

# Rail Trail Times

New Mexico Rails-to-Trails Association Newsletter — January, 2010, Issue No. 86

## ANNUAL MEETING — FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

Our 2010 meeting will be held in the Atrium of the First National Bank building, located at 414 E. Tenth Street in Alamogordo, NM., and will begin at 7:00 PM. Parking spaces will be available on the Ninth Street side of the bank and you can enter the Atrium from that side.

Our featured speaker for the evening will be Mr. David Certain who is with the New Mexico State Parks Division, and is the State Trails Coordinator. Among other responsibilities, he administers the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) from which we have obtained several trail construction grants on a competitive basis over a period of several years. He will discuss, among other topics, the Continental Divide Trail and the Rio Grande Trail. He will also give us some idea of the future of the FHWA's RTP in the light of the current economic challenges.

**Please attend if you possibly can. It would be very helpful to have a large attendance to demonstrate our support for trails in New Mexico, in general, and our commitment to NMRTA, in particular. A good audience would put a favorable light on our goal to develop the Enchanted Trail and have it become a nationally designated trail. Please encourage your friends and family to attend also. In order to provide a little more encouragement, we will serve refreshments and cookies, and several door prizes will be offered.**

As part of the Annual Meeting, we will set up several interesting displays in the meeting room. One display will feature the final version of the maps that Debi Maucione, a member of the NMRTA Board of Directors, designed in cooperation with Linda Cole and other employees of the Lincoln National Forest (LNF). The maps (approximately 30" X 30"), which are based on topographic data of the area, have been mounted in special frames and installed at four locations along the Cloud-Climbing Rail Trail. The maps show details on the locations of the various segments of the Cloud-Climbing Rail Trail and the 68-mile-long Enchanted Trail. Using these maps, trail users can locate various trail segments and determine the length and ascertain the hiking difficulty of those different trail segments and loops.

We also plan to set up at the meeting a display where one can see details of the most recent planned routes of the North-South segment of the Enchanted Trail. The proposed routes were determined by John Stockert, who is the author of the book entitled "Trail Guide, Lincoln National Forest". These maps were also produced in cooperation with Linda Cole of the LNF. Mr. Stockert will be in attendance and will be able to answer questions about the proposed routes and about trails in the LNF in general. The Trail Guide book will be available for sale.

At another table, employees of the LNF will be available to discuss the on-going Mexican Canyon Trestle Restoration Project and show photos of the work accomplished so far. They will also have maps of the recently issued USFS Travel Plan. The maps, which show the routes on the Lincoln National Forest that are specifically approved for use by motorized vehicles, will be available.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Another year has passed and it is time to ask all of our members to renew their memberships for 2010. Your contributions in the past have made it possible to develop the rail-trail system. A large membership improves an organization's ability to get grants and donations since it demonstrates a wide public interest in the goals and work of the organization. Please renew your membership and encourage your friends to join also. And thanks to all those people who renewed their memberships for the calendar year

### New Mexico Rails-to-Trails Association 2010 Membership Renewal & Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to: New Mexico Rails-to-Trails Assoc. (NMRTA)  
Mail to : NMRTA P.O. Box 44 Cloudcroft, NM 88317-0044

### Annual Memberships:

Organization .....	\$20
Family.....	\$15
Single.....	\$10
Student.....	\$5

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ck # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Finally, we will have a display table with information about native plants that can be seen along the various rail trails and other trails in the area of the Lincoln National Forest. A member of the Native Plant Society will be in attendance to answer questions about the plants and where they are located. Books on this subject will also be available for purchase at the table.

### OTHER NEWS

The Bridal Veil Falls (BVF) Rail Trail Project, for which we received a \$180,000 grant from the Recreational Trails Program several years ago for an easement, has been completed. Through the efforts of our many volunteers, we met all of our cost sharing obligations on the project, including, in particular, the donation of over 1,163 hours of in-kind labor (800 hours were required). We bought materials for and constructed an 8-foot by 12-foot memorial shelter on the rail grade below the Falls, procured and installed three interpretive-sign frames along the trail (one along the creek below the Falls, one on the rail grade at the old watering station known as "Pinto", and one at the first trestle at the north east end of the BFV rail trail). Mr. Bill Boverie, President of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum, did the research to prepare the text for the signs, selected appropriate old photos, and did the layout of the signs. The art work and production of the fiberglass imbedded signs were done by Darlene Nelson (Sacramento Design of Alamo-gordo).

Also as part of our cost sharing obligation on the BVF project, NMRTA contributed \$15,000 in cash, and the USFS contributed an environmental and cultural evaluation of the entire site. Most of the cash contribution went to the procurement of barbed-wire fence material in order to enclose the easement to keep cattle out of the area of the trail.

As noted above, the USFS has let a contract to have the Mexican Canyon Trestle (MCT) restored and the restoration work is well underway. In addition, the USFS secured some "stimulus" funding to improve the MCT Overlook on Highway 82 and is still accepting public input concerning the overlook features

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to recognize and thank all of the volunteers, including many HAFB personnel, who participated in the BVF project and made it a success, and to acknowledge especially the contributions of extra time and effort made by Don Draney, Glenn Fess, Doug Holcomb, Grady Nicholson, Jim Rink, and Rodney Sims.

### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY ON JUNE 5, 2010

National Trails Day will be on June 5, 2010, this year. The Board of Directors of the NMRTA voted to discontinue our sponsorship of the race/walk event, but is actively seeking other organizations that might be willing to undertake this task. NMRTA is, however, still planning to hold a trail-oriented event to celebrate that day.

### BUSINESS MEETING

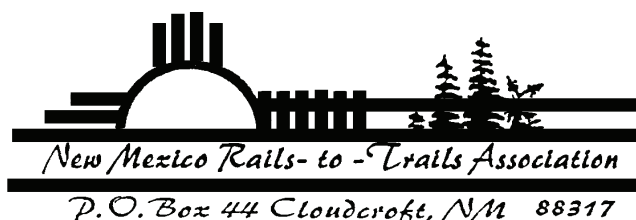
After the featured presentation, we will have a short business meeting at which time members can avail themselves of the opportunity to provide comments, if any, on the work done by the NMRTA during the year 2009 and help direct future work, especially for the year 2010. This item of business would be your opportunity to chart the course of the NMRTA for the years to come.

Also during the business meeting we will make several awards to people who have been instrumental in helping the NMRTA achieve its goals during the year 2009.

And, finally, as you may recall, the membership voted to stagger the terms of the officers and board members; consequently we will need to hold an election for the positions of president, secretary and board positions 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.

#### **2009 Business Partners**

Alan Gluth, Law Firm of Ryan Sanders & Gluth, El Paso and Las Cruces  
Burro Street Boarding House, Cloudcroft  
El Paso Community Foundation  
High Altitude Outfitters, Cloudcroft  
The Lodge at Cloudcroft  
Perspar Enterprises, Alamogordo



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