

# earth LINES

SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

May 2009

## High on Trails

**W**HEN IT'S TIME TO RECHARGE my spiritual batteries, I head for one of our local trails.

Which is why, in need of a sunshine fix, I recently found myself enjoying the bright spring weather along a section of the Dale Ball trails. Winding my way above the periphery of the city, breathing in the scent of pines and clean desert air, I was immersed in the beauty of Santa Fe and northern New Mexico.

I love these trails. Seems I always get what I need here, whether it's restful solitude, a way to squeeze some exercise into my busy life, or a pleasant exchange with other trail-lovers along the way. And each and every time I use these trails, I celebrate our community having come together more than a decade ago to help Dale Ball, our organization's founding director, create such a well-loved recreational asset.

Like all community-supported organizations, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust is working harder than ever to meet today's challenges, sustain our programs, and continue to fulfill our mission. Happily, it's here on the trail that

I see that the effort is worth it. These trails—and the 80-mile views they afford of the many landscapes the Trust works to protect—connect us with the land, support a healthy community, and provide an unlimited supply of those precious, golden moments of repose and reflection that make life such a joy.

So it was gratifying to pass, on my way back down to my car, two hikers discussing this very subject. One, a young woman in her late twenties, remarked that it was only ten minutes to a trailhead from almost anywhere in the city. Her companion replied, "Yeah...I love that. This trail keeps me sane."

Couldn't have said it better myself.

I hope you'll enjoy this issue of *Earthlines*, which highlights our ongoing trail work in the community. If you're inspired to share a trail tale of your own, please visit our new enhanced web site ([www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org)) and give us your story. We love to hear from you.



RICI PETERSON  
*Executive Director*

PHOTO: Peter Ogilvie [www.ogilviephoto.com](http://www.ogilviephoto.com)



*“Winding my way above the periphery of the city, breathing in the scent of pines and clean desert air, I was immersed in the beauty...”*

PHOTO: SFCT

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# Join Our Volunteer Team

## AND IMPROVE YOUR ON-TRAIL EXPERIENCE

**T**HE PAST YEAR, the Trust's world of trails has been very exciting and very busy. Between initial small steps, some word of mouth, and several important new connections, we have built a small but mighty corps of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who are proud to be a part of our Trails Stewardship Coalition.

One by one and two by two, some of the best volunteers an organization could hope for have joined our growing team. Our volunteers work well together, laugh and work hard, and take a great deal of pride in making our trails sustainable. Each trail section they tackle ends up well-repaired, properly sloped to deter erosion problems, and beautifully restored to blend in with the natural area. We could not be where we are today without our Trail Stewardship Volunteers!

Sound like fun? New training opportunities, brand new shiny tools, new trail projects, and our awesome volunteers are taking us to even more fabulous places this year. We would love to bring you along! To make a lasting and positive impact on the trails you love, contact Susan Spinell at [susan@sfct.org](mailto:susan@sfct.org) or 989-7019.

Meanwhile, visit [www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org), where you can keep your good eye on our trails events and volunteer work opportunities, read up on our plans and progress, and share trails information with others who love the outdoors.

## *Celebrate National Trails Day— Saturday, June 6*

THIS JUNE, to celebrate National Trails Day, we're all headed outdoors to provide fun trail-related activities and information for you. Visit [www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org) to get directions for your walk into Santa Fe Railyard—Meet us there to learn more about the trails you love, meet our volunteers, win free outdoor gear, and pick up a good trail map or two.

We're also celebrating our partnerships and all those involved—including our Trail Stewardship volunteers, the staff at the City and County of Santa Fe, and local businesses—for their support as we link, improve, and maintain Santa Fe's wonderful and very local trails.

See our Calendar of Events on page 5 and join us at the Railyard!



PHOTO: SFCT

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## *What is National Trails Day?*

THE FIRST NATIONAL TRAILS DAY® was launched back in 1993 as a public/private collaboration of the American Hiking Society. The impetus was the 1987 President's Commission on Americans Outdoors' "Trails for All Americans" recommendation: that every American should be able to live within fifteen minutes of a trail that winds through their city or town—a trail that allows them to return home without having to retrace their steps.

