

Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Annual Newsletter, September 2009



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

Remaining Meetings of 2009:

7:00 pm at Sandia Ranger Sta.

Tuesday, October 6

Dave Ferguson, Albuquerque
Botanical Gardens
Cacti of the Sandias

Tuesday, November 3

Doug Romig, Ph.D
Tentative topic:
Pinon and Junipers

December: No meeting

From The President

Those of you who have kept up with the Friends of the Sandia Mountains annual newsletter may recall that I attempt to sum up my overall impression of the preceding year whenever possible with one or two words. Unfortunately, the words, "hazard trees" and "removing hazard trees" have been repeated with disturbing regularity. There are still many trees out there which have fallen victim to the years of drought and resulting ravages of insects and disease. They continue to fall or otherwise pose other dangers and must be removed as needed. We will be facing that reality for many years to come.

This year, however, happier words came to mind when I considered my summation. The single word that won out over all the others was "green". Not the green of current popular lexicon, referring to hybrid cars, solar panels or reusable shopping bags, although all those things certainly have their merit, but good old-fashioned **GREEN**, the color of healthy looking trees, carpets of tall grass and patches of flowers just about everywhere you look; green, the color that has been sadly lacking on our mountain too often over many of the past years.

The early onset of our annual rainy season produced an explosion of wildflowers like many of us do not recall since similar early rains a decade ago. Calypso orchids appeared in places they had not been seen before and in astonishing numbers, Mariposa (or Segó) lilies, which were commonly found single or by the few burst forth in groups of a hundred or more and Richardson's geraniums formed large patches

that seemed to have been planted and carefully cultivated. Someone even said that many trail sides looked almost like the proverbial English Garden. The list could go on. If you haven't been out on the mountain yet this year, you are missing a rare and spectacular display. There may still be time before the first frost brings the curtain down on this special show.

This has been yet another outstanding year for our organization, especially in terms of the amount of work done on the Sandia Ranger District. All the pertinent details will be reported in the following pages. It seems that each year, I look back and think, "How could we possibly do more than that?" Sure enough, when I find myself doing this report the following year, our volunteers have yet again put in more hours and completed more projects than the year before. It is truly both an honor and a pleasure to be associated with a dedicated and hard working group of people such as the volunteers who make up the membership of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to our Officers, Board of Directors and all our members who dedicated so much of their time, talent and treasure to our organization this past year. My thanks go also to our friends and associates at the Sandia Ranger District for their guidance and support that make all our efforts possible.

See you on the mountain.

Bob Lowder

Christian von Huene

January 19, 2009, marked the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Chris von Huene.

Chris was an active member of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains and served also as a Sandia Ranger District volunteer. He was probably best known for his outstanding skill in the remediation of Sandia resources that had been defaced by the all too frequent graffiti found on the mountain. The creativity and artistic talents he applied to this task were unsurpassed.

He was also one of those people who could always be counted on to help with projects no matter what they were, from clearing trails, to hauling slash, he was there to help. We miss his ready smile and jovial personality. (Bob Lowder)

Volunteers Fell Almost 600 Hazard Trees

Volunteers continued felling hazard trees in picnic areas and at trailheads during FY2009. A significant change was made in the criteria defining hazard trees. Before March 2009, generally only dead trees were selected as hazard trees. In March, the new silviculturist, Paul Tidwell, began using the Southwestern Region Hazard Tree Evaluation Form to designate trees with the following defects as hazard 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.

During the summer, the USFS began working on a contract for a commercial business to fell the hazard trees in all the picnic areas north of I-40 except Balsam Glade and Dry Camp where the volunteers were permitted to continue felling. The volunteers could also fell in the areas south of I-40.

The number of hazard trees felled in the picnic areas and at trailheads from September 15, 2008, to August 22, 2009, is given in the table below. Please

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND CHAIRPERSONS

President: Bob Lowder
 Vice President: Gerry Sussman
 Treasurer: Don Carnicom
 Secretary: Margaret Furman

Board Members

Mike Coltrin Don Peterson
 Jane Harrison Anne Hickman
 Tim Brown Matt Bosquez
 Sam Beard Sally Lowder
 Dan Benton

Officers listed above are also Board Members.

Committees/Chairpersons

Finance: Don Carnicom
 Publicity: Open
 Projects: Sam Beard
 Education: Open
 Membership: Sally Lowder
 Don Peterson
 Fund Raising: Open
 Newsletter: Sam Beard
 Don Peterson
 Nominating: Tim Brown

Picnic Area or Trailhead	Trees Felled	No. of Outings
Cienega Can.*	187	6
Sulphur Can.*	108	5
Balsam Glade	104	10
Doc Long*	103	7
Tijeras P. Trail	30	12
Dry Camp	22	3
Capulin Spg**	9	2
10K Trailhead	6	1
Tree Spg TH	2	2
South of I-40	23	8
Total	594	49

* Numerous small Gambel oak trees were felled in these picnic areas.

** Picnic area and snow play area.

note that these numbers include numerous small dead Gambel oak trees felled in the lower picnic areas. The number of outings reflects the number of days or partial days in which trees were felled at a site. The total number of felled trees was almost 600

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in 49 outings. Most trees were under 18 inches in diameter, and the maximum diameter was 38 inches.

