

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 3
March 2014

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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It's a Dog's World

"I have seen a look in dog's eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that dogs think humans are nuts." John Steinbeck

As a dog, and I should know: I don't really go along with Steinbeck—at least not entirely, as I shall explain in this article.

I am a dog, an Eldorado Dog. My name is Gother. It's not pronounced like gopher but rather more like Got-her. My human renamed me, after I once snarled at his mother-in-law when she was trifling with my dog dish. This incident forced her to cut short her visit here by a month. My earlier name, the one they called me by in the shelter, was Alfonso. But I don't care what humans call me, as long as they don't call me, as my uncle Ralph used to say, "late for dinner."

I am, my humans keep telling everyone, part Pug and part Lhasa Apso. I look like a Pug with a lot of facial hair. This doesn't bother me. I'm not at all vain. But it does bother my human when people tell him that he is starting to look like me. I think he should take it as a compliment.

I do like being a member of the Information Committee. (My human is also a member.) I represent the real ECIA in Eldorado (Every Canine Is Appreciated). Its committee members always bring cookies and other snacks to their meetings, which provide interesting under-the-table edibles for me and Chico, the other dog in attendance at the meetings. His human works behind the counter at the ECIA office and has the job of forwarding dog complaints and other less-important beefs (a word I like) about humans who paint their houses pink or olive drab or do other upsetting-to-humans stuff to the Covenants Compliance Officer who works at an undisclosed location near the ECIA office.

One of the big complaints I read in the Covenant Compliance Officer's book is so common he abbreviated it as "DOLOL": "Dogs off leash or loose." It's a serious problem for some of us Eldorado dogs. Just go up to the Agora Bulletin Board (the messy one you can post things on yourself), and you are likely to see

pictures of the missing like "Fluffy has not been seen since Tuesday . . . reward." So, for some of us, being off-leash or loose may not be a good thing if we become a main course at a coyote dining-in party in the greenbelt. So, leash us, humans. We're your best friends.

There are other residents in Eldorado, the cats. They are members of the ECIA too, but for them the acronym means "Every Cat is appreciated." You know, for sure, that we—dogs and cats—are different.

"A dog thinks: Hey, these people I live with feed me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me and take good care of me. They must be gods!"

"A cat thinks: Hey, these people I live with feed me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me and take good care of me. I must be a god!"

As a member of the Information Committee and the ECIA (Every Canine Is Appreciated), I can tell you that living in Eldorado is an awesome experience. Unlike Santa Fe City dogs, we have HB and D trails (Hike, Bike, and Dogwalk). There are three or four aisles of food and stuff I like at our local super market. There is a pet store nearby with (almost) indestructible dog toys and one of the greatest sniffing areas in New Mexico right next to it. And we have a Dog Park! More later about that super place; the *Vistas* editor just called and howled at me. This story is late.

—Gother Schober



*ECIA Board Meeting,
Community Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
March 20,
7 pm.*



Share your comments with us!

For policy and deadline, see below



Editorial Policy

Vistas invites ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too.

DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or e-mailed to DiAna@eldoradosf.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

The mission of Vistas, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

ECIA Board Forums

The 2014 ECIA Board election is unique and very important, as all seven director positions are open. To help the community in getting to know the candidates, the Election Committee has scheduled two Candidate Forums. The first date is Saturday, March 22, from 10 AM to noon at the Railroad Building. The candidates will have the opportunity to present themselves and their positions regarding issues important to the community. Afterward, there will be a "meet and greet," allowing the audience to visit with the candidates.

The second date is Wednesday, April 16, from 7 to 9 PM, at the Performance Space in La Tienda. The candidates will be asked a series of questions submitted by lot owners, regarding candidates' views on various community concerns. Within time constraints, questions from the audience will be accepted.

Both events will be led by an independent moderator from outside the community and conducted according to a format established by the ECIA Election Committee. We urge you to attend one or both of these forums to assist you in determining how best to cast your votes.

