such as painting of the facilities, felling dead trees, building and maintaining trails, serving in our Visitor Centers, removing fallen trees from trails. This list could go on and on.

So often we hear from many people that they have never seen a USFS District anywhere that had the number and quality of volunteers that are found on the Sandia Ranger District. Our volunteers have every right to be proud of this fact as they continue to joyfully and unselfishly perform their varied duties in a manner so dedicated to the public good. My sincere thanks and appreciation go to all our great volunteers for their hard work over this past year.

Thanks also go to the FOSM Officers and Board of Directors for their guidance and direction and to the staff of the United States Forest Service Sandia Ranger District whose support and encouragement are vital to our mission.

Please take time to read the activity reports which follow that document the varied projects and activities undertaken by our FOSM volunteers over the past year.

See you on the mountain,

Bob Lowder, President
Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Down Trees Removed from Trails

As you all know, Sam Beard began many years ago keeping track of trees down on trails so that FOSM members could remove them during a scheduled project time. This time could be any day of the week, not just on the typical Wednesday project time. Sam graciously handed the task over to me, when his schedule got too full. Thank you Sam!

He somehow knew that times were “a changing” and someone else needed to step up to the plate for this task. The times were a change from wet to dry years which brought out the trees dying from lack of moisture and an influx of the natural process of bugs attacking them. Well, I think you see where I am going with this. In Fiscal year 2015, FOSM removed **179** trees from all sanctioned trails in the USFS system. In 2016, the numbers grew to **395**. That certainly kept the folks out on the trails very busy. May I also add, that over the years, FOSM worked approximately 6 months a year. Now, we all work 12 months a year. It doesn't matter whether it is sunny and warm, cloudy or cold, the trails crews are on the job. The footwear can be hiking boots or

snowshoes. It just adds to the adventures that FOSM has. How about beautiful scenery for lunch in a secluded spot on the mountain or wolfing down a sandwich while standing on a trail in sub-zero weather. It is all done with a smile on the face (frozen in place?) and with frost on the mustache. What great guys and gals they are who are out there doing a service so that visitors can enjoy our lovely Sandia Mountains!



Large tree on Tree Spring Trail. L to R: Jim Levesque, Bill Savage, Rav Nicholson, and Jerry Pekarek. Photo by Bob Lowder

Okay, back to the hard work done in FY 2017 (September to September). As of August 23, 2017, there were 353 trees reported down. There were 17 held over from the previous year that had not been cleared. The total down was now 370. On any given day, FOSM members were out removing reported trees. Of the 17 hold-over trees reported, 19 were actually removed. While 353 trees were reported for 2017 the actual number of trees removed by our volunteers was much, much higher.

With good snow, extreme cold, wind and late moisture, many additional trees fell in singles, doubles and “train-wrecks”. One day alone, 32 trees were cleared from one trail (Osha Loop). A total of **590** (plus many more not reported), were removed for the year. If I have erred a tree or two, please forgive me.

Thank you all for your great written reports and photos of trees. This helps me to help the crews going out to take the appropriate tools along. We also do not want to send people out, only to find that the work has already been done. It is imperative to not only report the problem, but to report that the problem was removed. (Sally Lowder)



Bob Galloway and Jessica May deciding where to place a large rock on Acequia Trail in Cienega Picnic Area. Photo by Carl Smith

Major Trail Construction and Maintenance

FOSM continued their support of Sandia Ranger District (SRD) trail initiatives with construction of new trails and maintenance of existing trails under the direction of Kerry Wood, SRD Trails and Wilderness Program Manager. The efforts of the FOSM Trails Crew were enhanced by the guidance of Jessica May, recently hired Trails Foreman,

who injected significant personal energy and brought extensive trail building expertise from the Inyo National Forest to the program.

The trail projects help advance the SRD goals for expanding and improving trail networks on the district. Trail projects supported by FOSM during this reporting period include work on the Faulty Trail, Placitas area trails, Sulphur Trail, the Sulphur-Doc Long Link Trail, Horse Bypass Trail, the Acequia Trail, and Bart’s Trail.

Faulty Trail: The FOSM Trails Crew performed maintenance at three locations on Faulty Trail during four work sessions to mitigate unsustainable trail sections. At the junction of Faulty and Armijo Trails, the climb south out of the drainage was partially relocated to bypass a badly eroded section and rock cribbing was added to support the trail. On Faulty between Bill Spring and Sulphur, two sections were repaired to improve line of sight and remove a fall-line section.

Sulphur Trail: FOSM volunteers participated on weekend SRD trail sessions and during two FOSM weekday projects to complete realignment of Sulphur Trail. The realignment bypassed severely eroded sections, promoted drainage on the entire trail, improved line-of-sight, and gave the trail more of a singletrack appearance than that of an old roadbed.

Sulphur-Doc Long Link Trail: To better define the trail entrances and address erosion problems at both ends of this heavily-used trail, FOSM volunteers, with significant help from the SRD skid steer operated by Jessica May, spent four trail sessions completing the improvements. The volunteers collected boulders to build massive retaining walls at each end of the trail, obliterated user trails to

the ridge, and improved drainage on a trail section.

Acequia Trail: A user trail had developed below the road to Cienega Canyon and was impacting sections of the historic acequia adjacent to the paved road down to the start of the Horse Bypass Trail. During two trail sessions, the FOSM Trails Crew, under SRD direction, rerouted parts of the trail out of sensitive sections of the acequia, improved drainage, opened up the trail corridor, and repaired a blown-out section of the acequia caused by heavy summer rains.

Horse Bypass Trail: Horse Bypass Trail connects the Armijo/Acequia Trails junction in Cienega Canyon at the lower end to Faulty Trail at the upper end. During four work sessions, volunteers performed the necessary maintenance to improve trail sustainability. Drainage on the steep sideslope sections was improved by removing the built-up berms, adding several grade reversals, and opening up drainages. Overgrowth was cut back to improve line of sight and open the trail corridor and a trail sign was relocated. A severely eroded switchback was armored with a section of cobble to mitigate the erosion but capable of handling horse traffic.

Bart's Trail: The section of Bart's Trail between the trailhead at Canoncito and Faulty Trail has long been a short but very steep, off-camber hike strewn with loose rock. In May, a Southwest Conservation Corps crew under SRD direction significantly improved the trail. In August, a FOSM trails crew completed some remaining tasks to widen two switchbacks, add cribbing to some sections of trail, and reconfigure a grade reversal. While still a lung-buster to climb up, the trail was much improved for all trail users.

