La Ventana en los Valles

News of the Valles Caldera National Preserve from the Valles Caldera Trust

Open Seven Days a Week

2011 Recreation Program Highlights

by Rob Dixon, Recreation Program Manager

The Valles Caldera Trust oversees the Valles Caldera National Preserve, formerly the privately owned “Baca Ranch.” The 89,000 acre property is located in the Jemez Mountains in northern New Mexico. It was purchased by the federal government in 2000 under the Valles Caldera Preservation Act. The property is known for its huge meadows, abundant wildlife, meandering streams, and remarkable scenery. The mission of the Trust is to create a successful model of public land management that protects and preserves the unique values of the Preserve. Toward that end, the Trust will operate the Preserve as a working ranch; endeavor to become financially self-sustaining; meet the varied needs of visitors; strive to use and steward the multiple resources of the Preserve; and work collaboratively with our neighbors.

Our 2011 season is shaping up to be our best year yet. Whether you are just visiting the area or coming up for a special event, we have something for you. We have one-hour van tours and several short hikes for those just passing through. Those with a little more time can take advantage of other programs in the backcountry (fishing, hiking, van tours, etc.). We are open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. starting May 21st.

Please visit http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/ for more details about these and other programs offered.

Special Events

• Primitive Skills Gathering: May 21 and 22.

This free event will let you see primitive skills being demonstrated by regional experts (fire making, knapping, beadwork, etc.).

• Photo Adventures: June 1-3 and September 27- (continued on page 2)
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29. This three-day event will allow you, your camera, and your own vehicle access to remote areas of the Preserve.

- **Run the Caldera Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K: June 11.** This marathon runs through the heart of the Caldera.

- **Caldera 3D Archery Shootout: June 18 and 19.** Two days of fun-filled archery competition and prizes.

- **Youth Fly Fishing Clinics: June 25, July 16, and August 20.** (See story on page 11.)

- **Adult Fly Fishing Clinics: June 26, July 18, and August 21.** (See story on page 11.)

- **Cruise the Caldera:** July 9 and August 13. A fun mountain bike ride with 85 miles of roads to choose from.

- **Caldera Pioneer Equestrian Endurance Race:** August 6. An American Endurance Ride Conference-sanctioned event.

- **Twilight Mountain Bike Ride:** September 2. This family event allows you to ride when the wildlife come down to the meadows.

- **Jemez Mountains Elk Festival:** October 1 – 10. Nine days of elk in the Jemez Mountains.

Group Tours
We encourage visitors to participate in our scheduled activities when possible. For groups of 20 or more, we can explore options that allow your group to experience the Preserve together. Please call (505) 428-7722 for more information.

Volunteers
Our programs are successful because of the quality and number of people who help out. We are always looking for help with all of the events described above as well as answering visitor questions in our stores and pullouts. There are even opportunities to lead events. If you are a dependable person and want to spend some of your valuable time helping the Preserve, please email volunteers@vallescaldera.gov.
From the Chairman’s Desk

by Dr. Raymond Loretto, Valles Caldera Trust Chairman of the Board of Trustees

What a difference a year makes! During most of 2010 the Valles Caldera National Preserve was faced with a major potential change in management as proposed in Senate Bill 3452. The bill did not pass before the 111th Congress adjourned. However, not long into the 112th Congress, on March 10th of this year, New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman re-introduced the same legislation, now labeled as Senate Bill 564. We will keep you posted on the progress of that legislation but, in the meantime, the Preserve remains a unit of the U.S. Forest Service.

The Board of Trustees currently consists of six members out of the nine seats prescribed. I was elected to replace outgoing Stephen Henry as Chairman of the Board. I look forward to working with my fellow Board members, including recently appointed Dr. Melissa Savage and Dr. Ken Smith who are President Obama’s first appointees to the Board of Trustees. They hit the ground running and were respectively elected Vice-Chair and Secretary to complete our slate of officers. They join Virgil Trujillo, Jason Lott, and newly designated Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor Maria Garcia to provide expertise to the management and staff of the Trust in making the decisions that enhance the value of the property for all to enjoy.

