



OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martin J. Chávez

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Open Space Division and the Open Space Alliance

Volume 7, Issue 2, April - June 2006

MIGRATION

by Elsa C. Bumstead

As daylight lengthens, there's restlessness in the air. After the short days of winter, people look forward to being outside, and to the harbingers of spring. Birds that had disappeared at the end of last year's nesting season begin to reappear. Here in the Albuquerque area the ducks and geese on the river move north, as do the sandhill cranes. The red-winged blackbirds arrive in large flocks and spread out into marshy areas to stake out territories. The juncoes, white-crowned sparrows and mountain chickadees abandon their winter feeding areas to move up the mountains to their breeding areas. Goldfinches, robins and house finches turn up the volume as bird songs begin to fill the air.

What is this restlessness, this need by species to move around?

The phenomenon of movement among species is called migration. It occurs seasonally in response to reproductive instincts, climactic conditions, and the availability of food sources. Of the more than 650 species of birds that nest in North America, *the Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior* reports that 75 percent migrate in one form or another.

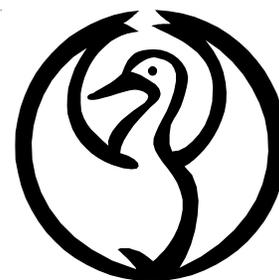
In North America there are four flyways, or principal sky "highways", along which birds migrate. They are the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific flyways, and they run predominantly north-south. In Europe and Asia, some of the migration corridors run in more east-west directions.

The Rio Grande is in the Central flyway. The river provides food, shelter and nesting territories along the way.

Smaller birds tend to fly in flocks at night, and rest and forage at sunrise and sunset. Larger birds tend to fly during the day, particularly those that depend on the lift provided by winds and thermals.

Some birds migrate non-stop. Swallow and swifts will feed in flight on insects as they migrate.

cont'd on page 6...



Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) is an agreement between the United States, Canada, Japan, Mexico and Russia to protect migratory birds and their "parts" (eggs, nests and feathers). This Act was originally implemented during a time when commercial trade of these birds, particularly their feathers, was devastating populations.

The City of Albuquerque, in accordance with MBTA, will cease bosque restoration efforts that involve heavy equipment during the nesting period. Non-invasive restoration efforts may continue, including wood removal and trail work.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act goes into effect April 15 and ends September 15.

For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html>

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Martin Chávez, Mayor

Spring is greeting us with warm days and strong winds. We all must be extra vigilant and responsible when visiting open spaces this spring and summer. Forest areas, including the bosque, are under Level 1 fire restrictions. This means no smoking outside a building or vehicle and no open fires, including charcoal. Gas and kerosene stoves may be used in designated areas. With fire restrictions already in place so early in the season, we must all participate in responsible use of all outdoor areas during this critical season. Please call 242-COPS to report restriction violations, or call 911 if you spot smoke or fire.

Did you know that Albuquerque was listed as the 13th fittest city in the USA by Men's Fitness magazine for 2006? That's good, but I want Albuquerque to have the healthiest residents in the country! Albuquerque boasts miles of bike trails traversing the city; 30,000 acres of Open Space to enjoy hiking, biking and horseback riding; and excellent weather that foils any excuse not to go for a daily walk around the block. Join the "Mayor's Fit City Challenge" and take control of your health while contributing to Albuquerque's future recognition as the fittest city in the nation! Sign up for the Challenge at <http://www.cabq.gov/mayor/fitsignup.html>

A great way to take advantage of Open Space and get your heart rate up is volunteering. Picking up trash, trail work and simple trail patrol increases the longevity of our spectacular landscapes. It also provides changing vistas, wild soundscapes and an opportunity to meet new friends that are sure to make burning calories fun. Check out volunteer opportunities at MOVE (Mayor's Office for Volunteerism and Engagement) at www.cabq.gov/move. Also, watch for Open Space volunteer opportunities at www.cabq.gov/openspace/calendarofevents.



did you know....

Elena Gallegos was born just prior to 1680, during a time when women were not encouraged to engage in business for themselves.

But after her husband's death in 1711, Elena reverted to her maiden name, acquired the 35,084 acre land grant from Diego Montoya, registered her own brand  and grazed large herds of livestock up and down the grasslands between the Rio Grande and the Sandia Mountains.

