

Who is this →  
important person?  
See page 2.



## A Message from Open Space Alliance President Steven Glass

The Open Space Alliance joined the Open Space Division in celebrating their 40th anniversary on September 14 at the Open Space Visitors Center. We were honored to receive a plaque (shown here) recognizing the long history of collaboration between our organizations that began in 1996 when the OSA was first organized, followed by formalization with a written agreement in 2002. For twenty-eight years, OSA has supported the Open Space Division in offering public programs, improving facilities, honoring volunteers, educating Division staff and much more - all using funds from memberships, tax-exempt donations and grants. Our mission has always been to work with the Open Space Division to enhance the experiences of people who enjoy using the over 30,000 acres of public land and beautiful facilities maintained by the Division and we can accomplish this mission only through the generous donations and memberships from the community. If your membership has lapsed, please consider renewing by logging onto our brand new website at [www.OpenSpaceAlliance.org](http://www.OpenSpaceAlliance.org). Also, the Open Space Alliance has adopted the Bosque Trail near the Open Space Visitors Center and will be

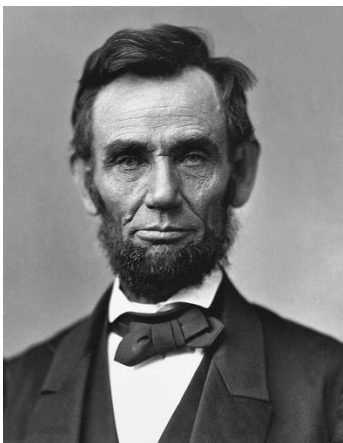
requesting volunteers this fall for a trial clean up and maintenance work party, so please keep an eye out for an invitation to join in that effort!

Best regards, Steve



**OSA Mission:** OSA will enhance the experiences of all users of Albuquerque Open Space lands by providing financial support for Open Space programs; by advocating for sustainability and expansion of Open Space programs; and by encouraging increased public involvement with and use of Open Space lands.

# Albuquerque's Open Space Division Celebrates Its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as Does Dr. Matt Schmader



## The OPEN SPACE ADDRESS --

Two score years ago our foremothers, and some forefathers too-- brought forth in this community a new division, conceived of inspiration and dedicated to the proposition that not all land is created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great celebration to show why that division or any division so conceived and so dedicated, must long endure. We are assembled at a great center devoted to that division. We have come to renew our dedication in this gathering place to honor those who here gave their best, that this division might thrive. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate, and we cannot improve upon this ground. The brave women and men, living and dead, who gave of themselves, have already consecrated it. The city will note and long remember what we say here, and should never forget what they did. It is for us the present generation, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work for which they fought. It is also for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these forward thinkers we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their own measure of devotion-- that we here highly resolve that those before shall not have worked in vain. That this community, under this blue sky, shall give rise to new breaths of freedom-- and that open space of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

-- Dr. Matt Schmader, after President Abraham Lincoln. September 14, 2024

Albuquerque's Open Space Division celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 14 with speeches, music and celebration of our Open Space's remarkable achievements over more than those 40 years, resulting in our having more park land per capita than any major US city.

Three past and present OSD directors were there; among them, Dr. Schmader charmed everyone with this remake of Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

Congratulations, Open Space Division!



# Deb Jojola adds beauty and meaning to the OSVC



Even frequent visitors to the Open Space Visitor Center may not know about its wonderful tower and its superb interior decoration displaying Deb Jojola's murals. Ms. Jojola and her son Leon Raymond Sanchez, a contemporary artist and previously a graffiti artist, created the decoration along the staircase leading to the Bosque overlook in the center.

Deb Jojola was one of the keynote speakers at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the Open Space Division on September 14. She spoke of the Tiwa pueblos' stewardship of the land and its animals and plants, and expressed gratitude that the OSD had taken over the guardianship of so much of our precious environment.