—The Election Committee

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on January 16, with all seven Board members present: **Dag Ryen** (President and Chair), **Jan Pietrzak** (Vice-President), **Karyn Mounsey** (Secretary), **Todd Handy** (Treasurer), **Jeanne Calzada**, **Pam Henline**, and **Dave Perlmutter**. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, without the Chair voting:

- ▼ **Phil Cohen** was appointed to the Finance Committee.
- ▼ A variance was approved for 3 Dulce Road for an existing fence to encroach 2 feet into the required setback, with stringers on the outside instead of

inside, and 8 feet tall where the Guideline height is 6 feet.

- ▼ At their request, Neighborhood Watch was dissolved as a standing committee of the ECIA.
- ▼ Two proposals for converting property and office file information to digital format are being considered.

Regular Board meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Community Center and are open to the public. An open forum, community announcements, and reports from ECIA committees are normally included. Complete minutes and meeting agendas are available at the ECIA office or website: <http://eldoradosf.org>.

Vistas: Save Paper and Postage?

Vistas is the official newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association (ECIA) and is one of the principal means by which the Board communicates with all lot/home owners. However, as with many things, costs are creeping up.

One proposal made to the Information Committee is to allow Vistas recipients to choose electronic-only distribution—that is, to forgo receiving the print edition and to obtain the monthly issue directly from the ECIA website, eldoradosf.org. Costs for Vistas are divided roughly into three parts: editing and design, printing, and mailing. In electronic-only distribution, only the mailing cost would be directly affected, as each monthly issue would continue to be edited and designed as it is presently, and printing costs are charged largely for setting up the press run regardless of the number of copies. However, that final third of the cost can be cut for each issue not mailed.

Issues of Vistas would continue to be available on the website, fully formatted in a PDF file: check out the current issue at <http://tinyurl.com/kwn7vah>. And for those who so wish, an e-mail notification could be sent when a new issue is posted, usually several days

before copies arrive in the mail. This would be an opt-out choice: if you do not explicitly request this, you would continue to receive your printed copy as usual.

Please send an e-mail to **Marilyn Farrell** (marilyn@eldoradosf.org), or call 466-4248 with your thoughts on this proposal.

Assessments Past Due

ECIA assessments are due March 1, 2014, for all lot owners. This is also the date of record for a lot owner to be current on all amounts owed the Association in order to be eligible to receive a ballot for the May 6 Annual Meeting and Director Election, or to run for office. This will be an unusually important election, as all seven Director terms are expiring, and the assignment of term lengths (one-, two-, or three-year duration) will be made based on the number of votes cast for each director-elect.

Also, interest on past-due assessments will begin accruing on March 1. Anyone who wishes consideration of special circumstances should contact General Manager **Bill Donohue** immediately at 466-4248.

Message from the ECIA Board

From time to time, the ECIA Board of Directors is asked to take a stand on issues that are important to the broader community but not directly within the scope of responsibility set by our by-laws or covenants. We are in fact only a restricted homeowners association, not a municipal entity, and our authority is limited. Nonetheless, we understand the importance of these kinds of issues to our members. Activities and projects underway or envisioned from Arroyo Hondo to Galisteo can have a direct impact on the lives of everyone living in Eldorado. Clearly the Board has a responsibility to keep members informed about such changes and to gather as much information as possible to share with members. Our by-laws also clearly state that the Board and its individual members may represent the interests of the Association on issues beyond our jurisdiction when authorized.

On the other hand, the Board recognizes that community opinion on some issues may be divided,

and that what is in the best interests of the community may be debatable. Two recent developments that have brought this to the fore are the proposed petroleum transfer station in Lamy and the proposal to link the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District to Santa Fe County's water system. Both have been the subject of considerable discussion in our community.

At this time, the Board has not taken a position on either of these proposals. However, we are eager to hear from our members. If a clear consensus arises from ongoing discussions, the Board can make a determination to become more directly involved in the public debate. We encourage all members to contact our general manager or individual Board members by email with your comments, or to speak to us at our formal board meetings. Help us ensure that the voice of the Board is the voice of all ECIA members.