Upon her death in 1731, Elena's last will and testament describes herself as a "poor widow" leaving her son, Antonio Gurule, as sole heir to the land grant.

Want to know more? Visit the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area Visitor's Station and browse the exhibits crafted by our own Bonnie Schmader.

Is there something about Open Space you would like to know? Send a subject you would like more information on to jhedderig@cabq.gov and we may include the response in an issue of the Open Space News!

OPEN SPACE RECEIVES CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT FUNDING

The Open Space Division reaped many rewards from the last NM legislative session. Open Space is grateful to the Senators and Representatives who demonstrated support for these important projects.

\$218,000 for Open Space Visitor’s Center Improvements

The Open Space Visitor’s Center is in the final stages of renovations. The next phase will be development and installation of exhibits. Thanks to the support of Sen. Dede Feldman, Rep. Tom Anderson, Rep. Teresa Zanetti, and Rep. Eric Youngberg \$218,000 was approved for the next phase of improvements.

\$30,000 for Piedras Marcadas Pueblo Ruin Improvements

Piedras Marcadas Pueblo Ruin is an unexcavated pueblo on the Visitor Center property. Improvements include a trail interpreting the pueblo that still lies buried beneath the ground.

REI SELECTS ELENA GALLEGOS FOR NATIONAL COMMUNITY PARKS GRANT

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) has selected Elena Gallegos Picnic Area as one of 100 community parks in the country to receive a \$10,000 National Community Parks Grant.

“REI had an amazing 2005,” said REI President and CEO Sally Jewell. “As a co-op we share our success with our members, employees and the communities in which we do business. I can’t think of a better way to celebrate our success than by dedicating an additional \$1 million to support our community parks in every community with which REI has presence across the country.”

Elena Gallegos was nominated by Albuquerque REI employees for its “particular interest to their customers, outdoor recreation opportunities, and close proximity to an REI store.”

The grant is intended for preservation and maintenance. The **Open Space Alliance**, a non-profit support group for the Open Space Division, will administer the grant.

REI INVALUABLE COMMUNITY MEMBER

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) may be a large corporation, but you’d almost think they were a local store.

For years, REI has been actively involved in numerous Open Space events and projects, providing support that goes far beyond provision of shwag (merchandise for giveaways) or cash. Their support involves passion for our Open Spaces. In addition to the long list of services they have provided, including promotion, registration for events, securing additional sponsors, and paying staff to help with event facilitation, they have gone a step further -- spearheading events they didn’t want to see die; service on a non-profit board supporting Open Space; and many hours assisting with the coordination of special events.

We are very grateful for the contributions from REI and the incredible staff at the Albuquerque store. They are truly an asset to the quality of life in our community.

You can visit the Albuquerque REI at 1550 Mercantile Ave., NW. Be sure to say *thank you* for supporting our local public Open Space.

APRIL

1-29 ^{6th Annual} **SPRING CLEAN-UP IN THE FOOTHILLS**

Saturdays ● 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Cleaning up your favorite Open Spaces is not only healthy for the environment, it is healthy for you, too! Did you know hiking burns 390 calories per hour and picking up trash, 296 calories? Meet the “Mayor’s Fitness Challenge” (see page 2) while preserving open spaces and trails. Clean-Up projects will include trash pick up, graffiti removal and trail maintenance. Volunteers should bring work gloves, water and sun protection. All meeting locations are east of Tramway. For directions to a site, please call 452-5200.

Calendar for Clean Up:

- April 1 ~ Copper
- April 8 ~ Indian School
- April 15 ~ Menaul
- April 22 ~ Piedra Lisa Open Space
- April 29 ~ Embudito
- May 6 ~ Bear Canyon (west of Tramway @ John B. Roberts Dam)

29 **CULTURAL LANDSCAPES TALK & SLIDE PRESENTATION**

Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Center

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

“Landscapes, Cultural Properties and Archaeological Resources,” talk and slide presentation by Dr. Kurt Anschuetz. Following the slide presentation we will visit the ancestral pueblo site of Piedras Marcadas with Open Space Superintendent and archaeologist, Dr. Matt Schmader to discuss how the residents of this “old village” and their descendants interact with the surrounding landscape. This program is free. **Please call 899-0205 ext. 337 to register. Space limited to 30 people.** For more special events sponsored by the National Park Service, visit www.nps.gov/petr