The slash (branches) of the felled trees was chipped with the large Sandia Ranger District chipper. Volunteer chipper operators were Bob and Sally Lowder, Bill Metz, Tim Brown, and Bill Savage. Other volunteers fed the slash into the input of the chipper. The volunteers working on felling and chipping outings were Bob and Sally Lowder, Bill Metz, Sam Beard, Bill Savage, Rav Nicholson, Chris von Huene, Bob Moore, Matt Bosquez, Larry Littlefield, Don Carnicom, Jane Harrison, Robert Southwick, Dick Baumann, Mark Hyman, Linda McDowell, Newton Garland, Jim Peaslee, Jean Payne, Tim Brown, Tom Dieterle, Bill Geck, Larry Moore, Ed Heller, Frank Larson, Carl Smith, Dan Benton, Anne Hickman, Bruce Hansche, Karin Stennae, and Dean Tooley. (Sam Beard)

Over 450 Fallen Trees Removed from Trails By CTR Individuals and on FOSM Outings

The volunteer trail maintenance program managed by FOSM is divided into two parts – maintenance by individual Cibola Trail Rangers (CTR) e-group members and maintenance by volunteers on scheduled FOSM outings.

Cibola Trail Rangers (CTR) E-group – The CTR E-group is a very efficient program for reporting trail conditions and conducting timely year-round trail maintenance. The members of this e-group hike, mountain bike, cross country ski, snowshoe, and horseback ride most of the trails on the east side of the Sandia Mountains. They report trees across the trails to the e-group, and the information goes to all members of the e-group. Usually within one or two weeks CTR members will remove most of the trees under 12 inches in diameter year-round in all weather conditions with hand tools on unscheduled outings. Large trees are usually removed on scheduled FOSM outings with crosscut saws or chain saws. During FY2009, thirty-four CTR volunteers reported down trees, and 23 CTR members removed about 270 trees. Sam Beard and Don Carnicom maintain a record of reported and removed trees in a Word table. Almost every week somebody is out there, so keep your trail reports coming in via the Cibola Trail Rangers e-group. If you would like to join in on the fun, call or email me at 281-3421, d-mcarnicom@msn.com or Sam Beard at 828-0673, samgbeard@msn.com.

Scheduled FOSM Trail Outings – The FOSM officers and Projects Chair schedule volunteer outings to remove fallen trees or do trail tread maintenance when either a large number of trees and/or large diameter trees are reported on a trail. Crosscut saws and/or chain saws may be used on these outings. On 21 scheduled outings FOSM volunteers removed 184 trees and did trail tread work on two trails. On the lower La Luz Trail, erosion damage was repaired and a retaining wall was built. On the trails from Tree Spring Trailhead to Doc Long Picnic Area via Oso Corredor Trail, 40 water bars/rolling dips were cleaned out. (Sam Beard and Don Carnicom)

Junior Ranger Program for 2009

The Junior Ranger Program has taken on some new changes in 2009. Dana Howlett, Sandia Ranger District, announced to families to AVOID NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER, that the Sandia District now had five Junior Ranger Programs. As of August 1, 2009, children can now earn a Junior Ranger Certificate in five different ecosystems: High Mountain (Four-Seasons and Crest Visitor Centers), Ponderosa Pine (Doc Long), Wet Meadow (Cienega Nature Trail), Riparian Zones (Cedro Creek) and Archaeology (Tijeras Pueblo). The children completing all the Junior Ranger programs can take all five certificates earned to the Sandia Ranger Station and be awarded some special patches/pins and other prizes in addition to the patches/badges earned at each site.

Cindy Engle, an educator and a summer employee at the SRD, has updated the Junior Ranger tests and certificates for the High Mountain Ecosystems. The tests have been well-received by the children, parents, and the visitor center staff. Thanks Cindy for all your work in this area!

The choice of either a badge or a patch that have previously been earned at the Crest and Four-Seasons Visitor Centers will end. The badges are no longer being made in their present state. To order new ones, the badges would look more like the National Park Service badges, and we have tried to give our children a more distinctive type badge. Therefore, we are nearing the end of our supply of badges and, when they run out, we will continue with the beautiful patches we have used for years.

The Crest and Four-Seasons Visitor Centers have been well staffed this summer with volunteers or summer interns. The visitor centers opened on time (Memorial Day Weekend) and we experienced NO

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forest closures this year. To date (8/18/09), there have been a total of 590 Junior Rangers completing the programs at these two sites. The numbers continue to decline with the most common comment from parents to their children being: “we don’t have enough time.” The program takes about 45 minutes to an hour to complete. There have been many disappointed children. (Sally Lowder)

E-mail Groups

The Friends assist with management of the Sandia Ranger District volunteer program by maintaining the Cibola-Trail-Rangers and Sandia-Volunteers-and-NMFOF e-mail groups for faster, easier, and less expensive communication with volunteers. A third e-mail group, Friends of the Sandias, is provided for FOSM members. FOSM utilizes Yahoo Groups who provide e-mail group service free of charge.

