

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 4, 2016**

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# Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Presents the Summer Wings Festival and BioBlitz *A Festival of Flight August 5th & 6th*

**Albuquerque, NM** –The Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center (RGNC) State Park presents the Summer Wings Festival and BioBlitz that celebrates New Mexico’s small, spectacular wildlife such as hummingbirds, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and bees.

BioBlitz activities start Friday evening with a night walk led by Nature Conservancy Scientist David Mehlman at 6 p.m. On Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, activities begin at 8 a.m. Join the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the City of Albuquerque at 11 a.m. to celebrate Albuquerque’s official designation as an Urban Migratory Bird Treaty City. In addition, the Master Naturalist Program will help the park with a 24-hour study of plant and animal species in the park.

### **Saturday Slide Shows/Talks (Education Building)**

- 9 a.m.** *Dragonflies and Damselflies* with Karen Gaines followed by capture, identification, and release at the Discovery Pond
- 10:30 a.m.** *Birding and Technology* with Judy Liddell
- 12:30 p.m.** *Native Plants Q. & A.* with Judith Phillips followed by signing of her book, *Growing the Southwest Garden*
- 1 p.m.** *Hummingbirds of New Mexico* with bander Bill Talbot
- 2 p.m.** *The Bees in Your Backyard*, presented by author Olivia Carril followed by a book-signing.

### **Saturday Guided Park Walks**

- 8 a.m.** *Bird Walk* with David Mehlman of the Nature Conservancy
- 8:30 a.m.** *Guided Bird Walk* with RGNC volunteers
- 9 a.m.** *Bilingual Family Walk* with Karen Herzenberg and Mike Sanchez
- 10 a.m.** *Pollinator Walk* with Olivia Carril
- 11:30 a.m.** *Butterfly Walk* with Rebecca Gracey
- 11:30 a.m.** *Native Southwestern Plants* walk with Judith Phillips
- Noon** *Lizards and Snakes* with a herpetology expert
- 1:30 p.m.** *Discovery Pond Exploration and Phenology* with Jessica Allen and others
- 2:30 p.m.** *Plants and Porcupines* walk with Ariel Elliott and others

**More Fun for You! Directions to activities available at welcome table near the parking lot.**

**9 – 11 a.m.**

*Hummingbird Banding, Identification, and Release* with bander Bill Talbot  
*Nature Journaling* with artist Margy O'Brien  
*Live Birds* with Wildlife Rescue  
*Bird Identification* with the Audubon Society  
Crafts for kids

Cost: \$3 per vehicle (exact cash or check). Friends of the RGNC permit holders and NM State Parks annual permit holders enter free with valid permit displayed.

*Find your New Mexico True State Park! While visiting the RGNC, take a photo and then upload it to [www.newmexico.org](http://www.newmexico.org) and you could win some fabulous prizes! Find your New Mexico True State Park Photo Contest is on-going through September 5, 2016. Check out [www.newmexico.org/NMTruePark](http://www.newmexico.org/NMTruePark) for more details.*

You can find all of our events at [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com). RGNC is the place to be this weekend!

*Conditions are Right for Adventure at New Mexico State Parks!*



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