29 **PIEDRAS MARCADAS CANYON GUIDED HIKE**

Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Center

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Open Space Superintendent and archaeologist, Dr. Matt Schmader, will lead a guided hike into Piedras Marcadas Canyon. This area contains one of the largest concentrations of petroglyphs within the monument. Dr. Kurt Anschuetz, will comment on the interpretation of cultural landscapes and the continuing importance of the volcanic escarpment and petroglyphs to today’s Indian, Hispano and Anglo communities. This program is free. **Please call 899-0205 ext. 337 to register. Space limited to 30 people.** For more special events sponsored by the National Park Service, visit www.nps.gov/petr

MAY

- 6 & 7 HERB FEST**
Rio Grande Nature Center ● 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Enjoy this spring celebration with plants, speakers and fun activities. Call 343-1373 for more information.
- 13-21 NATIONAL RIVER CLEAN~UP WEEK**
Saturdays ● 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
National River Clean Up was originally conceived in 1991 by America Outdoors® in response to a recognition that America's streams and rivers were in need of cleaning due to the careless disposal of trash and other debris. Our own Rio Grande and bosque needs our attention and care to keep it healthy. Bring the family, friends or dog (on a leash, of course). You will need work gloves, water, and sun protection. *All are encouraged to organize a clean up in their favorite area of the bosque during the clean up week.* Individuals or groups can meet at the following locations:
● **May 13** ~ Central Avenue, N/E
● **May 20** ~ Bridge Street, S/W
- 13 OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING**
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Open Space Alliance is a volunteer "friends" group supporting Open Space Division education and conservation. Please see page 7 for more information on this special **annual** meeting.

JUNE

- 3 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**
Elena Gallegos Picnic Area ● 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
A national day of reverence for the paths that lead us to, into, over, under and through all the wonders of the outdoors. Good trails don't just happen, they must be planned, designed, built and maintained--Open Space achieves this with the help of volunteers. Celebrate outdoor access and conservation with a McCleod. What is a McCleod? Find out at National Trails Day. Call 452-5200 for more information. *The first 100 people to sign up with REI will receive a free t-shirt!*

OH, BOY! The Summer Series is Around the Corner

From Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, the Open Space Summer Series will educate, entertain and enlighten the public about our great Open Space lands and programs. The Saturday Sunset Series will feature talks, demonstrations and concerts by some of Albuquerque's best speakers, teachers and performers at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area Amphitheater on Saturdays at 7:00 pm. Starting at 9:00 am from the Pino Trailhead, knowledgeable guides lead Sunday Hike explorations of the geology, flora and fauna of the Sandia Mountain Foothills.

For a complete listing of all events, or for more information, please call Bonnie Schmader at **768-5308**, or e-mail her at bschmader@cabq.gov.

Prevent Wildland Fires YOU CAN HELP



Nearly record low precipitation throughout the Southwest this past winter has resulted in early fire restrictions. Fire closures may not be far behind. The Bosque has already been charred by three fires. Two fires burned on Isleta Pueblo property and the third off Tingley Dr. in Albuquerque. Fortunately, the Tingley fire didn't have enough fuel to spread, thanks to the recent restoration efforts in the area. But also important, it was detected early by Open Space police officer, Gary Okino. Early detection can be the difference between a small or large scale fire.

Fire restrictions permanently in place for the bosque are:

1. No Smoking
2. No Fireworks
3. No Open Fires (e.g. campfires, BBQs)
4. No Camping



How can you help during this critical fire season? Follow these guidelines:

Carry a cell phone to report suspicious activity, smoke or fire.

Carry a map of the area so you can accurately report access points or nearest cross streets for emergency personnel.

Visit areas you are familiar with so you know how to quickly evacuate if necessary.

Carry a notebook to record important information such as the location of an illegal camp, description of individuals involved in suspicious activity, or areas requiring important signage.

Call 911 if you see fire.

Call 242-COPS to report non-emergency activity.

Most importantly, BE SAFE! Never approach smoke or fire. Leave the area as soon as you detect it and then call 911.

...MIGRATION cont'd from page 1

Some birds migrate over land in one direction and non-stop over open ocean in the other. Peter Dunne has written of the scene on Dauphin Island on coastal Alabama, at sunrise seeing the waves of warblers crash on the island, weary and exhausted from their long flight across the Gulf of Mexico from Central and South America.

