



Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve
A Committee of the Open Space Alliance
Newsletter for March 2024

WE HAVE our own YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Thanks to [Katie Stone](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/@FriendsofCandelariaNaturePres>

This is where you can find recordings of our Zoom-based Speaker series.

UPDATE FROM CAMERON WEBER, MARCH 28

Cameron Weber will give us presentation on, "Restoration and Regeneration at the CNP" on Thursday, March 28, 5:00-6:15 PM, by Zoom.

Registration is required. Please see the attached flyer for how to register, and let me know if you have any problems. (Jeannie)

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

From Jaren Peplinski and colleagues at Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District

Cameron Weber and colleagues at Rio Grande Return

- A bobcat track was identified by students from Tech Leadership High School.
- Crop Plan 2024: Nearing publication
- Irrigation is to come to the CNP early this year but we do not yet have a date.
- Rio Grande Return (RGR) has been cleaning CNP acequias.
- Wildlife nest boxes and cameras are operative. A pair of killdeers are courting in Field 3B. Jo will keep an eye on them and advise us so their expected nest is not disturbed.
A pair of Coopers hawks are nesting in the Bosque near the CNP.
- Installation of Perching Posts in Field 2B. We recently installed many perching posts in Field 2B, which we hope will provide additional resting places for birds in the interim while we wait for shrubs on the preserve to grow tall enough to provide the same benefits.
- Special thanks to the RGR crew and volunteers for their invaluable contributions this week and always. Our dedicated volunteers assisted Cameron and Simon from RGR in various tasks that have included relocating elm branches to the chipping pile east of Field 4B; installing flycatcher perches in Fields 1A and 1B,;and clearing wind-blown weeds from the first irrigation ditch. Thanks to their hard work, our irrigation ditches are now in excellent condition for the upcoming season.
- Future Plans for Wildlife Crop Planting
With the departure of the cranes, we are gearing up to prepare several fields for the planting of new wildlife crops. Rio Grande Return realizes it's difficult to see the fields change. We are always trying to limit disturbance and time disturbances to meet the needs of wildlife. This spring, we are adding more fields to wildlife crop or habitat development, and we are moving existing wildlife crop fields closer to native cover. This will involve some ground disturbance and tractor use.

- **Wetland Action Plan**

Local subject matter experts are working in conjunction with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division on their Wetland Action Plan. Part of this planning process includes site visits to wetland ecosystems in the city. Later this month, the group will be visiting CNP for a field trip led by RGR.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CNP

Friday, March 29, 1:00-3:00 PM. Learn to Bird Watch (Jo Strange, Open Space Divn. Field Biologist)

Registration is limited and flyers with all the details will be available next week.

Sunday, April 28: City Nature Challenge, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Jo Strange, Open Space Divn. Field Biologist)

Saturday, May 18: 9:30 to 11:30 AM: In-person gathering of Friends of CNP membership and their friends (Event not public)

THANKS TO JOHN KARON

John Karon, member of our Friends group, gave a presentation to Master Gardeners and now eight of the gardeners want to do their 40 hours of service work at the CNP.

OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE - Board of Directors Meeting

If you want to see notes from this meeting, please let me know. (Jeannie)

As you probably already know, Friends of CNP is now a Committee of the Open Space Alliance, a 501(c)(3). Jeannie Allen is Chair; our Officers Ruth Salvaggio, Cheryl Zebrowski and Diana Hunt are Co-Chairs.

MEMBERSHIP IS STILL FREE

We have decided to keep donations completely voluntary.

Part of our job as the Friends group is to financially support work at the CNP.

Please consider making a **tax-deductible donation** to Friends of CNP.

Donations both one-time and monthly will be EASY when the new Open Space Alliance website becomes public. In the meantime you can send a check to the OSA with a note on the check indicating it's for Friends of CNP. Send check to: PO Box 91265, Albuquerque, NM 87199
Please also let me know of your contribution by email or phone. (Jeannie)

Thank you ALL for your ongoing support, dedication, and collaboration in our conservation and interpretation efforts at Candelaria Nature Preserve.

Warm regards,
Jeannie

Jeannie Allen

Chair, Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve

A Committee of the Open Space Alliance

Email: friendsofcandelarianaturepres@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.friendsofcandelarianaturepreserve.org/>

