



# NMVFO NEWS

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

NMVFO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## A Message From the Chairman, Lowell Hioki

**Something to Remember** The VFO is entering its 26th year of volunteer service, and perhaps we should remember the reasons for which the organization was started. Most of our efforts have been and will continue to be direct work on trails and outdoor structures and facilities. But we should remember that the organization was founded with the broader goals of furthering knowledge and appreciation, as well as improvement, of the outdoors. We've done a few things in the past that help in this regard: welcoming youth groups from Santo Domingo Pueblo to our projects; speaking at local libraries; holding information days at REI, and hosting National Trails Day events. These activities may not directly involve improving our outdoors, but they do directly serve the purposes for which the VFO was formed.

**The 2008 Board of Directors** Pat Collins, Shirley Kennedy, Jason Koschmeder, Phyllis Martinez, and John Thomas were elected to the Board at last year's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner; they will serve for the next two years. They join Jeff Duray, Lowell Hioki, Curtis Hogue, Ray Peale, and Deborah Radcliffe, who have a year left to serve. Lowell will serve as Chairman, Jason as Vice-chairman, Pat as Secretary, and Ray as Treasurer. The remaining six members are Directors-at-Large. The Board held its first meeting on January 9, at which the aforementioned officers were confirmed. Future Board meetings are tentatively scheduled for March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10 and October 8, all commencing at 6:30pm. The March 12 meeting will be held in the Clubhouse of Courtyards @ Cutler. Please check with any Board member to confirm the location of other meetings.

**Our 2008 Project Season** The Projects Committee developed this season's volunteer schedule, which Glen Kepler edited and formatted, and is posted on our website. We have 21 projects spread throughout the state, including day, weekend car camps, and multi-day backpacks, with difficulty levels ranging from one to three Pulaskis. There's something for everyone.

**www.nmvfo.org** Our website is still under construction, and we apologize for the length of time it's taken. Although the site is in a rudimentary form, current project information is posted. John Thomas volunteered to oversee webmaster selection and website development on behalf of the Board, and is immersed in these efforts. We expect to start seeing the fruits of his labor within the next few months.

**It's Membership Renewal Time** For those of you who've already sent in your dues and renewed your membership, Thank You! For those of you who haven't, please do so at your earliest convenience. We rely on these dues to cover a substantial portion of our expenses; and although your most valuable contribution are the time and effort you devote to projects, we just couldn't exist without income from dues. Following are the membership classes: Individual, \$20; Family, \$30; Contributor, \$30; Sponsor, \$50; Benefactor, \$100; and Lifetime, \$250 or more. Mail in your dues now to NMVFO, PO Box 36246, Albuquerque, NM 87176. Thank you!

## March General Membership Meeting

Come join us at the Courtyards @ Cutler for our first membership meeting of the 2008 project season starting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 5. We will have photos of this year's snowy Burro Mountain project, refreshments, discussions of upcoming projects and a short business meeting. Non-members are welcome at all of our meetings.

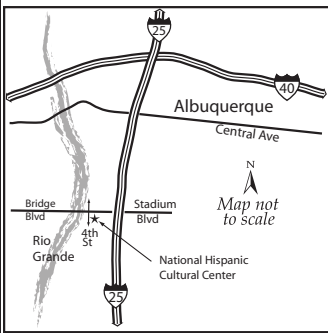


NMVFO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### National Hispanic Cultural Center ↖ ↗

Saturday, March 15,  
through Sunday March 16  
2008

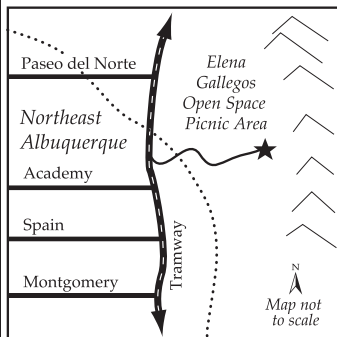
Project Leader: Phyllis  
Martinez 575-829-3535  
pamartinez02@fs.fed.us



The NMVFO project I am leading for the National Hispanic Cultural Center, located in Albuquerque (1601 Fourth Street NW) is still in the 'pre-planning' stage at this point in time. I am still working out the logistics with the Hispanic Cultural Center. We are still looking to do the First Phase of this project on March 15 and 16. The project undertaken will be an installation of a pedestrian bridge on the river channel that runs parallel between the Cultural Center and the Rio Grande River. The pedestrian bridge will give visitors access from the Cultural Center to the trails within the Rio Grande Bosque. The First Phase of this project will be the construction of the entry/exit from the Cultural Center to the location of the pedestrian bridge. This project welcomes all volunteers! There will be tasks for every level of physical fitness, age and interest! Lunch will be provided by the NHCC on both days. Your interest in this local project is greatly appreciated by me, the Leader of this project and the State of New Mexico. Please e-mail Phyllis Martinez at: [pamartinez02@fs.fed.us](mailto:pamartinez02@fs.fed.us) to sign up for this project, or call: 575-829-3535 for more detailed information.