Placitas Trail Signs Installation

To help SRD formalize the developing trail system near Placitas, FOSM volunteers spent three work sessions installing signs at trail intersections or trailheads. A total of 41 signs were installed. Two other work sessions were spent assembling the signs in the SRD wood shop. Sign installation efficiency was significantly improved with the FOSM purchase of a portable Stihl BT 131 earth auger.

Ellis Trailhead Kiosk Installation

A FOSM crew worked with Kerry Wood and Jess May of SRD to install the supports for the trailhead kiosk at the Ellis Trail parking lot. The crew also installed the closure post for the gate to Ellis Trail from NM-536. (Bob Galloway)



Jerry Carroll low stumping on groomed trail. L to R: Jerry Carroll, Steve Roholt, and Jim Lunn. Photo by Scott Dietrich

La Cueva and Juan Tabo Picnic Areas Restoration

The major work accomplished in the fall of 2016 was the rockwork near the hanging wooden table and the concrete table just

above the wooden table. It took the contractor and a couple of helpers about a month to support those two tables, rebuild the "beehive" water feature and complete a trail from the parking lot to those tables. That rock work was completed by a local contractor in keeping with the style and charm of the area. This work was paid for with the allocated budget within FOSM funds.

In addition, during October of 2016, three groups participated in cleanup. A group of about 40 sixth graders came to La Cueva. We worked three hours and then they spent the afternoon with their teachers on nature type programs. I also coordinated with a group called the Venture Crew (a co-ed offshoot of the Boy Scouts) to work a Saturday at Juan Tabo Picnic Area. Another group of high school kids from an Environmental Class worked another afternoon. The time at Juan Tabo was spent working around the main rock shelter picking up glass. We filled almost 3 five-gallon buckets with glass shards. This effort significantly improved the area around the shelter, but of course, there is still more glass throughout the picnic area. The broken glass was given to an artist group in Albuquerque.

Kerry Wood, SRD Trails and Wilderness Program Manager, and the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps improved the path to the shelter in La Cueva Picnic Area, making it "accessible". This work was completed in October of 2016.

The grad students from UNM have completed a design for the eroded edge of the lower parking lot at Juan Tabo. The grad students and I gave a lecture to the state chapter of the American Concrete Institute, covering design issues, the history of the

CCC and development of the recreational areas. Also, one of the grad students had a lab in California design a pigment mix to match the green table tops. The lab has called it "Juan Tabo Green". She has also developed a concrete mix design specifically for table top and bench repair. This repair will hopefully be worked in the fall of 2017.

A rough draft and electronic working drawing was completed in July 2017 by volunteers from the CNM architecture program for signage for both picnic areas. Sandra Arazi-Coombs, SRD Archaeologist, has reviewed and will incorporate her comments electronically before further Forest Service review and approval.



Installation of repaired sign at Pine Flat PA. L to R: Jim Lunn and Larry Littlefield. Photo by Sam Beard

The major piece of work accomplished in summer of 2017 was the concrete work at the bases of the 5 tables group in Juan Tabo. These tables were severely eroded, and the concrete was hand-packed below the base of each table to support the tables and prevent collapse. This work was done with the aid of Forest Service Firefighters on

standby for fires. Another badly needed concrete work project at Juan Tabo was work at two corners of the rock shelter. Concrete was hand mixed and hand-packed under the two corners. These two corners support the fireplaces, and thus support a heavy load as well as being subject to the extremes of heat. Cracks in the mortar and settling had occurred. The addition of the concrete will prevent any further settling. This work was accomplished with the Talking Talons Conservation Crew, Forest Service Firefighters, and some FOSM volunteers.

The Talking Talons Crew again lent a hand to dig out three tables at the lowest end of the Juan Tabo area which had been subject to 80 years of soil and dirt washing down hill. The dirt was moved in a wheel barrow and 5-gallon buckets manually uphill to the 5-table area to use for fill with rock rubble in a badly eroded channel.



Fire Team cleaning and storage shed. L to R: Larry Littlefield, Sunbear Vierra, Don Carnicom, Sam Beard, and Betsy Galloway.

Graffiti removal and cleanup are routine periodic projects. I generally participate and give the volunteers a lecture on the history of the CCC and the development of the two recreation areas. NUSENDA (local credit union) and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance have sent volunteers, a youth

environment program with about 50 kids from NM and Colorado participated, and Sandra organized a cleanup in spring.

Rockwork at the five tables is scheduled to start the middle of September. (Joelle Hertel)

Paint Crew Report

We started the paint season by painting an office in the Sandia Ranger Station at the request of SRD personnel. Signs were painted in the La Luz Trailhead area and the La Cueva Picnic Area. The Ellis Trailhead restroom was painted, and graffiti was removed from the Tram Nature Trail directional signs. Two restrooms in Cienega Picnic Area were painted with assistance from the Talking Talons Conservation Crew, and the horse trailer parking lot restroom was painted to cover graffiti. The Pine Flat PA highway sign was painted after it was repaired. The restrooms at the south end of the large Crest parking lot were painted. The gate and large wooden sign board at Kiwanis Meadow Road were painted. The crew striped the Doc Long PA parking lot.

The crew assisted the SRD Maintenance Crew with painting picnic tables and the shelter at the upper level of Las Huertas PA. Graffiti at numerous sites throughout the Ranger District was removed as time allowed. Painters were Ellie and Russell Parker, Sara Moreland, Jane Harrison, Rikki Barrett, Anne Hickman, Jean Payne, Sim Cook, and Diana Helgesen. (Anne Hickman, Paint Crew Co-Leader)

15th Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race

The 15th race hosted by the Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM), was held January 28, 2017 after being postponed the

previous Saturday, January 21, due to too much snow! Three other prime sponsors, REI, Heart & Sole and Sandia Crest House, partnered with us to make it another success. Registrations were closed 2 weeks before the deadline when the limit of 150 registrants was reached.

The race began promptly at 10:00 on a beautiful, cold winter day when 150 participants assembled for the “fun family event”. Some ran, others walked or simply sauntered and enjoyed the 5km trek through a beautiful course in the Cibola National Forest. Eleven volunteer marshals were stationed along the course to keep racers safely on track.

