

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME X, ISSUE 4

April 2008

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

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Our Most Drying of Times

AN ALLEGED RETURN TO SPRING and we are all ready for the green. It has been a long, cold winter, and visions of outdoor work and play in our landscapes are creeping into our minds. There are pros and cons of a cold winter—of which I will try to convince your frozen selves.

First, the disadvantages. Deep cold can drastically “tip back” tender perennials such as lavender, red sage and even some roses. Now is the time to prune these obviously frozen tips, which can appear black or very dry. These damaged ends can host fungi and harmful insect eggs. Some plants might have perished, and by now you will know it. The bright side is that this material is ripe for the compost pile, which I enthusiastically encourage. Recycle those plants, weeds and last year’s leaves. Growth can also be slow after such a winter, so plants can be nudged along with a weekly application of Superthrive for the next several weeks.

Hard winters are not only stressful to some plants, but also the insect populations. This is good news. Chances are you will notice declines in hornworms, aphids, tent caterpillars and some beetles. But these declines will be temporary. By cleaning up debris, you can be more successful in managing the bugs. It’s about staying ahead of the game by working with nature and using good sanitation practices.

Additionally, this past winter brought lots of moisture, clearly an advantage for our green loved ones. Keep this in mind when planning additions to your garden or landscape. Native plant materials such as Apache plume, mountain mahogany, chamisa, etc., use winter water quite efficiently. A bonus is that they’ve already worked out the “bugs” with the insect world and manage them quite well on their own, saving you time, money and sweat equity.

For further managing your insect populations, especially their over-wintering eggs, my favorite tool—besides proper pruning and sanitation—is dormant oil. Dormant oil creates a mechanical barrier so oxygen and moisture can’t nurture the eggs. This nontoxic application suffocates the eggs before

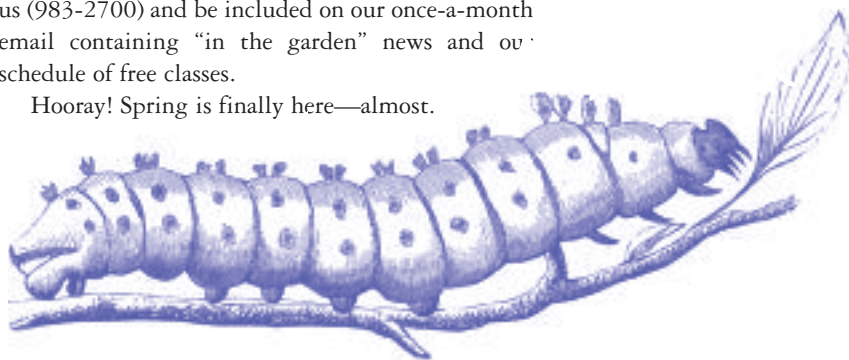
hatching, therefore getting to the problem before you can see damage. Pesticides that just kill everything upset the balance, and before long your problems intensify.

At a ratio of three tablespoons of oil per gallon of water, this organic approach really works. Apply now before flowering occurs, coating buds and branches where the eggs lie in wait. This oil is very effective on pear slugs (which skeletonize cherry tree leaves), helps prevent black fungus and tent caterpillars on aspen and also discourages leaf cutters, which can create interesting cut-outs on your beloved lilac leaves. Yes, it’s a petroleum product, but it is safe around your porous skin, as well as your kids and pets.

In these most drying of times, before the green appears, the root systems of your trees, shrubs and perennials are very active. Periodic waterings now will help ensure healthy plants that can withstand the wind and sun and create plants that are stronger in the warm months when the sun is even more challenging. Mulching is the other part of this equation, building soil and protecting roots.

There is probably more snow to come; our last frost date is around May 15. It’s too early for tender annuals, but pansies and snapdragons handle April well. Prune those roses now and plan the garden. For further information, check my website: TropicofCapricornSantaFe.com, or even better, call us (983-2700) and be included on our once-a-month email containing “in the garden” news and our schedule of free classes.

Hooray! Spring is finally here—almost.



—Horticulturally yours,
Michael Clark, *Tropic of Capricorn*

*ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Apr 14, 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 emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.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.