Sandia Volunteers and NMFOF (SVANMFOF) E-mail Group -- The SVANMFOF e-mail group provides convenient e-mail-based communication among the USFS employees, Sandia Ranger District volunteers, and members of FOSM. The types of information to be transmitted to the SVANMFOF e-mail group network includes newsletters, emergency messages, schedules of activities, announcements, last-minute schedule changes, and other information of interest to the members of the group. Volunteers may learn of schedule and other changes quickly through the e-mail group mailings. There are currently over 400 members in this group. This e-mail group is moderated – that is, designated members of the group must approve all messages before the message is sent out to everyone. The approvers or moderators are USFS employees and FOSM Board members. If you would like to join the SVANMFOF e-mail group, please send a message to the e-mail group owner, Sally Lowder, rjlowder@msn.com. Margaret Furman also assists with the management of this e-group.

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

e-mail group owner, Don Carnicom, d-mcarnicom@msn.com. There are currently over 130 members in this group.

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

Paint Crew Projects

This year the paint crew painted signs and other structures on both the west and east sides of the Sandia Mountains.

West Side – (1) The large entrance signs to the Juan Tabo and La Cueva Picnic Areas were painted BBQ brown with white lettering. Four other signs along the road to the La Cueva PA were also painted. While in La Cueva PA, the graffiti was removed from the bathrooms. **(2)** On the road to the Juan Tabo PA, two large information signs and two smaller road signs were painted brown and white. The wilderness kiosk sign was painted with gray paint. **(3)** After the new posts for the Juan Tabo/La Cueva signs were installed at the road intersection, the crew went back to prime and paint them. In July the new signs were installed, and the paint crew returned to Juan Tabo to do a final touch-up on them.

East Side – (1) In January the paint crew moved indoors at the Sandia Ranger Station workshop and started the long process of priming and painting the new signs that have gone up at the Juan Tabo/La Cueva area entrance on the west side of the mountain. These signs involved putting on primer and two coats of high gloss paint with each coat requiring dry time between coats. While working at the Ranger Station, the Tijeras Pueblo Archeological Site sign in front of the Ranger Station and three smaller signs were painted brown with white lettering. **(2)** While on the east side of the mountain, one large sign required oak stain, white lettering, and a small amount of red lettering. A blank board nearby was done with BBQ brown. **(3)** The team moved up to Balsam Glade Picnic Area where the large entrance sign and a smaller board were done with BBQ brown and white lettering. Around the corner at Balsam Glade PA, the triple information sign was painted in brown and the covered group shelter was also painted with

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BBQ brown. Graffiti was removed from the bathrooms. **(4)** With the hot temperatures, the crew moved up to the cooler Sandia Crest area to work. The bus stop was painted brown with white pillars, and the wilderness kiosk sign was painted with two coats of gray. The graffiti on the fee boxes was also painted over with Laguna Blue paint. One energetic volunteer, Joy Bosquez, carried paint to the Four Seasons Visitor Center and painted five signs and a post with BBQ brown. **(5)** The last project was the lower bathroom at the Crest which was painted with brown paint, and the doors were painted Laguna Blue. The graffiti was removed from the walls and windows of the bathroom. A small sign leading to the La Luz Trailhead was also painted with brown and white paint.

The crew of 11 volunteers painted 19 days this year with an average of 66 hours per person or a total of 756 hours for the year. Volunteers were Anne Hickman, Sara Morlan, Phyllis Grein, Kayreen Sargent, Joy Bosquez, Rikki Barrett, Jean Payne, Larry Littlefield, Carol Alf, Shirley Lambert, Jane Harrison and three college volunteers, Anjuli Hellman, Liela Sanchez, and Nadia Tamez, who joined us the last day with each working six hours adding a total of 18 hours in addition to our 756 hours. (Jane Harrison, Crew Leader)

Seventh Annual Sandia Snowshoe Race in 2009

The Seventh Annual Sandia Snowshoe Race was held on January 24, 2009, and was the first race that FOSM has managed. Over 140 participants enjoyed excellent snow conditions in foggy weather. Matt and Joy Bosquez were Race Directors, Rodger Sack, La Luz Trail Run race director, assisted with timing, and Anne Hickman obtained refreshments and contributions for the race. The net profit was \$2543 that will be used to support FOSM projects on the Sandia Ranger District. The volunteers who helped with the race were Phyllis Grein, Jean Payne, Don Peterson, Art Arenholz, Sam Beard, Bob Lowder, Mike Coltrin, Larry Littlefield, Rosie Preston, Jane Harrison, Sally Lowder, Tim Brown, Bill Geck, Don Carnicom, Bill Savage, Gerry Sussman, and Adair Peterson. (Bob Lowder and Sam Beard)

Eighth Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race in 2010

The Eighth Annual Sandia Mountain Snowshoe Race, presented by Friends of the Sandia Mountains, is scheduled for January 23, 2010. The Race begins at 10:00 am at the lower level parking lot of Sandia

Crest and is a 5-km trek through the beautiful Cibola National Forest. You may register at the REI store or by mail (registration forms are available online at www.sandiasnowshoe.com). Your registration fee of \$25 (\$35 after Jan. 9, 2010) includes a long-sleeved T-shirt, pre- and post-race refreshments, and prizes in several categories. This year's race is limited to 150 participants, and racers of all levels are invited to participate. The race filled up early last year, so don't delay and miss out on the fun. (Matt and Joy Bosquez)

