



# NEWSLETTER

for the  
EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 2, Third Quarter 2010

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## A Historic Find

EMHS member Mike Smith made headlines this summer with his discovery of stone inscriptions he believes were made by Spanish explorers in the 1580s.

Smith, a historian and author of *Towns of the Sandia Mountains*, told the [Albuquerque Journal in June](#) that he had found the inscriptions north of the Sandias while looking for more recent inscriptions left by travelers in the early 1900s. However, the style of the inscriptions and weathering of the stone, he said, suggested the carvings might be among the oldest in the state.

In July, Smith learned that the inscriptions are located inside the borders of San Felipe Pueblo, within yards of Bureau of Land Management property, according to a [July follow-up story in](#)

[the Journal](#). Because of the land ownership issue, Smith and New Mexico historians and scholars at last report were awaiting permission from the pueblo to further investigate the find.

*Photo courtesy of Mike Smith*

### Inside This Edition of the Newsletter

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <i>Fall Line-Up: Mark Your Calendars for These EMHS Events (Two This Month!)</i> .....             | Page 2 |
| <i>Tracking Wild Horses</i> .....  | 3      |
| <i>News and Notes</i> .....  | 3-4    |
| <i>Ojito de San Antonio (little spring), and the Journey to Becoming a Master Naturalist</i> ..... | 5-6    |

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East Mountain Historical Society  
**Newsletter**  
Published Quarterly

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The EMHS Newsletter aims to inform members and prospective members of EMHS events and endeavors, including committee work, and to serve as a record of society activities. It is also a forum for stories about the area. Please send your ideas for future newsletter items to the Editor, P.O. Box 379, Cedar Crest, NM 87008, or by email: [newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org) Deadlines for future issues of the newsletter are Oct. 31, Jan. 31, April 30 and July 31.

#### **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the East Mountain Historical Society is to identify, preserve and present to the public the history and culture of the East Mountain area. EMHS will assist in protecting historical buildings and landscapes, artifacts, records, or any item considered to be of historical significance. EMHS will also identify, collect and archive historical material of significance to the area.

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## ***Fall Lineup:*** **Mark Your Calendars**

### **Sept. 19 – 1-5 p.m. – EMHS Exhibit**

EMHS will display its East Mountain history photos during festivities celebrating the opening of the new Village of Tijeras Senior Center. Refreshments, music, and health and wellness information also will be part of the ribbon-cutting event from 1 to 5 p.m. Our photos will be displayed in the old historic church, just west of the East Mountain library in Tijeras. The Senior Center is up the hill west of the church. The public is invited.

### **Sept. 25 – Members-Only Field Trip**

Bill Baxter will lead members on a tour of the *Ortiz Mountain Educational Preserve*, part of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. Members will rendezvous at a point between Madrid and Cerrillos before heading in for a four-wheel drive and then a mile-long hike into the preserve. Details will be sent by email.

Those who don't have email but would like to attend should contact Anabel for information on times, how to get there and what to bring. A \$5 donation to SFBG is welcome but not required.

### **Oct. 9 – 1-3 p.m. – Annual Meeting / Tour / Elections**

A tour of Tijeras Pueblo, led by archeologist Linda Cordell, will kick off our annual meeting Saturday Oct. 9. All members and prospective members are invited. The tour starts at 1 p.m., followed by our annual elections and refreshments in the Tijeras Pueblo Interpretive Center, located behind the Ranger Station in Tijeras.

On the executive committee ballot are these candidates: **Denise Tessier**, president; **Anabel Sanchez**, vice president; **Pat Rich**, treasurer; and **Anne Dacey-Lucas**, secretary.

Up for board of directors are **Andre Larroque**, **Bev Neville**, **Kris Thacher**, **Dot Rich**, **Chuck Van Gelder**, **Gerald "Gerry" Jones**, **Kathy Rich**, **Marie Herrera Dresser**, and **Becky Schnelker**. Nominations for all positions also will be taken from the floor. The board meets monthly.

### **December – TBA Holiday Party**

The annual EMHS holiday party and potluck will be held at the home of Jim and Kathy Hanlon. Date and directions to come.



