



## Newsletter ~ January 2024

Thank you for your continuing interest in the CNP.

We have a marvelous organization with 110 dedicated, incredible members, and we're getting things done for the wildlife and visitors of the CNP.

We are considering charging dues of \$15 per year. Objections? If so please share them with Jeannie.

### What's in This Newsletter

- Winter Report from Ciudad SWCD - attached
- Upcoming Presentations
- Results of Interpretive Planning Workshop on Jan. 17, 2024
- Open Space Alliance (includes our fund)
- Opportunities to Contribute
- Updates from the Field - by Jaren Peplinski

### Winter Report from Ciudad SWCD

Wonderful report!! Attached to this email message.

### Upcoming Presentations

January 25, 5:00-6:00 PM: Jo Strange, Field Biologist, Open Space Alliance - Wildlife of the CNP. Participants must register. Please see attached flyer.

Katie Stone is now in charge of finding and managing our monthly presentations by experts in fields relevant to transformation of the CNP.

### Results of Interpretive Planning Workshop on Jan. 17, 2024

Productive meeting. 21 participants from City of Albuquerque, Ciudad SWCD, Rio Grande Return, and Friends of CNP - 4 hours.

We ~

- revisited the term "rewilding," per Colleen McRoberts. More revisiting to come.
- refined our focus audiences.
- populated an Program Overview Table that represents which Primary Interpretive Theme will be interpreted at which locations: Woodward House, Guided Tours, Wildlife Viewing Blinds, and Tree Nursery Tract for open air education ~ *and how*.

*Next steps:*

- Complete population of Program Overview Table
- Host additional focus groups- to help see what is missing, complete audience identification and address “rewilding.”
- Next steps in the table:
  - Resources needed
  - Partners to help
- Develop a work plan of what can happen first and is most needed and easiest
- Review and incorporate Community Engagement Plan and other docs from Colleen McRoberts

Next Interp Workshop: February 21 or 28, - at Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge

### **Open Space Alliance**

New OSA website coming soon.

Earth Day 2024: We will be sharing a booth at the Balloon Fiesta Park with OSA.

### Funds with OSA

Per Open Space Alliance Accountant Jennifer Moss, January 10, 2024, we currently have **\$7,315.73** in our account with OSA.

OSA recently submitted a grant proposal to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to enable completion of specific tasks in the Resource Management Plan.

Friends of CNP will provide \$2,000 matching fund for each of two years if that proposal is successful.

### **Opportunities to Contribute**

Field Work: We still need your help with transforming the Candelaria Nature Preserve into a mosaic of wildlife habitat! *Please consider joining other volunteers* on Fridays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM and Mondays 8:00 - 11:00 AM.

Website and Facebook Pages: We need someone to take on responsibility for our website and Facebook presence. Please contact Jeannie.

### New Leadership

*Membership:* **Cheryl Zebrowski**

*Monthly Presentations* by experts in fields relevant to rewilding: **Katie Stone**

*Monthly Guided Public Tours:* **Ruth Salvaggio**

### Lead Friends of CNP

We will need a new Chair of the Friends of CNP this summer. Jeannie who currently does this will be stepping aside in August 2024 to focus on the Interpretive Plan completion and implementation.

## **Updates from the Field**

Received weekly from Jaren Peplinski, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District

*If you want them weekly rather than compiled in our monthly newsletters, please let Jeannie or Jaren know.*

Nov. 22:

Security Tower at Main Gate

A few folks have inquired about the new security tower at the main entrance gate. The substation by the main gate is one of several security measures that are being undertaken due to November's break-in and theft at Candelaria Nature Preserve. These unfortunate events have made it a necessity for at least the present time. This most recent occurrence is in addition to several other break-ins we've dealt with this year at the Preserve.

Nov. 30

Field 4A

Grading and skidsteer work has been completed in Field 4A, and wood chips are staged in the East section of the field for easy access. Cottonwood Gulch will be back on-site tomorrow for a few hours to help move some of those wood chips around and engage in other stewardship and educational activities. Rio Grande Return employed a seed drill earlier this week to plant some on-hand native grasses in anticipation of the rain we're currently receiving.

Public Tour

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Friday Thanksgiving tour - we had a great turnout with 18 people in attendance.

Photos

Last, but certainly not least, we will now be sharing photos from the wildlife cameras each week in these weekly updates. Huge shoutout to Niya for her diligent work on the cameras and for sharing these highlights with us.

December 6

Field 4A

Rio Grande Return seeded all of 4A with some leftover seed mix last week. The seed mix consisted of dry soil grassland plants, some of which are cold season. Others in the mix have hard seed coats that will benefit from wet winter conditions, helpful for spring growth. The seed was raked in with the seed drill after hand broadcasting, and Rio Grande Return was able to seed all of 4A using these methods.

Monday and Friday volunteer events

Monday and Friday volunteer events are still in full swing! Monday volunteer events will be held from 8-11am, and Friday volunteer events will take place from 10-noon. Adjustments may happen based on weather conditions, so please stay tuned for future updates. We have been fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers, so we encourage you to join us at your convenience during these days, even if you can't stick around for the entire time.

Last, a huge thank you to Niya for sharing more wildlife camera photos from the Preserve! Please find the most recent batch of photos attached.

Dec. 15

Last week, [RiverXchange](#) students were on site at Candelaria Nature Preserve, where they planted over 120 plants in Field 4A. This Friday, volunteers were back on site removing Johnson grass. No wildlife photos to share this week - CABQ Open Space and Rio Grande Return staff are working on replacing faulty cameras.

Orlando recently completed the [Winter Report](#) for FY23 - big thank you to all who helped contribute information, and props to Orlando for stepping up to the plate.

On the ground, coyote activity was reported in Field 4B, and a bald eagle (!) was spotted during the bird survey last week, courtesy of Jo and company's wonderful data collection efforts across the CNP.

Thanks again for your interest! Again ~ we have a marvelous organization with dedicated, incredible members, and we're getting stuff done for the wildlife and visitors of the CNP.

Regards to all,  
Jeannie