The annual race is a FOSM fund raising event and all proceeds support the work of its volunteers in maintaining trails, picnic areas and other facilities enjoyed by the using public. Participants were treated to pre- and post-race refreshments donated by local businesses, merchants and individuals. Gifts and prizes were also presented to winners in the various age categories. The overall winner and female winner was Michelle Hummel, with an impressive time of 29:21. The overall male winner was Ruben Balcaen. The youngest finisher was Emily Clarke, age 16. Otto Appenzeller, age 89 was again the sole racer and winner of the over 80 category.

Forty volunteers from FOSM, the Forest Service and Talking Talons performed various roles before, during and after the race. (Lou Romero)

SRD Adopt A Trail Program

Since October 1, 2016 eight Adopt-A-Trail groups have performed 842 hours of trail work as of September 9, 2017. Groups reporting hours were the Southwest Forest

Service Amigos (North Crest and Oso Corridor trails), Friends of Piedra Lisa South, New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (Pino trail), Friends of the Sandia Mountains (Tecolote and Cienega Nature trails), Linda McDowell (10K North trail), New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club (various cross country ski trails in the Crest area), Rav and Ken Nicholson (10K South trail), and the Happy Hoofers (South Crest trail from Crest House to Tram terminal). The Southwest Forest Service Amigos had the record again this year for the most site visits (eight) and the most hours (346). With good weather for trail work in late September, I anticipate more hours will be added to the total before the end of the federal fiscal year. (Dan Benton, AAT Program Manager)



Digging new trail tread on Acequia Trail. L to R: Steve Roholt, Bet Gendron and Jim Levesque. Photo by Sally Lowder

Groomed Ski Trails Development and Maintenance

Currently there are roughly 2.2 miles of groomed cross-country ski trails between the Ellis and 10K parking areas and another 1.5 miles of trails which are proposed for development in the future. On various dates in October and November several FOSM members participated in projects related to these trails. Steve Roholt was instrumental in coordinating these events.

Late October saw volunteers working to remove several trees which had fallen across the trails, as well as low cutting or removing about two dozen stumps that could be hit by the grooming equipment or skiers. Chain saws, Pulaskis, pick axes and pry bars were all used for the stump removal. Brush cutters with steel blades were also used to clear brambles and other small vegetation from the alpine meadows in areas that the trails cross, and pruning saws were used to cut limbs that were low enough to interfere with skiers and the grooming equipment. Of particular note was the work that Carl Smith and Lou Romero did to remove a very large 40-inch diameter stump with a root ball attached that was on a trail. Lou used a pick axe and pry bar to remove dirt and rotten wood before each of Carl's numerous cuts with a chain saw.

November saw additional trees fall across the trails and our FOSM volunteers removed them within a matter of days after they had fallen. Additional work in November included bucking and limbing deadfall and then dragging the material to the downhill areas of several badly canted areas and curves. The purpose of this was to level, bank, and widen these areas and provide "cribbing" to help retain snow. The trails crew that participated in the November 30th work day were particularly hardy: the

temperature at Ellis Trailhead was 10 F when the crew started that morning, and it was 15 F at 10K South TH when they finished at about 12:30 PM! (Scott Dietrich)

Programs at Monthly FOSM Meetings

Over the past year, Vice President, Lou Romero scheduled diverse, informative, and educational speakers on a wide variety of interesting topics for our monthly programs. **September 2016** – Dr Otto Appenzeller gave an educational overview of “Medical Aspects of life in the Mountains and at Sea Level.” The program was held at the Domenici Learning Center Auditorium at the University of New Mexico.

October 2016 – Sandia District Ranger Crystal Powell, Cibola Forest Supervisor Elaine Kohrman and Cliff Dils, Acting Regional Forester, speaking as a panel explained how they set and juggle Regional priorities with a collaborative model and how they utilize FOSM to accomplish their mission.

April 2017 – FOSM President, Bob Lowder provided a comprehensive overview of how FOSM is organized, how projects are planned and showed photo examples of the wide variety of work accomplished by its volunteers.

May 2017 – Mr. Guy Jackson and Mr. Ben Abruzzo Jr. presented plans and status of the new Top of the Tram restaurant project and an idea tentatively being explored for a potential Roller Coaster on top of Sandia Peak.

June 2017 – Valles Caldera National Preserve Superintendent, Jorge Silva-Banuelos presented “Valles Caldera – Looking Back to Inform the Future.” His presentation provided history, current status and a look at the planned future of the Preserve.

July 4, 2017 – No Program held.

August 2017 - Linda McDowell and Jim Lunn, both FOSM volunteers, provided a “hands on” look at how they became interested and skilled at the art of chainsaw carving. They demonstrated tools they use and actual pieces of their artistic accomplishments. They also showed photos of pieces they have donated for fund raising events.

September 2017 – Jennifer Owen-White, Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge Manager and Jordan Stone, Albuquerque Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Program Manager offer a look at a unique partnership that develops youth for employment and simultaneously serve communities and government agencies in New Mexico. (Lou Romero)



Installation of sign in Doc Long PA, L to R: Sam Beard, Bob Galloway, and Dennis Crowther. Photo by Don Carnicom

Medical, Chain Saw, and Crosscut Saw Certifications

A huge thank you goes out to Kerry Wood, Trails and Wilderness Program Manager for the Sandia Ranger District, for allowing me to work directly with Venus Jensen, Environmental Safety Engineer for the

USFS in scheduling the 1st Aid and CPR/AED courses that our certified Chainsaw/Crosscut Saw operators must have. FOSM had a total of 8 people taking 1st Aid. There were 22 people in the CPR/AED class. Of these totals, 5 people were new to the certification process. I maintain the Blood-borne Pathogens training information on my computer and send this out to all people requiring recertification/certification for the year. This is the only medical class work that is done on a yearly basis. A total of 26 people have taken the class or review.

