

New Mexico Friends of the Forest

Annual Newsletter, September 2004



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

Next Meeting
Speaker: Jim Sattler, City Open
Space
Topic: Albuquerque Open
Spaces

Sandia Ranger Station
Tuesday, October 5

New Sandia District Ranger

Jackie Andrew will be the new District Ranger on the Sandia Ranger District and will begin on October 12, 2004. During her teenage years she lived in Santa Fe and has been the Ranger on a district in Minnesota. Jackie, welcome to the Sandia Ranger District!

Sandia Mountain Junior Ranger Program

For the past seven years, the N. M. Friends of the Forest and U. S. Forest Service have offered the Junior Ranger Program to families who visited the Visitor Center at either the Upper Tram Terminal or Sandia Crest. This program, available to children ages 6 to 14, awards an attractive embroidered patch or a shiny, pin-on badge for completing a nature walk and a short nature quiz.

We award about 1,000 Junior Rangers each summer, and this year, even with the month-long fire danger closure of the forest, we expect to close the season with slightly below that number. A special Thank You

(See Ranger continued on page 2)

Field Guide to the Sandias

After the thousands of hours that our volunteer writers, editors, fund raisers, and the many others involved in developing the Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains invested in this project, we turned it over to the University of New Mexico Press on February 26. Many issues still needed to be resolved: missing photographs, incomplete sections, more sidebars, etc., and from that point until the end of August, Bob Julyan carried the major responsibility of filling in the remaining pieces. Bob did a magnificent job in cobbling together the many parts into a wonderful and cohesive book that flows easily from one chapter to another.

We should see page proofs in another three or four weeks, and each writer will have a week to review his/her section. Then the Press will send it out for color work, printing and binding, and finished copies will be in their warehouse in March 2005. The expected selling price is \$17.95. The publication date will be in April which gives them time to get books into bookstores and reviewers' hands before the official publica-

(See Guide on page 3)

Adopt-A-Trail Program

FY2004 was a good year for the Adopt-A-Trail Program. We added two new groups: Trail Partners (Tunnel Canyon Trail) and Junior Civitans of East Mountain High School (Cienega Canyon Trail) for a total of 25 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 they put in over 675 volunteer person-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 details, and I will file the report. (Don Carnicom)

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND CHAIRPERSONS

President:	Sam Beard
Vice President:	Gerry Sussman
Treasurer:	Don Carnicom
Secretary:	Margaret Furman

Board Members

Richard Becker	Don Peterson
Richard Traeger	Anne Hickman
Betty Smith	Paul Stubbe
Bob Lowder	Sally Lowder

Officers listed above are also Board Members

Committees/Chairpersons

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

Plans for Recreational Information Tabloid

During the spring and summer, a few NMFOF Board members and SRD staff members looked into the possibility of developing a tabloid-style paper that would carry basic information about the Sandia Ranger District, as well as listing forthcoming events and meetings scheduled by the Forest Service and the two Friends groups. Our thinking was that the basic information would remain in every issue, perhaps twice a year, and that we would tuck in a separate page listing forthcoming events. Initially we had planned to include some natural history information, but, not surprisingly, UNMPress thought it might impede sales of our Guide. We then went back to the Press with a different list of information that we would include and it was approved. We will include material on picnic areas and camping, volunteer information, a map of the Sandias and Manzanitas, fee demonstration project and pass information, wilderness restrictions, a table of monthly average temperatures and precipitation, and another of trail length and difficulty. Also included will be information about permitted and prohibited activities, winter activities, the visitor centers, biking, horseback riding, the Ranger Station, Hawkwatch, important telephone numbers, and Leave No Trace policy. We hope to get started with this new project in the next few months. (Gerry Sussman)

(Ranger continued from page 1)

goes out to the Sandia Crest House Gift Shop and Restaurant for sponsoring this program every year since it started.

Starting next summer, the energetic team of Sally and Bob Lowder will manage the Junior Ranger Program. (Art Arenholz)

Kiwanis Meadow Fence Project

The major field project this year was rebuilding the buck-and-pole fence around Kiwanis Meadow. Beverly DeGruyter, Sandia Ranger District Wildlife Biologist, requested these repairs to better protect the meadow for vegetation restoration and improved wildlife habitat. On nine outings in August and September, a total of 14 volunteers participated in the project with seven of them working four or more days.

