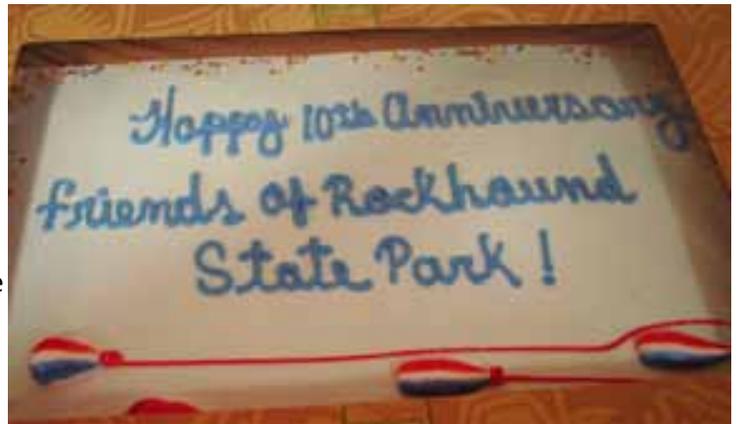


What's Rockin' at Rockhound in March, 2015

What a birthday Party! Our 10th Anniversary/Birthday Party, which was held on Wednesday, February 25th, was quite a delightful morning. Five of the people most responsible for the existence of Friends of Rockhound joined us for the celebration: Jesus Jimenez, who was park manager/head ranger at Rockhound during those early years, traveled over from Elephant Butte State Park, where he is now Superintendent. Retired ranger Gloria Reed, along with her husband, Larry, also came from T or C for the festivities. Marie Cardenas and Julie Orban, who were members of the Deming Garden Club and were on the first Friends board of directors, joined us. Of course, the celebration wouldn't have been complete without MaryKay Brady, who founded the Friends group with her late husband, Jim. Even their son and daughter-in-law, Derek and Katha Brady, who live in Moriarty, attended.



After a short business meeting, the celebration began. Cake, ice cream, sandwiches and other refreshments were served, stories were told, the honorees were awarded certificates, photos were taken by member Bill D'Alessio, and we all admired the beautiful Friends of Rockhound quilt, which was made by Sandy Zalecki a number of years ago. It is finally hanging on the wall in our meeting room! Thank you, Ranger Robert, for carefully placing it where it belongs. Thanks also to Veronika for the lovely rod that it hangs on. Our Friends' Library has also found a new home in the meeting room, watched over by a wise old stuffed barn owl. The icing on the cake was the unveiling of the 16x20 inch, framed canvas photo of Jim and MaryKay that will hang next to the quilt.

Finally, we watched a ten minute DVD series of photos with music of some of the "Early Years" of Friends and that was made as a memorial to Jim. As you can imagine, by the end there wasn't a dry eye in the house.



Above: Rockhound quilt made by Sandy Zalecki

Right: MaryKay reminiscing with Robert and Jesus Jimenez, Veronika Barnes and Julie Orban



NATIVE PLANT PRE-SALE...Please mark your calendars for Thursday, March 12th, 19th, and 26th. We'll be holding our Native Plant Pre-Sale at the Luna Co. Extension Office, 2108 Poplar Street, 546-8806 from 9-11 AM. This will be in conjunction of the Native Plant Sale at the park on Saturday, April 11, our **ONLY** plant sale of the year, so please order early!

WEEDING WEDNESDAY...

*March 18th at 8 AM in the Native Garden.

*April 15th at 8 AM in the Native Garden. **A Rock-A-Thon Brainstorming** meeting is planned for 10 AM...Got some ideas? Come share them with us!

The Monthly Meeting is set for Wednesday, March 25th, 10 AM at the Visitor Center. Our guest speaker is Dr. Richard Felger from Silver City and his topic is: ***"Native Food Plants for the World Today."***