



# NMVFO NEWS

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

August 2010

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*New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, (505) 884-1991 or (888) 836-5553*

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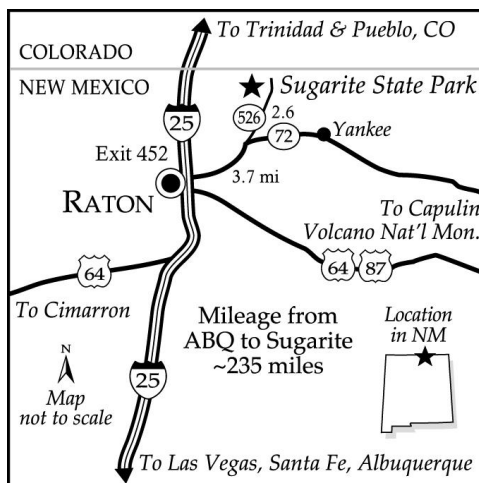
*Email us at [Inmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:Inmvfo@gmail.com).*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Sugarite Canyon State Park ( ↖ ↗ )

**Saturday, August 7 through Sunday, August 8**

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



*Please note that there has been a change in the work activities for this project. We'll enjoy balmy summer nights and watch for meteor showers when we journey to this jewel of a state park on the Colorado border where we always receive a warm welcome. Be among the first to visit newly acquired land near Lake Maloya as we remove old fencing for the benefit of wildlife. We will camp in the Gambel Oak Group Campground where there are toilets, tent sites, trees, meadows, a great view, and space for RVs. Hot showers are available at the Visitor's Center. Lodging is available in nearby Raton for those who prefer not to camp.*

For more information about the Park's historical and natural attractions, visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/Sugarite.htm>.

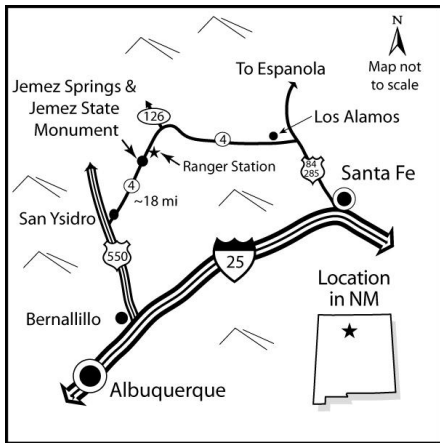
Carpooling is encouraged and will be facilitated by the Project Leader. Volunteers should bring long pants, long sleeves, work gloves and boots, sun and rain protection. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and Saturday night dinner will be provided by NMVFO, prepared by a VFO volunteer cook. Volunteers should bring their own lunches and snacks. Please sign up for this project by Sunday, August 1.

### Jemez State Monument ( ↖ ↗ )

**Saturday, August 21**

Leader: Ruth Hartswick, (505) 294-3551, [Lhartswick@earthlink.net](mailto:Lhartswick@earthlink.net)

Please note this project has been shortened to a one-day project. We will meet in the picnic area behind the monument visitor center at 8 a.m. A light snack and coffee will be served there. Tools will be transported to the trail head, and we will hike to the end of last year's trail to continue clearing vegetation and establishing tread along an old dirt road. Dinner will be served at the end of the project at the visitor center. Please pack a lunch to be eaten on the trail. This trail follows a shady stream, but don't forget the

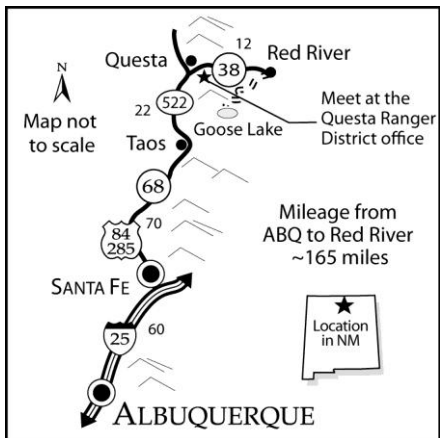


sunscreen, water, and gloves. Because there is limited parking at the visitor center, please park across the street in the Valles Caldera Visitor Center parking lot.

