



NMVFO NEWS

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

October 2009

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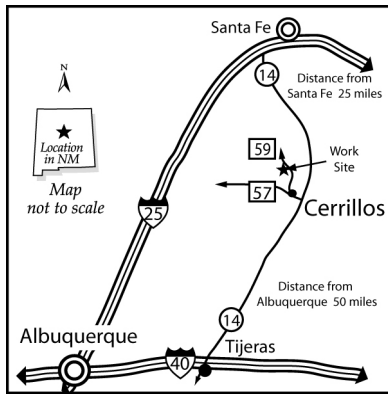
New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, (505) 884-1991 or (888) 836-5553
Visit our website at www.nmvfo.org. Email us at lnmvfo@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Cerrillos Hills (↖ ↗)

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Leader: Pat Collins, (505) 473-1544, collinspat47@comcast.net



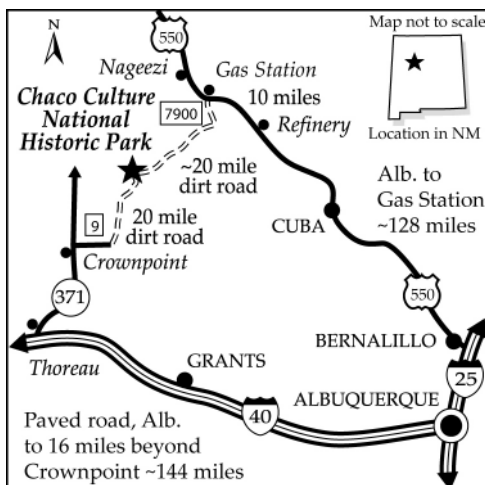
Come join us at Cerrillos Hills State Park for a one-day project. The Hills are in pinyon-juniper country, with shallow rocky soils, and very little shade, so bring a big hat, although it is likely to be perfect cool fall weather for working here. We have a few possibilities in mind. The Escalante trail entrance leading up from the county road has some major drainage problems that will require lots of earthmoving and rockwork. The Elkins trail on the south side also needs work. **Lunch will be provided**, but please bring snacks, plenty of water and a sense of humor - the park manager likes to have fun.

We will meet at 8:30AM at the main park parking lot. From State Road 14, turn into the village of Cerrillos. At the first stop sign, turn right. The road will wind north through the village until it turns to dirt at the cattle guard. Bear left here to continue up County Road 59. About 1/4 mile up, there is a large parking lot on the left where we will meet. VFO signs will be there. The park's phone number is 474-0196. Please contact the leader by 9/27 if you plan to attend.

Chaco Culture National Historical Park (↖ - ↗)

Saturday, October 17 through Sunday, October 18, 2009

Leader: Amy Ross, (505) 463-0787, amyross505@gmail.com



Come back to Chaco or join us for the first time. Chaco Culture National Historical Park is always a favorite of the NMVFO with its historical wonder, striking scenery, magnificent ruins, and compelling architecture. This year's project will involve primarily trail maintenance and restoration work on trails, as well as other projects needed to preserve and improve this amazing park. Don Whyte will be coordinating the projects and staff.

We will camp Friday and Saturday nights at the VIP Campground which has bathroom, shower and kitchen facilities, as well as a covered picnic area and nice fire ring. The work schedule is 8:00am – 4:00pm on Saturday and

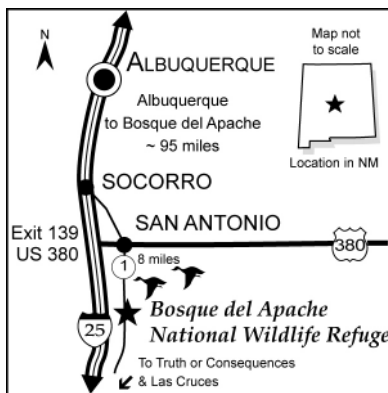
8:00am – 12:00pm on Sunday. You must be able to work both days. NMVFO will provide a light Saturday breakfast and evening meal, and breakfast on Sunday. Please bring water bottles, a daypack, and your own lunch for Saturday and Sunday. Also bring work gloves, sun protection, and perhaps raingear. The evenings are very cool, and the days are hot and sunny, so prepare for both extremes.