Many fence sections were in poor condition with sagging bucks (large wooden Xs) and missing or broken poles. New components cut locally in the Sandia Mountains were provided by Jonathan Boe and the SRD Fire Crew. Threaded steel rod and hundreds of long lag screws, nuts, and washers were purchased with Friends' funds. The fence crew mastered the skill of bark removal with drawknives. They peeled dozens of white fir poles and braces so that the wood will dry quickly and not hold moisture which causes decay. The crew built three new fence sections and rebuilt about 60 sections in locations ranging from Kiwanis Cabin to Kiwanis Meadow Road and the south side of the meadow. Volunteers working many long hours were Don Carnicom, Bob Moore, Sally and Bob Lowder, Dan Benton, Newton Garland, Ron Hayenga, Art Arenholz, Paul Stubbe, Anne Hickman, Bill Geck, Tim Brown, Cheryl Robison, and Sam Beard. USFS employees who contributed directly to this project were: Modesto Sanchez and Manny Chavez: electrical generator, drill, and a pickup, and Phyllis Martinez: drawknives and other tools. (Sam Beard)

Sandia Crest Scenic Byway Sign Repair and Painting

The large 5-foot by 25-foot Scenic Byway sign at the Triangle at the intersection of NM-14 and NM-536 was designed and constructed in 1991 by Ross Ward, the Tinkertown artist and craftsman. The most outstanding features of the sign are the big horn sheep and buffalo images cut in a steel plate which has a natural iron oxide patina. After the Friends noticed the weathered and sun-damaged wooden surfaces, Don Carnicom checked with the N. M. Department of Transportation, the Sandia Ranger District, the builder's widow, and the Turquoise Trail Association; but no one claimed ownership or responsibility for this attractive landmark.

The Friends unofficially adopted the sign, and on April 21 twelve volunteers rebuilt the two lumber joints. Large nails were replaced with lag screws which pulled the warped boards into alignment. The volunteers then painted the red background and large cream countersunk letters. Two volunteers returned on May 5 to paint the turquoise letters. An article and photograph of the project work appeared in an East Mountain newspaper. Volunteers working on the project were Hoyt Beard, Sam Beard, Bob Moore, Dan Benton, Tim Brown, Bob Lowder, Bill Metz, Stan Upchurch, Dick Baumann, Lynn Bender, Don Carnicom, and Newton Garland. (Sam Beard)

(Guide continued from page 1)

tion date. As we have said before, and it bears repeating, this has been a labor of love for all of us, and it will be our gift to all those who take great enjoyment from the Sandias. The Field Guide will forever be a source of pride for the volunteers and Forest Service. (Gerry Sussman)

Maintenance of Wildlife Drinkers in Manzanita Mountains

A few dozen wildlife watering devices (known as "drinkers" or just "waters") are located throughout the Sandia Ranger District. Some designs of drinkers are: concrete troughs in canyon bottoms (Embudo Canyon mouth), pipes from a spring to a trough (Media Spring), large-surface-area rubber or metal collectors with a tank and float valve, and large galvanized steel culvert-like tanks with sloping collection panels on top. Maintenance requirements include repairing tears in the rubber linings or holes in a metal tank, repairing float valves, replacing hose or pipes, and removing gravel from troughs.

On April 14, Beverly DeGruyter, SRD Wildlife Biologist, Daniel Harbour, Sandia National Laboratories Security Force, and volunteer Sam Beard inspected drinkers at four locations on the western slopes of the Manzanita Mountains immediately east of Kirtland Air Force Base. On July 28, Beverly, Sam, and volunteers Dan Benton and Bob Moore performed maintenance on five drinkers east of KAFB. At the three drinkers in Sol Se Mete Canyon, the work included installing bolts and nuts securing the steel collectors, installing two wooden run-off deflectors to reduce silt collection, pruning a juniper to reduce deposition of needles in a tank, replacing a 2-ft by 12-ft metal panel, cleaning a collector screen, removing wood and metal from an old collector, and delivering a roll of black plastic pipe.

On May 18 Beverly, Sam, and Mary Voldahl, USFS, checked waters at three locations in David Canyon south of the Ranger Station and west of NM-337. Repairs will be made at these drinkers when patching material has been obtained. (Sam Beard)

News Items

* Sandia Ranger District and Friends' member, Stan Upchurch, has moved to Colorado Springs. Stan was a very active volunteer on the SRD, in the City Open Space, and at local races. He participated in several NMFOF projects over the past three years and was especially interested in graffiti removal and trash collection. He is best known for the restoration of several stone and concrete restrooms built during the Depression in the Juan Tabo and La Cueva Picnic Areas. We will miss Stan and wish him well in Colorado.

