

New Mexico Friends of the Forest

Annual Newsletter, September 2003



**NEW MEXICO
FRIENDS of the FOREST, Inc.**
PO Box 1832,
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059

**Next Meeting
Speaker: Jeremy Hanlon, USFS
How to Start Thinning
Private Woodlots**

**Sandia Ranger Station
Tuesday, October 7
7 p.m.**

Sandia Mountain Junior Ranger Program

If you hike near the Forest Service Visitor Center at either Sandia Crest or the upper Tram terminal, you probably have seen kids with clipboards hiking around with their parents. This is the sixth summer that the Friends of the Forest and the Forest Service sponsored the Junior Ranger program, an hour-long forest education experience. Kids walk the nearby Nature Trail, read the signs, and answer questions about forest conservation on their work sheets. We award each Junior Ranger a certificate signed by Cliff Dils and a choice of a handsome embroidered patch or a pin-on badge.

Thanks to the friendly folks at the two visitor centers, a total of 5,600 Junior Rangers have earned a patch or badge since we started in 1998. This summer, about 900 new Junior Rangers enjoyed the program. Also, sincere thanks to our sponsor, Sandia Crest House Gift Shop and Restaurant, for their donations which have paid for all the patches and badges awarded at the Crest Visitor Center since we started the program.

(See Ranger continued on page 4)

Field Guide To The Sandias

The idea to produce a Field Guide was proposed to the Friends of the Forest and the Forest Service in early 2002 by Don Carnicom. After much discussion during the spring and summer about the form it should take and how it should be published, Mary Stuever developed a proposal dealing with these issues in August, outlining various scenarios for the development and publication of the Guide. This served as a point of departure for the project, and during the fall monthly meetings led by Dick Traeger, volunteers were recruited and assigned, according to their expertise, to write appropriate sections. Costs were obtained for producing and publishing the Guide and after considering the difficulty in raising the amount of money needed (approximately \$90,000), and our lack of publishing expertise, we decided to visit the University of New Mexico Press to look into the possibility of co-publishing the book with them. We met with David Holtby, Associate Director and Editor-in-Chief, in late September and found that they were very interested in working with us. In December, a Steering

(See Guide on page 4)

Adopt-A-Trail Program

FY2003 was a good year for the Adopt-A-Trail Program. We added three new groups: D&K Halvorson (Embudito Trail), San Antonito Elementary School (Sulphur Canyon Trail), Boy Scouts – Webelos Pack 460/Den 3 (Three Gun Trail) for a total of 23 groups. A number of organizations are currently considering joining the program. Maintenance activities have been good with a majority of the groups having been out working on their trails, and put in over 829 volunteer man-hours. Friends accompanied AAT groups five times for training or to help with the work. For those of you that have not made it out yet, there's still time before winter. Also please follow up with a trail maintenance report or e-mail me the

(See Adopt on page 7)

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND CHAIRPERSONS

President: Sam Beard
 Vice President: Dick Traeger
 Treasurer: Don Carnicom
 Secretary: Margaret Furman

Board Me

Richard Becker 56 Don Peterson
 Gordon Sargent ; Anne Hickman
 Betty Smith Paul Stubbe
 Officers listed above are also Board Members

Committees/Chairpersons

Finance: Don Carnicom
 Publicity: Open
 Projects/Trails: Sam Beard
 Education: Betty Smith
 Membership: Kayreen Sargent
 Fund Raising: Open
 Newsletter: Don Peterson

National Trails Day

This annual event, which was centered at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Ground on June 7, was organized by the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, Sandia Ranger District, City Open Space Division, and New Mexico Friends of the Forest with Bill Velasquez being the coordinator. The following project descriptions were collected from Friends who participated in NTD.

Embudo Horse Bypass Trail Maintenance, Leader: Phyllis Martinez

Crew Members: Don Carnicom, Bill Geck, Beth Wright, and eight Sandia Civitans who adopted this trail. Check dams, retaining walls, and steps were constructed. One sign was installed at a trail junction directing hikers to the Embudo Horse Bypass Trail. Two signs were installed at unofficial user trails indicating the route of the official Horse Bypass Trail.

