

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

---

**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**David Martin**  
Cabinet Secretary

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

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



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 12, 2014**

Contact: Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: [beth.wojahn@state.nm.us](mailto:beth.wojahn@state.nm.us)  
Jim Winchester 505-231-8800; E-mail: [jim.winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:jim.winchester@state.nm.us)

## ***The Dog Canyon Experience at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park***

**Alamogordo, NM** – What do a full worm moon, a lepidopterist, and xeric gardening have in common? They will all be featured at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park for their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Canyon Experience March 15 and 16, 2014.

Join us for an action-packed weekend of events! You supply the comfortable shoes and sunscreen, we supply the adventure!

**Saturday, March 15, 2014**

**8:00 - 9:30 – Desert Garden Work Party.** Meet at the Visitor Center for a great opportunity to learn about xeric gardening with native plants. Join volunteers from the Native Plant Society of Otero County as they get the garden ready for the spring season.

**10:00 – 11:30 - Native Plant Walk.** Walk the famous Riparian Nature Trail and learn about native plants along the stream, as well as the plants of the Chihuahuan Desert. A few early flowering plants may greet you as the canyon welcomes spring.

**1:00 – 2:30 – Butterflies and Moths.** Lepidopterist Eric Metzler will explain the difference between moths and butterflies and their importance within the park.

**3:00 – 4:30 – Ranch House Tour.** Join Ranger Howard Thomas, park historian, for a tour of the Oliver Lee Ranch House. The Lee Ranch House, originally built in 1893, provides a window into the history of early ranching in the Tularosa Basin.

**7:30 – 9:00 - The Worm Moon.** Enjoy the beauty of Dog Canyon at sundown by watching the moonrise over the Sacramento escarpment. The “Full Worm Moon” is Algonquin in origin; as temperatures warm, earthworms become active, heralding the arrival of robins and spring. Meet at the group shelter.

## Sunday, March 16, 2014

**10:00 – 11:30 – Mogollon Site Tour.** Pete Eidenbach, an archeologist with New Mexico State University at Alamogordo, will lead a tour of a Jornada Mogollon archaeological site. Learn about this mysterious and little-known native culture that dominated the region centuries ago. Attendees must drive from the Visitor's Center to the Ranch House property and be willing to walk about a mile round trip.

**1:00 – 2:30 – On the Trail of Frenchy.** Who's Frenchy? Find out on this ranger-guided hike through the park.

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m. – Ranch House Tour.** Furnishings and displays provide a window into New Mexico history.

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park is located eight miles south of Alamogordo on Highway 54 and four miles east on Dog Canyon Road. See you there!

Conditions are Right for Adventure at New Mexico State Parks!

###



*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)