FOSM had no **Chainsaw** operators up for review in 2017. There will be 6 of the 12 sawyers up for recertification in 2018. There were 7 **Crosscut Sawyers** up for recertification this year. We were pleased to certify for the first time 5 new **Crosscut Sawyers**: Byron Garner, Bob & Betsy Galloway, Scott Dietrich and Sim Cook. Congratulations! There will be 12 Crosscut Sawyers up for recertification in 2018. (Sally Lowder)

Reports from Tim Brown, Treasurer

Membership -- We now have 109 memberships compared with 106 memberships at this time last year. New members are Michael and Diana Kapphahn, Marianne Randall, Frank and Bonnie Michel, Joe Freedman and Susan Timmons, Charles and Mary Seibert, Talking Talons, Scott Dietrich and Carla Neiswender, Scott Christensen, Kayreen and Gordon Sargent, Niel and Leslie Pivar, Beth Chambers, Michelle Horndeski, Ellen and Phillip Cromer, Arron and Ari Kimbrell. Welcome Everyone!

Treasurer’s Report -- We began FY 2017 on October 1, 2016 with a checking account balance of \$23,203.48 and on August 30,

2017 the balance was \$12,349.73. We also have two CD's which total \$41,323.53. The largest expenses were \$16,615.04 for projects and \$3,115.28 for the Snowshoe Race. The largest revenues were \$2,455.00 from memberships, \$1,978.89 from donations and \$1,779.72 from the Snowshoe Race after expenses.

Audit - In October 2016 Art Arenholz completed an audit of the FOSM financial records. He reported the records to be accurate and in good shape. Also in November 2016, Tim Brown completed an audit of the FOSM physical assets.

Crest Visitor Center

Summer 2017 at the Crest House Visitor Center season was successful due to a group of 11 dedicated volunteers including: Fran Lusso, Dave Weaver, Tim Brown, Don Hoke, Chris Kelleher, Ken Nicholson, Sue Keil, Jim Patrick, Robin Bender and Kitsie & Don Smiset. Except during the fire, our team was able to staff the Crest VC daily from Memorial Day through the end of Balloon Fiesta.

To help promote the Crest Gift Shop and encourage visitors to stop by our desk, signs were placed outside of the building including a plywood cutout of Smokey Bear. We talked to an average of 25 to 30 people per day; handed out free area maps and gave suggestions on hiking trails; monitored trails for hazards; picked up trash around the Crest parking and viewing areas; and talked to a number of children interested in hearing the story of Smokey Bear.

If you or anyone you know would like to join the team for next year, have them contact Don Smiset or the Sandia Ranger Station. All that you need is a love of the mountain and an interest in sharing this with visitors, some of whom are visiting from

other countries. (Don Smiset, Project Coordinator)



Fran Lusso and Dave Weaver at the Crest Visitor Center

Four Seasons Visitor Center

The 4SVC reopened in May after a hiatus of three years. The season is from Memorial Day through Balloon Fiesta. However, we are open only on week-ends and on Labor Day after Aug. 20.

Our volunteers are Dale Buchanan, Joe Galbiati, Dana Howlett, Kathleen Kackerson, Helene Keckrich, Alana Kopec, Donna Lentz, Julie Littlefield, Larry Littlefield, Fotini Lujan, Louise Pino, Lynn Ruger, Gerhard Salinger, Cheryl Smith and Dale Webster.

Our space is confined to an alcove of the Upper Tram Terminal where we have a large coffee table on which to display books and maps. Our programs consist of

enhancing visitor experience by answering questions, suggesting hiking routes, and offering the Junior Ranger program with a certificate and a sew-on patch (grades K-8). A few volunteers give deck talks or guided nature walks. We also rove around near the Tram Terminal to pick up trash, answer questions, and hand out maps.

Through Labor Day, we have been open 74 days and have had 9,243 visitor contacts. These include 161 Junior Rangers, a program supported by FOSM. (Lynn Ruger, Project Coordinator)



Chris Husted leading a wildflower walk on Tecolote Trail. Photo by Marjorie Patrick

FOSM Publications

Recreation Guide to the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains - This year we continued to distribute this free visitors guide that includes information about sport activities, picnic areas, camping, volunteer work, parking fees and passes, wilderness restrictions, temperatures and precipitation, maps, trail lengths and difficulty, and Leave No Trace. The guide is available at the Ranger Station, Crest Visitor Center, REI, Albuquerque Convention and Visitor Bureau, and Tinkertown. In addition, they

are frequently distributed at all FOSM outreach activities. (Don Carnicom)

Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains -- UNM Press reports that sales to date are approximately 13,000 copies. We are currently selling 250 to 300 copies each year. (Timothy Brown)

Sandia Ranger District Signage Program

A number of years ago the FOSM Signage Committee undertook a project to inventory all signs on the Sandia Ranger District, evaluate which signs needed to be replaced, then design, purchase and install the signs on a timely basis. These activities were completed with the majority of the replacement signs being installed in the Crest, Tram, and Kiwanis Meadow areas. Maintenance, such as graffiti removal and complete sign replacement was performed as required throughout the year.

Seven left over Balsam Glade Nature Trail signs were mounted to an exhibit board and placed in the northwest corner of the picnic area for the benefit of the folks that never make it to the nature trail.

We are not maintaining a supply of back-up signs any longer as we can have a temporary sign in place in a few days and a permanent replacement in 3-4 weeks.

The sign inventory for the District was updated again this year as changes occurred and electronic files were supplied to the SRD staff. (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 twice a year. A duplicate set of files are kept on another flash drive and on a 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. (Don Carnicom)



L to R: Jessica May, USFS, and Bet Gendron at tree they felled with ribbon saw on S. Crest Trail. Photo by Scott Dietrich

FOSM Outreach

*** Celebrate Wildlife Event at Wildlife West** -- On June 24 the Wildlife West Nature Park celebrated wildlife with their **Wildlife Festival**. Many wildlife-orientated organizations such as FOSM, Sandia Mountain Bear Collaborative, NM Herpetological Society, Sandia Mountain Bear Watch, Wildlife Rescue, The Peregrine Foundation and a number of others participated. On the order of 75 people passed through the Bean Barn where each organization had a table displaying their

handouts, literature, photos, and in some cases, live animals. Don Carnicom manned the FOSM table for about 7 hours. We passed out a number of Recreation Guides, FOSM membership applications, SRD Trail Maps and other literature. It is felt this is a good event for FOSM as it reaches out to a variety of people and many more now know about FOSM than did before. (Don Carnicom)