Elena Gallegos Picnic Ground

Gerry Sussman sold raffle tickets to support the Friends/UNM Press project to publish **A Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains**. Anne Hickman handed out information about the Friends at a table with the Adopt-A-Trail display board.

Pino Trail Reroute and Portal Sign Roof Repair, Leader: Newton Garland

Reroute Crew Members: Brian Routhier and Rick Atwell (USFS), Margaret Furman, and about six others. These volunteers constructed a short reroute of the trail from an arroyo bottom to a location north of a huge boulder on a low ridge. The crew pruned branches on several pinyon trees, constructed a trail tread, and placed pruned branches on the old route to discourage use. They hiked up the trail and pruned

(See National on page 7)

Schedule of N. M. Friends of the Forest Activities September- November 2003

Sat., Sept. 27 Fall Maintenance of Te- colote Trail

We will prune and clean water bars on our adopted trail near the Sandia Peak Ski Area. Tools will be provided. Bring gloves, snacks, drinks, and lunch. Wear hiking boots, long pants, and long sleeved shirt. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:30 a. m. or Dry Camp Picnic Ground at 9 a.m.. Call Don Carnicom, 281-3421, if you have questions.

Tues., Oct. 7 N. M. Friends of the For- est Program and Annual Meeting

Jeremy Hanlon, Sandia Ranger District, will present information about how to start thinning private woodlots to reduce fire hazards and improve forest health – selecting trees, slash disposal, time of year, and selecting a contractor, if needed. The refreshment period will be followed by a business meeting in which completed projects will be reviewed and officers and board members will be elected. 7 – 9 p.m., Sandia Ranger Station.

Sat., Oct. 4 Removal of Barbed Wire Fence in Embudito Canyon

This fence lies along the southern boundary of the earlier Elena Gallegos Land Grant and is no longer needed. We will meet at the Embudito Trailhead parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and hike about one-half mile to the work site. Bring gloves, snacks, drinks, and lunch. Wear hiking boots, long pants, and long sleeved shirt. Tools will be provided. Call Sam Beard, 828-0673, if you have questions.

Emergency Trail Maintenance Crew Activities

This volunteer crew removes fallen trees from hiking and crosscountry ski trails during all seasons of the year. Don Carnicom, Bill Geck, and Ron Hayenga usually go out about once each week to cut trees, install signs, or do other work in the field. They are sometimes joined by Phyllis Martinez, Chris Michel, Sam Beard, Newton Garland or the Lowders and welcome others who would like a day in the outdoors. Since last fall, this group has worked on several of the major trails on the Sandia Ranger District: 10K North and South, Survey, Osha Loop, Tree Spring, Faulty, and others. They also installed an Adopt-A-Trail sign for Hawkwatch International/Intel at the Hawkwatch Trailhead. Lynn Bender makes these beautiful signs with red-colored wood from junipers cut on the District.

Embudito Canyon Barbed Wire Fence Removal Project

At the request of Phyllis Martinez, who is rerouting part of the hiking trail in Embudito Canyon, the Friends began removing the old barbed wire fence which was the south boundary of the Elena Gallegos Land Grant. This land is now in the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. While working on the project in April, Sam Beard and Larry King found the official 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5-mile markers (Mile Posts) along this boundary. On April 26 Larry, Sam, and Newton Garland removed about 1/8 mile of 4-strand fence between MPs 2.5 and 3.0 and rolled it into “donuts” which will be removed from the wilderness later. The west end of the fence was at MP 3.5 on the eastern boundary of the Glenwood Hills Subdivision just SE of the Embudito parking lot. About one-

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Committee was established to provide oversight for the project which included Dick Traeger as Chair, Sam Beard, and Don Carnicom from the Friends of the Forest, and Mary Bean, Dana Howlett, and Mary Voldahl from the Forest Service. Mary Stuever was appointed Editorial Coordinator, and Gerry Sussman was named Project Leader.

