

ELDORADO VISTAS

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January 2013

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradosf.org ▼ Security 204-2945

What Will 2013 Hold for Eldorado?

Many local and regional construction projects are slated for action in 2013, and some environmental issues are expected to rise to the fore. Below are brief descriptions of those that would affect Eldorado. These will be covered more fully in future issues of *Vistas*, as they develop.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Voter approval of County general obligation bonds provides funds for paving on Herrada Road, Avenida Amistad, and Buena Ventura, as well as for a County water pipeline from Rancho Viejo to Eldorado.

Construction of additions to Vista Grande Library and the Adam Senior Center should begin in the new year, along with the building of an adjacent new Community Center. An additional parking area will also serve all three facilities.

It is currently undetermined what El Dorado Fire and Rescue might receive from the voter-approved County Fire Excise tax.

COUNTY TRAIL PROJECT

The County will begin two major Rail Trail upgrade projects that will join the Eldorado hike/bike trails with the City of Santa Fe and the Community College trails.

SF COUNTY SUSTAINABLE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN (SGMP) & CODE

The County SGMP was approved two years ago. The accompanying and soon-to-be-approved code will provide the enforcement authority for the plan. Over 50 County public hearings on the plan and code, with input from 150 community organizations, have been held over the last four years. Major items in the plan include alternative energy, land development restrictions, recycling emphasis, and water conservation.

Lack of adequate precipitation may be an overriding factor in sustainability. Surface water supplies, in particular, such as the Santa Fe City/County San Juan-Chama Water Diversion, Rio Grande River, Pecos River, and the upper Galisteo River drainage, may be hit hard, which would have a major impact on water use throughout the state in the coming year. The State Engineer has been given broadened author-

ity from the State Supreme Court in water allocation in times of extreme drought.

2013 CLIMATE FORECASTS

Much of the Southwest, including New Mexico, has experienced severe drought conditions and abnormally high temperatures for the past several years, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts that this will likely continue in the same or worse pattern in 2013.

POPULATION DENSITIES & THE ECONOMY

Due to economic conditions, new housing construction has been almost nil for the past few years around Eldorado. However, a number of approved subdivisions along the Highway 285 corridor may suddenly come to life if economic conditions permit. Recently, the Eldorado website has received a significant number of hits from New Jersey residents (a major Superstorm Sandy casualty), according to our webmaster.

New Mexico has one of the highest percentages of senior citizens in the country, and the Santa Fe area has one of the highest in the state. Eldorado likewise has a high percentage of seniors. Any major cutbacks in retiree income and health programs will likely have a rippling effect on the economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The native coyote population is being subjected to very inhumane treatment due to unregulated hunting and leg-hold traps statewide. This is in the face of increasing populations of rabbits and rodents, which can transmit serious diseases to humans. Coyotes help control these human-disease carriers. Bills may be introduced in the next state legislative session to control this treatment.

Several years ago, the severe drought indirectly killed many of the piñon trees in Eldorado. The lack of moisture left the trees susceptible to the bark beetle infestation. Continued drought this spring and summer could trigger another devastating bark beetle onslaught. It is suggested that new landscaping plans in Eldorado for the spring be delayed until the moisture predictions and water availability conditions are better established.

—Don Dayton

*ECIA Board
Meeting,
Community
Center
Railroad Bldg.
Thurs.,
January 17,
7 pm.*



Share your comments with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. 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 eciadiana@aol.com. 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.

Recent Board Actions

The ECIA Board held its regular meeting on November 15, with Board members **Ed Moreno** (President), **Jeanne Calzada** (Vice-President), **Nolan Zisman** (Secretary), and **Paul Jacobs**. Treasurer **Todd Handy**'s absence was excused. The following formal actions were taken unanimously, unless otherwise noted:

- ▼ President Moreno announced that interviews would be held in December to appoint a replacement for recently resigned Director **Jan Deligans**. **Jan Pietrzak** was appointed to fill the Board vacancy from **Pat Lavengood**'s retirement (see below).
- ▼ Draft Operating and Replacement Reserve expenditure budgets were approved, together with additional adjustment of reserve funds for 2013.
- ▼ A resolution was adopted to end any Board discussion of possible Architectural Guidelines regarding hens as pets (2-1-1: Zisman abstained, Jacobs against, Moreno not voting).

