

# What's Rockin' at Rockhound for November AND December, 2015

WHAT A YEAR! LET'S TAKE NOVEMBER OFF! NO MEETINGS/NO WEEDING!  
Have a Happy Thanksgiving everyone☺

WEDNESDAY, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM at the R.E.B. (The Garage)...“Bag Rattling”

This is when we make our 1,152 luminarias for the Holiday Lights Night...Come join the fun!

SATURDAY, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 6:30....Holiday Lights Night at the Visitor Center

Cookies and hot cider, Santa and Mrs. Claus, luminarias EVERYWHERE, fire pit and good conversation!

**OCTOBER NAVAJO STORYTELLING AT ROCKHOUND...** What a way to end the year! New Mexico State Park Ranger and storyteller Alex Mares returned to Rockhound on the 28<sup>th</sup> to captivate us with his tales of Trickster Coyote, Navajo star stories and the Creation story of the Din'eh. You mesmerized us, Ranger Alex! Thank you for sharing the Navajo culture with us.

**OCTOBER 31st STAR PARTY...**Halloween fell on a Saturday this year and had a dark, early evening, moonless sky to boot! It was time to break out the telescopes and Halloween candy. Many thanks go to National Public Observatory President John Gilkison for sharing his telescopes and binoculars with a grateful group of eager star gazers. Kudos also to Ranger Robert for his help with providing chairs and sharing his Saturday night with us.



## FRIENDS OF ROCKHOUND STATE PARK, INC. Board Meeting Minutes--October 28, 2015

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

Meeting called to order by President Sally at 9 a.m.

Minutes of September 30, 2015 read. Motion to accept by Marilyn, seconded by Donna, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report of October 28<sup>th</sup> reviewed. Motion to accept by Marilyn, seconded by Keith, motion carried.

### ROBERT'S REPORT

1. Regional State Parks (in Las Cruces) manager's job filled by Melissa Torres, replacing retiring director Rolf Hechler.
2. Trail maintenance, mostly at Spring Canyon, will be done by inmates. three weeks in November.
3. Rangers Robert and David will attend fall training in Santa Fe.
4. Laura Simmons ("The Raptor Lady") will utilize grant funds for programs at Pancho Villa (Sat, Nov 7), and at Rockhound (Sun, Nov 8.) Time TBD. Her return engagement will be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Rockhound State Park on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Darcie from Santa Fe sent a letter stating that our Declaration of Amendments and Lease Agreement (for store at Visitor Center) are complete and attached to our Cooperative Agreement. All on file.

NEW BUSINESS: FOR will again (2<sup>nd</sup> of 4) offer a \$500 scholarship from the Coleman Memorial Fund, to a 2016 graduating Deming HS student going on to college to major in the Earth Sciences or Engineering. Keith to submit paperwork to the high school NLT Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS / EVENTS

- **Luminaria Festival, Dec 12:** (a) Sally to order bags and candles from Peppers. (b) Marilyn has secured a biscochito source. (c) Only hot cider as a beverage this year. (d) No handbell performance. (e) Art will head up the Toys for Tots. Three Marines, in uniform, will be present. Toys and donations to Silver City for sorting and distribution by the Marine Corps League. (f) "Bag Rattling" is Wed, Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. (g) Sally has coordinated with Shelley Batts at Luna County Extension for 4-H to light candles. (h) Art to coordinate with churches for Dec 13 lumes pickup. (i) Santa scheduling.
- **Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rockhound State Park:** (a) To be held in conjunction with Spring Plant Sale/Desert Alive April 9, 2016. (b) Ideas to be discussed at later planning meeting: Special T-shirts/caps, Raptor Lady, Cowboy Mike, guest speakers, special guests, etc.

Respectfully submitted by Veronika Barnes, Secretary.