Another great year of activities awaits you on the Preserve this year. I encourage you to take a peek at Rob Dixon’s article (page 1) that details some of our special events, including our second annual Jemez Mountains Elk Festival in October. The inaugural event was a huge success drawing almost 2,000 people in ten days, contributing to a record of more than 24,000 visitors to the Preserve last year.

We also expect to increase utilization of the Science and Education Center (SEC), now in its second year of operation. The SEC is a year-round, multipurpose facility which hosts education programs, retreats, conferences, and scientific research studies. The SEC can provide room and board for up to 50 people and can provide meeting facilities for as many as 100 attendees.

The 2011 recreation season opens on Saturday, May 21st. We cordially invite you to visit us this summer and experience the Valles Caldera adventure.

La Ventana en los Valles
We have been working hard to further our comprehensive management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. This spring we unveiled alternatives for proposed Public Access and Use and Landscape Restoration and Management plans. The Valles Caldera Trust and the Santa Fe National Forest joined forces to update the public on these planning efforts and similar actions being planned on the national forest lands surrounding the Preserve. The two agencies hosted public meetings in Santa Fe and Jemez Springs. The meetings combined short presentations and open house areas where people could talk to experts in wildland fire management, soils, hydrology, forestry, cultural resources, as well as planning and overall land management. Brief overviews and presentations were supplemented by more detailed reports available in both hard copy and electronic formats. These reports were available at the meetings, on the web, or could be mailed upon request.

On the Web

The Trust also launched dynamic web pages for each of these plans allowing people to share their comments with us and each other on line. The web pages moved from dynamic to static at the end of March, ending the interactive commenting feature. You can still view and download all information and reports; links are provided on our homepage. You can also request information be sent to you via surface mail by contacting us via telephone, email, or at our physical address located at the bottom of page two in this newsletter.

Public Participation

Public participation was instrumental in developing the alternatives now being considered for comprehensive management of both natural resources and visitation. Alternatives for public access and use each include the development of a visitor center and connected recreation facilities. However, the proposed location and scale of development varies and each alternative addresses key issues brought forward by the public. One of the alternatives being proposed for the restoration and management of the Preserve's natural resources proposes to implement the 10-year strategy developed through a collaborative effort that included the Trust, the forest service, other federal agencies, tribal land managers, state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public. The other alternative addresses a key issue (the management of aspen forests) brought forward during earlier public meetings.

Comments received from the public at this time ensure that the Environmental Impact Statements being prepared for these plans address the issues of greatest concern to the public. A draft statement for each plan will be made available for a 45-day public comment period before a final decision is made. The draft statements are both expected to be available this year, marking a transition from interim to comprehensive management of the Preserve.

Your continued interest in the management of the Preserve is appreciated!
Update on Los Amigos’ Restoration Projects

Your membership dues support our restoration projects and offer you the opportunity to work on them (see 2011 Member Events, pages 6-7). We are cooperating with the Trust on several restoration projects and we hope to do more:

• **San Antonio River Ecosystem Restoration (RERI) Project:** We are working to restore proper functioning to 30 acres of wetland and to protect the proper functioning condition of approximately 10 miles of San Antonio Creek. This will produce a substantive change in the stability of the overall creek ecosystem, helping to improve water quality in the Jemez Mountains.

• **San Antonio 319 Project:** We are working to restore San Antonio Creek so that it may be delisted from the Environment Department’s 2008-2010 §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated Report (of stream segments not meeting their designated uses). We will intervene in key locations to ensure that natural stream channel evolution continues in a desirable direction. This work will include in-stream as well as floodplain restoration measures. This project will use innovative restoration techniques being pioneered in New Mexico. In addition, it will leverage other funding (RERI) to enable Los Amigos and the Trust to make substan-

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Trail Maintenance—May 11–14

Last year Los Amigos sponsored a group of members and friends to identify, fell, and clear hazard trees and other debris from Preserve trails. The volunteers felled 185 hazard trees using their own equipment, and cleared over 15 1/2 miles of trail.

There are more hazard trees to be felled, especially on South Mountain, so we are going back this year.