▼ A variance was approved for 5 Moya Loop to allow stringers to remain on the outside of a fence built over 20 years ago without approval, because of existing vegetation screening.

▼ A variance was approved for 6 Cuesta Lane for a shed 24 feet from the house where 15 feet is the Guideline maximum, with conditions, to use an existing fence for screening.

▼ A variance was approved for 24 Condesa Road for a shed 50 feet from the house where 15 feet is the Guideline maximum, with conditions, because of existing screening vegetation.

Board meetings are scheduled monthly on the third Thursday 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>.

Two New Board Members

The ECIA has filled two Board positions. **Jan Pietrzak** was appointed to fill the position vacated by **Pat Lavengood** when she retired from the Board in October, and **Dag Ryen** was selected to replace **Jan Deligans** who recently resigned.

By way of introduction, here are short biographies of each.

Jan Pietrzak and his wife, Gale, purchased their home in Eldorado in 2007 and moved to our community in 2008. Jan left his teaching positions at the college level, and Gale left her IT position in California to settle in New Mexico. Jan's teaching positions included design and photography for the University of California, Otis College of Art and Design, and six community colleges. Jan also worked as a commercial industrial photographer and designer for some 35 years. The main focus of his work was industrial and building products and architecture and book design work.

Jan currently works on three diverse but related advisory boards all dealing with photography and the photographic industry. Part of his time is spent working on his personal artwork of photographing the social and intimate landscape as well as book design.

Jan brings two plus years of being on the Architectural Advisory Committee, a task that requires writing standards that blend the styles of Northern New Mexico and the latest advances in technology with Eldorado's landscape and living spaces.

Dag Ryen and his wife, Lajla, moved to Eldorado six years ago to enjoy our tranquility, scenic vistas,

and recreational opportunities. They are avid hikers and lead outings for the local Sierra Club. Now retired, Dag is a journalist and editor who has written and lectured extensively on international affairs, government accountability, and media relations. He taught at the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy for ten years before relocating to New Mexico. He presently teaches at the Renasan Institute of Santa Fe. Dag holds a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and master's in diplomatic history from the University of Kentucky.

Dag began his career as a foreign correspondent for the Norwegian News Service and served as desk editor for the Associated Press in Oslo. He served in a series of editorial management positions with the Council of State Governments and the Kentucky League of Cities.

He and his wife are both originally from Norway, but he grew up on his father's horse farm near Lexington, Kentucky, where he developed a strong interest in native wildlife and responsible land use. He served on the city's environmental protection committee and as a longtime board member of a local nature sanctuary.

When not enjoying the mountain views and starlit skies of Eldorado, the Ryens are usually off visiting their five children and five grandchildren scattered from coast to coast.

—Paul Jacobs

2013: Investments in Our Future

Happy New Year to all! I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the holiday season with families and friends. I am looking forward to the year ahead, and if I can express my expectations, the word that comes to mind is “investment.” By investment, I mean doing things now that will result in future benefits for all of our residents and the ECIA as a whole—for example:

- ▼ The ECIA will embark on a year of amenities maintenance, for which we have saved, including rehabilitation of the tennis courts, continuing the improvements at the Community Center Park, scheduled maintenance at the pool, and many other improvements on the Community Center property.
- ▼ The Finance Committee will be tasked with developing the assessments to support the ECIA budget for the 2014–15 biennium. Two years ago, the ECIA began a program to support our repair and replacement fund so that it can sustain maintenance of amenities at least five years into the future. We are about one-third of the way there.
- ▼ The investment in improving our business practices is continuing. We have made great strides in financial accountability since the embezzlement

incident, and in the coming year, a Board subcommittee will examine the organization as a whole, including staffing, procedures, and accountability.

- ▼ A team comprising members of the Facilities and Grounds Committee and veterans with relationships with Santa Fe County has met with the County’s trails and open space staff, opening a dialogue that may help us maintain and improve our community trails, and also help the County expand its planned trails in this region. This project may take awhile, but it’s worth keeping the issue on the table.