You are welcome to stay in the VIP Campground on Sunday night if you plan to do more exploring at Chaco. I have requested a special program (hike, ruin visit, lecture) for our group which will probably occur Sunday afternoon or Saturday evening. On Saturday night the observatory and other telescopes are usually open for star gazing, and often an interpretive ranger also gives a program in the park or lecture room.

The sign up deadline is October 14th and we still have plenty of space. Please contact the leader: Amy Ross, amyross505@gmail.com, or 505-463-0787.

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (↖ ↗) Saturday, October 24 through Sunday, October 25, 2009

Leader: Barbara Hoehne, (505) 227-1673, nymphaea123@msn.com



October brings cool nights and warm days and heralds NMVFO'S annual pilgrimage to help the [Refuge](#) prepare for the [Festival of the Cranes](#). Our primary task this year will be to rehabilitate severe erosion on the Marsh Overlook Trail. Newcomers are welcome and experienced trail workers are encouraged to lend their expertise for this challenging work. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Saturday night will be provided by the VFO and prepared by a volunteer cook. Volunteers should plan to meet at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Volunteer Center. Please sign up for this project by Sunday, October 18. Come for a day or the entire weekend. Carpooling is encouraged and will be facilitated by the Project Leader.

A limited number of beds will be available on Friday and Saturday nights in a bunkhouse near the Volunteer Center on a first-come basis. Sorry, beds cannot be reserved; volunteers should bring camping equipment in case the bunkhouse fills up. Tent and RV/Truck camping is available in the area near the bunkhouse. Bathrooms with hot showers are available in the Volunteer Center. Bring long-sleeved shirts, long pants, work gloves, work boots, sunhats, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, rain gear, lunches & snacks, and water bottles.

Nominations Sought

The NMVFO Board of Directors is soliciting nominations for the 2010 Board of Directors. Five director positions are open, including Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary. Nominations will be reviewed by the nominating committee and the slate will be sent to the NMVO membership for voting. The Board meets six times per year. Meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month, every other month, in the evening. In 2009 the Board met in Albuquerque, Bernalillo, the East Mountains and Santa Fe.

NMVFO needs people with ideas (especially about membership recruitment and retention), computer skills, bookkeeping/accounting experience and contacts with other organizations and agencies. If you'd like to know more about serving on the Board, please ask past or present Board members.

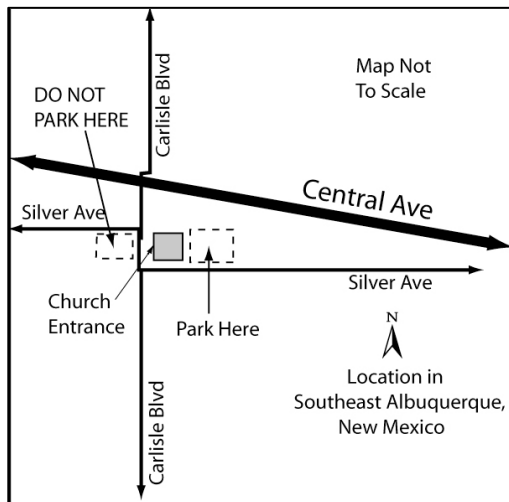
Contact information for current Board members is on our website in the Governance section: <http://nmvfo.org/governance/governance.html>.