Reconstruction of Sign in Doc Long Picnic Area

One large interpretive sign board in Doc Long PA became a big hazard in the spring as the main vertical support members (10 inches in diameter) rotted out allowing it to start leaning over. Reconstruction involved removing the rotted remains of the timbers and disassembling the above ground structure. The above ground sign structure was reattached to pressure treated posts set in concrete. (Don Carnicom)

Volunteers Felled 257 Hazardous Trees

Volunteers continued felling danger trees in picnic areas and at trailheads during FY2017. Jessica May, SRD Trails Foreman, 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 danger trees felled in the picnic areas and at trailheads from October 2016 through August 2017 is given in the table below. The total number of felled trees was 257 in these outings. The maximum diameter was about 30 inches. The slash (branches) of the felled trees was chipped

with the large Sandia Ranger District chipper. (Sam Beard)

Hazard Trees Felled by Volunteers	
Site	Trees Felled
Cienega Can. PA	46
Doc Long PA	22
Sulphur Can. PA	20
Tree Spring TH	3
Dry Camp TH	3
Balsam Glade PA	44
Capulin Spring PA	21
Snow Play Area	9
Nine Mile PA	35
Las Huertas PA	54
Total	257

Pearl Burns

This past spring, Sandia Ranger District volunteers were saddened to learn of the passing of Pearl Burns. Pearl, who had been a long-time USFS volunteer and FOSM member, died at her home in Denver, Colorado on April 17, 2017 at the age of 94. She had moved there to be near her family.

She was very active on our District over the years and will be remembered for her many contributions of time and talent. Pearl originated the popular flower hikes which have been enjoyed by so many. These hikes have been continued by those who had worked with her and others who also wish to continue the tradition. A shortcut trail that connects the Tree Spring trailhead with Oso Corredor trail, which was frequently used for her hikes, has become known by the unofficial name of “Pearl’s Flower Trail”.

Pearl’s email address, “flowerchild”, was indicative of her love for our local flora. Her hard work and dedication were recognized at a high level when she was selected as the national USFS Volunteer of the Year in

2003. She traveled to Washington, D.C. to accept the award. Her expansive botanical knowledge came in handy, when in collaboration with fellow FOSM member Larry Littlefield, it resulted in co-authorship of both “Wildflowers of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains of Central New Mexico” and “Wildflowers of the Northern and Central Mountains of New Mexico”. Both volumes are popular and highly regarded flower identification guides.

Pearl may no longer be with us, but her legacy lives on. (Bob Lowder)



Jim Lunn installing a Poo Poo Screen on vent pipe at restroom in Balsam Glade Picnic Area. Photo by Dan Benton

Wildflower Walks

Saturday morning Wildflower Walks, sponsored by the Sandia Ranger District and FOSM from the beginning of June to end of August, continued again this year despite the

death of the founder, Pearl Burns. Pearl had planned ahead and trained a team of volunteer wildflower enthusiasts when she realized she couldn't keep up the educational summer walks she and her friend Jeanette Buffet had done for at least 20 years.



Jessica May, USFS, moving wood with skid steer to parking lot in Cienega Picnic Area. Photo by Dan Benton

Though we had a cool, wet, early spring followed by a hot, dry June and July, then late monsoons, the adaptable wildflowers put on a good show. The outings had the best attendance in years, and the best show of blooming rattlesnake orchids in many years. No walks needed to be canceled for forest closures. Larry Littlefield's and Pearl Burns' book, **Wildflowers of the Northern and Central Mountains of New Mexico** is still used by many attendees as an additional guide to the printed, seasonally-adjusted lists of current wildflowers co-leaders provide the public attending each week.

The walks were on a different trail each week in the Sandias and Manzanita Mountains averaging about 2.5 miles each

with many pauses for photos and discussion. The final August walks were in a Bernalillo County Open Space area near Cedro.

Volunteer leaders this year (most trained by Pearl eight years ago and volunteering since) were Mari Draper, Vicki Farrar, Dick Fredrickson, Chris Husted, Kathy Lord, Marj Patrick, and Jean Payne. The group is always on the lookout for additional leaders. One of our group will be retiring this year; another may not be able to return, but already a Bernalillo Master Naturalist has stepped forward to help lead in 2018. (Jean Payne)

FOSM Email Notification Groups

Communication to and between members is important for most organizations and ours is no exception. FOSM established its email notification system in 2002 using the Yahoo Groups system which is provided at no cost.

Sandia Volunteers and NMFOF – This group of about 251 email addresses is made up of all FOSM members, authorized USFS/SRD volunteers and others who have expressed an interest in receiving the information it provides. This system publishes announcements of FOSM projects, monthly FOSM meetings, information from our partners at the USFS Sandia ranger District, etc. Messages to this group require approval by a moderator. (NMFOF stands for New Mexico Friends of the Forest, our original and corporate name).

Cibola Trail Rangers – This group of 128 email addresses proves a forum for anyone to report trail conditions on our Sandia trails. Many of our projects have resulted from messages submitted on this system. Messages posted on this system do not require moderator approval. (Bob Lowder)

FOSM Trails Crew Report

The FOSM Trails Crew is a group of volunteers who patrol Sandia Ranger District hiking trails removing fallen trees or those otherwise posing a hazard to users. The team will also cut back vegetation that protrudes into the trails and will perform minor tread work when necessary. The most commonly used implements are crosscut saws and other hand tools including loppers, pruning saws, Pulaskis and cant hooks. Where appropriate in areas outside wilderness boundaries, a chain saw is used. In addition to a core group, the crew can be made up of other individuals wishing to help. The team size can vary with the scope of work to be done. Projects are scheduled based upon reports submitted to the Cibola Trail Rangers email group or information otherwise received and compiled onto the Trail Tree Report by Sally Lowder. As the trees are removed from the trails, they are deleted from that report. The crew usually conducts its work on Mondays but will go out other times as needed. During the current one-year reporting period, the crew removed a total of 321 trees ranging in size from three to twenty-four inches in diameter. (Bob Lowder)

Trails Adopted by FOSM

FOSM has adopted both the Tecolote Trail that is located at Dry Camp Trailhead and the Cienega Nature Trail that is located in the heart of the Cienega Canyon Picnic Area. A major trail project for Tecolote was done in August 2016, and so far, in 2017 no work has been done on that trail. Cienega Nature Trail, which is ADA accessible, was prepped for the early May 2017 picnic area opening. The nature trail was cleaned of all dirt and other debris. A 7-inch broken top oak tree was removed from over the trail. There were no other immediate maintenance

needs for this nature trail at this time. It took four people two hours to ready this trail for use. (Sally Lowder)



Carl Smith beside a hazard tree he felled in Capulin Picnic Area. Photo by Bob Lowder.