We will meet at the Valle Grande Staging Area before 9 a.m., for coffee and donuts. Kim DeVall, Preserve Recreation Specialist, will outline our duties and discuss project safety. Los Amigos member Sam Beard will discuss other works safety items before we head out for a full day’s work in the woods. To volunteer, email Jim Counce at jcounce@valornet.com.

San Antonio Cabin Work Weekend and Campout
Friday, May 20 – Sunday, May 22

By moving soil and transplanting sod in several locations, we will plug an animal-made ditch that is draining the wetlands and re-direct this flow to a low-lying area on the left terrace of the creek. Wetland sod and underlying soil will be removed from several narrow trenches, hand dug, in a drying area of the wetland. The soil will be used for the base of the plugs and the sod placed right side up to cap and stabilize the plugs. The narrow trenches will re-water the drying area and will rapidly fill in with the surrounding native vegetation, creating micro-topographic complexity which is better habitat. The plugs will raise the water table of the wetland and re-establish sheet flow exiting the wetland to a natural swale, which will become another wetland. To volunteer, email Jack Crane at jdcrane@valornet.com.

Caldera Marathon Work Days
Saturday, June 11

Los Amigos will help with the Marathon by staffing water stations and helping with other duties. What better place to spend a lovely June day? To volunteer, email Jack Crane at jdcrane@valornet.com.

Cruise the Caldera Work Days
July 9, August 13

Los Amigos will help with the bike events by staffing water stations etc. To volunteer, email Jack Crane at jdcrane@valornet.com.

Journey into the Geologic History of the Preserve
Saturday, July 10, 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please join us for our most popular event, an exciting geologic tour of the north rim of the Valles Caldera led by local geologist, international tour guide, and Los Amigos member Kirt Kempter. This is the fifth season for this tour and it’s just as popular as ever, with views that will knock your socks off.

Departing from Española at 9:00 a.m., we will drive west on Forest Road 144 (also know as 39-mile road), stopping at several view points as we wind our way into the northern Jemez Mountains. As we ascend the back side of Chicoma Peak, there will be spectacular views of the Rio Grande Rift, Pajarito Plateau, and other geologic features of the northern Jemez Mountains. The road also cuts through the core of an old volcano, active 10 million years ago. Our destination will be a picnic lunch stop along the north rim of the Valles Caldera known as “Hunter’s Point.” Here you will find the most spectacular views of the northern portion of the caldera. A lecture at this stop will provide a geologic history of the caldera since the massive eruption occurred 1.2 million years ago. This dynamic story includes multiple lakes and volcanic eruptions within the caldera since its collapse. We will finish up with a tour through the Preserve to the Valle Grande Staging Area.

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New Price!
Order Your Morton Print to Help Restore the Bond Cabin!

Los Amigos de Valles Caldera is selling 350 signed and numbered 18” by 22” lithographs of Peace in the Valle by Gary Morton (see page 8). Each is $125, which includes shipping and handling. The proceeds from the sale of the prints will be used for restoration work on the Bond Cabin, such as pouring a new foundation, eliminating the drainage problem, etc.

To order, please see the Los Amigos website, www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org, or mail a check with your order to Print, Los Amigos, 3250 La Paz Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87507. Prints will be given free to each new Los Amigos Lifetime or Obsidian Guild member.

Obsidian Guild

The Valles Caldera Obsidian Guild recognizes individuals who provide support for the Valles Caldera National Preserve through planned gifts. Membership belongs to those who have made deferred gifts to Los Amigos de Valles Caldera through one or more of the following methods:

◆ provision in a will or revocable trust;
◆ retirement plan beneficiary designation; or
◆ life insurance policy beneficiary designation.

Members of the Obsidian Guild share a common bond of generosity and visionary leadership, nourishing the Preserve’s unique assets. For further information, please contact Larry Icerman, licerman@aol.com.
From the Chair, Doug Fraser

We spent the winter re-designing our website. We hope you will look at the new site and let us know what you think. If you have any problems using it, please contact Jim Counce and let him know what the problem is so we can fix it. We want to make sure that our members always have access to up-to-date information about Los Amigos and the Preserve.

Now, as we bask in the beautiful New Mexico Spring, Los Amigos is planning a very busy year, as you can see from the stories on these pages. Our restoration efforts are expanding and a big “thank you” goes to our members. Your dues allow us to apply for grants and then your work on the projects helps us supply the “match” for the money we receive from the Environmental Protection Agency or New Mexico Environment Department.