—The ECIA Board of Directors

Culverts, Crowns, and Bar Ditches

As we should all be aware, the roads in Eldorado are the property of Santa Fe County, and the county has the responsibility for maintaining those roads. But that doesn't mean Eldorado residents can't be partners in the effort. The ECIA has a standing committee, the Road Committee, whose primary function is to evaluate the condition of our roads and provide information to the county about road maintenance needs. Individual homeowners can also play a part.

One common issue for our roads is driveway culverts. Every builder who built a home in our community should have installed a culvert. Unfortunately, some did not. If the absence of a driveway culvert is creating a problem for road drainage, the homeowner should contact the county. County engineers will then inspect the site, and if needed, will install a culvert at no cost to the homeowner.

Sometimes culverts get clogged by dirt, tumbleweeds, or even birds' nests. Previously, it was consid-

ered the responsibility of the homeowner to keep the culverts clear of obstruction, usually an easy thing to add to the spring cleaning list. However, the county has recently purchased a special machine to clean culverts. During dry weather conditions, the county's road maintenance crews will provide culvert cleaning services to homeowners on a first-come, first-served basis, according to **Diego Gomez**, head of the road maintenance division of the Santa Fe County Department of Public Works.

Dirt roads in Eldorado require regular grading, particularly after monsoon rains or snowstorms have damaged the crowning (the way the road slopes to allow for water run-off) or rerouted bar ditches (the drainage ditches alongside the roads). For the past several years, the county roads division has maintained a dedicated grader for the US 285 corridor. This has greatly improved response time and frequency of grading. However, some of our recent weather events have done so much damage to area roads that maintenance crews have been backed up for weeks, Gomez says. In these situations, we just have to show a little patience.

Nonetheless, the county encourages every resident or homeowner to notify them of any problem with the road system, by calling **Mark Rodriguez** at (505) 992-3039 or by utilizing the problem report form online at <http://tinyurl.com/pkcebc>. Or, Eldoradoans can contact any member of the ECIA Road Committee. Working together with the county, we can keep our roads safe and smooth and secure.

—Dag Ryen



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Election: **Kathie Graham**
Facilities & Grounds:
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Finance: **Dan Drobnis**
Information: **Frank Schober**
Roads: **Open**
Stable: **Grete Underwood**
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Architecture Committee

The name of the Architectural Advisory Committee has been changed to the Architecture Committee, as this more accurately reflects the mission and charter of this committee. Additionally, at a recent meeting, it was decided that the ECIA will be requiring that large yellow public notice signs be posted on lots, for all solar PV arrays, 14 days in advance of the plan review, but this will not technically be effective until the Guidelines can be updated to include this change (which should occur later in 2014). In the interim, we ask for voluntary compliance from all residents with respect to this new signage requirement.

WANTED: Coed Softball

players for Friday night softball games at 5:30 PM starting in April on the revamped ECIA community ball field! These outings are designed for all ball players 16+ years of age who would like to come out weekly to break in the new ball field, meet your neighbors, and have fun in a practice-like environment with the possibility of scrimmages. If interested, contact **Tom Miller**: 466-6059 or events@miller91.com.



Join in co-ed adult softball in April.
Photo: Stuart Seeger,
posted on Flickr.

American JeM Performing at La Tienda

American JeM, an acoustic American trio, will be performing on Saturday, March 29, from 6 to 7:45 PM (limited seating available for dining during the show) at La Tienda's Performance Space.

Audiences fall in love over and over again with American JeM's beautifully crafted three-part harmonies and high-energy performances. Their setlists include some "old favorites" with American JeM harmonies and musical arrangements that span musical genres of country, folk, bluegrass, rock, gospel, and traditional tunes. And, American JeM band members, **Jay Cawley**, **Ellie Dendahl**, and **Michael Umphrey** compose original toe-tapping and heart-warming tunes of their own that keep fans cheering for more! American JeM released its debut CD in 2013; singles include "La Llorona," "Something In Your Eyes," and "O Holy Night." Show tickets are \$10 at the door.