The Poop on Pickin' Up

ENJOYING THE WARMER WEATHER and going for more walks with your canine companion? Then undoubtedly you have noticed that it's getting deep, really deep in some places, and smelly—the dog poop that is. We have to get beyond the yuck factor and get in the habit of picking up after our dogs. Yes, it is disgusting at first. But seeing and smelling piles of it everywhere is worse.

So here are some ideas to help get you started pickin' up.

- ▼ Get a heavy duty plastic bucket with a good lid and line it with a plastic bag.
- ▼ Put the bucket next to your outside garbage can or some other convenient shady place and put a rock on top. The rock holds the lid down, keeps the odors in and the lid is very easy to lift as you add to your collection.
- ▼ Save newspaper bags and produce bags from the grocery, or buy the

biodegradable cornstarch-based bags and stash them with your leash so you can easily stuff one in your pocket as you head out the door with Fido. Don't have a pocket? Tie your bag to the handle of your leash.

- ▼ Once Fido has done her business, use the bag as a glove, pick it up, pull the bag over and knot the top of the bag, sealing in the aromatic mess.
- ▼ For the queasy beginner, a second bag is helpful to get things more removed from the olfactory senses and easier to carry.
- ▼ When you get home, toss your prize in the bucket and, at the end of the week, tie up your collection and send it out with the trash. (Most experts seriously discourage the composting of cat and dog waste. But if you do, **never** use it on edible gardens.)



Pat yourself on the back, and Fido, too. What a good boy or girl you are. And your community is most thankful.

—*Su Anne Armstrong*

ERA, What's Your 411?

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL INTERESTS? Then read on. The Eldorado community offers many opportunities for you.

Are you interested in local weather conditions? Log on to www.WeatherBug.com, select the 87508 location and then select Eldorado ES (Elementary School). The Weather Bug has recently mounted a webcam atop the school for a look at local conditions.

Do you want to help clean up the community and/or clean out your garage? Then plan on joining in on the Earth Day Event, Saturday, April 26, and participating in the Eldorado Residents' Association (ERA) Spring Flea Market, Saturday, May 10, and turn your trash into cash.

Do you want to be a more informed voter? The ERA will sponsor two Candidate Forums this election year. The first forum will be May 22 for the legislative, judicial and county candidates—namely, our District 5 commissioner, county clerk, treasurer and surveyor. The General Election forum will be held October 9. Mark your calendar.

Are you concerned about the electronic sign that has been mounted on the elementary school? A coalition of concerned residents has been formed. Contact Tony Bonanno at 466-0020 for more information.

The next ERA quarterly meeting will be the ERA Annual Meeting on April 7, where we will elect ERA board members. If you are interested in becoming a board member and being more involved in community activities, submit your name to Nominating Committee Chair **Pat Lavengood** at 466-9765.

Would you like to "swing to an ocean wave" or "wheel and deal"? Then come to the Community Center Depot on Friday nights and square dance with the Eldorado Depot Dancers. **Mike Holly** is the caller / instructor. For more information call **Richard Robinson**, club president, at 466-2830.

And if you want to make a difference in a child's life, contact **Emily Bridwell**, Big Brothers, Big Sisters at 982-8360, or call **Tom Johnson** at 466-4434 to become a volunteer with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Log on to www.eldoradoresidents.org and click on ORGANIZATIONS for a list of local organizations. If you want to start an organization or an event, your ERA is ready to help.

—*Bruce Blossman*
ERA Board president

From the President's Desk

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, hopefully the issue of the school's lighted message board has been resolved. This is not a petty issue, as some have indicated. As the Home Association, we must protect our vistas and night skies as outlined in the covenants. The Agora and The Village agreed not to have neon signs or unshielded lights in their parking lots as a concession to the wishes (covenants) of the residents of Eldorado. Hopefully, the school district will recognize the concern and reconsider where and how lights are used and installed at the school.

But I wanted to make sure that residents understand that the lighting situation in no way deflects from or reduces the Association's support of the school. Collaboration between the Association and the school was in evidence when fifth graders visited the newly rejuvenated Preserve wetlands between Trailheads 2 and 3. Under the direction of **Chari Kauffman**, their teacher, and **Dana Richards**, Earthworks liaison and Conservation Committee member, students observed and learned about wetlands. The students did some team building and some reflective writing about their experience. They plan to return next month to install birdhouses they have built. Also, birdhouses will be for sale at the school's Earth Day Event April 26.