It was also decided, at that time, to definitely co-publish with the UNM Press, because our main goal, everyone agreed, was not to make as much money as possible, but to have a high quality and attractive Guide for the general public and for ourselves. We agreed, with UNM Press, to select the specialists to write the various sections and to polish their work to the best of our ability. We also agreed to help fund the very many color illustrations that will appear in the Guide. The Press will carry the bulk of the expense involved in publishing the Field Guide, about \$75,000, and they will do the final editing and designing of the book. They will, with our help, market and sell the Guide.

Our kickoff meeting was held in January, time lines were established, and task force leaders appointed, all with the goal of producing excellence in every aspect and handing the manuscript over to UNM Press in January, 2004, for publication in early spring, 2005. Fund raising efforts started shortly thereafter, and after a slow start, picked up speed and have brought in almost \$30,000. Our expectation is that we may need another \$5,000 to cover all our costs with \$10,000 going towards color illustrations, and \$22,000-\$25,000 for internal editorial and management costs.

One change occurred in mid-summer when Mary Stuever took a full-time position in Arizona. While she will continue to contrib-

Third Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race

Jeff Young organized the Third Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race which was held on February 1. Sixty snowshoers registered for this event, and 50 finished the race. The course was a 3.5-mile loop from the Crest parking lot to the Tram terminal along cross country ski trails. Other Friends who assisted with track preparation or during the race were Don Carnicom, Bill Geck, Stan Upchurch, Gordon and Kayreen Sargent, Art Arenholz, and Dick Traeger. At the April monthly meeting, Jeff donated \$500 to the Friends which was applied toward Field Guide publication costs.

(Ranger continued from page 1)

Bob and Sally Lowder have kindly volunteered to begin managing this worthwhile program at the end of the 2004 season. (Art Arenholz, Junior Ranger Program Manager)

ute to the project, Bob Julyan has taken over most of the day-to-day editorial coordination. Most of the preliminary, and some finished material, has been submitted and is being read by our reviewers and Bob Julyan, who is editing the work. The next step will be sending each section to outside reviewers for their comments. It looks as though, with a bit of prodding, we are on target to hand the material over to UNM Press in January.

Forest Service support has been provided by Mary Bean, Mary Voldahl, Jean Szmanski, Dana Howlett, and Susan Johnson. (Gerry Sussman)

(Crew continued from page 3)

quarter mile of the fence east of MP 3.5 was rolled into “donuts” and taken to the trailhead by Sam, Larry, and Stan Upchurch on other days. The Friends plan to remove the remainder of the fence between MPs 2.5 and 3.0 later this fall. Leaders: Sam Beard and Larry King.

Spring Tecolote Trail Maintenance

On May 10, Newton Garland, Bill Geck, Margaret Furman, Sam Beard, Sue Mann, and Fred Harrison performed spring maintenance on the Friends adopted trail which begins at Dry Camp Picnic Ground. These volunteers cleaned water bars, applied wood preservative to the AAT sign, and cut brush with loppers and a gasoline-powered brush cutter. The group then enjoyed lunch together in the picnic ground. Leader: Don Carnicom.

Spruce-Up Crew Activities

These volunteers paint and may make minor repairs on District structures such as signs and restrooms, and they welcome others who would like this type of informal volunteer work. Manny Chavez and Phyllis Martinez provide the paint and brushes.

Last fall Charles and Marcia Wood and their daughter cut brush and pruned branches in front of the large portal sign at the North Crest Trailhead. Sam Beard and Stan Upchurch later painted this structure with gray wilderness paint.

Two medium-sized brown trailhead signboards have also been painted. Charles and Marcia applied new paint to the map board on the Foothills Trail near the Elena Gallegos pay booth, and Stan and Sam painted the signboard at the Embudito parking lot. The top 6 x 6 on these signs is badly weathered and cracked and would benefit from the installation of a simple roof.