Equine Photographs at Barn Dogs

"Horsin' around in the Dressing Room": Equine photos by **Daniel Quat** will be on display at Barn Dogs in La Tienda, beginning on Saturday, March 1 through May 2014. Opening event: Saturday March 1, 3–5pm; refreshments will be served, and there will be a drawing for a free horse portrait. (\$350 value).

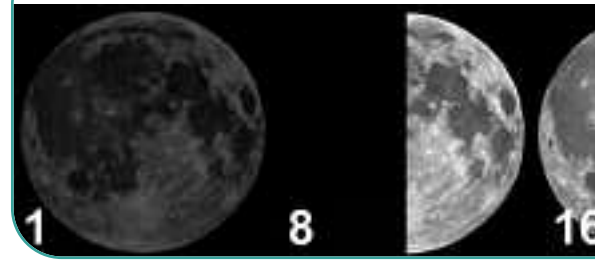
Daniel Quat, a transplanted New Yorker, has lived in Santa Fe for 8 years. He is a professional photographer with over 40 years of experience, specializing in portraiture, photos of artists and dancers, event photography of personal and corporate events, and photo coaching. His studio is in Eldorado. For the past two years he has been photographing horses in and around Santa Fe, Lamy, Española, and Edgewood. For more info, contact Daniel Quat, daniel@danielquatphoto.com, 505-982-7474, or **Holly Ourisman** at Barn Dogs: 505-466-1059.

Cactus Survey

The Cactus Rescue Project (CRP) is collecting data on how many Eldoradoans have planted cactus after having visited gardens or attended classes or lectures given by CRP, such as talks and lectures by Obie or Joe, viewing demonstration gardens at La Tienda, the ECIA, the School/community garden, the Senior Center, the median at the Vista Grande entrance, or the Eldorado Gardening Tour.

If you or someone you know has planted cactus because of any of the above, please email Obie at jwo1959@aol.com so we can get a tally.

We will not contact you further unless you request to be kept up to date on the latest cactus happenings.



Master Gardener Events Planned

The Santa Fe Master Gardeners are organizing several events and information tables at various locations around Eldorado this spring and summer. The first event will be a free Earth Day composting class at Vista Grande Public Library on Saturday, April 26, at 11 AM. The MGs will also be answering gardening questions at the Spring Flea Market. Sign up for the Master Gardener monthly newsletter at www.sfmga.org.

St. Pat's Day Music on Eldorado

Eldorado's hometown radio station, low-power Eldorado 1660 am, plans an on-air salute to Irish heritage on St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17. Eldorado will broadcast a hefty proportion of music from the Emerald Isle, including an afternoon concert recorded by the Clancy Brothers. The Blarney begins with the station's 7 AM morning program, which is slated to include recorded performances by Gerry Carthy, the Irish-born troubador who makes Santa Fe his home away from the Auld Sod.

The local station is on the air 24 hours every day, with a format, says operator **Bill Dunning**, of music 98% of the time, an easy-listening mix of light classical, soft jazz, and instrumental pop, plus a dash of world, folk, and new-age music. Rare but brief messages and information—including hourly time signals—are the only interruption to the endless medley of relaxation, he says, something not available on most other stations.

However, the ten-year Eldorado resident admits that on April Fool's Day, listeners may be in for a surprise or two—but all in good taste and good fun, Dunning promises. Eldorado has been on the air since the summer of 2010, transmitting a miniscule tenth of a watt from a site at almost the exact geographical center of the community. It can be heard most easily within the area between Avenidas Eldorado, Compadres, Alta Vista and Torreon. Although not formally licensed by the FCC, Eldorado complies strictly with all applicable FCC rules, and freely donates announcement time to support Santa Fe and Eldorado undertakings, including ECIA and SERA meetings and activities, Vista Grande Public Library, Senior Center programs, and the arts.



March Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email marilyn@eldoradosf.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 3rd of the month for publication in the following month's Vistas. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



- 1. Type of Event**
- 2. Location**
- 3. Date & Time**
- 4. A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

SPECIAL EVENTS

TGIF	Fri., Mar 21, 5-7			LR
ECIA Candidate Forum	Sat., Mar 22, 9-12			RR

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 11, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Mar. 25, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Thurs., Mar. 6, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Mar. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Mar. 4, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Mar. 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., Mar. 5, 4-6 pm	John Calzada	466-1947	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Mar.12, 9:30-11:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Mar. 25, 7-9 pm	Frank Schober	310-8593	CFR
Road Committee	TBA		466-4248	CFR
Stable Committee	Wed., Mar. 26, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	CFR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Mar. 13, 7-9 pm	Steve Rudnick	466-1335	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	RR/CR
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs., of month	Barrie Brown	466-3035	CC
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed., 3:00 pm	Susan Aylward	shaylward@gmail.com	
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month, 4-6 pm	Karen Sweeney	466-9797	CFR
Library Book Group	2nd Sat., 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			CFR/CR
AA	Thurs., 5:30-6:30 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm			CFR/LR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			CFR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR/CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fritz Denny	466-4070	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	Every Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Jim Davidson	670-6949	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
Coed Adult Softball (starts April)	Wed. nights, 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
Eldorado Hikers	Tues., 8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Wed., 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Sat., Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Horseshoes (starts in April)	Wed. nights, 5:30 pm	Tom Miller	466-6059	CC
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	Mon., 10-12 noon	Jack McCarthy	466-9601	RR
Mah Jongg	Fri., 1-4:30	Nancy Robbins	466-1780	CR
Overeaters Anon	Mon., 7-8 pm	Barbara	954-1533	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 11:30-12:30 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	Connie Walters	466-4226	RR

* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**For other religious/spiritual services, go to <http://santafe.areaconnect.com/churches.htm>

*** Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Changes in Your Neighborhood?

What permits or architectural changes is ECIA considering in your neighborhood? Check out the Architecture Committee agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lajmreo> or the ECIA Board agenda at <http://tinyurl.com/lkxxdmw>.

Spring Art Classes at Adam Senior Center

March will feature two art classes at the Adam Senior Center. The first begins on March 13 from 1 to 3 PM and runs for three Thursday sessions. It is an "Introduction to Collage and Mixed Media" taught by **Darcy Gray**. Students will learn how to use various techniques to adhere paper to a canvas or alternative surface, creating a variety of patterns, texture, and color. Darcy will demonstrate how to use different mediums and will critique compositions throughout the class. Check the flyer at the Adam Senior Center bulletin board for a list of materials that students will need to bring to class. Class is limited to 8 students and signup begins February 24.

The second art class is an "Intermediate Painting Class" taught by **Janet Amtmann**. The class begins on March 25 from 1 to 3 PM and runs for eight weeks, excluding the week of May 13. Students should have had other painting classes either at the Senior Center or elsewhere. Students may paint using acrylics, watercolor, or pastels, and they should bring to class the materials they want to use. The class is limited to 16 students. Signup begins March 17.

EACA in Bloom

Spring is settling in, and life is quickening in the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association as we move toward the light. A re-energized board has been elected, a special Shop Talk is scheduled, and the annual Studio Tour is in full preparation.

Monthly meetings, with interesting art-related presentations, are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7 PM at Eldorado's Community Center. There is also a monthly Shop Talk on the second Wednesday of each month; these talks are often studio visits hosted by artists.

A very special Shop Talk is scheduled for March 12, 10 AM to noon. **Laura Stanziola** of Uncanny Artist is inviting visitors to her studio to experience her amazing collection of oddments and ephemera for a special tour. The number of visitors is limited to 15, and EACA members have priority reservations for this particular visit. Non-members are welcome to join if spaces aren't already filled. But *all* interested parties are welcome to make appointments with Laura for future individual or group visits. Many collage, assemblage, and jewelry artists in the region are already familiar with Laura's unique and ever-evolving collection, all meticulously arranged and catalogued. Please contact **Mary Fredenburgh** at 466-1035 to reserve a space for the Shop Talk. If the tour quota is already filled, please contact Laura Stanziola at 466-2525 or www.uncannyartist.com to make individual or group appointments for future studio visits. Even if

Shown are two of the many items of "oddments and ephemera" from Laura Stanziola's collection.



one isn't buying, it's like being in a hands-on museum. This is a unique offering only found in our Eldorado community.