Nine Mile PA Table Repair Estimates

In July, Bob and Sally Lowder and Anne Hickman surveyed the condition of the wooden picnic tables in Nine Mile PA and estimated the materials and costs to repair them. Some tables are hazardous or unsuitable for use due to split and rotten timbers. The volunteers found that 35 each 4-inch by 12-inch bench and table top timbers need to be replaced, and all tables need to be painted. The total estimated cost of lumber and paint was about \$1500. (Bob and Sally Lowder)

Sandia Ranger District Crosscut Saw Certification Class

Volunteers certified in the use of crosscut (manual) saws are essential for trail clearance in wilderness areas where chain saws are not allowed. On April 2 and 3, fifteen Intermediate (B) sawyers were certified during the first crosscut saw training class on the Sandia Ranger District. The classroom presentation and field certification focused on safely removing limbs from trees already on the ground, removing adjacent brush for a safe work space, and cutting or bucking logs with one-person and two-person crosscut saws.

The course facilitator was Myron Burnett, Advanced (C) Certifier Sawyer and USFS Region 3 Crosscut Saw Coordinator from the Apache-Sitgreaves NF in Arizona. The lead instructor was SRD volunteer and Advanced Sawyer, Bill Metz. FOSM members who helped with preparation or presentation of the classroom material were Dan Benton, presentation critiquing and laptop computer operator, Bob Lowder, tool demonstrations, and Sam Beard, presentation critiquing. Intermediate sawyers Dan Benton, Don Carnicom, Bob Lowder, and Bill Savage helped with the field practicum.

Eleven volunteers were certified for the first time, and the four FOSM sawyers above were recertified. The 15 students were members of the following out-

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door organizations: Friends of the Sandia Mountains, 10; N. M. Volunteers for the Outdoors, 4; and N. M. State Parks, 1. FOSM members certified for the first time were Sally Lowder, Rav Nicholson, Bob Southwick, Matt Bosquez, Bob Galloway, and Larry Littlefield. (Bill Metz, Dan Benton, and Sam Beard)

Bill Metz Was Lead Crosscut Saw Instructor at the R2/R3 Wilderness Ranger Rendezvous

The Region 2 and Region 3 Wilderness Ranger Rendezvous was held at Ghost Ranch Conference Center from May 31 to June 4, 2009. FOSM member Bill Metz was the lead instructor for the bucking and felling crosscut saw certification classroom session in which almost 50 students and certifiers participated. Sandia Ranger District Trails Foreman Jeff Dube' and volunteer Bob Lowder were certified as crosscut sawyers for bucking and felling. Bill and Sam were among several sawyers who certified sawyers from the Apprentice (A) level to the C-Certifier (Advanced) level. In August, Bill, Bob, and Sam certified three Back Country Horsemen whose field certifications were interrupted by a storm at the Rendezvous. (Sam Beard)

2009 National Trails Day Projects on the Sandia Ranger District

National Trails Day (NTD) projects were conducted on the Sandia Ranger District and on the City Open-space at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area on June 6. Jim Sattler, Albuquerque Open Space Trails Foreman, reported that 215 volunteers participated in this event.

NTD projects on the Sandia Ranger District were:

1. Removal of Gravel from Embudito Canyon Wildlife Water Troughs. Leader: Tim Brown.
2. Painting and Repairing Signs at La Luz Trailhead. Leader: Larry Littlefield. Crew Members: Lisa Brown and son, Cody, Penelope McCashland, Douglas Wozniak, and Don Carnicom.
3. Pruning and Clean-up in the La Cueva and Juan Tabo Picnic Areas. Leaders: Bob and Sally Lowder. Crew Members: Don Carnicom, Karin Stenaae, Bill Geck, Russell Plumb, and Sandia Ranger District Trails Foreman, Jeff Dube'.
4. Maintenance of North Foothills Trail. Leader: Sam Beard. Crew Members: Don Partridge, Dean Tooley, Don Meaders, Karen Gibbs, Carol Kepler, and Glen Kepler (Sam Beard)

Grounds Maintenance and Site Cleanup

Volunteers did grounds maintenance and site cleanup at several locations. **Ranger Station Compound** – Larry Littlefield was Grounds Crew Leader here where volunteers mowed grass, cut dead trees, weeded gravel areas, pruned shrubs, removed a slash pile, and cut 25 elm clumps on four outings. **Doc Long Picnic Shelter Area** – On three outings, volunteers moved rocks from the meadow, limbed up two large elm trees, chipped four slash piles, mowed grass, and cut small elm stumps. **Old Paved Road near Doc Long PA** – FOSM limbed and bucked four large trees that came down or were felled. The wood was taken to the needy family pile, and the slash was chipped (3 days). **Sulphur Canyon PA** – Volunteers removed a fallen tree, chipped large slash piles, cleaned a culvert, and pruned branches (2 days). **Sulphur/Cienega Road Intersection** – Members cut willow brush and piled it to dry (2 days). **Upper Cienega Canyon PA** – FOSM worked with inmates to chip slash from hazard trees felled last year and chipped slash along the road. Many volunteers worked on these projects -- Larry Littlefield, Matt Bosquez, Bob and Sally Lowder, Jane Harrison, Anne Hickman, Dan Benton, Sam Beard, Bill Metz, Frank Larson, Don Carnicom, Bill Savage, Tom Dieterle, Jean Payne, Tim Brown, Newton Garland, Dick Baumann, Rav Nicholson, Dean Tooley, Carl Smith, Robert Southwick, Bob Moore, Bruce Hansche, Karin Stenaae, Mark Hyman, Ryan Davis, Matt Davis, Jim Peaslee. (Sam Beard)