The long-range goal of National Trails Day is to link local trails into a national infrastructure of greenways similar to the interstate highway system. More immediate objectives include "promoting public awareness of and appreciation for America's 200,000 miles of trails, and encouraging cooperative efforts among different trail users—hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, walkers, runners and anyone else who enjoys being on the trail."

We are so fortunate that in Santa Fe the trails really are just outside our doors. Join us and enjoy them!

# A Labor of Love: Working Hard Feels Good

by Scott Ki

**I** GREW UP, lived, and worked in major cities for most of my life. Only in the past few years does it seem that I have dedicated more time to hiking trails and getting outside. Hiking clears my mind, gets me outside to breathe the clean, sweet air, and provides exercise. There was no one defining moment when I decided to make hiking trails a regular part of my life, but I do know that volunteering adds another level of contentment.

Before moving to Santa Fe, my wife, Suzanne, and I worked in Washington, D.C. and we consistently volunteered to remove invasive plant species along a portion of land between the C&O Canal

and the Potomac River. This activity got us away from our desk jobs, worked up a good sweat, and gave us a sense of accomplishment. Volunteering for the Santa Fe Conservation Trust provides the same sense of satisfaction. As I have recently learned, federal, state, and municipal governments may provide funds to create trails, but money to maintain and preserve trails is hardly ever allocated. Not only do we help fill this gap, we get to go out and work up a sweat with like-minded volunteers. The Trust needs more volunteers to help in the effort to keep trails accessible for hikers, bikers, and even horse riders. I'm proud and pleased to be a part of that effort.

*Scott Ki is a recovering Washington, D.C. bureaucrat who fled to Santa Fe two years ago. Together with his wife Suzanne and their feisty mutt Chuey, they hike as much as they can.*



PHOTO: SFCT

*“Hiking clears my mind, gets me outside to breathe the clean, sweet air...”*



PHOTO: SFCT

## Watch this space



### Got Milky Way?

NEW MEXICO'S starry night skies are among the most spectacular in America, but we are slowly losing them to creeping light pollution! Visit us at [www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org) to find out what you can do to help restore and preserve the beauty of our starry night canopy. While you're there, you can also check out our Evening Star event schedule.

Also available online is a handy printable copy of Peter Lipscomb's Six Easy Steps to Bring Back the Stars!



PHOTO: Seth Koffman

## Conservation Easements

THE TRUST IS BUSY WORKING on over a dozen easements for 2009! Partnered with wonderful individuals, we are moving to conserve a wide variety of landscapes, from important grasslands and stream-side properties in and around the Galisteo Basin to prime trout habitat on the Rios de Los Pinos, to some beautiful irrigated agricultural fields in traditional New Mexican communities. The Trust continues to build on our past successes on the Pecos River a great partnership with the Pecos River Open Spaces group. Additionally, we are seeing more and more inquiries from conservation-minded landowners around the Santa Fe tri-county area.

for highlights from our redesigned website at [www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org)

## Upcoming Events

For details and exact scheduling, visit us at [www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org)

- **Galisteo Basin Train Events All Summer Long**

See “All Aboard,” right

- **Trail Stewardship Team Training: June 18–20 or August 13–15**

Join our volunteer team, have fun, and learn state-of-the-art trail building and repair skills. Advance registration only; please contact Susan Spinell at [susan@sfct.org](mailto:susan@sfct.org) or 989-7019.

- **Stewart Udall Environmental Award Dinner: Sunday, September 13**

Help us honor the extraordinary work of Bill deBuys and the Santa Fe Community Foundation—two partners whose early vision helped to create the Santa Fe Conservation Trust. Limited to 250 participants; buy your tickets early! If you’ve attended this event within the last three years, you’ll automatically receive a mailed invitation; otherwise please contact Becky Fulgham at [becky@sfct.org](mailto:becky@sfct.org) or 989-7019 to be added to our invitation list.