### Albuquerque Open Space Trail #230 ↖ - ↗ ↘

Saturday, March 29, 2008  
Project Leader: Bill Velasquez 505.881-0555  
(w), 505-292-6030 (h)  
[bvelasquez@gardnerzenke.com](mailto:bvelasquez@gardnerzenke.com)

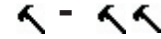


Join us for an easy day of multi-use trail work on one of Albuquerque's most used foothills trails. We will meet at the Cottonwood Springs trailhead near the Kiwanis group area at Elena Gallegos Picnic Ground. The group area is north of the visitor center. Our focus will be erosion control and trail definition along the length of trail #230 as it snakes past trails 342 and 341 towards the wilderness boundary and Domingo Baca trail. This area gets significant mountain bike traffic, so we will be working the trail to mountain bike standards. Early spring is a wonderful time to be in the foothills. The temperatures are moderate and the backdrop scenery of the Sandia Mountains is majestic. Maintenance will focus on re-creating drain dips along the length of the trail, repairing badly eroded areas, and also planting native species in overuse areas to discourage user trails from forming. Volunteers should plan to bring their own lunches, snacks, and plenty of water. This project is limited to 15 volunteers and is an ideal project for those who have never done trail maintenance before. You are welcome to join us for the entire day or any portion of it. Parking fee will be waived for this project; so feel free to extend your stay and maybe even enjoy a beautiful sunset from a vantage point along any of the many connecting trails!



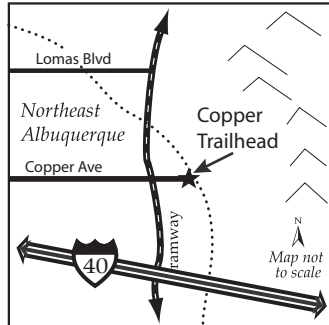
NMVFO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Sandia Foothills-Copper Trailhead



Saturday, April 5 2008

Project Leader: Jason  
Koschmeder 505-265-4358  
thekosh@netzero.com



The Foothills Open Space is one of Albuquerque's beloved outdoor areas, and the Copper Avenue Trailhead provides access for all kinds of activities. From trails to the Eye of the Sandias, to bouldering at U-Mound, to mountain biking, dog walking, and trail running, plenty of outdoor adventures are begun here. The NMVFO is working with the Open Space Volunteers on their Spring Cleanup of this popular area. Project work is available for everyone: replanting native vegetation, building water bars to stabilize trails and prevent erosion, and general cleanup. Come make a difference with other like-minded volunteers, and enjoy a rewarding and sunny spring day while enjoying views of the Bosque, Ladrone Peak to the south, Mount Taylor to the west, and the crest to the north. Volunteers should bring lunches and snacks, along with sturdy shoes and gloves, long pants and long-sleeved shirts, day packs, water bottles, hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Please confirm your space by March 29; this is a very popular outing.

## 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.

## Did You Receive This Newsletter Via The US Mail?

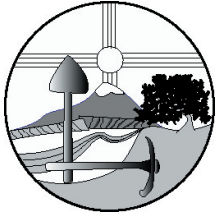
If so, you could help save the NMVFO some money by agreeing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. We have had some response to this request, but more would help. The newsletter is now included as a pdf file in the letter sent to all those on our email list each month when the newsletter is ready for printing. Such files can be opened with the free software Adobe Reader. Directions for downloading this software will soon be available on our web page at <http://nmvfo.org>. So please send your e-mail address to our newsletter editor, Glen Kepler, at [gkepler1@comcast.net](mailto:gkepler1@comcast.net) and he'll add you to the e-mail distribution list. 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.

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**

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Albuquerque, NM 87199-4000



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

[www.nmvfo.org](http://www.nmvfo.org)

**Address Service Requested**

## Join the NMVFO Today!

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

Yes, I would like to become a member of the NMVFO and help improve trails and recreational areas around the state

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Information  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Work Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests, Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

The New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization. Your dues and other contributions are totally tax deductible.

Mail check or money order to:

- NMVFO Membership Categories**
- Individual (\$20)
  - Family (\$30)
  - Contributor (\$30)
  - Sponsor (\$50)
  - Benefactor (\$100)
  - Life (\$250 and above)
  - Corporate (\$250 and above)
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors**

P. O. Box 36246 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87167 505/884-1991 [www.nmvfo.org](http://www.nmvfo.org)