DOGS

This is my final entreaty to you about responsible dog ownership. With spring nearing and more of us out and about walking jogging, and biking, please remember the rules of the dog policy. If you cannot



PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH

School's sign caused controversy until it was agreed that the school turn it off.

find your copy, I am sure the ECIA office has some available. But, basically, the rules are about being polite and doing the right thing with your pet(s) for their safety and the safety of others.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual report with a profile of the candidates running for the Board should be in your mailboxes by April 1. Please take time to review the material, vote your proxy, fill in the information for the pool pass, then return it to the Association office in the envelope provided. Please attend the annual meeting on Monday, May 5 at 7 pm at the El Dorado Elementary School. This is the meeting of the membership and the announcement of the new Board. The agenda is always full, but there is time to meet and greet neighbors and time for members to express their viewpoints during open forum. See you there!

—Jeanne Klein
ECIA President

Eldorado Capital Outlay Funding for 2008

A RECENT ARTICLE in *The Santa Fe New Mexican* made it appear that the legislature significantly underfunded Eldorado capital outlay requests. I wanted to clarify that of the \$824,000 in money allocated this year to House District 47, \$374,000, or 45 percent went to Eldorado projects. Requests funded included:

- ▼ Eldorado seventh grade classroom equipment:.....\$70,000
- ▼ El Dorado Elementary seventh grade portable classroom purchase:.....\$70,000
- ▼ Eldorado roads:.....\$99,000
- ▼ Eldorado WSD tank:.....\$50,000
- ▼ North Central Bus (Moriarty-Eldorado-SF route):.....\$30,000
- ▼ Vista Grande Library:.....\$55,000

In addition, \$125,000 in a prior appropriation also was reauthorized to the Canoncito-Eldorado pipeline project. Thus, the total appropriation from House District 47 to Eldorado was just short of \$500,000.00.

Many thanks go to Eldorado resident **Don Dayton**, who served on our volunteer Capital Outlay Committee, which evaluated the many projects submitted.

—Rep. Peter Wirth, District 47



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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Dan Drobni
Architecture: Bill Schwent
Conservation: John Parker
and E.J. Evangelos
Stable: Mary Ann Caldwell
Election: Ken Robinson
Roads: Nolan Zisman
Information: Ken McPherson
Neighborhood Watch:
Mary Uhl and Marilyn Walker

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

County All Purpose

820-CNTY (2689)



Artist: Connie Buffalo



Artist: Gilbert Candelaria



PHOTO BY SHEILA BUOLL

Great Performance Venue

In the old times, before TV, video games and cheap airfares, people gathered in small theaters and community rooms to meet, tell their stories, play music and have fun. There was little distance between audience and performer. On Sunday, April 6 at 4 pm at the old Eldorado train station (next to the Community Center) you will be able to experience this same kind of event.

Series Of Soirees is a time and place to enjoy each other's stories, rhythms, sounds and energy. The first Soiree was sold out, so reserve your seats now. Each Soiree is 2 hours, ending with wine and cheese. Performers have 10 to 15 minutes and share the proceeds (\$10 adults, \$5 teens, kids for free).

What kind of performers? Anything that fits on a small stage: comedy, poetry, theater, music, dance, puppetry, spoken word and others. All ages welcome, both as audience and performers. To reserve seats, contact **Ron** or **Laia** at 505-216-0882. Go to www.PuppetsRevenge.com for directions. To perform for future Soirees, contact us at 505-216-0882.

Know Your Bluebirds

On Sunday, April 6 at 2 pm, **Claudia Daigle** will give a presentation on Bluebirds. She will bring a short film on "Bluebird Basics" along with her "perfect" Bluebird nestbox setup, that includes all the proper predator guards. She will talk about why they are necessary and why it is important to dispose of older damaged nestboxes. She will also discuss proper nestbox placement on your property, how to properly monitor your nestboxes and why, the "sparrow spooker" and the importance of House Sparrow identification and controls.