* In October 2003, Don Carnicom installed professionally fabricated map panels purchased with NMFOF funds at the Doc Long, Sulphur Canyon, and Cienega Picnic Areas and at the Cienega Horse Bypass Trailhead. Phyllis Martinez, trails leader at the Sandia Ranger District, created all of the maps.

* The NMFOF Board agreed to support the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition (TCSPC) being organized by Jan Hayes. The group is working for the construction of a wildlife passage over or under I-40 and NM-333. The structure would reduce the number of vehicle-animal collisions which injure or kill humans as well as wildlife.

Spruce-Up Crew Activities

* Upper Balsam Glade Restroom, October 2003 – Sam Beard scraped and painted the exterior walls which were in bad condition with much of the paint being cracked or missing.

* The large gray portal signs with roofs at the following trailheads were painted or repaired by the volunteers listed: Lower La Luz Trailhead—Stan Upchurch: 3-Gun Canyon Trailhead—Don Peterson and Sam Beard: and Tunnel Spring, Mars Court, and Tunnel Canyon—Sam Beard.

(Crew continued on page 5)

Cienega Nature Trail Renovation

The Cienega Nature Trail is one of only two wheelchair-accessible trails in the Sandia Mountains. It is located in the central part of the Cienega Picnic Area near the group picnic tables. All of the aluminum Braille interpretive sign panels have been damaged or removed. On July 13, seven members of the Wind Walkers (an East Mountain hiking group), five USFS volunteers, and five Friends worked seven hours cutting grass and weeds, painting wood structures, repairing hand rails and barrier fences, and installing new "Wheelchair-Accessible" signs. Volunteers working on this project were Jane Harrison, Chris Husted, Glenda Muirhead, Denis Shirley, Dona DuQuin, Justin Scott, Marge Ussery, Marge Larson, Lynn Buhaug, Heide Front, Rikki Barrett, Anne Hickman, Don Carnicom, Bob and Sally Lowder, Sam Beard, and Bob Moore. (Don Carnicom)

Tecolote Trail Maintenance

A great team of people showed up on the morning of August 14 to help whip Tecolote Trail into shape. Friends of the Forest members, Forest Service Volunteers, Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) members, and USFS managers Mary Bean, Dana Howlett, and Rick Atwell joined to clean water bars, trim brush, and paint the Friends' AAT sign. A picnic lunch, following the work, was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all the people for taking time out of their busy schedules to spruce up a heavily used trail. The wildflowers were great, too. The other participants were Newton Garland, Jane Harrison, Tim Brown, Margaret Furman, Don Carnicom, Rav Nicholson, Bob and Sally Lowder, Sue Mann, Sam Beard, and Anne Hickman. (Don Carnicom)

Embudito Canyon Barbed Wire Fence Removal Project

The barbed wire fence removal project in Embudito Canyon begun in FY2003 was continued this year. This fence was on the south boundary of the Elena Gallegos Land Grant. The fence immediately east of Greenwood Hills and some of the fence near the trail being rerouted by Phyllis Martinez, USFS, were removed in FY2003. On October 4 and 11, volunteers completed removing the wire from the posts and rolling it into bundles. Most of the bundles were carried to the trailhead as the volunteers hiked out. Volunteers working on this project in FY2004 were Charles Wood, Sam Beard, Marion Simon, Andy Simon, Newton Garland, Dan Benton, and Merrill Callaway. During the summer of 2004, Stan Upchurch and Sam Beard carried out the remaining seven rolls of wire. The steel posts are firmly set in the very rocky mountain side, and no efficient method of removal has been found. (Sam Beard)

Emergency Trail Maintenance Crew Activities

This volunteer crew removes fallen trees from hiking and cross country 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.

(Crew continued from page 4)

* Following a late winter storm with heavy wet snow which broke dozens of tree branches around the Ranger Station, several Friends cut hanging damaged branches and collected broken limbs and placed them in piles for chipping later.