- ▼ Also related to Santa Fe County, past investments in our relationship with the Public Works Department have paid off, with the planned paving of Herrada Road, Avenida Amistad, and Avenida Buena Ventura within the next two years. That was the result of years of work by the Road Committee, especially **Nolan Zisman**.

My new year’s resolution is to encourage and support these and other investments that will maintain and improve our quality of life in Eldorado.

—Ed Moreno, ECIA President

ECIA 2013 Budget Established

The Operating Budget for 2013 includes an annual assessment of \$340, unchanged from 2012 as required by the Association Bylaws. It provides funding for estimated annual operating expenses of \$845,361 plus a \$15,000 contingency. It also makes a transfer of \$112,979 from the Operating Fund to the Replacement Reserve Fund and no 2013 allocation to the Capital Fund. A large increase of operating expenses over those from 2012 derives in part from additional hike/bike path maintenance, increased general maintenance, increased pool lifeguard

hours, and an increase in estimated legal expenses. The Replacement Reserve budget was developed from an ongoing appraisal of replacement requirements.

ECIA’s policy of accepting credit cards for assessment payments is continuing; the option of a split payment has been discontinued because of the burden it places on staff.

A complete Operating Budget and a message from the Finance Committee are included with each Association member’s 2013 invoice. Payments are due by March 1, 2013.

Trail 105 Completed

The ECIA Conservation Committee recently completed a project that occupied the committee’s time and focus—and that of **Jan-Willem Jansens** of Ecotone and the Boy Scouts—for the last eight months: designing and constructing a new trail in the Eldorado Preserve. Trail 105 is now ready for use and covers about 1.7 miles along the southern border of the western end of the Preserve. It begins just past the 100-series trailhead under the electric power easement, proceeds to the southeast

just inside the property line for about 1.6 miles, and then turns northeast to join Trail 101 at the 1G junction signpost. Trail 105 is relatively flat but does cross several large arroyos. The trail offers a pleasant walk as it winds through the juniper/piñon forest. It will be ideal in the winter, as it has full exposure to the sun. Updated trail maps that will include Trail 105 are being designed and will become available sometime in 2013.

—Jim Daniel

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Director

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Director

Dag Ryen

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Conservation: John Parker

Election: Kathie Graham

Facilities & Grounds:

Jean Crawford

Finance: Dan Drobnis

Information: Jim Daniel

Neighborhood Watch:

Marilyn Walker

Roads: Michael Chester

Stable: Gretel Underwood
(Interim Chair)

Sustainability, Planning,

Education: Steve Rudnick

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

eldoradofirerescue.org

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)

In Memoriam: Arnie Souder

Another longtime resident has passed away. Arnie Souder was a founding member of the original ECIA Finance Committee and a long-standing member of El Dorado Fire and Rescue. Arnie and his wife, Eileen, had lived in Eldorado since 1988.



Photo: Max Underwood

The Eldorado Stable held an open house on November 24. This beautiful horse, Joy, a "warm blood" breed owned by Lucy Wienczkowski, was among the many horses that visitors were able to ride and enjoy.

IN THE COMMUNITY

In Memoriam: Mary Anne Kenny

Mary Anne Kenny, a longtime ECIA volunteer and former Board Member, passed away unexpectedly on November 30. Memorial services were held on December 8. Mary Anne served on the ECIA Board from 1990 to 1993, including as President in 1992. She later served on several ECIA committees, including the Facilities and Grounds Committee at the time of her death. She also served on the Eldorado Water & Sanitation District Board in the early years of its formation. She is survived by her husband John Kenny and three children.

Buckman Water in Eldorado?

The Eldorado Waterwrights group is sponsoring a series of Green Cafés to examine the pros and cons of bringing Buckman water to Eldorado. The first in the series will be on Saturday, January 12: 8:30–9:30 AM Breakfast Buffet & Social Networking at LaPlancha (\$8.95pp); 9:30–11:00 AM Presentations & Discussion at The Performance Space. This meeting will focus on the need for a supplemental water supply in Eldorado and on the quality of Buckman water. Community concerns of radionuclide contamination from Los Alamos and other sources will be addressed. Participants available to answer questions will include representatives of the Buckman Treatment Plant and New Mexico Environment Department. Future Green Cafés will address Buckman water quantity and renewability concerns, with the goal of having broad and open community discussions about our future water supply.

