



FRIENDS OF CITY OF ROCKS NEWSLETTER

(Vol. 1, No. 1, October 2017)

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Friends of City of Rocks State Park, Inc. is to help support the New Mexico State Parks in the enrichment of the park area. Specifically, the Friends aim to enhance, preserve and promote park use, to participate in nature as responsible stewards of the earth, to create an awareness of the wonder, fragility and importance of the park, to develop and improve existing education/interpretive programs, to develop and improve public awareness of the park, and to encourage public participation and/or membership in the Friends group.

UPCOMING MEETING OF THE FRIENDS

Come join us on Saturday, Oct. 28 2017 at the Orion Group Area campsite at 10:00 AM for our next meeting where we will discuss future

Friends activities. A pot-luck meal will follow at noon.



Photo by Tim Geddes

PRESIDENT: Tim Geddes. Tim was born in Virginia and attended college in North Carolina and Mississippi. He has an Associate's Degree in Aquaculture.

VICE-PRESIDENT: William R. Norris. Bill grew up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and after attending Iowa State University has taught botany and ornithology at Western New Mexico University since 2001. He has enjoyed exploring City of Rocks State Park since 2004 while conducting a plant inventory of the park with Friends President Tim Geddes and other friends and students.

SECRETARY: Gary Woollen. Gary went to Florida State University and is a member of the Math Association of America. He moved to New Mexico in 1983.

TREASURER: Bobbi Widick. Bobbi was born and raised in Nebraska. She served 7 years in the military. Several years ago she bought an RV and started traveling. When she got to NM, she realized the "Land of Enchantment" was her new home. She has worked as a volunteer in the NM State Parks for over 5 years.



Arizona Bluecurls (photo by Russ Kleinman)



Photo by Tim Geddes

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CITY OF ROCKS STATE PARK

The City of Rocks State Park hosts a Star Party in the Orion Group Area every month; with the exception of the monsoon months of July and August. The Star Parties are typically held the weekend of the new moon, which provides the darkest skies with the most optimal viewing. The events are coordinated and hosted by the non-profit National Public Observatories. A donation of \$3.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family is requested by N.P.O. In addition, a \$5.00 entrance fee per vehicle is required to enter City of Rocks.

City of Rocks State Park conducts a nature hike every month; with the exception of July and August. The location of the hike varies with the time of year, the weather, and physical capabilities of the attendees. Typical hikes include the easy loop

around the rocks, the slightly more strenuous Cienega Trail, and the moderately strenuous hike to the top of Table Mountain. While most of the time we will focus on birds, we will also look for mammals, reptiles, butterflies, and anything else that we may encounter.

We are waiting to get permission to resume our monthly nature hikes on the nearby River Ranch Wildlife Management Area. This 1,000 acre property is a pristine riparian corridor that hosts several locally rare breeding birds.

For more information, contact Park Technician Tony Godfrey at 575-536-2800.



Photo by Tim Geddes

Friends of City of Rocks State Park Meetings (summaries of meeting minutes prepared by Treasurer Gary Woollen.

January 27 2017 – Park Supervisor Gabriel Medrano informed the Friends that a Letter of Concurrence had been sent to Santa Fe to initiate the process of establishing the Friends of City of Rocks group. The officers discussed possible items to sell in the Visitor's Center, including office supplies and fire wood. The needs for a Co-Op agreement and for a bank checking account were discussed.

Feb. 24 2017 – The Friends discussed establishment of a bank account.

March 4 2017 – The Friends discussed application for a 503-3c status and membership insurance. Firewood is selling well.

March 18 2017 – The Friends discussed a recently established fiscal relationship with the Grant County Foundation. The Foundation fee is 5%-10% of all proceeds, which covers W-9 for contractors, I.R.S. letters, and donor reports. Park Supervisor Gabriel Medrano informed the Friends that the Amphitheater was approved to be built at the Orion site.

April 14 2017 – The Friends discussed planned participation in the upcoming Give Grandly fundraising event. Bobbi suggested that the Friends could purchase t-shirts to sell for \$6.00 similar to those sold at Pancho Villa State Park.

Expenditures to support park operations, including gasoline for park-related business was approved. The renting of a wood splitter was discussed. Bobbi continues to work on incorporation of Friends and establishment of 501-3c status.

September 10 2017 – Treasurer Gary Woollen reported expenditures of \$2,760.07 to support park operations, and bank deposits of \$4,473.00 to date. The Friends Visitors Center inventory includes t-shirts (\$1,971.00) and other non-t-shirt items (\$473.00) for sale.

of City of Rocks bank account contains \$459.28. Total Assets = \$3,583.28 (includes @ 50 wood bundles @5.00/bundle).

Long-time park volunteer Shela Delong will maintain the Friends website (in construction).



Photo by Tim Geddes