



Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve Newsletter, February 2024

Time-sensitive: This Saturday, Feb. 24

Joanna (Jo) Strange, our Field Biologist for the Open Space Division, will run an event this Saturday, 9:00-11:00 AM: *Learn to BirdWatch*.

Flyer attached.

Note one must register.

(FYI - Jo adheres to our cap of 24 visitors per group; three groups per week maximum.)

Note the Special Nature of the CNP

Wildlife come first at the CNP; visitors are a close second, as you likely know.

The CNP is the only Albuquerque Open Space (in over 30,000 acres) where this is the case.

Visitors now have or will have access at these locations and in these ways:

- Monthly Guided Hikes with interactive waystations (last Friday of every month, year 'round);
- Wildlife Viewing Blinds (Two now open);
- Tree Nursery Tract ~ 7 acres of open air education (to come);
- Volunteering in the fields every Friday morning.

Spring

This spring should be an interesting one at the CNP, especially for the Pollinator Field (a.k.a. Field IA) just by the main gate. The soil in that field was amended heavily in winter, 2022-23, and this spring the field is to be planted in dozens of species valuable as pollinators.

Interpretive Plan

We are moving forward. I have promised an Interp Plan to the Open Space Division by August 31, 2024.

We have been having focus group meetings with selected members who have expressed interest and with the Open Space Division's Education lead, Ellie Grisham. Please let me know if you are NOT already in the Interpretation Advisory Group and want to be involved in development of the Plan.

We have finalized our Primary Interpretive Themes. These are important, so I am sharing them with you here.

A — Transforming the Candelaria Nature Preserve into biologically diverse native landscapes creates a haven for wildlife in the heart of Albuquerque, nurtures the human spirit, and opens hearts and minds to the intrinsic value of our shared lives in nature.

B — Understanding the long, rich history of the Candelaria Nature Preserve deepens our appreciation of the cultural and ecological diversity of the Middle Rio Grande Valley across

time and space ~ and how our own choices of how we interact with the land express our individual and societal feelings of identity and our place in the universe.

C — Visitor participation in transforming the land offers opportunities to develop feelings of intentional belonging, compassionate conservation, ownership and responsibility.

D — Ecosystem transformation at the CNP follows a planned, phased process that requires flexibility; constant adaptation to lessons learned from the land, its wildlife, and a changing climate; and highly strategic use of resources.

Earth Day

Sunday, April 21, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Balloon Fiesta Park, Sid Cutter Pavilion

<https://earthdayfestivalnm.com/>

We will share a booth with the Open Space Alliance. Want to help staff the booth?

Save the Date: In-person meeting

Long overdue - Let's get together.

Date: *Tentatively* Saturday, June 1, 4:00-6:00 PM

Location: Outside the CNP main gate on Arbor Rd. and in the Wildlife Viewing Blind along Duranes Lateral.

Simple, informal, no particular agenda (yet)!

Tables and chairs. "Gaiety, song, and dance." Details to come.

Dues

Some of what we do

~ such as having our own Zoom account, materials and refreshments for meetings on the Interpretive Plan, printing flyers, and so on ~

incurs expenses. Donations from members have lots of potential for increase.

In the meantime our leadership will likely approve institution of at least a \$15.00/year membership fee.

If you have strong feelings about this I trust you will let me know asap.

That's all for now. All my best regards,

Jeannie