



NMVFO NEWS

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors
Volume 26 Number 2 April 1, 2008

NMVFO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NMVFO Board of Directors Activity

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, March 12 and addressed several items.

Projects Committee. Lowell Hioki is working to get REI – Santa Fe involved with our National Trails Day project at Hyde Memorial State Park this year. The store itself may not be open by NTD, June 7, but indications are that they will help with registration and perhaps with donation of goods.

Membership Committee. Ads were placed in the Albuquerque Journal (a couple from Rio Rancho attended the last membership meeting as a result of this) and in the Duke City Fit. Jason Koschmeder and Bill Velasquez are also looking into and placing our ads in different web sites.

Newsletter Mailing List. The Board decided that we would require all individuals, businesses, and organizations to contact the NMVFO by mail or phone in order to continue receiving a mailed copy of the newsletter. We are also contemplating having the newsletter prepared for mailing after monthly membership meetings as we did in the past. We feel the former action will drastically reduce our mailing list and associated costs with little or no loss in readership, and the latter will provide time for socializing after the monthly meeting.

Website Development. Linda Kepler, overseen by John Thomas, has been updating our present website as well as developing a new one. The new website is easy to navigate and will offer much more than the old one, including a large projects section with forms accessibility, governance information, a slide show, and a Members Only section. It is contemplated that the latter will contain a membership directory (voluntary listings only), and Board meeting agendas, minutes, and Treasurer's reports. Although still under construction, the new website is now on line.

NMVFO Road Signs. Thanks to Lew Hartswick and Curtis Hogue, we have six new road signs. They are larger and thus easier to see, and will be in the storage shed soon.

Storage Shed Cleanup. Several Board members worked on the storage shed contents on March 22. The goals were to discard items that weren't being used and to identify equipment that needed to be repaired or replaced. Additionally, alternate means of storing tools in a safer manner were discussed and will be implemented.

Office Copying Machines.

Both copying machines in the NMVFO office are inoperable, and the Board voted to replace them with an "all-in-one" printer-copier-scanner since it has fairly low usage. Additionally, the old office computer, which was replaced with an iMac, will be donated to a local school, together with the old printer. Both are old, but in operating condition.

Declining Meeting Attendance. The Board discussed this together with means of counteracting it. Guest speakers were thought to be the most effective, and the Board invites comments and suggestions from the membership at large to address this. These may be submitted via email to 1nmvfo@gmail.com.

March General Membership Meeting

Don't forget! All are welcome at our general monthly membership meetings the first Wednesday of every month throughout our season. This month's meeting is April 2nd at 7pm. Mile Neal of Hawk Watch International will give a presentation on raptors and migration and a door prize will be given away. The meeting will be open to and encourage questions, comments, and concerns. We will also show photos of the March projects; Hawkwatch trail, National Hispanic Cultural Center, and ABQ OS Trail #230, and a slide show proposed for inclusion on the new web site, entitled "An Introduction to NMVFO Projects," will be previewed. Upcoming April projects will be discussed and refreshments will be provided. Meetings are held at The Courtyard @ Cutler. A map to that site is available on our new web site, nmvfo.org, by clicking on the Join the NMVFO link.



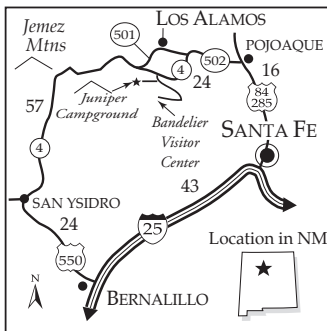
NMVFO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Frey Trail



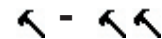
Saturday, April 19, through Sunday April 20 2008

Project Leader: Heather Gordon 505-842-7851 gordonh@saic.com



This project takes place in Bandelier National Monument, which offers spectacular scenery along with its famous cliff dwellings, built over 600 years ago by ancestors of modern Pueblo people. Running through the Canon de los Frijoles from Juniper Campground to the visitor center, the scenic Frey Trail offers some of the best of Bandelier. Please come join the NMVFO on the weekend of April 19 and 20 as we work on this great trail. The spring weather should be perfect for general trail maintenance, including repairing water bars, installing steps and retaining walls, and re-establishing tread. NMVFO volunteers can camp free of charge on Friday (April 18) and Saturday at Juniper Campground. You can join us for either Saturday or Sunday as your schedule allows. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday is provided, but please bring your lunch, along with the equipment you need to camp and hike. Our volunteers can enjoy a hearty dinner provided by the NMVFO camp chef on Saturday, and then listen to a ranger give a talk on the fascinating history of the area. The satisfaction that comes from helping one of our nation's great treasures will also be included with this project. Space is limited, so please call or email the trip leader, Heather Gordon, at (505) 842-7851 or gordonh@saic.com. Please, no dogs.