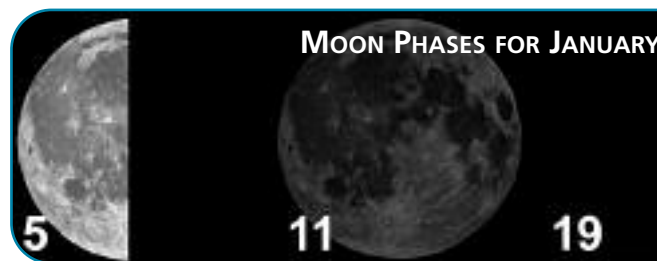
Dead on the Web? Free Q&A Jan 1

Award-winning web marketing author and longtime Eldorado web designer **Hope Kiah** is presenting free Q&A sessions on the first Tuesday of every month at the Zia Financial Group in La Tienda. Bring your website questions and/or your URL for review (first-come-first-served) at 6:30 PM this New Years Day!

Vista Grande Public Library News

VGPL has begun registration for the Spring session of its After School Reading Program, for children in grades K to 4. The program begins Thursday, January 24, and will meet every Thursday after school (3–4:30 PM) until May 2. This free program is open to all local residents, but space is limited and registration is required. The program fills up quickly, so come by and pick up a form today.

The Library also offers a Toddler Story Time for children ages 0 to 6 that meets on Friday mornings, from January 25 to May 3. No registration is required for children attending with a caregiver.



Some big announcements are coming soon concerning the construction of the Library's expansion. Look for news in the next month. In the meantime, everyone is invited to come by to check out all the new titles on the book and DVD shelves, just in time for winter. Audio books on iPods are available for check-out to our patrons, along with music CDs of all kinds, as well as books on CD. Happy New Year from the staff and board of directors of your local library!

EACA's First Presentation of the Year

The Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association starts the year with a presentation by resident artist **Joe Mayer**. A highly accomplished painter, Mayer has received numerous awards, including the Bronze Medal in the Mid-Atlantic Watercolor competition, and three awards in the national competition for plein air painting on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. His paintings have been exhibited at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Washington County Museum of Art. Mayer retired as chairman of the Art Department at Prince George's Community College and is past president of the Annapolis Watercolor Club and the Washington Watercolor Association.

"Design principles are seldom taught these days. Most people are instructed to 'do their thing' so that their creativity is not stifled by learning the laws of composition. This approach often ends up with work that is boring or confusing—the two things that we don't want our work to express. I will show samples of my work that were built on the laws of composition and then do a short demo of a Southwest landscape explaining the compositional principles in the process. I will also touch on pigment chemistry and its importance in landscape painting."

This presentation will be held at the Eldorado Community Center's living room space on January 31 at 7 PM. As always, non-members are welcome to attend EACA's presentations.

Overeaters Anonymous

A new group of Overeaters Anonymous has formed and is meeting weekly on Mondays, 7–8 PM in the Living Room at the Community Center. For more information, call Kate at 216-5302.

Recycle your Christmas trees at the Community Center parking lot.

Plein Air Painting Show

Eight local artists will be showing their plein air artwork at La Tienda's Exhibit Space from January 19 to February 16, 2013 (hours: Wednesday–Saturday 11 AM–5 PM). Opening Reception: January 18, 5–7 PM.

These artists have been painting together for many years, sharing a love for the beautiful landscapes of Northern New Mexico. Each week, the group chooses a different site to paint. Destinations include arroyos, mountain-sides, rivers, and small villages throughout region. For more information call: Janice 466-4211 or Jane 466-6930.

ECIA Needs Volunteers!

ECIA still needs more volunteers. If you have an hour or two each month, please consider volunteering for one of the committees. The committees seeking volunteers are:

Architectural: Review of applications for building projects; call Mark 466-4248

Conservation: Stewards of over 5,000 acres of trails and Preserve; call Mark 466-4248

Facilities and Grounds: Oversight and improvement of facilities and amenities; call Jean 466-1000

Information: Help manage ECIA communications; call Jim Daniel 609-941-4527

Stables: For horse and stable owners; call Gretel 466-7825.