Two Volunteers Certified to Apply Herbicides

On March 24, Larry Littlefield, Bill Metz, and Dana Howlett met with the Cibola National Forest Range Management Specialist to review policies, procedures, application equipment and the particular herbicides approved for use in non-riparian areas for control of noxious weeds, salt cedar, Russian olive, and Siberian elm. Bill and Larry were approved and given permission to apply approved weed and brush herbicides following prescribed procedures. Job Hazard Analyses were obtained, but some still need updated approval signatures. A Stihl four-gallon backpack sprayer was purchased for application of herbicides. A supply of Roundup Pro herbicide is now available. All herbicides, sprayers, chemical applicator's gloves and measuring cups formerly stored in the haz-mat building will be moved to an approved

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pesticide storage cabinet in the shop.

On August 12, Bill, Larry, and Mark Hyman treated approximately 120 Siberian elms and salt cedars in the area south of the pueblo site and between the vehicle gate and the fence immediately west of the shop and extending southward to the YWCA camp gate and the storage yard plus weeds growing along the shop walls and the concrete retaining wall behind and south of the shop. Roundup Pro was used exclusively, but different procedures were followed for small trees in their first or second year of growth compared to larger, more extensive clusters arising from previously cut stumps.

More elm removal will be done in and around the large arroyo behind the Ranger Station and in the ditch between the north parking lot and the highway. General weed control will be done in the parking lot areas north and south of the building. (Larry Littlefield)

FOSM Publications

Visitors Recreation Guide to the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains --This year we went into a 10,000 copy reprint of the Visitors Recreation Guide which includes information about picnic areas, camping, volunteer work, parking fees and passes, wilderness restrictions, temperature and precipitation, a map of the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains, a list of trails (length and difficulty), and Leave No Trace policy. Many articles and pictures were prepared by individuals from throughout the community covering most of the recreational opportunities available in the Sandia Ranger District such as bicycling, skiing, hiking, horseback riding, climbing, and hang-gliding. Much of the information is also available on the Friends web site, www.friendsofthesandias.org, under Recreation. Copies of the free Guide are available at the Ranger Station, Four Seasons Visitor Center, Crest Visitor Center, REI, Albuquerque Convention and Visitor Bureau, and Tinkertown. (Don Carnicom)

Sandia Crest Scenic Byway Guide – This guide presents local history and information at all the Scenic Byway signs along the Crest Highway. On June 16, 2009, 200 copies were delivered to Sunwest Silver in Albuquerque for sale at the Crest House. The income to FOSM from this sale was \$200. FOSM

took delivery of 2760 copies in March 2006, and we have sold 1246 copies. At this sales rate, the 1514 copies should last about four years. (Bob and Sally Lowder)

Field Guide to the Sandia Mountains – Our Field Guide was published in 2005 when 10,000 copies were printed, and UNMPress reprinted 5,000 copies last year. Sales are approximately 11,000 and climbing. Copies of the Guide are still in many local bookstores. (Gerry Sussman)

Maintenance of Trails Adopted by FOSM

Cienega Nature Trail – On April 28, 2009, Jean and Tom Payne cleaned this trail on the north side of Cienega Canyon Picnic Area near the Group Area. On August 5, five volunteers used shovels, loppers, a gasoline-powered grass trimmer with plastic blades, and rakes to remove dirt, rocks, and other debris from this paved wheel-chair accessible trail. Workers were Mark Hyman, Rav Nicholson, Jim Peaslee, and Bob and Sally Lowder. (Lowders and Sam Beard)

Tecolote Trail – This one-mile hiking trail leads from Dry Camp Picnic Area to the top of Tecolote Ridge and along the ridge to a long loop. The views of the east side of the Sandia Mountains and the East Mountain area are beautiful. On **October 25, 2008**, the signs were painted, the trailhead was cleaned up, 24 water bars were cleaned, and brush beside the trail tread was cut with a gasoline-powered brush cutter. The volunteers on this project were Anne Hickman, Jane Harrison, Rav Nicholson, Don Carnicom, Walter Kearns, and Bob and Sally Lowder. On **May 11, 2009**, Bob and Sally Lowder did spring maintenance on Tecolote Trail by cleaning water bars and pruning. (Bob and Sally Lowder)

Cienega Canyon Picnic Area Fence Repair Project

At the annual project-planning meeting with USFS representatives on March 5, 2009, repair of the Cienega Picnic Area post and rail fence was given the number 2 priority among all projects for the upcoming season. FOSM agreed to purchase the required materials. A preliminary survey on March 6th found that there were twenty-nine posts and thirteen rails that were broken, rotten, or missing. Most of the