Coronado State Monument



Saturday, April 26, through Sunday, April 27, 2008

Project Leader: Curtis Hogue 505-348-4186(w) 505-797-2861(h) CurtisHogue@wilsonco.com



Cool and sad, sitting exposed to the weather day in and day out, the lonely adobes cry out, "touch me, heal me" HEY wait, that was last year! It's a new season, a new project, it may not be a "DIVINE DESIGN," but it's going to be a real "TOOL TIME" special for all of you carpenter wannabes, handyman types, loppers, and trail builders. No experience is necessary but it is wholeheartedly welcomed. Scott Smith has requested our help to do a construction project again, as well as an access trail and brush clearing at Coronado. The nearby Tamaya Resort has requested that a small landing dock be built allowing them river access to the Monument. Last year they provided a short half to three-quarter hour raft ride down the Rio Grande to the Monument, and they would like to be able to unload their guests onto a real landing dock this year. If we finish early, there are several other small construction projects that Scott would like us to do. Coffee and sweet rolls will be provided on Saturday and Sunday mornings and lunch will be provided on Saturday. There is no camping available at the Monument. Please contact Curtis to get on board for this project and please bring your idle power and hand tools and your favorite band-aids. Let's build something together.



Mailing List Alert!

Many of those familiar with our mailing list are concerned that we could be mailing hard copies of our monthly newsletter to addressees of those who are no longer interested in receiving them, but have not asked to be removed from our regular mail mailing list. The monthly mailing of the newsletter is a significant fraction of our budget; so in order to economize, we are asking those who receive the newsletter by regular mail and would like to continue to receive it that way, to notify our office by regular mail, email, or by telephone by May 1. Those who do not let us know will be removed from the regular mailing list. An alternate way to receive the newsletter is to add your email address to our VFO email list by sending it to Glen Kepler at gkepler1@comcast.net. The newsletter is now included as a pdf file in the letter sent to all those on our email list each month when the newsletter is ready for printing. Such files can be opened with the free software Adobe Reader. Directions for downloading this software are available on our web page at <http://www.nmvfo.org>. The only people who have access to our mailing list are the two administrators for the list, Lowell Hioki and Glen Kepler, and our list will not be published anywhere; so you will not get additional junk mail as a result of being on our mailing list. There are a couple of advantages to receiving the newsletter by email. You receive it about a week earlier than those who receive it by regular mail, and occasionally important messages are sent to those on our email list. Also, you will be helping us to save money to be available for other uses.

Behind The Scenes Volunteers

The major volunteer activity of New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors is to work on outdoor projects, but there are other, behind the scenes, activities that are just as important. We have committees that develop next year's project schedule, conduct office work, seek new volunteers, maintain cooking supplies, and promote, raise funds for and publicize the NMVFO. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact one of the board members and he/she will put you in contact with the appropriate person.

Need Camping Equipment?

If you have been hesitating about going out on a weekend (or longer) NMVFO project because you don't have any camping equipment, you no longer have to worry. Jan Underwood and Cindy Hess have donated a nice dome tent, and the NMVFO has purchased a 0° sleeping bag and foam pad to go with it. The equipment is available on a first-come first-served basis. Just check with the Project Leader if you need to borrow it. If the NMVFO's equipment is already spoken for, there is another good source for camping equipment. The REI outdoor store near I-40 and Montgomery has a rental department. See you on the trails!

The NMVFO would like to thank Wilson & Company, engineers and architects, for printing our flyers this season. In Albuquerque Wilson & Company's services include Architectural, Environmental Planning, Railroad and Surveying and Mapping services.

WILSON
& COMPANY

P.O. Box 94000
Albuquerque, NM 87199-4000