Behavioral Iridology

The Performance Space at La Tienda is hosting a free event on behavioral iridology on Saturday, January 6, 5:30–7:30 PM. For more information, contact Shanti or Jim: call 466-4344; <http://www.behavioraliridology.com>.

January Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email eciamarilyn@aol.com 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

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

4. A Resource Person (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Architectural Committee	Tues., Jan. 8, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Architectural Committee	Tues., Jan. 22, 7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	Foyer
Board Work Study	Mon., Jan. 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Jan. TBA	John Parker	466-7513	F
ECIA Board Meeting	Thurs., Jan. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Facilities & Grounds	Tues., Jan. 8, 4-6 pm	Jean Crawford	466-1000	CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Jan. 9, 9:30-11:30	Dan Drobnis	466-4781	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., Jan. 22, 7-9 pm	Jim Daniel	609-941-4527	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Jan. 7, 6-8 pm	Michael Chester	975-6930	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Jan. 29, 7-9 pm	Gretel Underwood	466-7825	LR
SPE Committee	Thurs., Jan. 10, 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 Camera Club	4th Wednesday, 7-9	biordi@aol.com		La Tienda
La Canada Wireless	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	lcwireless.org		
Library Book Group	2nd Saturday 9-10:30	Joan LaMarque	466-6000	CFR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Pam Henline	466-4781	VGPL
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month	Pat Stewart	820-0303	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs, 5-9 pm	santafesar.org		CR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:45-6:45 pm			CFR/LR
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
Bridge	Every Other Fri., 9-noon	Natalie Bernet	466-6118	LR
Community Church**	Sun., 9:00 & 10:30 am	David McPherson	466-2495	La Tienda
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
Knitting Club	Tues., 10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Overeaters Anonymous	Mon., 7-8 pm	Kate	216-5302	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri., 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039	
Square Dancing	Fri., 6-9 pm	David Lovro	466-0540	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

At the Crossroads

As the new Chairman of the Road Committee, I'd like to take this opportunity to update the Eldorado community concerning our roads. Santa Fe County will be issuing \$19 million worth of bonds for capital improvements in April 2013. Part of the money will fund paving projects here in Eldorado. Avenida Amistad, from the Community Center up to Avenida Buena Ventura and continuing to the intersection of Avenida Vista Grande, will be regraded and paved. Herrada Road is also scheduled to be improved, either with a chip and seal surface or with asphalt. Due to the length of Herrada Road, the County will require preliminary engineering and an approved design before work can be started.

Portions of Balsa Road have recently been widened, and graded with a pronounced "crown" to help drain the surface. New culverts and brow ditches have also been completed. The County continues to keep full-time road maintenance and repair crews exclusively for the roads here in Eldorado.

If you notice a roadway problem, you can submit the County Public Works Department's "Report a

Road Concern" form posted on their website; or you can use the one that the ECIA has set up at eldoradosf.org, "Resident Resources /Forms and Applications"; look for the Road Problem Report form.

The 2013 New Mexico State Legislative Session is being held this month and next, and ECIA representatives are hoping to meet with legislators to give voice to the road needs of our subdivision. The Road Committee keeps an updated database of current road conditions throughout Eldorado, which we use to prioritize needed improvements. We will do our best to advocate for efforts to make our road surfaces safe, "all weather," and maintained in order to ensure that we can travel in and out of Eldorado, and that emergency and fire vehicles can get in and out as well.

One more reminder: With the winter driving season upon us, please allow extra time to get to your destination; slow down and be safe on our roads and highways.

Feel free to contact me by phone or email regarding any road issues you may have. Phone 577-2784 or email me at sanwarzone@yahoo.com.

—Michael Chester, Road Committee Chair

Mistletoe Berries in Juniper Are Here

Now is the time to tend (prune out) the mistletoe parasite that will eventually kill our trees if left to thrive. In effect, mistletoe is really the "kiss of death," not a holiday charm!