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posts were rotten a foot or less below ground level, but still being held upright by the rails. The rails had either been broken by visitors over the years or intentionally cut by the Black Kettle fire crew in the course of hazard tree removal. Several usable rails were found lying along the road in the picnic area or at the host site. The fence was designed to be difficult for vandals to disassemble, so volunteers have to use hacksaws to cut the threaded rods that hold the fence together, making the repair process time and labor intensive. Using salvaged or found materials, three posts and ten rails were replaced in the worst sections over the course of several weeks. Afterwards, a search of local lumberyards revealed that additional pressure-treated ten-foot rails were not locally available. Eventually, additional poles were purchased by special order from an out-of-state source in August, and three of these have been mounted. We will continue to make repairs to the fence as crews become available. Members who have participated in this project include Dan and Pat Benton, Sam Beard, Larry Moore, Jean Payne, Don Carnicom, Rav Nicholson, Frank Larson, Carl Smith, Jim Peaslee, Bob Lowder, Bob Moore, Sally Lowder, and Zack Parsons of the SRD staff. (Dan Benton)

REI Sponsors Trails Workshop through Community Service Grant

A Trails Work Day was held at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area and on adjacent Open Space and National Forest lands on May 2. This event was sponsored by REI through a Community Service Grant obtained by Bill Velasquez of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO). Bill coordinated the activities with the City Open Space Division, the Sandia Ranger District (SRD), and FOSM. A workshop covering basic trail maintenance was held on April 22 at REI to teach skills for the workday to beginners. The main purpose of the work day was to provide another opportunity for volunteers to assist with maintenance on City Open Space and Forest Service trails on the west side of the Sandias as well as to receive instruction from experienced team leaders.

More than two dozen FOSM members participated in the workday as did members of some of our Adopt-A-Trail groups. Two FOSM members also served as Team Leaders for trail projects. Jeff Dube', SRD Trails Foreman brought tools for the trail work

as well as joined a work crew. NMVFO and the Open Space Division also provided tools. The workday started at 8:00 am with breakfast refreshments and ended at 2:00 pm with the awarding of door prizes provided by REI. A sack lunch was furnished to those out on the trails. Seventy-four volunteers participated and many of the west side trails are now in an improved condition due to their efforts. (Bob Lowder)

Volunteers as Temporary Employees Chip Slash during Main Fire

During the Main Fire in August in the Military Withdrawal Area on the National Forest east of Kirtland AFB, fire crews cut fuel breaks along the ridge between David Canyon and Bonito Canyon and on both sides of the road in David Canyon. The slash was placed in long piles along the sides of the roads in the fuel breaks to be chipped so that it would not burn if the wildfire reached the fuel breaks. The Fire Management Officer requested that four FOSM members familiar with the chipper become temporary employees to operate the chipper, drive a 5-person Hopi fire crew to the work site, and help feed the chipper. Bill Metz worked on the chipper five days, Bob and Sally worked four days, and Sam Beard worked one day.

The fire camp was located in a large field on the west side of NM-337 a short distance north of the turnoff to the cement plant in Tijeras. The daily schedule for the fire crews and temporary employees was: 5:30 am, breakfast by an on-site caterer; 6:00 am, briefing; work shift from 6 am to 6 pm with a large sack lunch; and dinner on site at 8 pm. The fire crews slept in small individual dome tents at the fire camp. (Sam Beard)

Volunteers Fell Hazard Trees in Pino Canyon

On March 7 seven volunteers hiked from Elena Gallegos Picnic Area on the west side of the Sandia Mountains to the lower edge of the dead tree zone in Pino Canyon where thousands of trees were killed by insects and disease a few years ago. The volunteers felled 19 dead trees that were leaning toward the trail with crosscut saws that are required in the wilderness. After considering the hiking, break, and lunch times, the crew only felled trees for 4 or 5 hours in an 8-hour outing. The accomplishments of this outing showed that small volunteer crews with hand

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tools will not fell a significant number of hazard trees along Pino Trail. Crew members were Rosie Preston, Bill Metz, Sam Beard, Dan Benton, Bob Lowder, Larry Moore, and Tom Anglin. (Sam Beard)

Adopt-A-Trail Program

This year the Adopt-A-Trail Program added two new members; the Southwest Forest Service Amigos adopted the Oso Corredor Trail, and The Messiah Lutheran Church adopted the Tree Spring Trail. Twenty-eight trails are now included in the program. So far this year, all of the groups together have contributed a total of 522 volunteer hours. As is usually the case, many more hours will be added the last two months of the fiscal year. Lynn Bender, one of our members, continued to make more AAT signs for a number of the organizations. We have now included all of the information describing the Adopt-A-Trail Program in detail and the forms required to adopt a trail and report trail maintenance on our web site, www.friendsofthesandias.org under Projects. The forms can be completed on the internet and returned to adoptatrail@friendsofthesandias.org. (Don Carnicom)

New Signage Initiative for the Sandia Ranger District

The Friends will be undertaking a major new initiative to inventory all signs on the Sandia Ranger District, evaluate which signs need to be replaced, develop a plan for sharing the cost of new signs with the District, and purchase and install the signs on a timely basis. A program outline to carry out this initiative is being generated at this time. Orman Paananen plus others will be coming onboard.