She will address what to feed birds and what not to feed, what plants to plant to feed our Bluebirds and other native birds and she will answer questions. Ms. Daigle is a member of the North American Bluebird Society and has given Bluebird presentations at Santa Fe Greenhouse and the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge. She is excited by the recent response to her article in the previous *Vistas* edition about how to help our Bluebirds and native cavity nesters survive and thrive. Please call Ms. Daigle at 466-1950 or email her at EnchantedBluebird@comcast.net for more information.

Some Hot Wheels

The 5th annual Eldorado Car Show will be held Saturday, May 17 from 12 pm to 4 pm at the parking lot in front of the Community Center. Registration begins at 9 am and costs \$10. There



will be door prizes and exhibits.

The car show is hosted by the Santa Fe Vintage Car Club, which donates the proceeds. It appreciates the use of the ECIA's facilities and the help of its staff.

Eldorado Tour Tops 100 Artists

For the first time, the Eldorado Studio Tour will have 105 artists participating. They range in age from teens to 93, working in ceramics to woven beadwork and fine art. This diversity of artwork shows May 17 and 18 from 10 am to 5 pm in artists' studios throughout Eldorado. Some artists, such as **Karen Fitzsimmons** and **Aurora Sanchez**, are participating for the 17th time. Others, such as **Connie Buffalo** and **Gilbert Candelaria**, will show for the first time in this year's Tour.

As in the past, the Preview Gallery will showcase an example of each artist's work at the elementary school. The gallery's hours will be 10 am to 5 pm, May 17 and 18. The Tour brochure and map with illustrations of the artwork will be available at the Preview gallery, various locations in the Agora, The Village, the Vista Grande Public Library and Adam Senior Center.

For information, contact **Joretha Hall** at 466-6245, **Janet Amtmann** at 466-3256 or visit the EACA website at www.eldoradoarts.org.

From Farm to Market

Starting Friday, April 18, The Village will reopen the farmers market in the parking lot in front of Brumby's restaurant. Every Friday, the market will take place from 4 pm to 7 pm. During the inaugural season last year, the market had 21 different vendors sell their goods. Items available for purchase last year ranged from assorted fruits and vegetables to meats, poultry, soaps and crafts. This year, on opening day, Vertical Ventures Inc. will have a rock-climbing wall for entertainment.

We would like to encourage backyard farmers in the Eldorado community to participate. Anyone interested should contact **Susan Tarver** at eldoradonm_farmers_market@comcast.net.

Earth Day Events, April 26

▼ El Dorado Elementary School will celebrate Earth Day with special events.

▼ The ECIA will celebrate Earth Day by asking



ASTRONOMY Corner

LIGHTWEIGHT BLANKET

The gaseous envelope that surrounds a planet, satellite or star is called atmosphere. Earth's atmosphere mainly consists of nitrogen, 78 percent, and oxygen, 21 percent. The atmosphere on Mars consists of 95 percent carbon dioxide, 2.7 percent nitrogen and 1.6 percent argon.

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

Protect our night skies; keep outside lights low or off when not needed.

residents to participate in the annual Eldorado Cleanup Day. This date is changed from last month's *Vista's* announcement.

Handmade

The Village at Eldorado is hosting a Spring Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, April 26, from 11 am to 4 pm. With Mothers Day, Fathers Day, graduations and the wedding season just around the corner, this is the perfect event for people to shop for unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for their friends and loved ones.

The event will be held inside of Buildings A and B, and outside areas of The Village. Vertical Ventures Inc. also will have a rock climbing wall for the public's enjoyment.

HIRING

The ECIA needs to hire certified summer lifeguards and dependable maintenance workers. The ECIA also needs to hire a new Covenant Compliance Representative. For more information on these positions, please contact Bill Donohue at the ECIA offices (466-4248).

April Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th 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

APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

ERA Annual Meeting	Mon., Apr. 7, 7-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	LR
ECIA Candidate Forum	Tues., Apr. 8, 7 pm		RR
Clean up Eldorado Day	Sat., Apr. 26, 9 am		CC
Earth Day	Sat. Apr. 26	El Dorado Elementary	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Committee	Tues., Apr. 1, 7-9 pm		LR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Apr. 1, 7-9 pm	466-2411	RR
285 Coalition	Wed., Apr. 2, 7-9 pm	Rosemarie Bajioni	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Apr. 7, 6 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-2968 CFR
Finance Committee	Wed., Apr. 9, 9:30 am	Dan Drobnis	466-4781 CFR
Architectural Committee	Wed., Apr. 9, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708 CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Apr. 14, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248 CFR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Apr. 15, 7-9 pm		466-2411 CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Apr. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248 CR
Information Committee	Mon., Apr. 21, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	629-9028 F
Architectural Committee	Wed., Apr. 23, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708 CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Apr. 29, 7-9 pm	Mary Ann Caldwell	466-4271 LR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Shakespeare Group	Tues., Apr. 8, 2-4:30 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657 CFR
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Apr. 10, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765 LR
Book Club	Sat., Apr. 12, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Apr. 14, 7-9	lcwireless.org	Library
Roadrunners RV Club	Tues., Apr. 15, 6 pm	Beverly Cottingham	466-4655 Fire
League of Women Voters	Sat., Apr. 19, 10-11 am		LR
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636 VGPL
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726 C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579 Sm Gym
MOMS Club	Last Fri. of month	Mandie Rippey	795-4086
Bird Walk	1st Sat., 8:30 am	Ron Duffy	466-6398
Conserv. Comm. Hike	3rd Sat. of month	Eleanor Gossen	466-1949
EACA Meeting	Last Thurs. of month		466-6245 Fire

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tues., 5:30-6:50 pm		LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am		CFR/RR
AA	Thurs., 6-7 pm		CFR
AA	Fri., 6-7 pm		CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am		LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm		CFR
Al-Anon	Thurs., 7:15-8:30 pm		LR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed., 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815 RR
Men's Bridge	Tues., 6:30-9 pm		F
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm		CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765 CR, LR
Bridge	Wed., 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832 LR
Bridge	Mon., Apr. 7, 1-4 pm		LR
Bridge	Mon., Apr. 21, 1-4 pm		LR
Community Band	Thurs., 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412
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
Senior Lunch**	M, W & F, 12-1 pm	Senior Center	466-1039
Knitting Club	Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018 LR
Figure Drawing	Mon., 10 am-noon	Neil O'Brien	RR
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641 School

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

The Land Ethic in Eldorado



SIXTY YEARS AGO ALDO LEOPOLD, the bioneering conservationist, wrote:

"A land ethic ... reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity."

So how is the land ethic doing in Eldorado and what are some possibilities for the future?

After a year of working closely with Eldorado students, residents, educators, Conservation Committee members and professionals in fields related to land stewardship, I offer the following observations:

1. One of the main things that people treasure about living here and that roots us to this place is a reverence for the tranquility, safety, openness, views, night sky, wildlife and easy access to greenbelts and trails. The core impetus for a land ethic—love of and rootedness in place—is present in this community.

2. Our local elementary school is a catalyst for ecological literacy and engaged stewardship. We have a Green Team with over a dozen teachers, administrators, parents and community partners working to make the facility, curriculum and school culture attuned to the 21st century needs for stepped-up ecological stewardship. The youth are eager, inquisitive, joyful and committed ecological learners. The fifth graders have adopted a restoration site in the Community Preserve and are developing a service-learning approach to engaging with the land and the life it supports. The new seventh and eighth grade addition to the school will feature an environmental leadership theme.

3. The ECIA has a Conservation Committee that manages the 4,200-acre Community Preserve and sparks community engagement in land-based recreation, learning about flora and fauna and active stewardship. In the past year, the committee has sponsored numerous hikes, a botany workshop, a trail maintenance training workshop and community volunteer workdays at the wetland restoration site near Trailhead #3.

4. Many Eldorado citizens are engaged in careers that directly or indirectly advance stewardship causes. Our residents play key roles in professions such as land and ranch stewardship, restoration, k-12 and

post-secondary education, water harvesting and recycling, green building, planning, land use and resource administration, landscaping and botany.

What about the future? The following observations and thoughts can be part of an ongoing community dialogue on the subject.