Volunteer Ron Phillips and Phyllis Martinez, USFS, designed both steel and wood simple shed-type roofs for recently installed large portal signs. Phyllis plans to let the posts and frame of the steel signs rust naturally to reduce maintenance. Ron and his neighbor, Ralph Meyering, fabricate these roofs at Ron’s home and install them on the wood signs with bolts and on the steel sign with welded joints. Felt and wood shingles are nailed to plywood sheeting. These single-pitch roofs have been installed on signs at the following trailheads: lower La Luz, Tunnel Canyon, Otero Canyon, and Mars Court near David Canyon. This shed-type roof is simpler, much more waterproof, and less expensive than the pitched roofs on the existing portal signs and will require much less maintenance.

During the summer, this crew began a project to paint as many trailhead and parking lot information display boards as possible before winter. These boards range in size from one foot square to 4 feet by 8 feet. In the western foothills, a total of seven boards were prepared and painted at the Piedra Lisa South, La Luz, Embudo, and Embudito Trailheads. On the east side, a total of about 19 information boards were painted at the Crest, Ellis, Nine-Mile, Tree Spring, Doc Long, Canyon Estates, Tunnel Canyon, and Otero Canyon parking lots. (Stan Upchurch, Sam Beard, and Margaret Furman)

Guide Raffle Winners

Sonny Traeger: SW Airlines tickets; Bob Julyan: quilt by NM Quilters Association; Angela Silva, Rio Rancho: Adair Peterson’s glass art; Chris Hollowwa: woodblock of Sandias by Mary Sweet; Dave Hafner: Smokey Bear balloon ride; Mary Voldahl: balloon ride contributed by Nick Maleski; Mickey Hogue: year membership to Presbyterian Healthplex.

Other Activities

* **Yahoo Email Groups** – The two Yahoo email groups, Sandia-Volunteers-and-NMFOF and CibolaTrailRangers, continued to be managed by the Friends. Margaret Furman manages the moderated SVANMFOF Egroup which primarily transmits official information to volunteers from Sandia Ranger District personnel and the Friends board. The CTR Egroup is managed by Don Carnicom and is a more informal unmoderated Egroup used to communicate trail conditions and maintenance among the volunteers who frequently hike and remove fallen trees from the trails. The number of members in each groups is: SVANMFOF, 197, and CTR, 62. Contact Margaret at springblue@flash.net to join the SVANMFOF Egroup and Don at 281-3421 or d-mcarnicom@att.net to join the CTR Egroup.

* **New Crest-Tram Area Handout Map** – A draft map of the Crest–Upper Tramway Terminal area including all the hiking trails, crosscountry ski trails, roads, and the ridge-line cliffs was prepared for the Sandia Ranger District by Sam Beard. This inexpensive black and white map will be copied locally and given to visitors planning to hike trails in this area, especially the Tram–Crest Loop along the La Luz Trail, Crest Spur Trail, and Crest Trail. A more professional version of this map will be prepared by the cartographers in the Regional Office using GPS data taken by Dick Vivian.

* The Friends supported the **Limbwood Festival** at the Sandia Ranger Station in October, 2002, and the **Sandia Mountain Discovery Day** at the Sandia Peak Ski Area on July 26.

FY2003 Programs at Monthly NMFOF Meetings

The following programs presented at the monthly Friends meetings were considered training sessions for Sandia Ranger District volunteers.

* October, 2002. Cliff Dils, Mary Bean, and Dana Howlett – Thanked the Friends for their FY2002 contributions and reported on activities on the Sandia Ranger District.

* November. Report on Junior Ranger Program by Art Arenholz and plans for Third Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race on February 1, 2003, by Jeff Young.

* January. Tallac Historic Site, Lake Tahoe, California, by Dotty and Lynn Bender. Slides and their experiences while restoring, preserving, and maintaining buildings and interpreting for the public.

* February. Business meeting: Snowshoe Race report by Jeff Young and discussions of FY2003 monthly meeting programs and projects.

