

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

June 13, 2012

Contact: Jim Winchester, 505-231-8800; E-mail: [Jim.Winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:Jim.Winchester@state.nm.us)  
Jodi McGinnis Porter 505-476-3226; E-mail: [Jodi.Porter@state.nm.us](mailto:Jodi.Porter@state.nm.us)

# ***Bodacious Butterfly Festival Returns*** **June 22 - 24 to Sugarite Canyon State Park**

RATON, N.M. – Celebrate the fascinating and colorful world of butterflies at Sugarite Canyon State Park's 4th annual *Bodacious Butterfly Festival* June 22-24. The festival coincides with *National Pollinator Week* June 18-24, and takes an interesting turn as walkers will help inventory butterflies after last year's severe Track Fire.

Butterfly expert and author Steve Cary will present a program Friday evening on butterflies and their relationship with forest fire. He will be available to sign copies of his book "Butterfly Landscapes of New Mexico." Saturday, Cary will lead morning and afternoon butterfly walks. Sunday, Colorado birder and butterfly aficionado Mark Yaeger will lead two walks.

The Bodacious Butterfly Festival evolved from the annual Sugarite butterfly count led by Steve Cary, a former resource planner for New Mexico State Parks. The festival continues as an annual event at Sugarite Canyon State Park, although the event was canceled in 2011 because of the Track Fire.

From Silver-spotted Skippers and Clouded Sulphurs to Satyr Commas and Silvery Checkerspots, Sugarite Canyon has provided home to an abundant variety of winged creatures.

Sugarite Canyon is uniquely situated in a habitat transition zone at the intersection of the eastern prairie, the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the Raton-Clayton volcanic field that attracts and nurtures numerous butterfly species.

"A local specialty is the Raton Mesa fritillary," said Steve Cary, who noted that species observed in previous years include Aphrodites and Banded Hairstreaks.

The schedule is as follows:

### **Friday, June 22**

9:00 p.m. Butterflies and Fire, with Steve Cary, Lake Alice Campground

### **Saturday, June 23**

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Coffee with a Ranger, How Fire affects Pollinators, Lake Alice Campground

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Butterfly Walk with Steve Cary, Opportunity Trailhead (Lake Maloya Dam)

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Butterfly Walk with Steve Cary, Ponderosa Ridge Trail (meet at Soda Pocket Rd)

### **Sunday, June 24**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Butterfly Walk with Mark Yaeger, Lake Dorothy Parking Lot (CO State Wildlife Area)

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Butterfly Walk with Mark Yaeger, meet at Sugarite Canyon State Park Visitor Center

[Sugarite Canyon State Park](#) is located on the Colorado border, five miles east of Raton on N.M. highways 72 and 526. Visitors also can fish and boat (electric motors only). For more information, contact the park at (575) 445-5607.

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



New Mexico State Parks Division file photos: from previous *Bodacious Butterfly Festivals*.



#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.*