Sam Beard Honored On His 80th Birthday

This past August, long-time USFS volunteer Sam Beard was honored on his 80th birthday by his family, friends, fellow volunteers and United States Forest Service officials. Sam has almost 50 years of experience as a volunteer on public lands, is a founding member of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM), has served as FOSM President, serves on the Board of Directors and acts as FOSM's Projects Chairman. He is the author of "Ski Touring in Northern New Mexico" and played a key role in the development of many of the trails on the Sandia Ranger District.

A large crowd of family, friends, fellow volunteers and USFS officials gathered at the Capulin Springs Picnic Area in the Sandias to attend a surprise birthday party in his honor. Sam was presented with a framed FOSM Board Resolution recognizing him for his many accomplishments and he also received a photo and thank you gifts from Talking Talons Youth Development Inc. for his work with their youth crews. District Ranger Crystal Powell expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of her staff and the USFS.

Following a lunch of BBQ and birthday cake, the group travelled to the Ellis trailhead where the Sandia Ranger District had recently installed a new information kiosk partially funded by FOSM. District Trails Foreman Jessica May unveiled a panel on that kiosk featuring a section titled “A Real Sandia Stalwart” containing information about Sam and his many contributions to the Sandias. This tribute was the brainchild of District Trails and Wilderness Program Manager Kerry Wood as a way to recognize and honor Sam in a lasting way. This was especially appropriate after Sam’s wife told everyone “If you want to honor Sam, please don’t get him any more *stuff!* He’s already got a garage full of *stuff!*”.(Bob Lowder)

Ten Cords of Fuelwood Donated to Needy Families

When hazard trees are felled in areas that are behind locked gates and the wood is not available to homeowners with wood hauling permits, FOSM volunteers buck the logs into stove/fireplace lengths, split the very large rounds manually, and the wood is usually donated to the Mountain Christian Church Wood Ministry. The MCCWM then donates the wood to needy East Mountain families. Over the past several years, wood

has also been collected as part of several Eagle Scout Projects, and that wood has also been donated to needy families. During FY2017, ten cords of wood were donated to charitable organizations.

On October 22, 2016, two cords of wood were collected as part of an Eagle Scout Project. Conrad Greaves of Talking Talons coordinated the loading and delivery of the wood. Fifteen adult and youth volunteers loaded the wood on a large 14-foot dump trailer and a pickup. The wood was hauled to one of the MCCWM wood lots. The Scouts and other youth split a large amount of wood. Conrad and adult volunteers briefed them on the maul/wedge safety precautions the same way Sam taught the Talking Talons Conservation Crew in 2016.

During April 2017, FOSM volunteers worked with Jessica May, SRD Trails Foreman, to move piles of wood from the thinned forest to the Cienega Picnic Area Host Site parking lot. Jessica operated the SRD skid steer, volunteers loaded wood in the grappling attachment, and Jessica moved the wood to the parking lot. Later the volunteers bucked the wood with chain saws to lengths of about 16 inches.

On Saturday, May 6, Conrad Greaves, Talking Talons Conservation Crew, and Sam Beard helped manage the loading of the wood onto pickups by an Eagle Scout and his 13 volunteers. About six cords were hauled to the Talking Talons fenced area at their Thrift Store. The wood will either be sold to help support the non-profit Talking Talons organization or given to needy families in the East Mountains area.

On May 13, Mountain Christian Church Wood Ministry volunteers hauled two cords of wood from Cienega PA to one of their wood lots. MCCWM volunteers will split

the wood and donate it to needy families.
(Sam Beard)



Ends of cut vigas on picnic shelter in Doc Long Picnic Area. Brown color indicates rotten wood. Photo by Sam Beard

Capulin Bird Log Maintenance

The completion of the carving of the new bird log in the lower part of Capulin Spring Picnic Area was reported in the FY2016 FOSM Newsletter. On September 21 the new log was moved into the concrete and stone base where the old log had been. The very heavy old log was cut into small pieces and piled by the road to dry and will eventually be collected as fire wood.

On April 24, Tim Brown and Sam Beard used new FOSM hand adzes to chip a 3-inch wide channel about 1 inch deep in the bottom of the log in an effort to concentrate the very small water flow in the center of the log to reduce the algae growing there. Also, Tim sweeps the needles and algae from the log each week. Art Arenholz reported that one morning he saw 20 species of birds at the log. Someone else reported that a visitor from Canada was very interested in the log and watched birds there for a few hours. A Web search on the bird log takes one to a site where a photo of the new log is presented. (Sam Beard)

Shed Improvements and Construction Adjacent to the SRD Shop

Trails Shed Improvements - The SRD Trails Shed was found to be in an advanced state of disrepair from weather and a rodent infestation. After SRD employees emptied the building to seal it and clean up the rodent infestation, FOSM volunteers installed a new metal roof, a window, and painted the exterior. To help organize the materials storage area outside the shed, other FOSM crews leveled and secured storage racks used for metal and wood supplies to the shed studs. To protect the wood materials from the elements, a metal-roofed overhang was constructed on the south side of the shed and painted to match the shed. (Sam Beard and Bob Galloway)

Fire Cleaning and Storage Shed --At the request of Sunbear Vierra, SRD Assistant Fire Management Officer, FOSM volunteers assembled a 12-foot by 20-foot steel carport kit from Mueller, Inc. to shelter a chainsaw cleaning station and other equipment from the elements. FOSM volunteers also painted primed components of the kit and installed gutters to drain run-off to the French drain behind the SRD sheds. (Bob Galloway and Sam Beard)

Planning Doc Long Picnic Shelters Restorations

To stop the effects of precipitation on the exposed viga ends on the two newer picnic shelters at Doc Long Picnic Area, FOSM volunteers cut off the rotted ends back up under the eave of each roofline. FOSM then completed assessments for the restoration of the two newer picnic shelters and the historic CCC shelter. The written assessments proposed repairs to mitigate the effects of time and weather on the shelters and included potential sources of materials

for the restoration. Materials and labor to complete the proposed work could be supplied by FOSM. Both assessments were submitted to SRD for consideration. (Bob Galloway and Sam Beard)

National Trails Day Project

At the National Trails Day (NTD) event at Elena Gallegos Picnic Area in Simms Park on Saturday, June 3, eleven FOSM volunteers removed an old gate in the wilderness boundary fence and replaced it with a chicane-style structure for horses and pedestrians. This gate is located about one-half mile east of the High Desert development east of Tramway and just north of the mouth of Bear Canyon. A very large underground City water tank is adjacent to this gate.