The school and the Conservation Committee represent the demographic bookends of our community. At the school, we have the youngest among us and in the Conservation Committee we mostly have those of us who are older. How can we achieve greater engagement in the middle of our age demographic? Those of us involved in sports know how much time, energy and money we can come up with to make it

happen. Surely the stewardship of our local and global life support systems is as important as our passion for sports and other extracurricular activities. Watch for invitations to workshops, workdays and mentorship opportunities.

The enthusiasm of our youth is a precious natural resource. How can we maintain continuity in our

cultivation of this asset into the middle and high school years? What local opportunities for positive participation in solutions can we provide for our teens?

Are there comprehensive but substantive resolutions that we can make as a community that would focus and extend the effectiveness of our commitment to a land ethic? Are there support mechanisms that we can develop to provide incentives for water conservation, carbon reduction and ecological restoration?

We stood up in large numbers to express our concern about oil and gas drilling in our watershed. Let's balance our opposition to resource uses of the past with individual practices and collective campaigns for solar energy, water conservation, carbon-neutral school and community facilities, youth empowerment, carbon-reducing transportation methods, local food systems and a vital local economy. We have the heart, the values and the tools. Now let's muster the will and the organization to lead by example in the movement for local solutions to global issues.

—Dana Richards

Dana Richards is the Education and Stewardship Director for Earth Works Institute, Conservation Committee member and father of two. Responses are welcome: dana@earthworksinstitute.org.



The Conservation Committee out working on the Wilderness Preserve.

VOTE

Five candidates are running for four ECIA Board seats this year.

Your vote matters. A proxy along with candidate letters will be included with the annual report that should arrive in your mailbox about April 1. To vote, fill out the proxy and send it in. To help you decide, there will be a candidate forum April 8, in the Railroad room at 7 pm.

An Accipiter by Any Other Name

EARLY VALENTINE'S DAY MORNING, my two dogs suddenly were alerted to the back gate, about 35 feet from the house. A large hawk sat on the stucco. The Cooper's Hawk (CH) is one of three Accipiters and has markings nearly identical to the Sharp-shinned Hawk (SSH). But my close-up view made identification much easier. The CH is 16.5 inches long with a wingspan of 28 to 35 inches. (SSH is 11 inches long with a wingspan of 23 inches.) Both of these hawks are resident year round in the Eldorado area.

This CH had a very distinctive dark cap on its head with a pale nape. Back and wings are gray, underparts are a streaked orange-brown. The tail is gray with two or three clear dark bands across it, starting from the outer edge. Juveniles have yellow eyes and adults have red eyes. CHs (along with many other hawks) exhibit reversed sexual size dimorphism (females larger and stronger than males). Some birds winter to Guatemala and Honduras.

Monogamous pairs make courtship flights with J-shaped dives. The male selects the nest site in the

crotch of a conifer or at the trunk of a deciduous tree. The nest consists of sticks, twigs, leaves and down. Four or five eggs (laid every other day) hatch asynchronously in about 34 days. Young are semiatrical (immobile, downy, eyes open, must be fed) and fledged in 27 to 34 days. Young birds thus are different sizes and the smallest may be pushed out of the nest if food is limited. Both parents incubate the eggs and bring food to the nest. The young depend on parents for 30 to 40 days after fledging. Diet consists of some reptiles, small mammals and birds. Adults fly low through woods when hunting.

As we know, hawks have exceptional eyesight to locate prey. Prey is killed using strong feet with sharp talons. Possibly because of flying through branches and undergrowth in pursuit of prey, 23 percent of CHs examined in a study had healed fractures in the bones of the chest.

P.S. Several people emailed to say they have seen Road Runners in January.

—Pam Henline



CFLs Save—at a Discount

PNM is currently supporting an energy education program about the benefits of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs), with the help of the Northern New Mexico chapter of the Sierra Club. An important part has been a free bulb exchange at each school of up to four new CFLs for each participating family. Between schools in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, PNM has committed to exchanging up to 40,000 bulbs.

With the help of local Sierra Club member Teresa Seamster, 1,600 bulbs also were exchanged at the Agora and ECIA office during the last week of February. Although PNM has made no additional commitment, the program may be repeated next year.

