

State of New Mexico
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News Release

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Oliver Lee Memorial State Park **8th Annual Dog Canyon Experience**

ALAMOGORDO, NM – Oliver Lee Memorial State Park celebrates its annual *Dog Canyon Experience* on March 16-17, 2013, with wonderful programs for the entire family. Discover the natural, cultural and historical resources at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park. People have occupied this canyon for more than 10,000 years due to the unique resources in Dog Canyon.

“Come out and support Oliver Lee State Park at our 8th Annual Dog Canyon Experience.” said Park Manager Wendy Justice, “New twists on standard programs and the ever popular New Mexico Herpetological Society reptile show should make for a great event this year.”

Scheduled events include:

Saturday, March 16th

Reptiles Show

9:00 am-4:00 pm, Visitor Center

Join Ted Brown and members of the New Mexico Herpetological Society for a live show of reptiles and amphibians. Members will introduce you to the species that may be found within the park. Member Jerry Tuttle will also be displaying his Gila monster “Picasso”.

Riparian Nature Trail Walk

10:00 am-11:30 am, Visitor Center

While walking the Riparian Nature Trail, enjoy the scenic beauty and learn about the diversity of plants and animals that rely on Dog Canyon. Water in the canyon supports ferns, columbine and many other plants at this oasis on the edge of the Chihuahuan Desert. Because of its rich habitat, the canyon is a haven for birds and animals.

Dactylopus coccus; the Insect that Created Empires.

1:00 pm-2:30 pm, Group Shelter

Cochineal is a parasitic insect that lives on prickly pear. This insect has been farmed for over a thousand years for its brilliant red dye. Cochineal dye was a primary trade item of the Incan, Mayan and Aztec empires. In subsequent years, the Spanish exported Cochineal from the New World and it became the second most valued export after silver. Come learn about these important insects and tie-dye a bandana with cochineal.

Ranch House Tour

3:00 pm-4:30 pm, Visitor Center

Join Ranger Howard Thomas, park historian, for a 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.

Sunday, March 17th

On the Trail of Frenchy

10:00 am-11:30 am, Visitor Center

Francois Jean Rochas lived at Dog Canyon for about 10 years. Where did he come from and why settle here? During this time, he built a homestead, rock walls, developed a herd of cattle and started an orchard. Enjoy this ranger-guided hike through the park and Visitor Center, visiting “Frenchy” sites.

Dust of the Drag

1:00 pm-2:30 pm, Visitor Center

Join Archaeologist Pete Eidenbach (New Mexico State University-Alamogordo) on a special Lee Ranch House tour. He will discuss over two decades of archaeological and historical research he has conducted on this Lee property, now published in his final report Dust of the Drag. Dust of the drag refers to the ever present dust endured by the last cowboy riding behind a herd of cattle.

A Heritage Quilt Project

3:00 pm-4:30 pm, Ranch House

Join Ranger Charles Wood, park naturalist and quilter, for a tour of the Oliver Lee Ranch House. Part of the tour will include viewing of the Broken Wagon Wheel quilt project. Local quilter Judy Manninen will be on hand to talk about the process of reproducing this heritage quilt, which was removed from display for its preservation. Presentation of the finished replica quilt will occur on Mother's Day.

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park is located eight miles south of Alamogordo on Hwy 54 and four miles east on Dog Canyon Rd. Although there are no charges for individual programs, all day-use entry fees and camping fees do apply. For more information call 575-437-8284 or go on line at www.nmparks.com.

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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.

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