The berries begin to form in October. A delicate pink color and full of seeds, the berries are the transmission mode to spread the parasite widely, from your yard to others'. Spread occurs in two ways: Either birds eat the berries and then excrete them in various nooks and crannies of trees near and far; or the berry explodes and sends the seeds as far as 10 feet. The seeds flourish in winter cold.

There is no preventive product to apply to affected trees. The only way to control or slow this infestation is to cut out the growths. Ideally we cut the whole twig or branch that the parasite has invaded.

The growths take two major forms. One is a round mass with many "roots," as big as 12 inches in diameter. Mistletoe also appears as single sprouts running down a branch or within a juniper needle cluster.

The color of active growth is a brighter grass green than the host tree. Dying masses become a bright yellow. Usually new growth begins where the old golden growth dies.

Mistletoe is active along the 285 South corridor, in Dos Griegos, Eldorado, the Art Barns, East Ranch, and other subdivisions. It is most often in juniper but also can be found in cedar.

Some trees are so severely infested they probably cannot be saved. Others have "only" a dozen or so sites. Left without attention, the mistletoe infects the whole tree, killing branch by branch.

Mistletoe hides, often blending very easily in the host tree. Especially in thick juniper, you must take a close look to find it. Generally the greatest infestation is in the inner tree area, which may not be easy to reach. Usually one area of the tree is more infested, perhaps where a berry has exploded.

The first clue to look for is die-back in juniper "greenery," gangly limbs with much dead growth (limbs, needles). Aging mistletoe turns bright orange and brittle. Although this looks dead, you will usually find new green growth in that area.

Although the best time for general pruning of trees is January-February, it is always good to prune out disease right away and always okay to prune out dead growth. (Removing dead limbs gives breathing room for new growth.)

Among many junipers there is a hidden piñon tree. By giving it more space and air, it can fill the space if the juniper does not survive.

Mistletoe is a hardy and challenging pest. It is especially important to remove the clusters with berries to prevent spread to neighboring trees. Not all mistletoe clusters create berries.

—Jean Stokes



Mistletoe berries up close.



A mistletoe mass has infected this juniper.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FLORA AND FAUNA WORKING GROUP

Scats and Tracks: Bobcat

Ella Fitzgerald was probably the most famous “scat” vocalist in her time, recording over 159 song tracks. Well, I’m not going to write a Flora and Fauna article about Ms. Ella, though it is tempting and would be great fun. The scats and tracks I am tackling are those of our furry friends whose environment we share. There is so much information on these that I’ll devote several articles to the animals. The first of these is the bobcat.

Bobcat (Felidae family) tracks may be distinguished from dog tracks in several ways, but most notable is the round shape of the bobcat track compared with the oval shape of the dog’s, especially pronounced in the coyote and much less so in the domestic dog. Under the right conditions, the bobcat’s heel pads show a double lobe on the leading edge of the track, which canine tracks lack. Once a track is identified as feline, how do we distinguish it from domestic cat, lynx, or mountain lion? For the most part, in Eldorado, if a domestic cat gets out, it doesn’t last long enough to make tracks. Bobcat tracks are $1\frac{5}{8}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long \times $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide; domestic cats are much smaller, 1 – $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches long \times 1 – $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide; lynx have large tracks: $3\frac{1}{4}$ – $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches long \times 3 – $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide; and mountain lion, 3 – $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches long \times $3\frac{1}{4}$ – $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. Just add a tape measure to your hiking pack!

Trail patterns are best seen in snow or after rains (neither of which we’ve had much of lately). Bobcats walk in a zigzag pattern, alternating in direction between $11\frac{1}{4}$ and 25 inches, but usually from $14\frac{1}{4}$ to $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Of course, these lengths differ with the cat’s purpose: stalking vs. meandering. Bobcats travel

specific corridors, which may be 30–40 feet wide and will usually connect hunting areas with dens/lairs.

Bobcat scat is $\frac{7}{16}$ – $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in diameter, tends to be segmented, and contains a lot of rodent and rabbit hair. Scat varies a great deal, may be very tightly knit, possibly with blunt ends. When the animal has just eaten fresh kill, particularly organ meat, the resulting scat will be very dark and smooth looking, often appearing wet and loose. It is often difficult to distinguish between wild canine and wild feline, but as a general rule, bobcat scat tends to be more segmented and lacks large bone fragments found in coyote and wolf scat. The drier the habitat and food source, the more segmented the scat will be.