## All Aboard the Train!

*Train Rides, Mountain Biking Events and Evening Star Events at the Galisteo Basin Preserve*

**THIS SUMMER**, join the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, Commonweal Conservancy and the Santa Fe Southern Railway to explore land, trails and sky! Choices include a train ride, a train ride plus mountain biking, or a train ride plus stargazing on the beautiful Galisteo Basin Preserve.

Afternoon Conservation Train Rides take place June 28 and September 20; Evening Star Trains run on June 19 and August 14; Mountain Bike-and-Train event takes place July 18. For tickets and more information, visit [www.sfct.org/events](http://www.sfct.org/events). Advance purchase only. Seats are limited—reserve early!



PHOTO: Courtesy Santa Fe Southern Railway

*Train ride through the beautiful Galisteo Basin*

# Honor Your Personal Hero— a Great Gift Idea

## LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL?

A donation to the Trust in honor of a friend makes a timeless, elegant gift—to celebrate a friendship, remember a departed loved one, or commemorate a birthday, anniversary, or wedding. Every dollar helps to secure the land beneath our feet, the skies above, and the trails that connect our community. What a great way to say you care!

Making a gift is easy: just donate online on our secure server ([www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org)), send in a check, or call in your credit card number. Be sure to let us know the name of the person(s) you're honoring and, if you wish, tell us where we can send a special card to let them know of your gift. An acknowledgement will also be printed in our newsletter and end-of-year report.

See back cover for ways to reach us—and thanks for helping us protect the land that protects quality of life.

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*Donating Stock? Please make sure you notify our office of your donation so that we can thank you properly!*

**ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE WONDERFUL PEOPLE** who have donated stock to the Trust? Have you been thanked? If you have not received a thank you for your stock donation, it's most likely because we didn't know it was you! Sometimes, because of the way stock donations come to us, if you do not notify us directly, we have no way of finding out who the donor was. Thank you so much for your donation, and please let us know who you are so we can thank you personally!

## Wish List

AS WITH MOST SMALL NON-PROFITS, we squeeze a lot of productivity out of a tiny budget. But our equipment is aging. If you have any of the following to donate, please contact Becky Fulgham at our office, 989-7019. We ask that items be in excellent working condition. Thanks!

- Scanner
- GPS-linked digital camera (*call or email [becky@sfct.org](mailto:becky@sfct.org) for details*)
- Unused Southwest Airlines Awards (*to get our staff to Portland in October for the Land Trust Alliance annual conference*).

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## Flying Southwest Airlines?

WE HAVE SOME UNUSED SOUTHWEST TICKET CREDITS (approximately \$300) that we cannot use before they expire in July 2009. If you are planning travel and can help us recoup this expense, please contact Becky at 989-7019.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Trails Stewardship Coordinator*
- Becky Fulgham,  
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*Land supports life;  
your gifts support the land.*

*Every dollar you give*

**to the Santa Fe Conservation Trust  
helps secure the land beneath our  
feet, the skies above, and the trails  
that connect our community.**

Donate online at [www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org)

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Email us at [news@sfct.org](mailto:news@sfct.org)  
to receive exclusive invitations to  
Trust gatherings and special events.

# Your Gifts Make it Happen!

## Donors January-April, 2009

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## *Santa Fe Conservation Trust* SECURING THE BEAUTY OF SANTA FE

**THE SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST** is dedicated to preserving the spirit of place in northern New Mexico by protecting open spaces and crucial wildlife habitat, by creating trails, and by protecting the traditional landscapes of our diverse cultures.

We are a non-profit charitable organization. Our work is funded by gifts from community members and lovers of the northern New Mexico landscape. Please consider using the enclosed envelope to help us protect the land that preserves our quality of life. Your gift is tax-deductible! Thank you for your support.



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# earthLINES

*Earthlines* is published by the Santa Fe Conservation Trust to inform all members and the public about current SFCT initiatives.

### WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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PHOTO: Peter Ogilvie www.ogilviephoto.com