

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

March 13, 2012

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

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park and the Dog Canyon Experience *Bird Walk, Reptiles, Desert Gardens, and Watercolors and Landscapes*

ALAMOGORDO, NM – Oliver Lee State Park celebrates its 7th annual *Dog Canyon Experience* this weekend, March 17-18, 2012, with wonderful programs for the entire family. Discover the natural, cultural and historical resources of Oliver Lee Memorial State Park. People have lived in this canyon for more than 10,000 years due to the unique natural resources of Dog Canyon.

“Come out and support Oliver Lee Memorial State Park at our 7th annual Dog Canyon Experience.” said Park Manager, Wendy Justice. “We are offering some new programs, as well as some old favorites like the *New Mexico Herpetological Society’s Reptile Show*.”

Scheduled events this weekend at [Oliver Lee Memorial State Park](#) are as follows:

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Bird Walk, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Meet at Visitor Center

Bob Barber, a local naturalist, will guide a birding tour of the park's trails and campground. Mid-March is a prime time to view some of the early spring migratory birds as they make their way back to their summer homes. This bird walk will be ideal for beginning or experienced birders.

Desert Gardens, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Meet in Desert Garden

Xeric landscapes are often thought of as sterile rock ground covers with a plant here or there. However, using native plants you can create a visually interesting and natural xeric garden. Walk through the Chihuahuan Desert Garden with Park Ranger Charles Wood and get some tips on creating your own desert landscape.

Watercolors and Landscapes, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Meet at Group Shelter

Try your hand painting *en plein air*, or outdoors. If you enjoy painting or just want to give it a try, take part in this introductory art program. Participants will be provided with paints, paper and an opportunity to try a few simple techniques for painting landscapes.

Ranch House Tour, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center

Join Ranger Howard Thomas, Park Historian, for a special tour of the Oliver Lee Ranch House. The Lee Ranch House was originally built in 1893. Furnishings and displays provide a window into the history of early ranching in the Tularosa Basin.

Reptiles of Dog Canyon, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center

Join Ted Brown and members of the New Mexico Herpetological Society for a slide presentation and live show of the reptiles and amphibians found in the Dog Canyon area. Members will display some specimens that may be found within the park at the Visitor Center throughout the day.

Venus and Jupiter, 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Meet at Group Shelter

The Amateur Astronomers Group will be sponsoring a tour of the spring sky. Venus and Jupiter create a spectacular conjunction while Orion and associated constellations, such as Canis Major, Taurus, and the Pleiades dominate the night sky. Dress warmly, come early and enjoy the beauty of Dog Canyon at sundown.

Sunday, March 18, 2012

Mogollon Site Tour, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center

NMSU-A Archaeologist Pete Eidenbach will lead a tour of a Jornada Mogollon site. Learn about this mysterious and little known native culture that dominated this region between the 8th and 13th centuries. Attendees must drive their own vehicle to the Ranch House property and be willing to walk about a mile round trip.

Archaeology: Future of the Past, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center

While we have all seen television programs showing the wonders of exotic archaeological sites such as King Tut's tomb, Machu Pichu of the Incas, or Chaco Canyon, most of us have little idea what archaeologists actually do or how they know what they know. Come visit with State Park Archaeologist Rebecca Procter for a down-in-the-dirt view of real archaeology and the fascinating past of Oliver Lee Memorial State Park!

Ranch House Tour, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Meet at Visitor Center

Join Ranger Charles Wood, Park Naturalist, for a special tour of the Oliver Lee Ranch House. The Lee Ranch House was originally built in 1893. Furnishings and displays provide a window into the history of early ranching in the Tularosa Basin.

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park is located eight miles south of Alamogordo on US Hwy 54 and four miles east on Dog Canyon Road. Although there are no charges for individual programs, all day-use and camping fees do apply. For more information contact Charles Wood at 575-437-8284.

For more information throughout the year call 1-888-NMPARKS or visit the State Parks Division's website at www.nmparks.com.

#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.