

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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State Parks Division



## News Release

May 24, 2012

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### **New Mexico State Parks Offer Ceremonies, Parades, Star Parties and More for Memorial Day Weekend**

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico State Parks Division announces its recreation opportunities and activities for this year’s Memorial Day Weekend, including: water recreation, parades honoring service men and women, fishing derbies and numerous other special programs at many New Mexico State Parks. Special activities begin Friday, May 25, and continue through Monday, May 28. There is something for just about everyone in different corners of the state; residents and visitors can kick off the summer season with a getaway close to home.

“New Mexico State Parks offer an abundance of recreational opportunities for Memorial Day weekend,” said Tommy Mutz, Director of the New Mexico State Parks Division. “Come and recreate close to home and participate in our family-oriented events to kick off the first holiday of the summer.”

[Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park](#) in Angel Fire will host a variety of programs throughout the weekend. The theme this year is *Life After Combat*.

#### Events for Sunday, May 27:

1:00-2:00 p.m. - Vietnam veteran and photographer, Ted Engelmann, will provide a presentation entitled *One Soldier's Heart* including excerpts from his upcoming book. Ted served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968-1969. He has shared his photography of war and conflict with students and educators throughout the U.S., Vietnam, South Korea, Australia, and Canada. Since 2008, he has embedded as a free-lance photographer in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

2:00-3:00 p.m. - Historian Donna Knaff, PhD, will present the latest research conducted by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. This program conducts global search, recovery, and laboratory operations to identify unaccounted-for Americans from past conflicts.

3:00-4:00 p.m. – First Lieutenant Lee Alley will discuss his book, *Back from War: Finding Hope and Understanding In Life After Combat*. A book signing will follow.

7:00-8:00 p.m. - A candlelight vigil will take place in the amphitheater. This solemn ceremony honors those who served but did not return home. Presenters will include representatives from the David Westphall Foundation and music will be provided by Becky Schoeneberg.

#### Events for Monday, May 28:

9:00 a.m. – The Flag March on Memorial Day will take place against the stunning backdrop of the Moreno Valley, while Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 318 lead the way up to the Memorial. They will carry a 40' x 60' American flag up the hill with the help of volunteers from Angel Fire and Moreno Valley Fire Departments, and members of the New Mexico State Police.

11:00 a.m. – The Memorial Day Ceremony features keynote speaker, Vietnam veteran and author, Lee Alley. Also speaking is Michele Beuttel from the Taos VA Clinic, Chuck Howe and Chuck Hasford from the David Westphall Foundation, Ted Engelmann and Michael Cava of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Plan on bringing a lawn chair or blanket and join us for this stirring event. There is no entrance fee to Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park.

For more information about the events at Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park on Memorial Day weekend contact: Kate German 575-377-2293.

[\*\*Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park\*\*](#) will host a Nature Hike on Friday, May 25, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Visitors will join a Park Ranger on a late afternoon nature hike through the park, and learn about the wildlife and plants of Mesilla Valley. Visitors should bring water, binoculars, and sunscreen, and wear hiking shoes. For more information contact: LuAnn Kilday 575-523-4398.

[\*\*Bottomless Lakes State Park\*\*](#) will host Enchanted Evenings every Saturday, beginning May 26 through Saturday, September 1 from 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Enchanted Evenings are presentations conducted by park rangers or guest speakers and are typically nature oriented on topics such as wildlife, geology/hydrology, history, etc. They take place at the historic Lea Lake pavilion. For more information contact: David Sharp 575-624-6058.

[\*\*Brantley Lake State Park\*\*](#) will host a Star Party, Saturday, May 26, from 8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. The program begins with an introduction to night sky protection and telescope etiquette. Visitors will learn about the constellations with a laser tour of the heavens. Later they will look at the planets Venus, Mars, and Jupiter as well as star clusters, nebulae, and other wonders of the night sky. Visitors are welcome to bring their own telescopes. For more information contact: Kathryn Law 575-887-5516.

[\*\*Elephant Butte Lake State Park\*\*](#) will hold the Fly Freedom Flag Boat Parade honoring service men and women on May 26, at 10:00 a.m. The parade will launch from Marina del Sur and end at Rock Canyon. Last year over 20 boats were decorated and participated in the event. The park provides plenty of beach and some new camping areas close to the water's edge. Make your reservations early to get one of these great camping spots. For more information contact: Nadine Crom 575-744-5567.

[\*\*Percha Dam State Park\*\*](#) will host Storytelling and Music with Native American Storyteller Ernie Dogwolf Lavato on Saturday, May 26, from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. For more information contact: Salvador Gonzalez 575-743-3942.

[\*\*Sugarite Canyon State Park\*\*](#) is hosting its annual Fishing Derby from dawn on Saturday, May 26, until noon on Sunday, June 3. Anglers will have a chance to win a boat and up to \$1,000 cash. The park is scheduled to stock 3- to 6-pound German brown and rainbow trout before the derby, which takes place at Lake Maloya. Any angler who catches a tagged fish wins an instant prize and is automatically entered into the drawing for cash prizes of \$1,000, \$600 and \$400. There are daily door prizes for derby participants. All registered participants also are entered into a drawing for a 12-foot V-hull aluminum boat complete with a trailer, electric trolling motor and life vests. Participants do not have to be present to win. Derby registration is \$15. For more information contact any park staff: 575-445-5607.

**Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park** will host a Bird Tour, Saturday, May 26, from 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. A park volunteer will lead visitors and discuss migration and the many birds that will be passing through and that are found in the area. For more information contact: LuAnn Kilday 575-523-4398.

**Oasis State Park** will host a Star Party on Saturday, May 26, from 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Mick Hoffman and the Clovis Astronomy Club will lead the party, which will take place in the visitor center parking lot at dusk. Come see the debut of Oasis' telescope that was generously donated to the park. No pets will be allowed at this event. Bring binoculars, telescopes, red lens flashlights, and enjoy a night of learning under the stars. For more information contact: Valerie Russ 575-356-5331.

**Oliver Lee State Park** will have a Reptile Show on Saturday, May 26, and Sunday, May 27, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Ted Brown and members of the New Mexico Herpetological Society will display live reptiles and amphibians found in the Dog Canyon area. Members will be available to provide information throughout the Memorial Day weekend. For more information contact: Charles Wood 575-437-8284.

**Cerrillos Hills State Park** will host a Wildflower Walk, Sunday, May 27, from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Visitors will learn about wildflowers, grasses, trees and shrubs. For more information contact: Sarah Wood 505-474-0196.

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



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*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.*

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