National Trails Day Projects

Several Friends worked on National Trails Day projects on June 5. Following the welcome and sign-up for projects at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Ground, volunteers went to several work sites on the west side of the Sandia Mountains. Some NMFOF members did trail work on the Embudo Horse Bypass Trail which is located on the ridge south of the hiking trail which follows the canyon bottom. Other Friends painted the structure and installed wooden shingles and a metal ridge cap on the large gray USFS portal sign at the Embudo Trailhead at the east end of Indian School Road. Anne Hickman and Gerry Sussman distributed NMFOF literature and information to the participants. (Bill Geck)

Yahoo Email Groups

The two Yahoo email groups, Sandia-Volunteers-and-NMFOF and Cibola Trail Rangers, continue 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 information among the volunteers who frequently hike and remove fallen trees from the trails. The number of members in each group is: SVANMFOF, 226, and CTR, 80. Contact Margaret at springazure@flash.net to join the SVANMFOF Egroup and Don at 281-3421 or d-mcarnicom@att.net to join the CTR Egroup. (Don Carnicom and Margaret Furman)

FOF Participation in Outdoor Events

Several members distributed NMFOF literature and information at outdoor events in FY2004.

* Limbwood Festival at Sandia Ranger Station, October 25, 2003—Sam Beard demonstrated cross cut saws, explained tooth designs, and cut logs with visitors. A picture of a young girl cutting with a saw appeared in a local paper.

* New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Expo at Shooting Range Park near Double Eagle Airport, May 15—Sue Mann

* Bear Fair at the Sandia Peak Ski Area Lodge, June 12—Don Carnicom and Anne Hickman. This event was organized by Jan Hayes, Sandia Mountain Bear Watch.

* Sandia Mountain Discovery Day at Sandia Peak Ski Area Lodge, July 31—Don Carnicom.

* Albuquerque RV & Boat Show, January 10 and 11—Tim Brown and other SRD volunteers.

Weed Warrior Projects

The Friends organized three outings in cooperation with Beverly DeGruyter and Mary Voldahl, USFS, to work on the eradication of salt cedar and elm trees on the SRD.

Tunnel Spring Trailhead, October 23, 2003: About two dozen large salt cedar plants and several small elm trees were cut and chipped by Beverly, Jeremy Hanlon, USFS, and volunteers Stan Upchurch, Stan Booker,

(Weeds continued on page 7)

Volunteers Certified as Chain Saw Operators

Last spring three SRD volunteers were certified as chain saw operators for felling trees and bucking (cutting) timber already on the ground. Two Friends, Don Carnicom and Sam Beard, have subsequently operated saws on trail maintenance outings and also projects such as the repair of the Kiwanis Meadow fence. Bill Metz has used his certification to contribute to N. M. Volunteers for the Outdoors projects and the building of the Education Center sponsored by the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo. Sam has also operated saws on the Jemez Ranger District and the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Don, Bill, and Sam thank the following employees who facilitated their certification: Phyllis Martinez for making arrangements for the certification class, Alex Allen for the field certification, and the Fire Crew for classroom instruction and field practice. (Sam Beard)

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and Sam Beard.

Juan Tabo and La Cueva Picnic Areas, January 29: Small elm trees and elm brush in and around these picnic areas and along the paved road were cut and the slash was scattered by Beverly and Mary Voldahl, USFS, and volunteers Bob and Sally Lowder, Stan Booker, and Sam Beard.

Oak Flat Group Picnic Area, March 30: A few dozen small elm trees and elm brush along the edges of the paved streets were cut and piled for chipping by Mary Voldahl and volunteers Tim Brown, Dan Benton, Bob Moore, Anne Hickman, and Sam Beard.

Refreshments for Monthly Meetings

We owe a big THANK YOU to Anne Hickman, refreshments coordinator, and all the members who brought refreshments to the monthly meetings during FY2004. Anne will again be in charge of finding members to bring refreshments. The social/refreshments period is an enjoyable and important part of each meeting when attendees meet new people, discuss FOF business, talk with Forest Service personnel, and relax with friends sharing common interests. If you would like to bring refreshments one month, please contact Anne at 292-7025 or LaSasha198@aol.com. Members are reimbursed for the cost of the refreshments.

Programs at NMFOF Monthly Meetings

The following programs presented at monthly Friends' meetings were considered volunteer training sessions by the Sandia Ranger District.