In the last few months, we also appealed to you for a year-end contribution and then we asked for membership renewals. We have had a phenomenal response to those requests. We want to thank you for your continued interest in Los Amigos and the Preserve. We hope that you will join us this summer at one or more of our member events or work days. We have the opportunity this year to complete some of our (San Antonio and Alamo Bog) projects and to start new ones on Jaramillo Creek and elsewhere. Come be a part of it!
Update on Los Amigos’ Restoration Projects
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tial improvement in the San Antonio Creek and Jemez Watershed. All field and volunteer work for these two projects will need to be completed this summer, and we hope you will help.

• Restoration of the Bond Cabin. Los Amigos is trying to help with rehabilitation of that historic building. Sales of the Morton Print (see page 7) will fund this work.

We have already completed all field work on the Alamo Bog Wetlands Project, where we partnered with the New Mexico Environment Department to restore bog and slope wetlands and floodplain wet meadow habitat on the Preserve. We are finishing up the Wetlands Action Plan for the San Antonio and that will complete this project.

New Projects: Jaramillo Creek

We are signing the contract on another 319 grant to Restore Jaramillo Creek. Historically, Jaramillo Creek produced large trout. But, the spring 2003 fish population data showed a total of two fish in age class 2 were captured in the Jaramillo exclosure area, compared with a similar length stream segment on the East Fork where 279 fish of age classes 0-4 were found. Two potential problems that have been identified by the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau include temperature and sediment not supporting high quality coldwater fishery designated use. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) were created for Jaramillo Creek for temperature and turbidity in 2002 and it remains listed in the 2008-2010 §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated Report.

Still other localized segments have down-cut resulting in an incised channel that may not be able to access the flood plain.

This summer, an inventory of the Jaramillo Creek subwatershed will occur, from its headwaters to its confluence with the East Fork. Specific locations for installing restoration measures will be identified and mapped. The watershed will be flown with a digital camera and a sub-meter GPS. Ground reconnaissance will be done. The data will be assembled into a GIS map document. Then a Steering Committee will prioritize treatments to be completed next year.

CFRP

In addition, we have applied for a Collaborative Forest Restoration Project (CFRP) grant to implement a forest restoration and fire hazard reduction project in a paired watershed area located on south facing slopes (continued on page 12)
Once Upon A Time . . .

Telling the Story of the Valles Caldera Preserve

History is once made, often debated, occasionally revised, and forever alive. It is colored by language, sometimes shaped by opinion, and constantly evolving with each new fact that either disproves a fiction or buttresses the truth. Unfortunately, many untold truths fade over time and disappear with the passing of each generation who lived them. Valles Caldera Trust Cultural Resources Coordinator, Ana Steffen, is determined to ensure that the history of the Valles Caldera National Preserve is retained through the tales told by those who lived it and by recording those stories for generations yet to be born.

Capturing Stories

“Hearing stories of people who lived or worked on the Baca Location No. 1 is one of the only ways to chronicle the history and traditions of a bygone era,” says Steffen. “Capturing those stories as told by the storytellers provides an added dimension and unique way to learn the history of the VCNP first hand.”

Like the interview already recorded with Sally Heinsen in which she told her story. Sally and Harold Heinsen drove to New Mexico from the Dakotas looking for work in 1958. She related how Harold parked in front of the Frank Bond and Son office in Albuquerque where Harold was hired on as a cowboy for $100 a month plus room and board and soon became ranch foreman. The “room” was the log house which is today called the Ranch Foreman’s Cabin where Sally and Harold spent summers raising their five children. “My husband worked from dawn to dark,” said Sally. “But he also used to say being there (the ranch) was like being on vacation.”

Creating an Oral History

Creating an oral history is not as simple as putting a microphone in someone’s face and saying, “Talk!” Before a syllable is recorded, a well thought-out plan must be in place. A disciplined, oral history program consists of best practices that include a strategic line of questioning, a place to archive recordings, transcripts, and donated artifacts, forms and releases necessary to document the effort, and a partner to help guide the project. Enter Dr. Cameron Saffell of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum in Las Cruces. Under his direction, the museum will work with Steffen to provide the expertise and facilities needed to record and pre-

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Learn How to Fish and then Catch the Big One!