## *Tracking Wild Horses*

EMHS members trekked meadows and arroyos on Campbell Ranch June 17 in search of horses proven by DNA tests to be descendants of those brought to New Spain (now New Mexico) by Don Juan de Oñate. Paul Polechla of the New Mexico Horse Project led the group and member Marilyn Mallinson got this great shot of a mustang and her progeny.

*Photo by Marilyn Mallinson*

## *News and Notes ...*

EMHS has rented a room in the Village of Tijeras Visitor's Center next to the East Mountain Library. We are moving our archives into that room from our current location at the University of New Mexico. This move marks the first time we will have our archives in one easily accessible and secure location. Thanks to Vice President **Anabel Sanchez** for her work with the village in obtaining this space, and to board member **Manuel Garcia y Griego** for enabling us to store our files and materials at UNM in the interim.



Board member **Kris Thacher** has secured a \$500 grant for EMHS from the Office of the State Historian after writing up an application on behalf of the organization. The Nina-Otero Warren Grant will be used to add a Pay Pal page to the EMHS Web site so that membership renewals and donations can be made online, and so EMHS can begin selling history booklets and other items. The grant will also be used to increase our hard-copy circulation of the EMHS newsletter. Thanks to Kris for her efforts!



Board member **Kathy Rich** has agreed to serve as webmaster of the EMHS Web site. As such, she will update the site with

announcements and future newsletters and coordinate the addition of the new PayPal page. She takes over Web duties from a grateful **Denise Tessier**, who coordinated start-up of the EMHS site with designer Julie Farresta and wrote and furnished the content on the site up to this point.



Photos taken by East Mountain Historical Society members, plus text from the EMHS Web site, were featured in a special section in the May 2010 issue of *Albuquerque The Magazine*. The section begins on page 167.



EMHS newsletter editor **Denise Tessier** will be interviewed on Susan Loubet's KUNM-FM program "Women's Focus" at noon Sept. 25 to discuss *A History of New Mexico Press Women (1949-2009)*, a book she wrote with fellow NMPW member Sandy Schauer, which will be released Oct. 2. Tessier has served as NMPW historian the last 20 years of the organization's 60-year history.



The Special Collections Library on Edith in Albuquerque will be closed for renovations through April. All genealogical materials, as well as a significant portion of the *New Mexicana* materials, have been moved to the second floor of the Main Library, according to librarian Julia Clarke. For more information and updates, check the [library's Web site](#).



Bernalillo County is offering a "Birds, Bears and Bugs" interpretive walk through the orchards of Ojito de San Antonio and along its acequia on North Highway 14 on Oct. 2. The area is managed by the county Parks and Recreation Department as open space. For more information and to RSVP, contact Valarie Hermanson at [vhermanson@bernco.gov](mailto:vhermanson@bernco.gov) or call 505-314-0398.



Program Director Bev Neville was featured in a June [New Mexico magazine story](#) about the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual East Mountain Fiber Farm and Studio Tour she helped coordinate, along with information about her camels on the Camel-lot Ranch.



The New Mexico Genealogical Society and the New Mexico DNA project will host a talk on the Moorish connection to New Mexico families at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Albuquerque Main Library Auditorium, 501 Copper NW. Speaker Angel Cervantes will show a film and talk about the DNA markers that are most associated with this ancient civilization. The program is free and open to the public.

## *More New and Notes . . .*



Historian **Chris Wilson's** seminal survey of historic buildings in East Mountain villages is available for purchase through EMHS. "*Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey of the Manzano and Sandia Mountain Villages*" includes text and photos and may be purchased for \$10 a copy at the Annual Meeting in October.



Presentations of the New Mexico Genealogical Society are now [available online](#).



The New Mexico Genealogical Society will hold its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Oct. 15-16 in Albuquerque at the Marriott Pyramid North. Early registration rates end Sept. 15. For registration forms and information about rates and speakers, visit the [NMGS Website](#).