The existing structure was constructed many years ago with five pieces of large power poles to form an obstruction for motorcycles to discourage their access to the wilderness. These were removed, three 6-foot posts were set, and six 2 by 4s were screwed to the posts to form a chicane-style structure leading to the wilderness. Three signs showing that bicycles are not permitted in the wilderness were posted, along with a wilderness boundary notice.

At about 1 pm, everyone went to the large picnic area shelter for a free lunch of sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks. After lunch, tickets were handed out, and a drawing was held for many outdoor prizes donated by REI and other businesses. There were more prizes than volunteers; therefore, everyone went home with something new. (Sam Beard and Dan Benton)

Cedro Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

In February 2017, FOSM officers signed a Letter of Commitment supporting the Cedro CFRP led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that was submitting a grant proposal for pinyon-juniper restoration treatment of 500 acres of the Cibola National Forest of both sides of Juan Tomas Road south of the Ranger Station. FOSM's contribution to this project will be thinning 36 acres over a period of three years. In addition to a field trip led by Aaron Johnson, SRD Forester, on August 9 several FOSM volunteers hiked over the 36 acres to become familiar with the area and the forest. They observed that the P-J forest with some ponderosa pines is much less dense than the forest FOSM thinned a few years ago. (Sam Beard)

Work with Talking Talons Conservation Crew

Laurie Wearne, Director of Talking Talons Youth Leadership, received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to support five TT Conservation Crew members this summer. In addition to working with other conservation organizations, the TTCC worked with FOSM on Wednesdays and also other days. The crew members were Austin Parkins, Roman Velasquez, Colin Daly, Matthew Hopkins, and Conrad Greaves (coordinator). The crew members were excellent workers and learned to safely use numerous tools.

Some of the projects and tasks that the crew worked on were Capulin Peak Trail maintenance with crosscut saws, moving dirt at Juan Tabo PA, restoration of the CCC shelter with concrete, major trail construction, painting a picnic shelter, assisting sawyers felling hazard trees, carpentry, chipping slash, and hauling brush

and other debris from picnic areas. Conrad not only coordinated the daily crew work, but he also supervised the collection of firewood by volunteers on two Eagle Scout projects. He also wrote an excellent report about the Scout project on October 22, 2016. FOSM volunteers enjoyed working with the TTCC and appreciated their contributions to our projects. (Sam Beard)

Wildlife Projects Coordinated with SRD Wildlife Biologist Esther Nelson

* **Thinning around 4-Hills N and Cedro Wildlife Drinkers** -- The 4 Hills North wildlife drinker and rain collection tank are located SE of the 4-Hills residential area on the east side of Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB). On May 24 five FOSM members removed six large clumps of one-seed juniper trees out to a radius of 50 feet from the drinker so that deer can see mountain lions in time to escape. On December 4, volunteers thinned around the Cedro Drinker located north of Juan Tomas Road and east of NM-337. (Sam Beard)

* **Burn Site Wildlife Drinker** – On Nov. 17, 2016, Dan Benton and Bill Gampel accompanied Esther Nelson, USFS Wildlife Biologist for the Sandia and Manzano Ranger Districts, to the Burn Site wildlife drinker in the Military Withdrawal Area on the east side of KAFB. The collection system and storage tank were in good working order. However, at the drinker trough the float valve was inoperative, probably due to winter freeze. The best fix may be to replace the current drinker trough with a state of the art shut-off valve and float valve drinker box. Esther plans to request USFS funding for such a fix and request FOSM assistance in installing the new equipment. Also, the very eroded road to the drinker needs to be graded. (Dan Benton)

* **Shelves in Wildlife Shed** – On March 29 five volunteers installed three shelves on the sides and back wall of the small green shed south of the SRD shop. Esther Nelson, SRD Wildlife Biologist, stores equipment and supplies in this shed. (Sam Beard)

Other Projects

* **New 10K South Trailhead Bridge** – On May 25 Don Carnicom and Sam Beard removed the broken deck boards from the pedestrian bridge at the 10K S Trailhead. They installed pressure-treated 2x12 boards to make the bridge safe again. (Sam Beard)

* **Cutting Brush near Sulphur Canyon Picnic Area** – On November 2, volunteers cut willow brush with power brush cutters and chain saws. Brush was also cut at the intersection of the Crest Highway and Cienega Road for better sight distances. (Sam Beard)

* **Cutting Brush at Capulin Picnic Area and the Snow Play Area** – On October 5 and August 16, volunteers used three power brush cutters to cut brush and small locust trees in the Snow Play Area traffic island where snow is stored in the winter. On August 30 volunteers cut brush along the Lower Capulin PA road and at the PA entrance for better sight distances along the highway. (Sam Beard)

* **Puncheon Removed from Oso Corredor Trail** – The wooden puncheon on Oso Corredor Trail was removed on September 28, 2016, because the wood was rotting and water was no longer flowing here during the snow melt period. (Lou Romero)

* **Thinning on Archeological Site** – On November 9 and 16, volunteers thinned a few acres on an archaeological site at the request of Sandra Arazi-Coombs. This area

is located west of NM-14 and south of Armijo Trail. The area around the site had been thinned with heavy equipment, but to protect the site, Sandra wanted it thinned with chain saws. (Sam Beard)

*** Equipment Maintenance** – Jim Lunn repaired the chain brake assembly of a Stihl 261 chain saw with parts from an old Stihl 026 saw donated to FOSM by Linda McDowell. Additional maintenance by Jim included cleaning, tuning, and sharpening 13 crosscut saws – seven saws for FOSM members and six saws for the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps for their support on the USFS trails projects. Throughout the year, Sam Beard sharpened numerous chains for the saws used by FOSM. (Jim Lunn and Sam Beard)

