

What's Rockin' at Rockhound

January and February, 2015

It's a new year and the perfect time to present a bit of a change in our Friends of Rockhound State Park routine. For the past number of years, the activities and news of our group has been shared through the work of our talented and creative newsletter lady, Betty Griffin. Her beautiful quarterly newsletters have been worthy of awards and we've looked forward to them enthusiastically. However, all good things sometimes come to an end. It has been decided that this is a good time to give Betty a break from the newsletter and to put the spotlight on our exceptional Friends of Rockhound website. Our webmaster, Lynn Eubank, is masterful with the site and makes it shine! Therefore, to keep us all informed of the Friends' goings-on and to encourage visits to our website, we'll be placing monthly articles on the site. Those members who don't use e-mail will be sent hard copies each quarter, so everyone will be in touch with what is happening with Friends of Rockhound. Never fear: monthly postcards will be sent out, as usual. Our website is [www.Friendsofrockhound.org](http://Friendsofrockhound.org). Many thanks to secretary Veronika Barnes for the idea of the catchy title..."What's Rockin' at Rockhound!"

Board Meeting Minutes: January 28, 2015

Board members present: Sally Allen, President; Keith Harris, Vice President; Donna Whitten, Treasurer; Veronika Barnes, Secretary; Marilyn Goble, Director; Art Vasquez, Immediate Past President; Also Present: Robert Apodaca, Rockhound State Park.

1. Meeting called to order by President Sally. Minutes of October 29, 2014 meeting read; motion to approve by Donna, seconded by Keith, motion carried. (There were no board meetings in November due to Thanksgiving, or in December (lume-building day).
2. Treasurer's reports for Oct, Nov, Dec 2014 were read; motion to approve by Art, seconded by Marilyn, motion carried.
3. Treasurer presented year-end report. We overspent our budget by \$1582. This was primarily due to lower- than-expected revenues from the plant sales. **A special meeting of the board to address the 2015 budget is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 18, at 10 am in the REB (Rockhound Education Building.)**

ROBERT'S REPORT:

1. Input of info/events at Rockhound to be submitted regionally, then on to Santa Fe for the State Parks website.
2. Selection of David Bencomo as the new Park Tech. He was a temporary hire, but is now permanent, beginning Feb 14th.
3. Regional meeting was held last week at Rockhound. In the fiscal year 2016 (beginning July 1), an amount of \$120,000 has been budgeted for renovations to the Rockhound Education Building.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. The amended bylaws have been accomplished and will be presented to the general membership for a vote at the February 25th annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The 10th Anniversary Celebration of Friends of Rockhound will be held in conjunction with the February annual meeting. Cake and refreshments will be served
2. Planning of a Saturday in September "Rockathon" is in the works. (Exact date to be established.) Two categories of walks: the shorter, easier "Jasper Trail," (called the Pebble Walk) and the longer, tougher "Thunder Egg Trail" (called the Boulder Walk.) Discussed were t-shirts, entry fees, awards, etc. Details to be worked out. The Board, as well as Robert, felt this was a great way to bring greater exposure and more people to our wonderful park.



We'd like to thank master hunting guide, Cecil Haas for an exceptional January presentation about "Ibex in the Floridas." Cecil's first experience at hunting the exotic Ibex, which are Iranian mountain goats, was way back in 1982 when his friend Dennis Kauffman drew his first ibex hunting tag. He was hooked! He and Dennis have been guiding and outfitting ever since. Cecil's talk was full of their adventures, pictures of the critters, and lots of good information about the animals and how difficult it is to hunt them. For instance, Petersons Bow Hunting magazine, September 2007 issue, stated that, "The New Mexico Ibex bow hunt is the most challenging bow hunt in the world---bar none." Thank you, Cecil, for the armchair adventure!

FEBRUARY DOINGS...Get ready for our 10th annual birthday party, set for Wednesday, February 25th, starting at 10 AM in the newly named, "Rockhound State Park Education Building" (MUCH better than just saying, "The Garage!"). We'll have our election of

Board Members, a vote on an amendment of our bylaws (which you will be receiving in the coming week by e-mail or snail mail), and a celebration of our Friends' successes. Come join the fun...cake, ice cream, finger foods...and some surprises, too. We've also invited the Girl Scout and their cookies (They have helped us in past years by lighting the luminarias at Christmas...let's give back).

Finally, don't forget **Garden Care** on Wednesday, February 18th, at 9:00 AM in the Native Garden. Our recent rains will make for some gorgeous poppies this year...and probably a lot of weeds, too! Board members will meet afterwards for a Budget meeting...10 AM. Thanks everyone!