



# NMVFO NEWS

The Voice of the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors

March 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 [1nmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:1nmvfo@gmail.com).*

## NMVFO Spring Social Saturday, March 20, 2010



A new project season awaits us and new volunteer opportunities become available to those itching to spend time in the great outdoors. The NMVFO has scheduled a social event to introduce our 2010 projects, our project leaders, our cooks and to mingle with anyone with an interest in volunteering. If you ever wanted to learn more about the NMVFO, this is the event to do so.

There will be slide shows of past projects, flyers describing our group, project schedules, and veteran volunteers offering advice to new volunteers and re-calling fond stories of past projects. Burgers, hot dogs and refreshments will be served. Our spring kick-off is scheduled for Saturday March 20 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Clubhouse at the Courtyards at Cutler at 2403 San Mateo NE in Albuquerque.

Watch for the green VFO signs to direct you to the event. For more information contact Kevin Balciar at (505) 293-1477 or email [1nmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:1nmvfo@gmail.com) by March 15.

## Orientation to Cooking for VFO Projects Saturday, March 13, 2010

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

If you have thought about cooking for a VFO project but wish you knew more about how to put it all together, then this is the class for you. Topics will include the cook's responsibilities, VFO kitchen gear, safety guidelines, planning for success, sample menus, and helpful tips. Seasoned cooks are invited to attend to share their experiences and to recruit apprentices for 2010 projects. New project leaders are also invited to learn how cooks and leaders can work together to ensure a successful project.

The class will be held at the Courtyards at Cutler clubhouse (see map above) on Saturday March 13 beginning at 2:00 pm. Please RSVP to Barbara. It would also be helpful if you print, review and bring with you the material found in the cook's section of the NMVFO website (<http://www.nmvfo.org/projectstuff/cooksarea.html>).

Volunteers in the southern or northern part of the state, contact Barbara if you are interested in having a class in your area.

## **NMVFO 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Night**

By Sarah Wood

The food was tasty, the slides of work were inspiring and the awards were well deserved at the annual volunteer appreciation dinner held November 14, 2009.

Shirley Kennedy, Cook of the Year, put those wimps with indoor kitchens on the Food Network to shame. Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stayed this stellar cook from the swift completion of her appointed meals.

Craig Saum of the Camino Real District of the Carson National Forest earned the Agency Representative of the Year. Craig helped us with the Santa Barbara and Pecos backpacks. He organized the gear pack-in, and was extremely effective and enthusiastic throughout the jobs. Craig is a real asset to the Forest Service.

The Rookie of the Year, Debby Beatty, was lured into the NMVFO at the Summer Social at Hyde State Park. She's a retired Forest Service worker from Washington DC and is enjoying the west in her RV. Debby turned out to be a former engineer and contributed a lot of good ideas as well as elbow grease on several projects in 2009.

Perennial workhorse Phyllis Martinez won Project Leader of the Year. Although we were sad to lose Phyllis from the Board at the beginning of the year, she led two projects in her outdoor office, the Jemez Ranger District. Phyllis has more strength in her pinkie finger than most of us do in an entire arm.

Deb Radcliffe won Volunteer of the Year. Deb stepped in to fill the Chairperson role after John Thomas resigned last spring. Her energy and innovation has revived the Board and she continues to come up with good ideas and keep us all on task. Additionally, Deb is one of our most active volunteers on projects, and once again led the extremely popular Rio Chama project.

A new category, Sharpest Volunteer of the Year, was awarded to Curtis Hogue. Curtis used his own equipment to sharpen all our tools this year, no doubt saving lots of time and tempers on the trail.

### *Board Changes*

Jason Koschmeder left us last summer to go learn about eyeballs in Oklahoma. Jason and his wife Heather were big losses to the NMVFO.

Secretary Pat Collins, Pam Reynolds and Bob Woods also left the Board this year. Pat has served as Secretary for the last six years, and her pen is plumb out of ink. Pam is still our Newsletter guru; she just doesn't want to sit in meetings (we hear ya Pam!). Bob's commute to meeting from Las Cruces was just a little too long. We thank Pat, Pam and Bob for their service to the Board and will continue to see them in their natural habitat on the trail.

Newbie Dave Weaver resigned but was immediately voted back in. Dave has a talent for getting to the root of a problem and also has loads of practical trail experience.

Elaine McGivern is bringing us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by lowering herself into the tangled depths of our database and making it more user-friendly. We can't thank her enough.

The Board discovered Sarah Wood has a stash of ballpoint pens, so she is the new Secretary.

Kevin Balciar, the Vice-Chair, continues on as a Board member and generously donates his office resources for meeting space and other tasks. Kevin's institutional memory is very helpful to the mostly new Board members.

Ray Peale, our treasurer since the late 1800s, is planning on moving on to an accounting-free retirement in the next year or two. Folks, we need a new treasurer. Is anyone out there good with numbers?