Throughout this year, signs have been replaced based primarily on availability of existing replacements and the ability to repair and reinstall existing signs. Completed work so far this year includes repairing the Pino Wilderness and trail signs, the La Luz Trailhead sign, replacing a number of the Kiwanis Meadow interpretive education signs, replacing the old wood/Plexiglas Kiwanis Meadow warning signs with new fiberglass signs, rebuilding the trail map sign at the Kiwanis Cabin Road gate, and repairing and reinstalling four picnic grounds Crest Highway signs. We are now at the point of needing to purchase new signs, hence the need for the new sign initiative. (Don Carnicom)

News Notes

- ☒ Volunteers installed three new steel shelves designed by Bill Metz, fabricated by Troy Welding, and purchased by the Sandia Ranger District in the Hazardous Materials Building on May 4. (Sam Beard)
- ☒ On May 4, Sam Beard, Bill Metz, Dan Benton, and Bob and Sally Lowder removed the old inoperable air compressor from the south end of the SRD shop. During the summer Sam and Bill completed the frame and most of the walls of a new compressor enclosure. The installation of the new compressor will be completed when funds are available for parts. The compressed air is used in cleaning chain saws and many other operations at the shop. (Sam Beard)
- ☒ The volunteers support a program providing fuelwood to needy East Mountain families by piling wood at the Haz-Mat Building for collection and distribution by a Tijeras church. Most of this wood comes from felled hazard trees in locations not accessible to permitted wood haulers or from locations near roads where it will likely be stolen. During FY2009 the volunteers collected several cords of wood for this program. (Sam Beard)
- ☒ The following items were purchased to support FOSM projects: long handle loppers for Larry Littlefield to use in grounds maintenance, buckles for chaps, materials for crosscut saw covers, 9 safety glasses, 3-lb axe, two 8-lb sledge hammers, 12-inch long 1/2-inch drill bit, two cant hooks, 2 gallons of primer, 1 gallon of paint, paint supplies, and chain saw files. (Sam Beard)

Community Outreach

1. Tim Brown staffed the FOSM table at **Wildfest** in Tijeras this summer. The turnout was good. Our table was in a large tent with the Forest Service and Friends of Tijeras Pueblo representatives. Tim gave out many FOSM brochures to the crowd who seemed quite naturally to come mostly from the East Mountains. (Tim Brown)
2. Don Carnicom manned a booth for FOSM at the **Bear Fair** on July 11 at Wildlife West Nature Park. This event is cosponsored by Sandia Mountain Bear Watch. Don sold some

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guides and passed out FOSM literature and Recreation Guides. About 150 people attended.

3. Bob Lowder spoke to the **SW Forest Service Amigos**, a group of retired USFS people. They adopted the Oso Corredor Trail and joined FOSM.

4. Don Carnicom and **Dana Howlett** spoke to the **Sandia Thunderbirds** (retired Sandia NL employees) about "FOSM - Who we are and what we do" as well as other Sandia Ranger District volunteer opportunities.

Juan Tabo/La Cueva Sign Project

Eloyce Promenschenkel, USFS, was the leader for this project to design, fabricate, and install two sets of large sign boards at the intersection of the Juan Tabo and La Cueva Picnic Area Roads on the west side of the Sandia Mountains. During the winter and early spring Jane Harrison's Paint Crew applied oil-based primer and brown paint to the pressure-treated plywood panels and posts. On May 27 eight volunteers and Tina Chavez and Storm Williams, USFS, began installing these sign boards. The installation of the three 48-inch by 84-inch plywood was completed, and the installation of four 4-ft by 4-ft panels was begun. On June 25 and 27, Sam Beard and Bob Moore completed the installation of the smaller panels. Fire, fee, and recreational information will be displayed on these boards. The other volunteers who installed the boards were Tim Brown, Paul Torno, Matt Bosquez, Frank Larson, Mark Hyman, and Dan Benton. (Sam Beard)

Monthly Programs

Over the past year we had some diverse and interesting speakers for our monthly programs.

October -- Alan Kelso discussed his time at the Philmont Scout Ranch

November -- No meeting on presidential election night

December -- No meeting, as usual

January -- Mike Madden told us about his hike through N.M. on the CDT

February -- Pauline Ho talked about her hike on the Inca Trail

March -- Dan and Ruthanne Hamrick showed slides and recounted their hike on the CDT in southern Colorado

April -- Mary Stuever reviewed her book, "The For-

ester's Log: Musings from the Woods"

May -- Todd Brown talked to us about his turquoise mine in Cerrillos

June -- Pearl Burns gave a presentation about wildflowers in the Sandia Mountains

July -- Stephen Ausherman talked about his book "60 Hikes Within 60 Miles of Albuquerque"

August -- Gary Morgan told us about Ice Age Mammals within 100 miles of Albuquerque (Gerry Sussman)

Eagle Scout Project

This year we coordinated an Eagle Scout Project at the request of the SRD. We worked with a Boy Scout, Jason Aldaz, who designed and built a pedestrian crossover in Cienega Canyon. His crossover replaced one built many years ago that had fallen into disrepair. Construction and assembly by Jason and other scout members was completed on October 18, 2008. FOSM purchased all of the materials used in the project. (Don Carnicom)

