



NMVFO NEWS

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

June 2009

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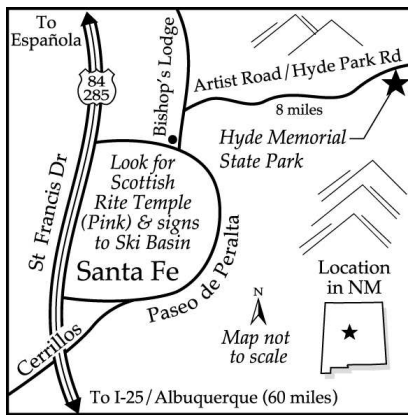
New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, (505) 884-1991 or (888) 836-5553
Visit our website at www.nmvfo.org. Email us at lnmvfo@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

National Trails Day, Hyde Memorial State Park (↖ - ↗ ↘)

Saturday June 6, 2009

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



Come and celebrate National Trails Day with us in the delightful surroundings of Hyde Memorial State Park in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains outside Santa Fe. This nationwide event is sponsored by the American Hiking Society and is an annual observation of trails and the people who enjoy and maintain them. Amidst the cool pine forests of the Park, we'll have a variety of projects from which to choose, from light to heavy trail work. No experience is necessary – just a willingness to join likeminded volunteers who enjoy working in the outdoors. We will gather Saturday morning between 8:00 and 8:15 am at Group Shelter 2, hear descriptions of the different tasks, have a safety talk, and then head off to work on different crews. At the end of the day, a barbecue dinner will be provided.

To get to the Park, take St. Francis Dr to Paseo de Peralta at the north end of Santa Fe, and proceed east on Paseo de Peralta to Washington Ave. At the bright pink Scottish Rite temple, turn north (left) on Washington Ave/Bishop's Lodge Rd, and turn east (right) at the first stoplight onto Artist Rd./Hyde Park Rd. Follow the latter 7½ miles to the State Park, and look for the NMVFO road signs directing you to Group Shelter 2. Please pre-register by calling or emailing Lowell by Saturday, May 30.

Sugarite Canyon State Park (↖ ↗)

Saturday June 13 through Sunday June 14, 2009

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



Wildflowers will be blooming when we journey to this jewel of a state park on the Colorado border where we will construct a log bridge and remove old fencing for the benefit of wildlife. We will camp in the Gambel Oak Group Area in Soda Pocket Campground where there are pit toilets, trees, meadows, a great view, and space for RVs. There is no water at the campsite, but it is available in the park. Hot showers are available at the Visitor's Center. For a park map and more info about its historical and natural attractions, visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/Sugarite.htm>. Lodging is available in nearby Raton for those who prefer not to camp. Carpooling is encouraged. Since we will be handling barbed

wire, volunteers should plan to wear long pants, long sleeves, and leather gloves; also bring sun and rain protection, camping gear, camp chair, day pack, and eating utensils. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and Saturday night cook-out will be provided by NMVFO, prepared by a VFO cook-volunteer. Volunteers should bring their own lunches and snacks. Please sign up for this project by Sunday, June 7.

Pecos Backpack XVI (⚡⚡⚡)

Saturday June 13 through Sunday June 21, 2009

Leader: Kevin Balciar, (505) 293-1477, Kevin@soleilwest.com



If you like working in lush green meadows, and near roaring streams, this is the project for you. The Rito Azul, the Rito Chimayosos, and the Rito Padre are all tributaries flowing into the Pecos River just above Beatty's flat, and this is where we will be working for nine glorious days. As you might imagine the trails in this area are muddy, and prone to water erosion. Our efforts will mitigate those problems. We will set up a base camp, on Trail 246, approximately 8.4 miles from the Iron Gate Trail Head. We will work within a 2.5 mile radius from camp.

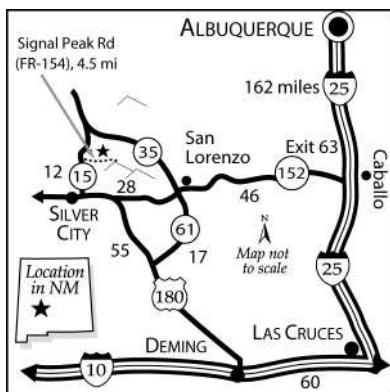
All meals are provided for the entire nine days beginning Saturday June 13. Meals are even provided on our day off, Wednesday, June 17. Volunteers must provide their own camping gear. They should bring work gloves, long pants, work shoes, stream crossing shoes, sunscreen, insect repellent, eating utensils, rain gear, tent, sleeping bag, water bottles, and a day pack.

The Iron Gate campground is approximately two hours from Albuquerque and one hour from Santa Fe. Please contact the project leader, Kevin Balciar (contact information above) before June 8 to sign up.

Signal Peak Continental Divide Trail (CDT) (⚡⚡)

Friday June 19 through Monday June 22, 2009

Leader: Wayne Brown, (575) 538-3648, waynebrown@gmail.com



Come to the tall pines of southwest New Mexico for a long weekend (or a day) to help reroute a rough section of trail. All skill levels of trail work will be useful: chores include cutting a trail corridor with chainsaw, hand saw, and loppers, cutting new tread, and inserting water-bars and rolling dips in appropriate places along the new trail. Here's a chance to make your mark in history by constructing brand new tread on the Continental Divide Trail. An informal visit to the Signal Peak Fire Lookout Tower will be included. All meals from dinner Friday through lunch on Monday will be provided. USFS will provide a water buffalo with our potable water. We'll meet on Friday at 11:00 a.m. at the Silver City Forest Service office at 3005 Camino del Bosque.

Directions: I-25 South to Exit 63 (to Hillsboro & Kingston). Follow Hwy 152 to Santa Clara. Turn right on Hwy 180 (to the west) and continue to Silver City. Turn right at the stop light across from Wendy's and Motel 6. The Forest Service office is approximately 1/8 mile on the left.

For those coming later: continue past the Forest Service office to Hwy 15. Turn right. Follow Hwy 15 to the Signal Peak Road. (FR 154: gravel). Follow the Signal Peak Rd. about 4 1/2 miles. Our campsite will be on the left. Watch for the green VFO project signs along the route.

Build Trails/Win Prizes Update

Sorry Folks – We had a misprint in the March Newsletter that I need to correct. Your entry in to the drawing starts with the **second** project you do and one entry for each project after that. It does not matter if it is a day project or weeklong project. The drawing will be held at our end of year party and you need not be present to win. The drawing is for one of 10 REI \$25 gift cards. One prize per person limit! Thanks to REI for their generous donation to support this program!

Meet Your Fellow Volunteers



Debbie and Bill Velasquez have been with the VFO for over 13 years, and many trails in the area would not look as good as they do without their dedication. In addition to serving as project leaders, Debbie has been a cook and Bill has been a board member. In 2009, look for Bill as leader on three projects; he also conducted two workshops this spring to help train and recruit new volunteers. The most satisfying part for them of working with VFO is the knowledge that they are helping to keep the wilderness accessible for future generations to find the same love they have for these magnificent places. Debbie and Bill advise new members to always bring a spoon and fork on projects – and to write your name on them!

In their spare time, they generously donate many hours of volunteer service to the House Rabbit Society, an international non-profit program that rescues rabbits from animal shelters and educates the public on rabbit care and behavior. Debbie also plays the dulcimer, and Bill likes to enter local bike and running races. They can be found backpacking year round in deep wilderness, where they love to spend their downtime.

Summer Social: July 26 at Hyde Park

Our summer social will be Sunday, July 26 at Hyde Park near Santa Fe. Save the date, and look for more details in the July newsletter.

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).

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 want to 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

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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)