Deb Radcliffe remains our Chairperson for 2010.

## **Membership 2010 News**

Something new coming soon to your mail boxes for 2010 membership: Membership category dues remain the same, but the names have changed. Now you have the option of being a Solo Shoveler for \$20, a Pruners n' Loppers for \$30, a Crosscut Sawyer for \$50, a Pulaski Champion for \$100 or a Lifetime Trail Defender for \$250. Checks will still be paid to NMVFO.

The VFO Board has begun to develop a new system for organizing member information on projects, volunteer hours, records of email addresses, and more. The goal is to develop an easy to track system that will enable us to maintain a history of our projects, the trails work we do and keep up-to-date files on the important work of volunteers and their hours given to the many projects undertaken by the VFO. Project leaders will have new, easier to use forms with an easy delivery method to keep our records on volunteers efforts accurately updated in a timely manner. The Board will post news on the progress of our new information system; particularly important to us is receiving inputs from VFO members. So expect to learn more from us about our information system.

We prefer distributing the newsletter via email and posting on our website; delivery is faster and less expensive than mailing it. However, we realize that not all readers have access to computers or are online. Therefore, we will mail copies to you if you request it. In order to continue receiving it via mail for the remainder of 2010, please make a request or renew your old one by either: (a) Calling and leaving a message at the VFO office (505-884-1991 or 888-836-5553), (b) Mailing a note to the VFO office (NMVFO, P.O. Box 36246, Albuquerque, NM 87176), or (c) emailing us at [1nmvfo@gmail.com](mailto:1nmvfo@gmail.com). Give us your name and mailing address.

## **Who's got the stove?**

A new Coleman stove was borrowed from our storage shed, and needs to be returned as quickly as possible. It was going to be used for the Burro Mountains CDT project over Presidents Day weekend, but was missing when needed. The lock to the storage shed has been changed, and possibly the code to enter the facility as well. Contact any Board member to obtain the new code(s). We will have to purchase a replacement stove if the borrowed one is not returned.

## **Continental Divide Trail Alliance gives NMVFO "Golden Pick Award"**

Bob Woods, NMVFO member and New Mexico regional representative of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance, nominated NMVFO for the "Golden Pick Award". Here is what he wrote:

New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO) is a non-profit, action oriented organization dedicated to educating and involving citizens in the preservation, upkeep, and improvement of New Mexico's public lands. Special recognition must be given for all of the hard work NMVFO accomplished this past season on the CDT. In addition to numerous trail projects all over the state, NMVFO hosted five different trail projects connected to the CDT. The season kicked off on Mt Taylor where the NMVFO joined forces with CDTA and several members of the Back Country Horsemen to build over a mile of new trail. The next two projects took place high on the Divide in the Gila National Forest, providing much needed maintenance work. Next was a trail maintenance project in the beautiful San Pedro Parks Wilderness. The final CDT related project took place in partnership with the Step Into Cuba Alliance where volunteers installed a new CDT information kiosk in the middle of town. We appreciate all of the volunteer opportunities offered by NMVFO and look forward to continuing to work towards our common goals, as stated in the NMVFO slogan, "Making New Mexico's Outdoor's Great *With You!*"

## Volunteer Opportunities

Next month's newsletter will list projects for April and early May. Look for details on the following projects:

April 10-11, Turkey Spring Trail

April 17-18, Coronado State Monument

April 24, St Peter's Dome Trail

May 1, Randall Davey Audubon Center

## Report on the Burro Mountains CDT Project

by Lowell Hioki

The Burros beckoned, and 12 volunteers answered the call over Presidents Day. There were four stalwarts from Silver City, five from Albuquerque, two from Santa Fe, and one from Rio Rancho. We abandoned the original plan to work near Mud Springs, southwest of Silver City, because the residual snow was still knee deep; we worked on the CDT, but on a section northwest of the city.



On Saturday we cut 0.2 mile of new tread in a reroute from FR 118 to make it more hiker-friendly. We worked about a mile north of this section on Sunday and Monday, and cut an additional 0.4 mile of new tread, again to move it off a forest road and to make it more appealing. The weather over the weekend was fabulous for trail work, with cloudless skies and temperatures in the high-50s to low-60s.

The agency representative from the Silver City RD, Lynnette Brown, helped by her husband Wayne, provided us with comfortable accommodations in camp. A large wall tent housed cook Barb Hoehne's kitchen and a wood-burning stove, around which several of us huddled during meals and to socialize. The overnight lows dipped into the mid- to low-20s, so the stove and an outside bonfire were welcome and cheery.

## 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 2009 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.



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.



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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### NMVFO Membership Categories

- Solo Shoveler (\$20)
- Pruners & Loppers (\$30)
- Crosscut Sawyer (\$50)
- Pulaski Champion (\$100)
- Lifetime Trail Defender (\$250)

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.