Four Seasons Visitor Center Bookstore

As many of you know, FOSM elected not to participate this summer in the operation of a bookstore at the Four Seasons Visitor Center. Likewise, the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo elected not to operate a bookstore at the site. In settlement, FOSM received \$535.00 in cash and \$400.00 in inventory that we will dispose of through sales or donations. FOSM would like to thank the following members who donated their time to this project: Art Arenholz, Sam Beard, Tim Brown, Dotty Bender, Pearl Burns, Don Carnicom, Kitsie Hilaire, Orman and Jean Paananen, and Gerry Sussman. (Tim Brown)

FOSM Records Retention

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

Treasurer's Report

We began FY 2009 on October 1, 2008, with a balance of \$12,441.46 and on July 31, 2009 the balance was \$15,436.00. In addition we have two CDs which total \$20,585.67 and rollover every 12 months. The largest expenses were \$1906.13 for tools and supplies for weekly projects, \$4,369.10 for Fundraising/Publicity that included \$2690.66 for reprinting the Visitor/Recreation Guide and \$1677.04 for Snowshoe Race expenses. The largest income sources were \$1087.21 from Field Guide sales and royalties, \$2014.68 from donations, \$4260.00 from the Snowshoe Race, and \$1955 from memberships. If you would like a detailed Treasurer's Report, call or email me. (Don Carnicom, 281-3421, d-mcarnicom@msn.com)

Membership Status

We now have 119 members compared to 119 last year at this time. We have added 12 new members this year -- Dave Gabel, Vicki and Ron Farrar, Fred and Christine Koegler, Robert and Celia Southwick, SW Forest Service Amigos, Larry Moore, Chuck Williams, John Knapp, Lou Romero, Jim and Rita

Peaslee, Griff and Helen Lechner, Larry and Mary Farmer, Vivian Anderson, and Debbie MacDonald. Welcome aboard everybody! (Don Carnicom)

Refreshments at Monthly FOSM Meetings

The FOSM Board thanks the following members who contributed refreshments to the monthly meetings: Joy and Matt Bosquez, Pearl Burns, Dave Weaver, Don Hoke, Phyllis Grein, Margaret Furman, Lynn Ruger, Anne Hickman, Mike Madden (October), and Jean Payne (if we have a November meeting). (Anne Hickman, Refreshments Coordinator)

Financial and Physical Audits

In November, Art Arenholz completed an audit of the financial records. He reported the records to be accurate and in good shape. Don Peterson completed a physical audit of all of the FOSM physical assets, the value of which when combined with the financial assets showed a net worth of \$37,492.09 at that time. Our physical assets mainly include tools, t-shirts, books, guides, patches and badges. (Don Carnicom)

BALLOT: OCTOBER 6, 2009, ANNUAL MEETING

We appreciate the contributions of those board members whose terms are expiring at the end of September: Dan Benton, Mike Coltrin, Sally Lowder and Don Peterson. The continuing board members are: Sam Beard, Matt Bosquez, Jane Harrison and Anne Hickman. The members listed below have been nominated for officer and board member positions. (Officers are also members of the board.) Other nominations are encouraged. If you are interested in serving as an officer or board member, please contact Tim Brown, Nominating Committee Chair, at 296-3360.

President:

1. Bob Lowder _____
2. _____

Vice President:

1. Gerry Sussman _____
2. _____

Treasurer:

1. Tim Brown _____
2. _____

Secretary:

1. Jean Pannanen _____
2. _____

Board members: (Vote for four)

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

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

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

FRIENDS OF THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS

If you hike, bike, ride a horse or use the Sandia Mountains in any way, we know you enjoy what nature has given us. As you know, all this traffic takes a toll on our forest lands. Working in conjunction with the **United States Forest Service** as a volunteer organization, we provide many services in support of the Sandia Ranger District.

WHO WE ARE

Friends of the Sandia Mountains is a non-profit organization of local volunteers. We are dedicated to working in partnership with the USFS, other groups, and individuals to maintain, protect and restore the natural, cultural and scenic resources of New Mexico's forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. Our focus is conservation and education within the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest and adjacent lands.

WHAT IS THE NEED

This uniquely beautiful land can't wait another minute. It truly needs our help! As USFS funds are inadequate to handle the increasing demands on the forest land by the public, the Friends of the Sandia Mountains will work to help meet the forest needs. Learn more about how you can be a part of this vital effort.

WHAT WE DO

Conservation
Education
Restoration
Site Stewardship
Wildlife & Habitat Monitoring
Trail Construction & Maintenance
Junior Ranger Program
Visitor Services
Fundraising
Adopt-A-Trail
Co-publisher of **Field Guide to the Sandia Mtns.**

YOU ARE INVITED TO **JOIN OR RENEW**:

You can be part of this effort; work with friends, visitors and USFS personnel.

Tell us briefly how you would like to Participate & we will get back to you.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone & Email

Dues:

- \$10 Student
- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$30 Sustaining
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$100 Benefactor
- \$250 Life Sponsor
- \$500 Corporate Sponsor

Please make your check payable to:
Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Mail To:

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

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

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



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