Los Amigos de Valles Caldera is just one of the many volunteer organizations that are the lifeblood of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Another is New Mexico Trout whose volunteers will once again make the Fly Fishing Clinics a reality for the young and the “older young” alike. Participants will spend half a day learning about equipment, tackle, knots, and stream insect sampling and identification. Then in the afternoon they will apply what they have learned while fishing the East Fork of the Jemez River. The scheduled dates are as follows:

**Adult Clinics**
*June 26, July 17, August 21*
Fees: $75.00/person

**Youth Clinics**
*June 25, July 16, August 20*
Fees: 8-16 years old, $15.00/person

Everyone 12 years and older must have a current New Mexico fishing license to fish in the state. Anglers 11 years old and younger do not need a license. Seasoned anglers over 70 years old need a Free Fishing License available at the Game and Fish Department or license vendor.

Fishing season opens May 21st on the East Fork of the Jemez River and San Antonio Creek. Once again San Antonio Creek anglers can drive to their designated fishing areas and can begin fishing any time after 8:00 a.m. until we close the gates at 6:00 p.m. Fees are $35 a day for adults and $25 for youth 16 and under. To reserve a spot, call 866-382-5537 or go to our website at [http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/fish/index.aspx](http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/fish/index.aspx).

Knowing what reaches are open on both the East Fork and San Antonio Creek is as close as your phone. Join the Valles Caldera text club today and stay up to date on the fishing availabilities as well as on the weekly fishing reports. These reports record the largest fish caught and what they are biting on. It is easy to sign up. Simply TEXT “TROUT” to 67664 and you will be kept up to date on the fabulous fishing at the Valles Caldera.

Thanks again to our New Mexico Trout volunteers for all they do.

Once Upon a Time... (continued from page 10)

serve the VCNP’s oral history. Another contributor to the project is Ramona Caplan, who is the professional oral historian that meets with the “old timers” and records their stories. VCNP Cultural Resources staff member, Jackie Stark, helps organize the information collected.

So far only 12 interviews have been conducted and a dozen more are planned this year. Steffen is looking for volunteers to listen to the taped interviews and transcribe them. If you want to volunteer for the unique work of transcribing the Preserve’s oral history, contact Dr. Ana Steffen at asteffen@vallescaldera.gov.

“It is important work,” added Steffen. “If we don’t do it now it will be lost for the ages.”

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Restoration Projects
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below Redondito Peak. If funded, this project will focus on a paired watershed consisting of the La Jara Creek watershed and the adjacent History Grove Watershed as control and treatment regions, thus offering an opportunity to compare monitoring data from a treatment site with that of an untreated “control” site.

Approximately 272 acres of south-facing xeric mixed-conifer forest, ranging from ponderosa/savanna up through mixed conifer to spruce and fir forest will be restored through selective thinning, followed by prescribed burning. Efforts will be made to utilize as much cut material as possible through fuel wood gathering for neighboring communities, and for Valles Caldera activities benefiting the public. Los Amigos volunteers will assist with wood extraction once thinning is completed.

A certified sawyer crew from the State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department’s Forestry Division Inmate Work Camp will thin the forest; a youth crew from Jemez Pueblo will hand-pile cut material into burn piles; and a crew from Santa Clara Pueblo will conduct the burning. Monitoring transects will be installed prior to treatment. Monitoring crews, both paid and volunteer, will gather data on water quality and discharge levels in both watershed streams, forest structure and function, native wildlife species and habitat.

Our objectives for this project are to: 1) Reduce forest crown fire potential; 2) Restore forest structure and function; 3) Improve water quality and quantity; 4) Benefit wetlands located downstream; 5) Protect native wildlife species; 6) Prevent the destruction by fire of cultural resources on Redondo Peak (springs, sacred shrines, trails, herbal plant populations), and 7) Improve the socioeconomic outlook in neighboring communities. Once restored, this project area will serve as a demonstration site for further restoration efforts to be implemented on the Preserve.