

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

---

**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**John H. Bemis**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Tommy Mutz, Division Director**  
State Parks Division



## News Release

August 30, 2012

Contact: Jodi McGinnis Porter 505-476-3226; E-mail: Jodi.Porter@state.nm.us

### **Celebrate the Labor Day Weekend with New Mexico State Parks**

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Parks Division invites visitors to enjoy the last days of summer in a state park. “We have lots of fun activities planned for the weekend,” said Tommy Mutz, New Mexico State Parks Division Director. “State parks are great places to enjoy family fun.”

#### **Events for the Labor Day Weekend include:**

##### **Saturday, September 1, 2012**

**Cerrillos Hills State Park** – A hike featuring *Wildflowers of the Cerrillos Hills* will be conducted from 9:00-11:00 AM on an easy ½ mile trail. For more information call: (505) 474-0196.

**Heron Lake State Park** – Enjoy a Full Moon Hike and watch the last full moon of summer rise near the Brazos Cliffs. Explore the newly installed scale model Solar System at the park and experience close-up views of the moon. The program leaves the Visitor Center at 7:30 p.m. and follows the East Meadow Trail for 1.5 miles. Contact: (575) 588-7470.

**Living Desert Zoo and Gardens** – Come celebrate International Vulture Awareness Day and learn about nature’s sanitation engineers. The program will be from 1:00-3:00 p.m. No fee for the programs in the Visitor Center, but regular entrance fees apply to enter the zoo. Contact: Kathryn Law at (575) 887-5516.

**Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park** – Join a park volunteer on a Bird Tour from 8:15-9:30 a.m. As migration season begins, many birds will be passing through. Stick around for a Nature Trek: Seasonal Adaptations from 9:00-11:00 a.m., and learn about the plants and animals of the Bosque. Bring binoculars, water and sunscreen. Contact: LuAnn Kilday at (575) 523-4398.

**Oasis State Park** - The Friends of Oasis will be holding the 4th Annual, Biggest Catfish Challenge Derby. Registration will be from 3:30-7:00 p.m., and the derby will be from 5:00-9:00 p.m. The event is open to all ages. There will be two categories in the challenge: Adult (age 16 years and older) and Junior (age 15 years and younger). First, second and third place prizes will be awarded based on weight of the fish and will be awarded immediately after the derby. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the derby as well. The catfish limit is 2 per person per day. Anyone 12 years of age and older must have a valid New Mexico fishing license. Contact: (575) 356-5331.

**Oliver Lee Memorial State Park** – Learn about bats during the Bat Factor program from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Bats often evoke the “fear factor” as they flutter through the dusky evening sky, but these interesting flying mammals provide us a great service by eating their weight in insects every night. Meet at Group Shelter. Contact: Charles Wood at (575) 437-8284.

## September 1-3, 2012

**Bottomless Lakes State Park** – Participate in the Bottomless Bubblefest from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Scuba divers explore the depths of Lea Lake. While diving they can participate in the dive poker game. Divers collect cards from around Lea Lake and on the final day they present their poker hands and have a chance to win prizes. Contact: David Sharp at 575-624-6058.

## Sunday, September 2, 2012

**Heron Lake State Park** – Join a guided Rio Chama Hike into the canyon and along Rio Chama from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Learn about the work of the Youth Conservation Corps, and plants and animals that can be found along the way. From 7:00-8:00 p.m., learn about Sharing Trails with bears and cougars. Large, powerful and unpredictable, bears and cougars are two of the most talked about and misunderstood animal species. Knowing the "do's and don'ts" of sharing the trail with these wild animals will help you safely enjoy time in the great outdoors. Contact: (575) 588-7470.

**Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park** – Join a park ranger for a Nature Hike from 8:15-9:15 a.m., and learn about the plants and animals of the Bosque. Bring binoculars, water and sunscreen. Contact: LuAnn Kilday at (575) 523-4398.

State parks are great places to create new memories. Always make safety your first priority. Being prepared on the water could save your life and the lives of your loved ones. State law requires that you wear a lifejacket when on a canoe, kayak, or raft and that all children 12 years old and younger wear a lifejacket while on the deck of a moving vessel. The State Parks Division offers FREE boating safety classes around the state and on-line throughout the year.

Celebrate New Mexico's Centennial at YOUR state parks; for more information, call 888-NMPARKS or visit [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).



Find us  
on Facebook



Follow us  
on Twitter

#30#

*Short Trips, Long Memories: Your Best Recreation Value Close to Home*

*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
Phone (505) 476-3355 • Fax (505) 476-3361 • [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com)