Ms. Jojola is an Isleta Pueblo member; she told me of the extent of Tiwa-speaking tribes along the Rio Grande prior to the contact with Spanish conquistadors in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. She has produced a wonderful map of those pueblos, some current – Taos and Picuris in northern New Mexico, and Sandia and Ms. Jojola's Isleta north and south of Albuquerque, and Ysleta del Sur near El Paso, Texas. There were many more surrounding Albuquerque, including Tiguex Pueblo near what is now Old Town, Piedras Marcadas Pueblo, which lies, unexcavated, just north of the OSVC, and Tijeras Pueblo, next to the US Forest Service office in Tijeras.

Deb Jojola said she has been “painting ever since I could hold an implement, drawing on the wall with coal from our wood stove or a stick in the dirt. I’ve always known I’ve had the talent since I was a kid.” Artist Pablita Velarde, from Santa Clara Pueblo, was an idol. She attended the Institute of American Indian Art, where she was introduced to a great many mediums and techniques. But she is happy to have gone back to traditional Pueblo frescos.

She told me of her work to create the map of all of those Tiwa pueblos – past and present – for the small museum in Tijeras Canyon. With the help of several grants, she continues to work with the museum there, developing narrative in English/Tiwa on computer tablets to accompany the displays. Her map preserves the pre-contact Tiwa Pueblo world; she says she, wanted to depict what life was life back then. She has worked at preserving Tiwa stories for the Library of Congress.

Regarding her 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary talk, she says that she wanted to “speak from my heart, to be truthful about my work and how I felt about Open Space. I didn't know it was 40 years! I thought of all the work of Open Space, people preserving land, culture and space – all encompassed in my work and my personal beliefs, that indigenous people were the caretakers of the land and nature and all living beings that coexist on this planet.”



Photos by Bill Pentler, interview by Lance Chilton

# Bill Pentler, Elephant Survivor, Retires from the Open Space Division, Joins OSA Board



Bill Pentler photo by Anna Pentler

zookeeper at the Rio Grande Zoo, as a ranger for the State Park at Fenton Lake in the Jemez Mountains, and most recently as an educator and supervisor in Albuquerque’s Open Space Division, from which he retired in 2023. In all of these places, Bill has indulged and often combined two major passions, animals and photography.

Though retired, Bill continues both passions, along with his obvious desire to continue serving nature in Albuquerque’s wonderful open space system. His thousands of photographs are available to OSD personnel (and to this newsletter) for educational programs and publications. He assists with tree-planting groups in the Bosque. He leads hikes in open space nearby. Although trained in law enforcement when he worked at Fenton Lake, he is not sorry to have left that job behind him because, in the city, he’d be closer to his now wife, Anna. As a Midwesterner, though, he enjoyed seeing Fenton Lake visitors, especially during ice-fishing season.

Bill sees similarities in his zoo work and his work for OSD – both involved frequent animal contact, and both were, he says, with wonderful people. Similar people – animal people, outside people -- he says, are drawn to both types of work

As a retiree, Bill recently led about fifteen people on a hike around the San Antonito Wilderness on the east side of the Sandia Mountains. He loved it, he said, as he does his many other hikes – he always learns from those he’s guiding, such as a geologist who went along on this recent hike, but also others who knew a great deal about the plant life. It is very likely that all of those fifteen lucky people learned a lot from Bill too, as we all will as we serve on the OSA board together.

No one who has been on a hike or a tree-planting effort led by Bill Pentler would believe that our new board member was an introvert as a child. It’s mostly Jojo’s fault that this changed a number of years ago.

Jojo was an elephant at the Lion Country Safari park in Florida where Bill worked as an animal keeper after graduating from the University of Wisconsin. As Bill tells it, Jojo’s position in the Safari’s herd shifted. “She couldn’t displace other elephants but could displace me, the head keeper.” She attacked, causing major damage. After returning to the park, he was put on “light duty,” and was tasked with giving educational talks many times a day to park visitors. He found out that he enjoyed it, and his introversion was replaced with a life of public speaking.

It would surprise no one who knows Bill that he has loved animals since a childhood much of which was spent around animals or reading about them.

Several years after the elephant injured him, Bill moved to New Mexico, where he has worked as a

Other OSA board members include Steve Glass, Robin Abrett, Kent Swanson, Lance Chilton, and Jeannie Allen.