- * October 2003. Protecting homes from wildfire by Mary Voldahl and Aman Chollas, Fire Crew.
- * November 2003. State Trust Lands by Jeremy Kruger, N. M. State Land Office.
- * January. Business meeting.
- * February. No meeting due to snow storm.
- * March. Sandia Mountains wildlife herds by Scott Brown, N. M. Game and Fish Department.
- * April. Geology of the Sandia Mountains by Dirk Van Hart.
- * May. Noxious weeds by April Fletcher and Mary Voldahl.
- * June. Restoration and permaculture on arid lands by Adam Trujillo.
- * July. Sandia Mountain Wilderness history by Dana Howlett and N. M. Wilderness Al-

(Programs continued on page 8)

NMFOF MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please Come to the Annual Meeting on October 5

The annual meeting for FOF will be held at the Sandia Range Station in Tijeras at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 5, 2004. 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 in their ballot. See the ballot on page 9.

Membership Status

At the beginning of FY2004, we had 121 members, and presently we have 123 members. This year we added seven new members and two new life members. Come join us at a monthly meeting or one of our field projects. Welcome aboard. New members were

T. Brown	D. Weaver and F. Lusso
K. Hilaire	R. Julyan
P. Beres	H. Jotmann
R. Moore	

Schedule of NMFOF Activities during October and November 2004

* Tuesday, October 5, **Albuquerque Open Spaces** by Jim Sattler with an emphasis on East Mountain open space areas. Annual meeting of NMFOF including election of board members and officers and refreshments. 7 p.m. at Sandia Ranger Station.

* Tuesday, **October 26**, How plants and foods came from Spain to New Mexico and how they changed America by Bill Dunmire who will introduce his new book. Refreshments and NMFOF business meeting. 7 p.m. at Sandia Ranger Station. **(No NMFOF meeting in November)**

* **Weed Warrior Project** – The NMFOF will be sponsoring an elm eradication pro-

Treasurer's Report

We began FY 2004 on October 1, 2003, with a balance of \$2780.05, and on August 27, 2004, the balance was \$3531.55. The largest expense was Wilderness T-shirts for resale, and the largest income was \$500 for the Junior Ranger Program from Sunwest Silver (Crest House).

The beginning balance in the Field Guide account was \$24,139, and the ending balance was \$20,433. Total donations were \$10,790 with \$4000 from the Albuquerque Community Foundation, \$5000 from REI, and the remainder from the photo contest and quilt raffle. Total Field Guide expenses were \$14,495 for payments to Bob Julyan, Editorial Coordinator, and Gerry Sussman, Project Leader.

(Programs continued from page 7)

liance by Steve Capra.

* August. Reptiles of the Sandia Mountains by Damon Salceis.

* September. Tracking by Mike Bocchia, Sandia Ranger District.

ject with Beverly DeGruyter, SRD Wildlife Biologist, to cut and chip elm trees south of the Ranger Station along Cedro creek. We will be working with the Fire Crew and SRD chipper. Watch for upcoming dates.

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 5, 2004 ANNUAL MEETING

We appreciate the contributions of those board members whose terms are expiring at the end of September: Sam Beard, Dick Traeger, Betty Smith, Paul Stubbe, and Anne Hickman. The continuing board members are Don Carnicom, Gerry Sussman, Margaret Furman, Richard Becker, Don Peterson, Bob Lowder, and Sally Lowder. 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. _____
 2. _____

Vice President:
 1. Gerry Sussman _____
 2. _____

Treasurer:
 1. Don Carnicom _____
 2. _____

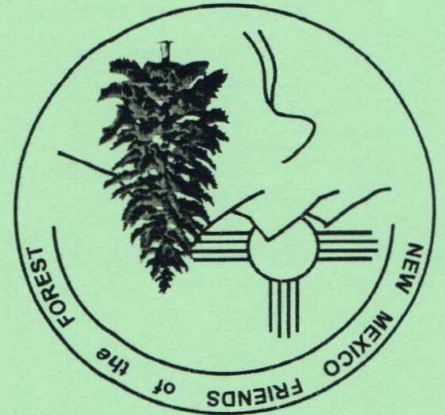
Secretary:
 1. Margaret Furman _____
 2. _____

Board members: (Vote for five)
 1. Sam Beard _____ 2. Paul Stubbe _____ 3. Anne Hickman _____
 4. Tim Brown _____ 5. Bob Moore _____

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

New Mexico Friends of the Forest, Inc.
 P. O. Box 1832

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