At the first monthly meeting of the year, EACA held its Annual Board Election. **Jack McCarthy** remains President, **Patty O'Connor** is the new Vice-President, **Kris Palek** continues as Treasurer, and **Karen Nein** continues as Secretary.



There's much work involved to pull off EACA's annual Spring Studio Tour, the largest such event in New Mexico. We have to organize publicity, produce a brochure that both catalogues the more than 90 artists and maps out the tour, place signage, and raise sponsor monies. (Not to mention creating the artwork!) It's time to get calendars marked for the Studio Tour, as well as for the very enjoyable artists' reception, held at the Exhibit Space at La Tienda on May 16, 5-7 PM. Studio Tour dates are May 17-18. More information and details about the tour will be published in future *Vistas*. You can also visit EACA's website at www.eldoradoarts.org.

—Margaret Nelson

Eldorado/285 Recycles

NEW COLLECTION. Great news: We have added some personal-care product packaging to the hard-to-recycle items that we collect. You can now drop off the following items at the Collection Station in the hallway of La Tienda Mall Building B.

- ▼ Mouthwash bottles and caps
- ▼ Deodorant containers and caps (no aerosol cans)
- ▼ Toothpaste tubes and caps
- ▼ Floss containers
- ▼ Toothbrushes

These items will be shipped to TerraCycle Inc. for recycling into new products. While this is a part of the Tom's of Maine Natural Care Brigade program in conjunction with TerraCycle, Inc., containers for products of any brand may be included.

NEW WEBSITE. Eldorado/285 Recycles has launched a website: <http://eldorado285recycles.org>.



You will be able to see all of our information in one place: Recycling Guides, Eldorado Transfer Station hours, composting information, and breaking news. The site may also be accessed via a link on the ECIA website, eldoradosf.org.

NEW THINKING. We encourage all residents of Eldorado and the 285 Corridor to reduce the amount of material they send to the landfill by practicing the "5 R's." (1) Refusing to buy unneeded items; (2) Reducing unneeded packaging on what they buy; (3) Repairing whatever they can to extend its life; (4) Reusing/Repurposing unwanted things in place of buying new; and finally, (5) Recycling (including composting) of whatever items can't be repaired or reused.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Is Cholla Native Here?

Is cholla native here? This was a question posed to **John Oberhauser** recently. You know him as **Obie**—he’s Eldorado’s cactus guru. His answer was twofold. Some say that cholla came here from Texas with the cowboys and cattle drives over a hundred years ago. Others tell of cholla being consumed by the Native Americans long before the cattle drives. We know that the natives used cholla flower buds in tea.

There are two species of cholla in this area. Eldorado has a common species of cholla (Tree cholla), which we all have in our yards, while Santa Fe has a species of its own. Santa Fe cholla, found near the Old Fort Marcy area, is smaller than our species and is endangered.

Rodents, such as pack rats and ground squirrels, like to live under cholla and eat the roots. They are a threat to cholla but they tend not to totally kill the plants. If you look closely at the base of the plant, you will detect some signs of life. Global climate change is a factor that has taken a toll on their numbers as well.

According to Obie, the best way to propagate cholla is to break or cut pieces from the parent plant at the joints. Leave these to set until they form a scab at the break point, which takes around two weeks. When nicely scabbed, place it in the ground without water, because there are no roots to absorb it yet. Then, a month later, give the new plant some water. The best time to plant new cacti is in April and May.

Last spring, Obie and his friends planted a cactus garden at the ECIA. This spring they plan to expand it. At its completion, they think it will probably be the fourth biggest cactus garden in New Mexico. To learn more, visit Obie’s website at cactusrescueproject.info. To see cactus pictures and identifications, go to obiescactus.info.