One notable exception to the regular migratory patterns is exhibited by the Arctic tern. It breeds in the Arctic, spends the winter on shores of, and offshore, near the southern tip of South America and Antarctica, returning the following year to the high Arctic to nest again. A bird may cover 20,000-25,000 miles in its annual journey.

Irregular migration is movement that does not conform to the usual seasonal migratory patterns. Mass movement of a species is referred to as invasion or irruption. This may be in response to a decline in food sources. The appearance of Snowy Owls, usually found in the Arctic region, in southern Canada and parts of the continental United States, is attributed to a reduction in the lemming population. Other species known to irrupt are gyrfalcons, crossbills and evening grosbeaks.

For more information:

Ehrlich, Paul R, David S. Dobkin and Darryl Wheye, *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*, New York: Fireside (Simon & Schuster), ©. 1988.

National Audubon Society, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, ©. 2001.

Pettingill, Olin Sewall, Jr., *Ornithology in Laboratory and Field*, Minneapolis: Burgess Publishing Company, ©. 1970.

Welty, Joel Carl, *The Life of Birds*, Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, ©. 1975.

OSA Annual Meeting
May 13

This year's Open Space Alliance (OSA) annual meeting will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the newly renovated Open Space Visitors Center located at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd. east of Coors Blvd. The meeting will feature updates on many volunteer and City Open Space projects, and election of a new Board. All Alliance members and other Open Space volunteers and enthusiasts are invited to this annual get-together.

From 9:00 to 10:00 am attendees will have an opportunity to meet Open Space staff and the current OSA Board. The agenda will include highlights of OSA activities this past year, a discussion on 2006 OSA projects, and funding priorities. The Alliance encourages members and guests to offer their ideas and suggestions for our planned activities.

Following the meeting, at 10:00 am, the Alliance Board and City Open Space staff will host a tour of the Visitor Center and the adjoining Piedras Marcadas Pueblo Village.

For more information on the annual meeting, or on how to get involved in OSA's activities, please contact Board President Steven Hamp at president@openspacealliance.org

PLEASE JOIN US!



Get involved in the Open Space Alliance today and contribute to the future of YOUR Open Space!

Your generous contribution to the Open Space Alliance supports OSA's mission of enhancing our quality of life through: heightening public awareness of Open Space lands; building and strengthening partnerships with groups who share Open Space values; promoting conservation, acquisition, and stewardship of Open Space lands; strengthening volunteerism and community outreach programs; providing financial support.

For information about our current activities, contact Steve Hamp, OSA Board President, at shamp7@comcast.net, or 247-2523.

To join, please fill out the information and return the form with your check or money order.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

- () NEW MEMBER () \$10 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR () \$250 SUSTAINING
() RENEWAL () \$20 INDIVIDUAL () \$500 CORPORATE
() \$30 FAMILY () \$1000 LIFE MEMBER

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Open Space Alliance, P.O. Box 91265, Albuquerque, NM 87199

OPEN SPACE news

is a quarterly publication of the
City of Albuquerque, Parks & Recreation Department, **OPEN SPACE DIVISION**
P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103
Phone: (505) 452-5200 (voice/relay) | FAX: 873-6628
www.cabq.gov/openspace
and funded by the **OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE**

Open Space Alliance
P.O. Box 91265
Albuquerque, NM 87199



STAFF & NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Director
Parks & Recreation Department
Jay Hart

Superintendent
Matthew Schmader, Ph.D.

Lieutenant, Open Space Police
Ruben P. Griego

**Maintenance & Operations
Manager**
Tony Barron

**Resource Management & Visitor
Services Program Manager**
Jim F. Sattler

Park Specialist
James Marmon

**Environmental Education
Coordinator**
Bonnie Schmader

Associate Planners
Myrna Marquez

**Open Space Specialist
& Editor/Layout**
Jodi Hedderig

President
Open Space Alliance
Steven Hamp

HOURS OF OPERATION

OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE
7:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday through Friday
873-6620

ELENA GALLEGOS PICNIC AREA
Winter: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT
Boca Negra Canyon
Las Imagenes Visitor Center
8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends

RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE PARK
Rio Grande Nature Center
2901 Candelaria NW
(505) 344-7240
10:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
\$3 vehicle / \$15 van or bus

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
7:00 am to 11:00 pm, all week
(505) 873-6632 (voice/relay)

Non-Prof. Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #297
Albuquerque, NM