For those who missed the free exchange, PNM also offers discounted CFLs at several Santa Fe retailers, including Ace Hardware, Allbright & Alpine, Dahl Lighting, Form + Function, Enchanted Lighting, Home Depot, Old World Hardware, Ray of Light and True Value.

Because each CFL offers the same illumination as its equivalent incandescent bulb at about one-fourth of the electricity used, a CFL can just about save its cost in its first year in a frequently used lamp, and has an expected life of 10 years. Since CFLs produce less heat, they are safer to operate and keep a room cooler in summer. And the versatility of CFLs has greatly increased: units are available for 3-way sockets, for use with many dimmers, for small spaces and

for reflector fixtures.

PNM estimates that replacing 10 to 12 frequently used bulbs with CFLs can shave as much as \$41 per year off an average electric bill—and also cut down on the fossil fuel PNM burns and carbon dioxide produced as well.

—Dan Drobnis

EDITOR NEEDED FOR VISTAS

Work with a great team on the Information Committee. You will be in charge of assigning articles (with the committee), coordinating and organizing each month's issue, gathering and adjusting photographs, editing text sent to you, sending completed digital files to designer, doing the same type of work for the Annual Meeting booklet and maintaining a great collaborative relationship with the newsletter designer. You also will assist in decisions about the community website, the annual calendar and any other information issues that arise.

What do you need?

- ▼ Photoshop experience and own the software
- ▼ Text editing/proofing experience
- ▼ Familiarity with MS Word and own the software
- ▼ Familiarity with Adobe Acrobat and own AA Pro

Call Hope Kiah for more details at 466-4447.



*Security 204-2945
Sheriff 428-3720
Crime Stoppers 955-5050*

At the Crossroads

Thanks to **Rep. Peter Wirth** and this year's legislature, we received another \$99,000 for applying new base course to our dirt roads. This, hopefully, will cover another couple of miles.

While the amount received is significantly less than requested, we were fortunate to have received anything since many requests for capital spending were not fulfilled because of significantly less money available to this legislative session.

We expect work to start later this year on the application of new base course funded in 2007 by the legislature. Hopefully, this will cover about 10 miles of our dirt roads. Your Road Committee also has completed its latest road inspection. Thanks to those of you who submitted Road Problem Reports identifying particular problem areas. The results of both were used to compile a list of roads with the greatest amount of rutting that can serve as a target list for the grader.

*—Nolan Zisman, Chair
ECIA Road Committee*

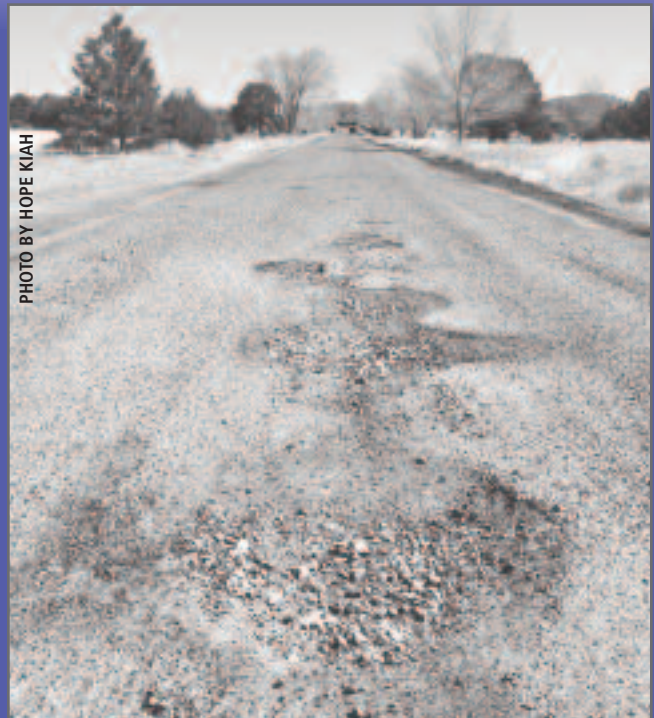


PHOTO BY HOPE KIAH

Potholes on Verano Loop