Contact us at EldoradoFloraFauna@yahoo.com. We love hearing from you!



Photo: Ann V. Wood

Sharp-shinned Hawk (SsH)

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is a beautiful small hawk that lives in New Mexico full-time or during winter. Some migrate as far south as Panama and breed in summer in Alaska. During fall migration, many birds move south together. Over a 70-day period, HawkWatch counted 1,665 SsHs in the Manzano Mountains. They are not seen much around Eldorado; the most likely time to spot them is during fall migration or winter. They have small heads, blue-gray or gray-brown (like their back and wings), light breast with bars (which can appear orangish), striped wings and tails (especially when viewed from below in flight), and yellow legs. They measure between 9 and 14 inches long. Sharp-shinned Hawks show the highest degree of sexual size-dimorphism of any North American bird, with the female nearly one-third larger and up to twice as heavy as the male. Wingspan is 16 to 22 inches. SsHs are agile, fast fliers who dart through thick trees and vegetation and usually live near the forest and forest edge.

Pairs are monogamous (at least for each breeding season and usually for life). Courtship involves flying in circles, landing on branches, and calling. They nest in dense trees, making a large open-topped twig nest (1–2 feet in diameter!) lined with bark. Both male and female bring material for the nest, which is mostly constructed by the female. Three to eight eggs may be laid, but usually only a few nestlings survive. Incubation is 30 to 35 days (mostly by the female) with fledging at 21 to 28 days. Hatchlings have downy

bodies and open eyes. Both parents feed the young.

These are “pursuit hunters,” flying after prey in the air—warblers, sparrows, and thrushes—and occasionally mice, voles, or grasshoppers on the ground. Nestlings feed first on small prey caught mainly by their father, switching as they grow to the larger prey that their mother can bring. Before delivering prey to their mates or young, male Sharp-shinned Hawks typically remove and eat the head. Fledglings remain with parents while they learn to hunt.

SsHs may zoom through your feeder area, looking for prey, but they do not take a heavy toll at feeders. If they seem to stay around during breeding season, just stop putting out feed for a week or two. Songbirds will quickly reappear when food starts up again. So hopefully you will enjoy seeing these beautiful athletic flyers.

A more common hawk here in New Mexico is the Cooper’s Hawk, which is similar looking and somewhat larger—14 to 15 inches long (a female Sharpie may fall in this range). For a long description of differences, go to http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/sharp-shinned_hawk/id (or use the short version: <http://tinyurl.com/7g66fjl>) and look down the page for “Similar Species.” The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a wonderful site to visit for information about American birds. Thanks to **Dale W. Stahlecker** for identification of the SsH.

—Pam Henline



Sharp-shinned Hawk.
Photo: **Abdoozy** at [en.wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org).
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The El Dorado School Community Garden *2014 Season Six Kickoff*

The Season Six Kickoff for the El Dorado School Community Garden will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2014, from 10 AM to noon at the El Dorado Community School library, 2 Avenida Torreon.

Haven't heard about our community garden? In January 2009, the El Dorado School invited the community gardeners to establish a school/community garden on their property located on 1.5 acres behind the school's soccer field. The garden now has forty 4x8 foot beds (24 raised, 16 in-ground), a 2,500 sq. ft. circular community garden, a labyrinth, cactus garden, perennial garden, koi pond, tool shed, greenhouse, several compost areas, and drip irrigation. This small group truly transformed the raw land into a magical place, especially when everything is bursting with bounty.

If you have an interest in organic gardening and land stewardship, gardening in

this climate, or creating friendships with other gardeners, why not consider becoming a part of our community garden. Come to the kickoff to learn more and to meet some of the many individuals who are part of the community garden experience. Spaces are limited, so request your membership packet today.

For questions or to request a membership packet, contact **Joyce Tate**, Membership Chair, at eldogarden@gmail.com or call (785) 221-9876.



See you Saturday, March 15, 10 AM–noon, at the El Dorado Community School library!