Please consider nominating yourself and/or another VFO member (or potential member) by contacting Barbara Hoehne, nymphaea123@msn.com or (505) 227-1673 by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2009.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Saturday, November 14, 2009

Join us for food, fun and festivities to celebrate another successful and enjoyable volunteer season! The volunteer appreciation dinner will be held at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 114 Carlisle SE, Albuquerque, starting at 6:00 pm. The program includes:

- Dinner, with entrees and soft drinks provided, and pot-luck appetizers, salads, side dishes and desserts (see below)
- Slide show of projects during the year
- Awards for Volunteer of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Project Leader of the Year, Project Cook of the Year, and Agency of the Year
- Election results for the Board of Directors, including Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Directors-at-Large



Potluck assignments. First letter of last name brings:

- A-H Salads/side dishes
- I-P Appetizers
- Q-Z Desserts

No RSVP necessary! Just come and enjoy. If you can't make it, please be sure to mail in your ballot or give it to someone who can bring it to the dinner. Every vote counts!

Project Committee Meetings Wednesday, October 28, 2009 Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Leader: Lowell Hioki, (505) 474-0913, Lhioki@msn.com

It's that time of year again when we start the process of planning our next year's projects. We'll be meeting in the Courtyards@Cutler Clubhouse, from 7:00 pm to approximately 9:00 pm. (The Courtyards is at 2403 San Mateo NE, two blocks north of I-40 off Prospect).

The first meeting is our kickoff, where we'll review this year's project season and discuss how we did: what went well, what didn't, and how we can improve things. We'll also discuss our project selection

process, which is detailed in our website, www.nmvfo.org (click on the Projects Page, then on the Project Scheduling Process).

We will develop a working schedule at the December meeting, where prospective project leaders will outline the projects that they've worked out with agency representatives, together with preferred and alternate dates for each. The schedule we develop will be fine-tuned, then submitted to the Board of Directors for approval and adoption by early to mid-February.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings, and is encouraged to participate in the discussions and schedule development. The result of our efforts at these meetings is the heart of our volunteer season, and so a large and active Committee is a necessary part of a successful season.

Share your Photos

Photographs taken of your project can be shared via a slide show in the Projects Page of our website. Select a dozen of your most interesting shots, write captions for each, and send them to Lowell Hioki (Lhioki@msn.com). To see the slide shows, go to the Projects Page, and click on "Click Here for the NMVFO 2009 Projects and Slide Shows". Clicking on a project will bring up the details for the project and a link for a slide show if one exists. Many thanks to the project leaders and/or photographers who have submitted photos to share!

Reminders for Project Volunteers

Volunteers should bring their own eating gear: plate, cup and utensils. After meals, volunteers should help with cleanup, both your own as well as the cooking gear. *Remember, just like you, our cooks are all volunteers and a thank you for a meal well done helps keep them cooking for us.* Volunteers should also bring a camp chair.

Need Camping Equipment?

VFO has a dome tent, a 0° sleeping bag and foam mattress pad available on a first-come, first-served basis; check with the project leader if you want to borrow them. Another source is REI, in Albuquerque near I-25 and Montano and in Santa Fe at the Railyard; they have a wealth of camping (and other) equipment for rent, including tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads.



We again thank Wilson & Company, Engineers and Architects, for printing our flyers during this and many past seasons. In Albuquerque, Wilson & Company's services include architectural, environmental planning, railroad and surveying and mapping services.



New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors
P.O. Box 36246
Albuquerque, NM 87176

Website: www.nmvfo.org
Email: 1nmvfo@gmail.com

Join the NMVFO Today!

Your membership dues help fund all our activities to make improvements to trails and outdoor recreation areas throughout New Mexico. Mail in the form below, along with your check, to NMVFO, P.O. Box 36246, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip + 4 _____

Home Phone (with area code): _____

Work Phone (with area code): _____

email address: _____

May we send you our newsletter by email? _____

Please indicate what information above we may include in our posting of your name in the Members-Only section of our website.

The New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors is a 501(c)(3) corporation in the state of New Mexico. We are an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff.

NMVFO Membership Categories

- Individual (\$20)
- Family (\$30)
- Contributor (\$30)
- Sponsor (\$50)
- Benefactor (\$100)
- Life (\$250 and above)
- Corporate (\$250 and above)
- You Name It (above \$250)