**Goose Lake ( ↖ ↗ )**

**Saturday, August 28 through Sunday, August 29**

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



Goose Lake is roughly five miles south of Red River, and the trail we built over 10 years ago leading from the lake to the hill overlooking it needs maintenance. The switchbacks need grooming, and we also need to obliterate the social trails that they replaced. It's a chance to escape the heat of summer, and enjoy some absolutely spectacular scenery! Please be aware that the lake is at 11,600 feet elevation, and we'll be working up to 12,000 feet or slightly higher.

The easier route to the lake is through private land, and so we'll be assembling then convoying from the Questa Ranger District office (1.8 miles east of NM 522 on NM 38). There will be two convoys, one leaving at 5:00 pm Friday, Aug. 27, and the second at 9:00 am, Saturday, Aug. 28. Volunteers not having high-clearance vehicles can transfer their gear at the office and leave their personal vehicles behind locked gates. (Volunteers wanting to travel on their own can do so on FR 486; please contact Lowell for more info.)

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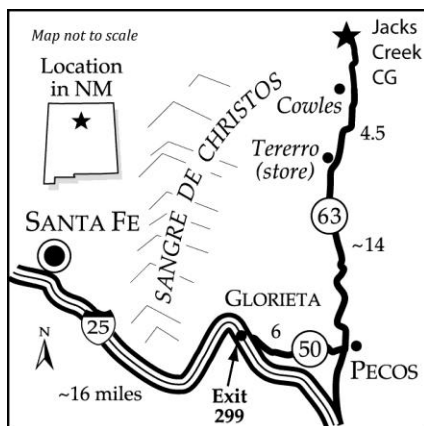
Tools will be provided, along with potable water, a light Saturday morning breakfast, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. Please sign up by August 23, and when you do so, please let Lowell know when you will be arriving.

**Beatty's Trail Backpack ( ↖ ↗ ↘ )**

**Saturday, September 4 through Monday, September 6**

Leader: Jennifer Sublett, (505) 757-6121, [jasublett@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasublett@fs.fed.us)

**Muck, muck, muck...YUCK!** A portion of Beatty's Trail is in serious need of rehabilitation where the trail moves through a boggy section caused by nearby runoff. Join us for a fun Labor Day weekend of backpacking and armoring the trail with rock and other erosion control methods to prolong the life and integrity of the trail in this short section. At night we will enjoy the sights and sounds of the mountains in



late summer and relax around the fire. Wake up Monday morning and share in a **Breakfast Burrito Bonanza** before we make any last improvements to the trail and hike back to our vehicles. We will meet at 8:00 AM on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> at Jack's Creek campground, which is located on Highway 63 north of Pecos, NM. Please consider camping Friday night at Jack's Creek Campground, so that we may leave on time Saturday morning. Our hiking distance to the project will be approximately four miles. Meals provided for this project will be Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday's breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Monday morning breakfast. Please be prepared to lift rocks and get muddy.

Please contact Jennifer Sublett, Trails & Volunteer Coordinator, at 505-753-7331 or [jasublett@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasublett@fs.fed.us) for more information.

## Summer Solstice Snow No Match for Traditional Snow Shovel

By Jackie Hertel

Since when is shoveling snow part of VFO trail maintenance? This is the question we asked Kevin Balciar, project leader of the June 19 Pecos Backpack Trip. On the morning of our trek up the mountain, seeing Kevin standing at the Jack's Creek Trailhead with his trusty Wisconsin snow shovel, we knew something unusual was in store for us. He began his charge up the mountain shovel in hand, bound to reach camp before the pack horses and our supplies arrived. It seemed he mentioned something about a little snow covering the trail near our intended work area. Oh well, no problem.