* March. New Zealand Slide Show by Sam Beard. Some emphasis on NZ trail construction, trail signs, and the timber industry.

* April. Place Names of the Sandia Mountains by Bob Julyan. Origins of many place names and a description of the process to officially name or rename topographic features.

* May. Noxious Weeds of the Sandia Mountains by April Fletcher. Slides of numerous noxious weeds with an emphasis on the severity of the problem in some parts of the United States.

* June. Life Zones of the Sandia Mountains by Paul Polechla. Descriptions of the life zones, flora, and fauna from the foothills to Sandia Crest.

* July. Sandia Mountains Natural History Center by Helen Haskell. Helen described

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(National continued from page 2)

branches, removed one small leaning tree, relocated a drainage, and replaced a retaining log along the edge of the trail tread. Afterward, they assisted the roofing crew with carrying out leftover materials.

Sign Roof Repair Crew: Newton Garland, Dick Traeger, and two others.

This crew removed the weathered shingles, installed felt (tar paper), and nailed shingles on both 2-ft x 10-ft slopes of the pitched roof protecting the large display board and roof structural wooden beams. A galvanized steel ridge cap was installed along the top of the roof to help prevent separation of the two roof sides and to prevent water leaks where the top shingles meet.

Piedra Lisa Trail Portal Sign Repair and Painting. Leader: Stan Upchurch

Crew Members: Sam Beard, Meredith Beard (daughter from N. C.) and Debbie Smith.

These volunteers screwed the roof sheeting of precut chipboard (OSB) and plywood to the roof rafters. The plywood was cut to the correct size with a saw powered by the SRD's new 110-volt gasoline-powered electric generator. Felt was stapled and nailed to the sheeting, and three courses of wood shingles were attached to the roof with ring shank nails to reduce nail movement. The sign was also scraped and wire-brushed in preparation for painting. The underside of the sheeting was painted on Saturday afternoon. A galvanized steel ridge cap was also installed on the ridgeline of this sign. Construction materials were brought to the site on Saturday morning by Chris Michel (USFS) who helped with the Piedra Lisa Trail maintenance.

NTD Commercial Supporters. Bill Velasquez, the National Trails Day organ-

(Programs continued from page 6)

the Center programs for Albuquerque Public Schools students and closed by having the Friends identify skulls of local animals.

* August. Bird Migration by Art Arenholz. Information about bird migration, North American bird migration routes, and bird identification slides.

* September. Bark Beetles by George Duda, N. M. State Urban Forester. Details of the life cycle of bark beetles, the few effective insecticides, and why most common eradication methods fail.

(Adopt continued from page 2)

details, and I will file the report.

During the year Dick Traeger, Anne Hickman, and I made presentations at a number of group meetings to encourage more participation in the program. Early in the season, Lynn Bender refinished six Adopt-A-Trail signs that had been vandalized. (Don Carnicom, AAT Committee Chair)

izer, requested that we include in our newsletter the following item about the companies who supported the NTD. The volunteers and local sponsors of the 2003 National Trail Day event, that were listed above, appreciate the monetary and product donations made by the following companies: REI, Sportz Outdoor, Leki, Frito Lay, Great Harvest Bread, Wolfe's Baking Company, Wild Oats Marketplace, The North Face, Costco, Katadyn, Camelbak, Trail Runner Magazine, Starbucks, Black Diamond, Power Bar, Princeton Tec, and Marmot.

NMFOF MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please Come to the Annual Meeting on October 7

The annual meeting for FOF will be held at the Sandia Range Station in Tijeras at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2003. Program: How to Start Thinning Private Woodlots by Jeremy Hanlon, USFS. Elections will be held for officers and open board positions. We would like to see you there — please plan to attend! If you are unable to attend, FOF members may mail their ballot. See the ballot on page 9.