# THE PRICKLY PORCUPINE

By Richard Shackley

Have you ever taken a stroll along a tree-lined Bosque trail in the dead of winter and spotted a watermelon sized brown ball in a leafless cottonwood tree? The brown ball may just have been one of the most mysterious and reclusive creatures that calls the Bosque its home, the North American porcupine. It's not uncommon from November through March, to spot a dozen or more of these prickly creatures lounging near a cottonwood treetop. This species of porcupine's range is limited to North America and Canada, but is rare or absent from the Gulf States and neighboring states to the north. One of 26 known species worldwide, the North American porcupine has been gnawing twigs and branches for more than 3 million years while it's cousins to the south found their way to the New World around 30 million years ago. The 15 New World species are for the most part tree dwellers, and some in Central and South America have prehensile tails with the ability to hang by their tail from tree branches. Old World porcupines call the ground their home and have been scurrying around for about 40 million years. Porcupines belong to the rodent family, and the North American species is the third largest rodent in the western hemisphere after the beaver and capybara. The male can weigh between 24 and 27 pounds while females weigh several pounds less.



Watercolor by Colleen Shackley

Armed with over 30,000 needle-sharp quills, the porcupine can present a formidable defense. Porcupines do not shoot or fire their quills at their adversaries. The quills are released from the skin upon contact with the predator. In addition to their defensive quills, the porcupine may chatter its teeth and emit a foul odor as a warning to any human or predator brave enough to take on this formidable creature. In New Mexico, the top predator willing to dine on a porcupine is the Mountain Lion. Few other predators are willing to take the risk of becoming a pin cushion. North American porcupines begin their mating ritual in September and their single young, called porcupettes, are born in late March through early April. The babies are born nearly fully formed but their quills remain soft for a few weeks. Mothers nurse their young for about three months and the young porcupine is fully independent at about six months old.



Photo by Richard Shackley

So the next time you're all bundled up in the chill of winter, walking along a Bosque trail, keep your eyes on the cottonwood branches and you just might spot an extraordinary creature, the North American porcupine.

For a detailed exploration of the porcupine, check out these two books:

*The North American Porcupine*, Second Edition, 2009

*Porcupines, The Animal Answer Guide*, 2012

Both books by Uldis Roze, Professor Emeritus at Queens College

# What's Happening in Space (ABQ Open Space) in Nov. & Dec.?

There are too many wonderful events happening every two months in city and county Open Space to list in each issue of a short newsletter. So here are some highlights of coming attractions, and details are available on the [City's Open Space Division events website](#) and on [Bernalillo County's Open Space](#) webpage.

There are guided hikes in the Bosque, in the Tijeras Biozone, on the Candelaria Nature Preserve and in the foothills, introductory courses on photographing wildlife at Albuquerque libraries, yoga classes at the Open Space Visitor Center, guided hikes in various places in the morning and early evening, family nature club walks in the Elena Gallegos Grant open space and learning about volunteering. Locations include the Bosque, the fields near the Open Space Visitor center on the West Side, the Tijeras Bio-zone. Wow!

A few extra-special events to highlight these two months:

**November 2**, Tijeras Biozone Education Center, 15600 Central SE. Program on "Uncovering Archeology that will focus on both archeology and anthropology, the studies of human societies and their artifacts. Students will learn how to use historical text, dental picks, towels, brushes and other tools to observe and measure artifacts. Outdoor field science, journaling, and safety are practiced during this independent and collaborative program.

**November 16**, 9 am to 6 pm - Crane Festival Celebration at the Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC), 6500 Coors NW, with talks on our magnificent cranes, a dance group, exhibitors, hiking around the wetlands and much more.

**December 14** 10 am -12 pm, OSVC-- a one-mile walk in the Bosque with discussions about animal and plant adaptation. The hike will conclude at the OSVC where families, with the help of an Open Space educator will participate in the annual seed mandala.

At Crane Festival, photo by Bill Pentler



Tijeras Biozone artifact, photo by Bill Pentler



**We want you!... to join us and/or to donate toward our work.**

Please see how to support our efforts at [openspacealliance.org](https://openspacealliance.org). And you're always welcome at our meetings.