# The Journey to Becoming a Master Naturalist

*Editor's note: Three people affiliated with EMHS are working on projects related to preserving history related to the Ojito (little spring) open space near the village of San Antonio. Jean-Pierre Larroque, filmmaker son of EMHS President Andre Larroque, in June interviewed Ojito mayordomo Chris Jinzo and shot film of the San Antonio fiesta for an EMHS documentary; Denise Tessier is preparing an interpretive booklet on Ojito for Bernalillo County, which manages the area as open space; and Becky Schnelker plans to prepare an interpretive walk for Ojito in terms of its plants and their uses as natural remedies, a one-year project stemming from her participation in the county's recent Master Naturalist Program. The following is Becky's story, and more of her fabulous photographs can be seen on her [photo Web site](#).*

## Photos and Story by Becky Schnelker



As a member of the board of directors of the East Mountain Historical Society, I first learned of Bernalillo County's Open Space program when EMHS was asked to provide historical information on a property now called Sabino Canyon Open Space, located off Juan Tomás Road and NM 337 (old South NM 14). A year later, I found myself at Sabino with a hoe in my hand, volunteering alongside county workers who were learning about professional trail building. Later, on the near-eve of my official retirement (which I prefer to call my reactivation to life), I collided with the inception of the Master Naturalist Program.

When I first heard the term "master naturalist," I wondered how anyone could master one's love of and desire to understand the natural world. Bernalillo County Open Space (not to be confused with Albuquerque Open Space) had recently aligned itself with a loosely affiliated movement based on the love of learning, nature, and community service called the Master Naturalist Program. Its goal was to nurture a group of individuals who shared such loves and offer them training and support. In turn, the trainees, through volunteerism and camaraderie, would pledge to provide land stewardship and environmental education through various county open space programs. 2010 would be the first of a three-year pilot project.

My "naturalist" story began by following my dad for many hours of my childhood through all seasons in the woods of Ohio, while he foraged for wild foods, fished, and hunted game. It is also about my love of New Mexico's mountains, foothills, and valleys. In 1978, New Mexico lured me back from California, where I had gone after completing my graduate studies in fine arts at the University of New Mexico. Since then, I have walked many miles of the country and a decade ago I moved from Albuquerque to the East Mountains. I have explored up and down the many zones of vegetation on its mountains. I nurture a love of place, including the change of seasons, the wildlife (even the less-than-hospitable types), the native wildflowers, and a riparian recovery project, all of which I share through digital photography and the Internet.

When the county program was announced, I applied, was interviewed, screened, and accepted into the program with 24 other highly diverse and talented people who loved nature. We spent 55 hours in June and July in classes and workshops covering big topics like ecology, botany, zoology, hydrology, and environmental education. We engaged in hands-on testing of soil and water, in observation and drawing to learn, and much more. To complete our intern phase, each of us was challenged with creating a service project, to which we will dedicate 40 hours of our time over the next year.

I hope to focus on the Ojito (little spring) de San Antonio Open Space and use of its plants that have served the community through its history. The subject of gardens and natural remedies is not only currently popular, but one EMHS has documented for almost two decades in tapes and transcriptions of interviews with “los abuelitos”, or the older folks of the community. It will be my pleasure to research those tapes, perhaps contribute more and return them to the community.

It will also be my pleasure to contribute to the upcoming collaboration between Friends of Tijeras Pueblo and EMHS about garden traditions of the East Mountains, to be conducted in honor of New Mexico Heritage Month this coming May 7.



I'd like to thank Colleen Langan, who kept us Master Naturalist trainees focused, and her advisory board, who shared their expertise in our classes as teachers and students, and all my classmates, whom I hope to get to know much better, because they are all such incredible people. [Applications](#) will be accepted by the county beginning in April 2011 for June and July of next year.

Do you know someone in the East Mountain area with a story to tell? Contact Anabel Sanchez ([vicepresident@eastmountainhistory.org](mailto:vicepresident@eastmountainhistory.org)) or Kris Thacher ([kristhacher@earthlink.net](mailto:kristhacher@earthlink.net)) to make those stories part of our “Great Stories/La Cultura de Las Montanas” oral history project.



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