Membership Status

At the beginning of FY2003 we had 117 members. Presently we have 121. This year we added ten new members and one new life member. Come join us at a monthly meeting or on one of our frequent projects. Welcome aboard. New members were

G. Sussman	K. Mohr
V. Fisher	Y. Martin
R. Santillanes	R. Robillard
J. Schatzman	L. King
M. Williams	F. Hovorka

Annual membership dues are due January 1, 2004.

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Sat., Oct. 11 Removal of Barbed Wire Fence in Embudito Canyon

See outing description for Oct. 4 above.

Thurs., Oct. 23, Cutting and Chipping Salt Cedar at Tunnel Springs. (The date may change.) Call Sam Beard, 828-0673

(The fence removal project originally scheduled for October 25 was moved to an earlier date.)

Tues., Nov. 4 N. M. Friends of the Forest Monthly Meeting

Jeremy Kruger will make a presentation

Treasurer's Report

We began FY2003 on Oct. 1, 2002, with a balance of \$6,600.47 and on Aug. 31, 2003, we had a balance of \$3531.55. Our income for the fiscal year has been \$2195.95 with expenses of \$5264.87. Significant income came from Junior Ranger Contributions, a new Life Member, the Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race, and the sale of USFS Volunteer T-shirts worn by many of the Forest Service Volunteers. The major expenses resulted from buying Junior Ranger patches and a transfer of \$3645 to the Field Guide account that was opened in March and now has a balance of \$22,268.37. If you would like a detailed Treasurer's Report for FY2003 for either account, call me, and I will mail you a copy. You can learn more about the Field Guide Project and the Junior Ranger Program elsewhere in this report. (Don Carnicom, Treasurer)

about the State Land Office which manages the State Trust Lands. Royalties from gas and oil wells and grazing leases on Trust Lands support certain types of state institutions. The refreshment period will be followed by a short business meeting. 7 – 9 p.m., Sandia Ranger Station.

No NMFOF Monthly Meeting In December. Monthly meetings will resume in January 2004.

NEW MEXICO FRIENDS OF THE FOREST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you hike, bike, ride a horse or use the forest in any way, we know you enjoy what nature has given us in our forests. But all our traffic takes a toll on our forest lands. With limited funds and personnel, the US Forest Service is hard pressed to care for our thousands of acres in New Mexico. That's why we have formed a citizens' non-profit organization: New Mexico Friends of the Forest. Join us and get our newsletter. Check your interests below and we will get back to you about projects you would enjoy.

Conservation: _____ Education: _____ Restoration: _____
 Site Stewardship: _____ Visitor Services: _____ Fund Raising: _____
 Wildlife and Habitat Monitoring: _____ Learning by Doing: _____
 Trail Construction and Maintenance: _____ Other (describe below): _____

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Tax Deductible Dues Donation: \$10-Student \$15-Individual \$20-Family
 \$30-Organization \$50-Sponsor \$100-Benefactor
 \$250-Life Sponsor \$500-Corporate Sponsor

Mail your check to: New Mexico Friends of the Forest
 PO Box 1832, Tijeras, NM 87059

BALLOT: OCTOBER 7, 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

We appreciate the contributions of those board members whose terms are expiring at the end of September: Richard Becker, Don Peterson, Don Carnicom, Gordon Sargent, and Margaret Furman. The continuing board members are Sam Beard, Dick Traeger, Betty Smith, Paul Stubbe, and Anne Hickman. The members listed below have been nominated for officer and board member positions. Other nominations are encouraged. If you are interested in serving as an officer or board member, please contact Sam Beard, 828-0673, or Don Carnicom, 281-3421.

President:
 1. Sam Beard _____
 2. _____

Vice President:
 1. Gerry Sussman _____
 2. _____

Treasurer:
 1. Don Carnicom _____
 2. _____

Secretary:
 1. Margaret Furman _____
 2. _____

Board members (Vote for Four):
 1. Richard Becker ____ 2. Don Peterson ____ 3. Bob Lowder ____ 4. Sally Lowder ____
 5. _____

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

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 P. O. Box 1832
 Tijeras, NM 87059

NEW MEXICO
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