*** Installation of Poo Poo Screens on Toilet Vent Pipes** – At the request of Kim Round, SRD Recreation Staff Officer, FOSM installed over a dozen steel mesh screens on top of the 12-inch diameter vent pipes in certain picnic areas. Every year cavity-nesting birds enter these pipes and die before they can get out of the pipe or the underground toilet vaults. These screens were developed by the Teton Raptor Center in Wyoming. Kim purchased several screens, and FOSM purchased 10 screens at a cost of \$30 each. FOSM volunteers installed the screens on vent pipes at Tree Spring Trailhead, Balsam Glade PA, Capulin PA, Snow Play Area, Sulphur PA, Cienega Horse Bypass Parking Area, 10K North Trailhead, and the south end of the large Crest parking lot. (Jim Lunn and Sam Beard)

*** Installation of Wind Turbine on Cienega PA Restroom** – At the request of Kim Round, SRD Recreation Staff Officer, FOSM has begun a project to install wind turbines for restroom ventilation at three

sites where turbines are missing – Doc Long PA (3 turbines), Cienega PA (1 turbine), and Ellis Trailhead (1 turbine). In August, Russell Parker, an experienced roofer, installed a wind turbine on the lowest restroom in Cienega PA. The other three turbines in this PA were operational. (Russell Parker and Sam Beard)



Top – Moving Bird Log onto stone and concrete base in September 2016. Bottom -- Bird Log in final position. A small stream of water from Capulin Spring enters the log under the rocks in the foreground and flows out the far end of the log.



Trail maintenance in the snow. L to R: Sim Cook, Byron Garner, Ken Nicholson, Jerry Pekarek, Jim Levesque and Bob Lowder. Photo by Scott Dietrich.



Painting the shelter in the upper part of Las Huertas Picnic Area. L to R: Anne Hickman, maintenance volunteer, Rikki Barrett, Manny Chavez, USFS, Jane Harrison, and Sara Morlan. Photo by Sam Beard



Bucking a large tree on N 10K Trail with a 36-inch crosscut saw. L to R: Jerry Pekarek, Jim Levesque, Byron Garner, and Bob Galloway. Photo by Betsy Galloway



Rebuilding the trail between Doc Long Picnic Area and Sulphur Canyon Picnic Area. Jessica May, USFS, is moving large rocks with the skid steer. Photo by Betsy Galloway

FOSM Project Participants

A total of 93 volunteers worked on at least one project in FY2017. About two to three dozen members frequently volunteer to work on the weekly Wednesday projects, and 10 to 20 members typically work each week.

The FOSM officers, Board Members, and the Sandia Ranger District Staff appreciate very much the support of all the FOSM members. The names are roughly in alphabetical order, but the new names this year were entered at the end of the list. The volunteers who worked on FOSM projects in FY2017 were Bob and Sally Lowder, Robin Bender, Dan and Pat Benton, Claudia Bergsohn, Rikki Barrett, Tim Brown, Richard Buss, Don Carnicom, Jerry Carroll, Chris Casey, Sim Cook, Beth Chambers, Dennis Crowther, Scott Dietrich, Mari Draper, Gordon Eatman, Vicki Farrar, Dick Frederiksen, Chris Fritzsche, Dave Gabel, Bob and Betsy Galloway, Bill Gampel, Byron Garner, Tim Garner, Bet Gendron, Jane Harrison, Diana Helgesen, Joelle Hertel, Anne Hickman, Pauline Ho, Don Hoke, Gay Huffman, Chris Hustad, Ken Jones, Jim and Judy Levesque, Larry and Julie Littlefield, Jim Lunn, Fran Lusso, Jim Loner, Kathy Lord, Mike Madden, David McCreery, Linda McDowell, Sara Morlan, Lorna Morrow, Rav and Ken Nicholson, Dominick Ortiz, Russ and Ellie Parker, Marj Patrick, Jim Patrick, Jean Payne, Dave Peterson, Jerry Pekarek, Pete Rhyins, Eric Rinehart, Steve Roholt, Lou Romero, Eric Russell, Scott Russell, Rodger Sack, Bill Savage, Kitsie and Don Smiset, Carl Smith, Doug Thiesen, Paul Torno, John Torres, John Tunberg, Dave Weaver, Bill White, Roger Wrolstad, Dale Buchanan, Joe Galbiati, Dana Howlett, Kathleen Kackerson, Helene Keckrich, Alma Kopec, Donna Lentz, Fatini Lujan, Louise Pino, Lynn Ruger, Gerhard Salinger, Cheryl Smith, Dale Webster, and Sam Beard (Sam Beard)

Publication of the FY2017 Newsletter

A huge “Thank You” to the following people who contributed to the publication of the FY2017 Friends of the Sandia Mountains Annual Newsletter: authors who contributed articles, photographers who made informative and interesting pictures, reviewers who found errors in the early versions, and FOSM volunteers who completed the many projects for us to report. This is our year-end historical review that is available to all members, volunteers, and visitors to our meetings. (Sam Beard, Editor)

FOSM Officers

- * President – Bob Lowder
- * Vice-President – Lou Romero
- * Treasurer – Tim Brown
- * Secretary – Rav Nicholson

Board Members

- * Sam Beard

- * Dan Benton
- * Jim Lunn
- * Don Carnicom
- * Mike Coltrin
- * Sally Lowder

Officers are also Board Members.

Ballot: October 3, 2017 Annual Meeting of the Membership

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. Continuing board members are: Sam Beard and Jim Lunn. The one-year terms of Officers are also expiring as follows: Bob Lowder, President; Lou Romero, Vice President; Tim Brown, Treasurer and Rav Nicholson, Secretary. The members listed below have been nominated for Officer and Board Member positions. (Officers are also members of the board.)

Only current members of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains are eligible to vote in the annual election.

In accordance with Section 5.4.3 of the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee has put forth the following list of candidates for consideration by the General Membership:

President:
1. Bob Lowder _____
2. _____

Vice President:
1. Lou Romero _____
2. _____

Treasurer:
1. Tim Brown _____
2. _____

Secretary:
1. Rav Nicholson _____
2. _____

Board members: (Vote for four)
1. Dan Benton _____ 2. Don Carnicom _____ 3. Mike Coltrin _____
4. Sally Lowder _____ 5. _____

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting of the Membership to cast your vote in person, you may vote by mailing this ballot to:

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

Mailed ballots must be received by 5:00 pm, October 3, 2017