

LAS PLACITAS  ASSOCIATION  
2014 ANNUAL REPORT

*Our goal is to protect open space, restore riparian watersheds, promote recreational, educational and rural activities, and engage the members of our community in appreciating the environmental and cultural richness of this area. We work with residents, land owners, developers and others to ensure Placitas retains its quality of life, adequate and clean water, clean air, dark skies, plant and animal diversity, scenic views, sites of archaeological significance and opportunities to learn about and enjoy our surroundings.*

Find out more about LPA -- including directions to the Placitas Open Space -- by logging onto [www.lasplacitas.org](http://www.lasplacitas.org).

**Events** – 2014 was a year full of events.

**Annual Montezuma Crest Hike:** We all see Montezuma Crest every day and this is your annual opportunity to see the view from the top. The 3-to-4 mile hike is strenuous, but 23 fans of the crest and avid hikers made the round trip.

**May Migratory & Nesting Birds of the Placitas Open Space Annual Birding Hike:** Lead by a local Placitas/New Mexico bird specialist through the Placitas Open Space and surrounding areas to identify birds and bird habitats. Learn about birds that inhabit our lovely environment, including those that may just be here as a stopover in their migratory journey.

**June Placitas Open Space Trail Building:** Worked with Open Space personnel and other community members for a half-day of trail maintenance. It's a great way to get out into the Open Space and help make it a better experience for everyone who uses the recreational area at our door step.

**April/May – Medicinal Plants of the Placitas Area Lecture:** An organized hike to identify shrubs, grasses and plants traditionally used by healers (Curanderos) with a later workshop to identify where plant samples were collected and how to use them in tinctures, teas, etc. .

**Saturday- Time Travel Hike Adventure:** With a guide Michael Richie on a four hour Time Travel Adventure to the Ceja Pelon Petrified Forest near Cuba. We saw amazing petrified logs and colorful rock formations and took lots of breaks for photo ops and geology/paleontology talks.

**October Harvest Festival:** A fun afternoon for the whole family at the Community Center. Attendees entered pies, cakes, breads, garden produce, and preserved foods to win ribbons! Activities included pumpkin carving for the kids, beekeeping; bird house construction, a slide-show on birds of the area, and wood carving crafts. Lectures and workshops were presented.

**Annual Placitas Star Party:** We learned and enjoyed the features of the Placitas night skies with members of the community. This event draws large crowds wanting to view galaxies, planets, and other astronomical features viewable in our dark skies.

**November – Gear Sale:** The Fourth Annual Sporting/Camping/Exercise/Outdoor equipment sale. Lots of Placitans brought their no-longer-needed or used sporting/camping/outdoor gear and most of the gear found new homes. LPA and Pathways Wildlife Corridor members sold the equipment with a small percentage of the sale going to both not-for-profits.

2014 was a very busy and productive year. Pipelines, mining, and the BLM Resource Management Plan was the work of the board with activities expected to continue into 2015.

Respectfully,

Sandy Johnson, President