By the time Bob Mann, John Samuli and I reached Pecos Baldy Lake the pack horse train was already heading back down, packs empty, riders muttering that there was a change in campsite location. A mile and a half later we caught the first view of our mountaintop camp and finally reaching our destination, spied Kevin's bent, crumpled, highly defeated snow shovel. It wasn't long before we heard the story. The horses couldn't safely trod over the large snow field around the corner of the mountain to reach our planned camp and one person with a certain snow shovel, no matter how strong, positive and determined, could not make enough headway digging a path. There was the shovel, ugly evidence lying in the grass.

The next morning first thing on the schedule was a team of three shoveling madly through what seemed like a monster snow bank blocking the trail. With our usual trail shovels John, Bob and I hacked a deep trench in the hard snow crust, some might call it ice, searching for the trail underneath. Working from each end of a thirty foot wide, up to four foot deep snow field, we made a breakthrough by noon enjoying much ceremony and a sense of achievement. Kevin, Tina and Steve Ehrman along with Jennifer Sublett from the U.S. Forest Service and her husband Joel had the pleasure of doing regular trail work back uphill until we cleared the way and all could advance along the mountainside.

In the following days of our stay on the mountain while we chopped, leveled, drained and cleared nearby trails, the Solstice Sun's heat melted the snow walls of our path, providing a wider and progressively drier route for us and hikers too. By the way, Kevin's snow shovel was restored to its original shape after some significant pounding with large rocks. Kevin himself affirms that it is as good as new. You can ask him. (Many thanks to Kevin for his steady, supportive leadership, fabulous cooking and unstoppable energy.)



## **Build Trails, Win Prizes!**

**By Bill Velasquez**

We are ecstatic to announce that REI is again sponsoring a Build Trails Win Prizes promotion for the second half of our project season! Here's how it works:

Starting with your second project of the season, each volunteer will receive one entry in the drawing for every project they work! So, if you went on an early season project and haven't been back out there, you have lots of opportunities to do so before our season ends! Examples:

Volunteer went on Burro Mountains Project and then goes on Pino Trail Project = one entry!

Volunteer went on St Peter's Dome Trail Project and Sitting Bull Falls Trail Project = one entry!

Volunteer goes on Rio Chama Raft Project, Goose Lake Project, and Pino Trail Project = two entries!

Prizes will be 20 - \$25 REI Gift Cards to be drawn by random raffle of names entered at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner! You need not be present to win, but you are limited to one card only, so whether you have 8 entries or 1, you can still only win once. We are also grateful to REI for donating over \$3,000 of additional funds for food for all remaining projects and for a kitchen and tool upgrade!

THANKS REI!!

[www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)



## 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](mailto:Lhioki@msn.com)). To see the slide shows, go to the Projects Page, and click on “Click Here for the NMVFO 2010 Projects and Slide Shows”. Many thanks to the project leaders and/or photographers who have submitted photos to share!

There is also a new slide show on our webpage called “An Introduction to NMVFO Projects”. Click on “See a slide show” on the home page to view.

## 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. The New Mexico Mountain Club also has equipment available for rent for its members: [nmmtclub@gmail.com](mailto:nmmtclub@gmail.com)



We thank Wilson & Company, Engineers and Architects, for printing our flyers and newsletters 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  
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Albuquerque, NM 87176

Website: [www.nmvfo.org](http://www.nmvfo.org)  
Email: [1nmvfo@gmail.com](mailto: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(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

email address (for NMVFO Monthly Newsletters on service projects, social events and other good news): \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Solo Shoveler (\$20)  
(Individual)
- Pruners 'n Loppers (\$30)  
(Family/Contributor)
- Crosscut Sawyer (\$50)  
(Sponsor)
- Pulaski Champion (\$100)  
(Benefactor)
- Lifetime Trail Defender (\$250)  
(Lifetime Member)