Bobcats can be tracked simply by their urine. The odor is the same as a house cat’s, but bobcats have specific objects or constructs that they urinate on, or mark. Typically, these are decaying stumps no more than 6 inches in diameter and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, or mounds that they have constructed by pawing leaves and other debris at the base of overhanging ledges, an outcrop, or a boulder.

Next, I’ll tackle the coyote.

Watering reminder: We’ve had very little precipitation since the last issue of *Vistas*. Here is a good rule of thumb for watering trees: for every 1 inch of trunk caliber, measured 5 feet off of the ground, the tree will require 7 to 10 gallons of water every two to three weeks. This is the recommended schedule until our weather gets very consistently cold; then watering is reduced to once a month.

—Nina Harrison, n815@aol.com

Hermit Thrush (HT)

This interesting smallish bird is not frequently seen in the Eldorado area, but I spotted one at a water pan in late November 2012. The HT we see in our area is not the one first shown in bird field guides. The “interior West” bird is a bit less flashy. It is about 6.5 inches long, with a 10-inch wingspan. Our bird is mostly a gray color but might have some hints of brown. The head is gray with a slender bill and a pale white eye ring. The breast is a lighter gray, with the upper portion heavily speckled. Summertime is spent in the northern U.S., Canada, and Alaska. Some may be resident in New Mexico. Winters are spent in Central America and the south-east part of the U.S. Migration is at night.

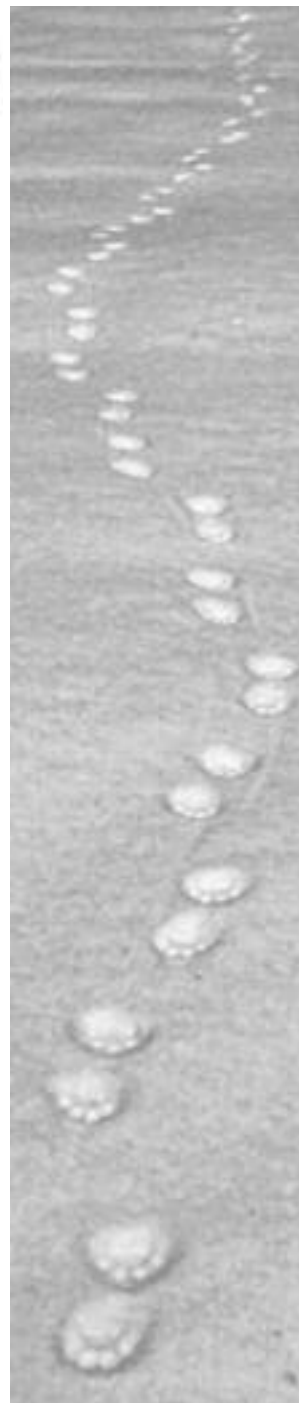
Like most thrushes, the HT spends a lot of time on the ground searching for insects such as bees, ants,

flies, and wasps. They hop and pick up ground litter searching for insects. More fruit and berries are eaten in the winter. Pairs are monogamous. The male courts by chasing the female in circles.

The female takes 7 to 10 days to build her nest low to or on the ground. Nests may have twigs and mud and be lined with grasses. Three to six eggs hatch in 12 days. The young are helpless but fledge at 11 to 14 days. Males bring food to the nest and the female feeds the chicks.

The HT population seems to be stable, as these birds do well on the edges of population areas.

—Pam Henline



Bobcat tracks: Note the lack of claw marks, the generally round shape, and the zigzag pattern of the trail.



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Happy New Year from the ECIA Staff!



Left to right: Karen Logan (Administration), Brian Bennett (Maintenance Supervisor), Marilyn Farrell (Administration), Raven Hicks (Community Services), DiAna Gutierrez (Administration), Mark Young (Covenant Compliance), Bill Donohue (General Manager), Leroy Roybal (Maintenance).