

What's Rockin' at Rockhound State Park for
May/June 2018

May Garden Care...Wednesday, May 16th...8:00 AM...Native Garden
May Monthly Meeting....Wednesday, the 30th ...Board Meeting / 9:00 AM...Regular Meeting
10 AM...Visitor Center
Guest Speaker...Luna County Extension Program Director
Jack Blandford..."Drought!"

June Garden Care...Wednesday, June 20th...8:00 AM ...Native Garden
June Monthly Meeting...Wednesday, the 27th...Board Meeting/9:00 AM...Regular Meeting
10 AM...Visitor Center
Guest Speaker...Asombro Institute of Science Education
Program Coordinator Rink Somerday...Fabulous Desert Plants!

Our Native Plant Sale last month is officially over! Hooray! We made a profit of just over \$1,600.00 and most of the plants eventually found good homes. We still have about a dozen plants and Ranger Robert and Team Rockhound have graciously offered to plant them in the Native Garden. Many thanks go to the **Plant Sale Committee: Shelley Perkins, Marilyn Gobles, Gene Jercinovic, Betty Griffin, and Donna Whitten.** Also, **Ranger Robert and Adam Marin:** thank you for picking up plants from Sunland Nursery on a VERY windy day. Finally, we are grateful to **all of you** who helped unload the plants, assisted at the Plant Sale, and to our **Rockhound Volunteers** who sold plants after the Sale, and especially to all who came out and bought plants. You are all appreciated!

April Monthly Meeting....It's amazing to think about the wealth of talented people we have around here in Deming! Several months back, Friends member Chuck Bacon mentioned to me that resident Leslie Bronken and her friend, Wayne Le Blanc are bee keepers. I've known Leslie for years and knew she is into solar and alternative energy, long-term food storage and other things, but had no idea she had become a beekeeper! She and Wayne put on a fabulous presentation for us in April, complete with beekeeping attire and all the accoutrements that go with the profession...a bee hive, smoker, a centrifugal force unit to separate the honey from the comb, etc. We learned that there are three types of bees: the queen that can live up to five years under good conditions, the drones that don't do a lot except mate with the queen (tough job but someone has to do it!), and the worker bees that... you guessed it...do all the work. A box hive can hold about 20,000 bees and when that is full, another box is put on top to eventually hold another 20,000 bees. We were told to be careful around a hive...the little critters are very protective. Leslie and Wayne are available to capture swarms of bees that have settled in houses or other unwanted locales. Her email address is l.bronken@hotmail.com. Thank you, Leslie and Wayne for a "bee-utiful" morning.

PLANTS AND DROUGHT....As I type this newsletter, my eyes wander to the soap tree yucca outside our dining room window, and I'm amazed at how fast and tall it is stalking! The cholla out there is blooming, as well as the prickly pear cactus and other desert plants in the yard. Folks: we've not had much rain in something like three months, yet when the weather started to warm up (boy, is it warming up!), like clockwork, these plants go into blossom mode...so amazing! We've just had our native plant sale, so I thought it might be interesting to hear from some experts about the drought and how it affects our flora and how important it is to use native plants in our region. Please join us for our meetings this month and next.

*******Don't forget...Dues for the year are only \$10 bucks....Such a deal!*******

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Also find us on our website at www.FriendsofRockhound.org.

Thanks everyone, for all you do for Friends,
Gratefully, *Sally Allen*, Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc.