

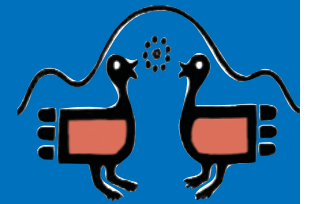


# The Tuff Times

(Tuff-consolidated volcanic ash that forms Bandelier's cliffs and canyons)

## Bandelier National Monument

Spring/Early Summer 2007 Edition



### Welcome

### Bepowave

**Ku wat TSE ho pa**

**Keshi**

### Bienvenidos

A special thanks to all of you who participated in our 90th anniversary celebration last year. It was a fabulous year filled with special events and activities that were a success because of your support. Although we are not celebrating another anniversary, I am very excited about the opportunities for everyone this year. We are pleased to be partnering with the Museum of Indian Art and Culture (MIAC) in Santa Fe to offer a year-long special Pablita Velarde exhibit opening on February 18th. With the fabulous snows, cross-country skiing has been wonderful on the two park ski trails. All of this winter moisture is sure to bring a fabulous array of wildflowers and active wildlife this spring. The summer will continue to be filled with Nightwalks, cultural demonstrations, bread-baking and Pueblo dances.

Come out and explore the seasons at Bandelier this year!

Darlene M. Koontz  
Superintendent



## A New Deal for Tse Tsan: Pablita Velarde At Bandelier

By Park Ranger Cecilia Shields

Pablita Velarde has her signature embedded on Bandelier National Monument. In September of 2005, I interviewed Pablita. That morning, I recall quite clearly. The alarm clock buzzed at ten minutes to five. Excited about meeting the great artist Pablita Velarde, I hardly noticed my congested head and stuffy nose. The drive to Albuquerque seemed like an eternity and my record on getting lost didn't offer much comfort. Flying past the Rio Grande, on past Pablita's village to the west, Santa Clara Pueblo seemed to send their blessings to one of their own. I followed the directions to the home of Mrs. Velarde.

Eight o'clock sharp, we knocked on Pablita's front door. Smiling she opened the door and welcomed us into her home. I greeted her in our Tewa language. Happy to hear a familiar sound, she was content on using her native tongue. I visited with Pablita as she showed me around her home. Her paintings covered her walls as well as numerous awards. She reminded me of my own grandma. Pablita proudly displayed photos of her family and told stories of each one with such love and tenderness only a mother and grandmother could show.



Pablita Velarde, NPS Collection

Pablita laughed as I prepared her for the questions we were going to ask. "I've done so many of these, I think I am a professional. You are probably more nervous than I am," Pablita said. I agreed and she talked to me in Tewa and told me how good it feels to not

have to talk in English.

All equipment set up, the cameras began to roll. And like a true professional, Pablita delighted us all with a heartfelt and genuine interview. I laughed and cried as she spoke about her time in Bandelier as if it were only yesterday.

"Dale King (Superintendent of Bandelier) in 1939 came to my door in Santa Clara. I just came back from a tour of the eastern United States. I was a nurse for the Seton's and I watched their baby. It was the first time I went to New York City. It was so crowded, the people were like ants. Everyone stared at me because I was an Indian with a white baby! I didn't care though. The skyscrapers were so high. It reminded me of the canyons back at home. You could barely see the sky and it was always gray and not the blue of New Mexico.

She continued to talk about the her first meeting with Mr. King.

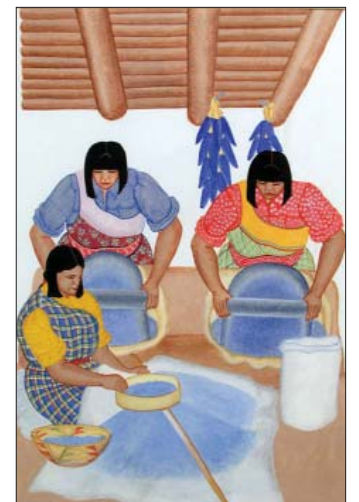
"I saw this man in a uniform and he asked for Pablita Velarde. I was afraid because I thought I was going to be arrested because I had left the Pueblo. But he just smiled and asked me if I was a painter. I told him that I never painted professionally but that I did paint on my own. So he took me to Bandelier and I did paintings for the museum under the WPA.

"The land (at Bandelier) was so pretty. It was late fall when I went for the first time. It was so beautiful!"

Pablita talked about working at Bandelier and taking her children with her. "I told the Rangers that they had to watch my kids because I couldn't paint and watch them at the same time. There was a nice lady from Cochiti that watched my kids during the day and that helped me out alot.

"I love the Canyon (Frijoles). Bandelier is part of our beginning. It was the home of my ancestors. It is part of our history."

I asked Pablita about being a Pueblo woman and painter, she said, "I was one of four girls and I was the only rebellious one. I didn't like to do house work so my dad made me work in the garden. That is where I studied all the land around me and noticed all the pretty things in nature and that is what I painted. The importance of the natural



Pablita Velarde's "Three Women Grinding Corn"

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# Area Highlights

## **Bandelier**

### **Visitor Center**

The place to start your visit to Bandelier is here. Rangers are available to provide information, trail advice, and wilderness permits. The free, 10-minute introductory slide show is shown throughout the day. The museum features exhibits about the Pueblo people in the 1400s and in historic times. The bookstore includes a variety of carefully chosen titles related to the area, and proceeds come directly back to the park. The Main Loop Trail to the nearby archeological sites begins from the back porch. Open seven days/week; closed December 25 and January 1.



*NPS Collection*

### **Bandelier Trading Company Gift Shop and Snack Bar**

The gift shop features a colorful array of authentic crafts from throughout the Southwest, as well as souvenir items such as hats, shirts, and postcards. They also carry utility items such as film, disposable cameras, plastic rain ponchos, and batteries.



*NPS Collection*

The Snack Bar offers a varied menu including local dishes as well as standards, snacks, soft drinks, and bottled water. Open seven days/week; closed December 25 and January 1.

### **Main Loop Trail (Tyuonyi, Long House, Alcove House)**

Beginning from the back porch of the Visitor Center, the Main Loop Trail leads to a fascinating group of Ancestral Pueblo dwellings directly up Frijoles Canyon. These are the only excavated sites in the park, providing a good opportunity to imagine what life was like here 700 years ago. The trail is paved and the first quarter mile is wheelchair accessible. Be sure to get the trail guide book; it is available in English, Spanish, Japanese, French, German, Russian, Braille, and large print. About

one mile, one hour. If you choose to, you can continue another 1/2 mile (each way) to Alcove House—a group of dwellings built in an alcove 140 feet above the canyon floor. You can reach the cave by climbing long ladders, or view it from the canyon floor.

### **Tsankawi**

Tsankawi, a large unexcavated Ancestral Pueblo village, is located in a detached portion of the park about two miles north of White Rock along State Road 4. The one and one-half mile loop trail, which involves three ladders, takes you to the mesatop village then returns by way of numerous petroglyphs



*Tsankawi NPS Photo by Sally King*

and cliffside homes. In addition, visitors enjoy expansive views of surrounding mountains and valleys. Closes at dusk. There is a guide book available on site. A \$12 Park entrance permit is required and available for purchase on-site or at the main entrance to the park.

### **White Rock Overlook**

Standing on the observation platform, you can gaze down at the Rio Grande flowing by in the bottom of White Rock Canyon, over 1,000 feet deep, or look out over the vast panorama of the Jemez and Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Española Valley, and the Caja del Rio. In White Rock, turn onto Rover Boulevard (at the Conoco Station on SR 4), left onto Meadow Lane, and left onto Overlook Road. Free admission.

### **Los Alamos Historical Museum and Fuller Lodge Art Center**

The Historical Museum features exhibits on the history of the area, from the Jemez Volcano through the Ancestral Pueblo people, homesteaders, and the Los Alamos Boys School, to the Manhattan Project

and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The neighboring Art Center showcases work of local artists; exhibits change throughout the year, showcasing various styles and media. Both facilities are located next to Fuller Lodge, a historic and distinctive log structure originally built for the Boys School, on Central Avenue near Ashley Pond. Free Admission.

### **Bradbury Science Museum**

Named for Norris Bradbury, the second director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory; its exhibits highlight scientific activities here from the earliest days of the Manhattan Project to the present high-tech, cutting edge work. Located at the corner of Central Avenue and 15th Street in Los Alamos. Free Admission.

### **Valles Caldera National Preserve**

Over a million years ago the huge Jemez Volcano erupted covering more than a hundred square miles with deep flows of volcanic ash. The distinctive canyon and mesa landscapes around Bandelier and Los Alamos



*Valles Caldera, NPS Collection*

resulted from this volcanism. The mountain collapsed, creating a caldera more than 16 miles in diameter. This caldera is now contained within the National Preserve, an 89,000 acre area which just came into public ownership in 2000. State Road 4 goes through a beautiful and impressive portion of the caldera, the Valle Grande. For information on how to access the Preserve, visit their website at [www.vallescaldera.gov](http://www.vallescaldera.gov).

### **Pueblos**

In the 1500s, people moved from the Bandelier area to villages along the Rio Grande. Today there are 19 pueblos in New Mexico. Taos, Picuris, San Juan, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Nambe, Tesuque, Santo Domingo, San Felipe Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Ana, and Zia are all within about 80 miles of the park. Remember to be respectful when you are visiting. Respect the rules and regulations of the different Pueblos.

## Free Programs

### Main Loop Walk

Ranger-guided walks along the Main Loop Trail to Tyuonyi Pueblo are offered most days throughout the year, once in the morning and once in the afternoon (staffing permitting). The walk follows a paved path (partly wheelchair accessible) through Frijoles Canyon discussing the lifestyles of Ancestral Pueblo people. Walks last 45 minutes to one hour.



Ranger Guided Tour. NPS Collection

**Check at the visitor center for today's menu of events.**

### Programs for a Fee

Since 1997 Bandelier National Monument has been a part of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. As part of this program, Bandelier is charging an additional fee to provide services that otherwise could not be made available. For reservations, call (505) 672-3861 ext. 517.

### Special Group Programs

Special guided walks for organized groups can be arranged. Costs vary depending on the details of the specific program. Arrangements can be made by calling (505) 672-3861 x 517.

### Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Bandelier CCC Historic District

Available at the WNPA bookstore, this \$1.00 self-guided booklet takes you through the CCC Historic District of Bandelier National Monument highlighting the structures, intricate tin light fixtures, and fine wood carvings.

### Programs for School Groups

Park Rangers offer grade-specific programs for school groups visiting Bandelier, and in the classroom. If you are a teacher and you would like to schedule a ranger-led program, call Chris Judson at (505) 672-3861 ext. 517.

If you would prefer to bring your class on a self-guided visit to Bandelier, you may also request materials from the Visitor

Center. All groups travelling by bus must make group reservations by calling (505) 672-3861 ext. 534. Only one bus may be accommodated in the parking area at a given time.



Tyuonyi with rainbow, NPS Photo by Sally King

Continued from Front Page world is in my paintings. You have to have respect for animal, plant and still life, like rocks and mountains. Respect is what you give them, and respect is what you get back. I believe in the old ways. I am still an old Indian. I don't do it because it is a curiosity but it is a belief."



I went on to ask Pablita what her favorite painting is. She responded by saying that it was Old Father Story Teller. "When I have hard times, I talk to my paintings because they hear me and listen to my thoughts."

She told stories full of life, she left me with words for the young people. She said, "Learn your language. It is who we are and it is important to continue what our ancestors, like those at Bandelier, have taught us."

I wish I could write all that she said but that would take the entire newspaper. Pablita Velarde left us all with her impression of Pueblo life. Pablita invited us into her studio. She showed us her painting in progress of a buffalo dancer. She then went over to her bookshelf which was piled with awards she had yet to hang up, and pulled out a small box. She gave us a small gift and a hug. We left Pablita to finish working on her latest masterpiece.

As I sit here and write this article, I reflect clearly on my time with Pablita Velarde. In January 2006, Pablita Velarde passed away. She has left us with her remarkable paintings. Bandelier National Monument is pleased to announce an exhibit of Pablita Velarde paintings at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe from February 18, 2007 to January 2008. Come enjoy the unique paintings of the astounding Pablita Velarde.

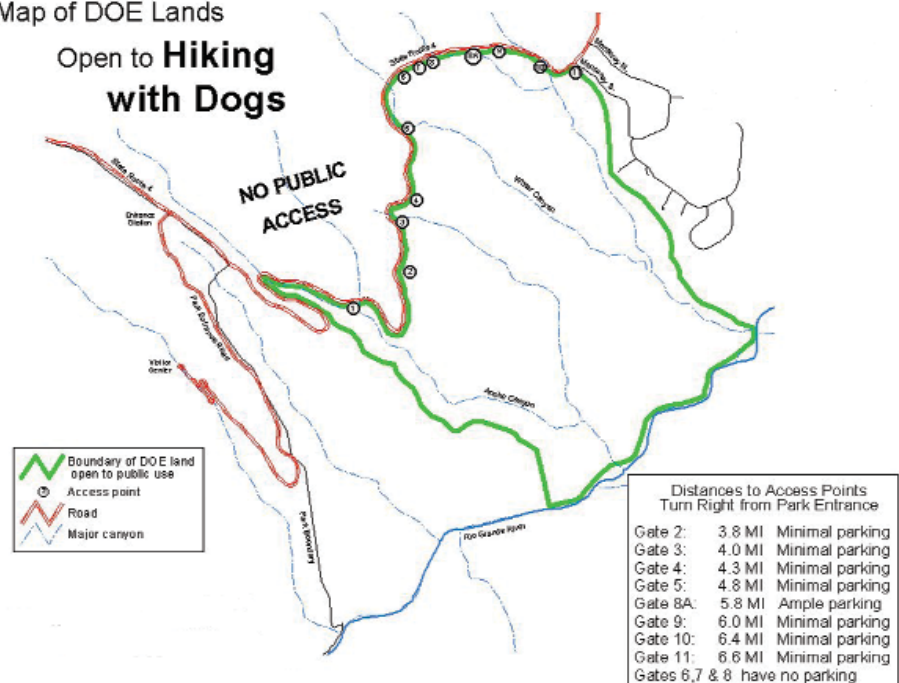
## Where Can I Take My Dog?

*To protect park wildlife from disease, parasites, and disturbance, pets are not permitted in most areas of Bandelier National Monument. Pets are allowed only in the campground, picnic area, and main parking lot and must remain leashed (leash under 6 feet) at all times. Pets are allowed on Department of Energy (DOE) lands that are posted as open for public use (see map). The entire area, including the parking areas, is closed after dark.*

- Pets may not be left unattended (except in a vehicle) and may not be tied to an object (except when staying in the campground).
- Pets left in vehicles must be given enough ventilation to ensure their safety.
- It is the responsibility of the person accompanying the pet to clean up after it. All pet excrement must be picked up and disposed of properly.

### Map of DOE Lands

Open to **Hiking with Dogs**



# Who Were the Ancestral Pueblo People of Bandelier: An Archeologist's View

By Park Archeologist, Rory Gauthier

Visitors to Bandelier want to know, “where did the people of Frijoles Canyon come from?” This is a wonderful question but there is no definitive answer. Most scholars can agree that the Pueblo people and their culture developed in what is now referred to as the Four Corners region. Within this area there are a number of National Park Service sites such as Mesa Verde NP, Chaco Culture NHP, Aztec Ruins NM and Hovenweep NM that preserve the best examples of Ancestral Pueblo architecture and artifacts. The Ancestral Pueblo people moved out of this region by AD 1300 and relocated to the Rio Grande Valley, the Acoma-Zuni region and the Hopi area in north-central Arizona, where they live today. We know the overall movements of the Pueblo people out of this area, but the details of exactly when and where the Pueblo people moved to are subject to debate.

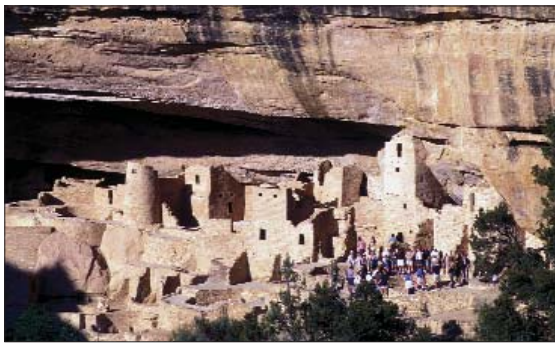
Within the northern Rio Grande/Bandelier region, the earliest Pueblo settlements are found near Cochiti and to the south along the Rio Grande to Socorro. There are also small settlement clusters found along the Santa Fe River and in the Tesuque area.

This occupation dates roughly from AD 900 to AD 1150 and is characterized by small

villages, usually consisting of a pueblo containing six to twenty rooms. All of the known settlements are located along streams and rivers. There are no villages dating to this period on the Pajarito Plateau or within the present day boundaries of Bandelier. However, from 1150 to 1200 there was substantial population growth indicated by a dramatic increase in the number of archeological sites. Archeologists believe that this is the result of people moving into the area rather than a natural population growth. The increase in population in the Rio Grande/Bandelier area continued for about 100 years. It is during this time that the Bandelier area was settled by a growing population of Pueblo farmers who also expanded into new areas.

So, who were these new immigrants and where did they come from? If we look to the region to the west – the Four Corners area – this was the source of the new arrivals. Beginning around AD 1130 to 1150, the great civilization that centered on Chaco Canyon begins to decline. People were moving away and the

many settlements that dot the San Juan Basin



Mesa Verde, Photo by Ernesto Burciaga

and the Four Corners region, which was part of the Chaco world, were abandoned. During this period, we begin to see a population shift and increase in the Mesa Verde highlands, along the San Juan River, the Montezuma Valley, the Acoma-Zuni region, the Chuska slopes, and most importantly, the Rio Grande Valley. For about next 150 years, the Ancestral Pueblo populations were concentrated in these regions.

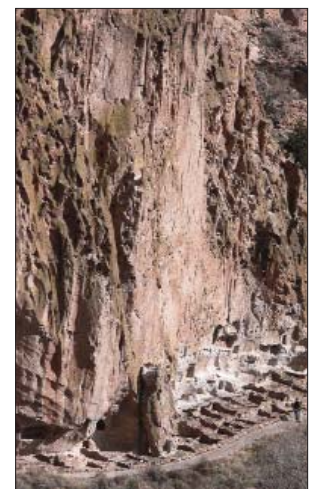
During the last quarter of the 13th century, the northern half of the Four Corners region, including the Mesa Verde highlands, the Montezuma Valley and the Chuska slopes were abandoned. The movement of Pueblo people out of this region coincides with a drought, often referred to as the “great drought” which lasted from 1276 to 1299 and is often cited as the reason behind this migration. Others see civil strife and social unrest, or loss of resources such as arable land, as reasons for leaving. Currently, the jury is still out on why such large areas were permanently vacated at the end of the 13th century. In the northern Rio Grande Valley at this time, population reached an all time high. Within Bandelier National Monument, the population reached a peak around AD 1300.

So, where did the Ancestral Pueblo people in Bandelier come from? Evidence is still circumstantial: when the Chacoan system begins to collapse, population increased in the northern Rio Grande Valley and elsewhere. When the northern San Juan Basin and Mesa Verde area were abandoned, there was a dramatic increase of population in the northern Rio Grande Valley and elsewhere. When we look at artifacts and architecture, a Four Corners source of population is even more believable. An example, pottery styles were similar to types found in Chaco and Mesa Verde and kiva architecture at several sites that date to the AD 1200's, resemble Mesa Verde kivas. Pueblo oral traditions also contain a number of references to migrations or movements of people. The great Pueblo scholars, Alfonso Ortiz and Edward Dozier, discuss Pueblo histories and beliefs of migrations and of traveling from a generalized homeland in the Four Corners area and moving in a southerly direction.

The initial Pueblo occupation of Chaco Canyon began around AD 500 and is referred to as the Basketmaker III period. This settlement is characterized by pithouse architecture and people beginning to make the first permanent settlements based on agriculture. Villages dating to this period are found throughout the San Juan Basin/Four Corners region. Population increased, and by AD 950, large villages appear clustered in Chaco Canyon. Chaco flourishes from AD 950 to 1150. It is during this time that massive structures such as Pueblo Bonito, which are generally thought to be public buildings and not everyday domiciles, the road system which connects outlying Chacoan population clusters, and markers that traced the movement of the sun and moon were constructed. Building of the massive great houses and the roads ceased around 1150. At this time, there was a reorganization of settlement, with people shifting away from the Chacoan area to areas such as the San Juan River, the Montezuma Valley, the Mesa Verde highlands, the Acoma-Zuni region and the Chuska slopes. Also at this time, a substantial population increase began in the Rio Grande Valley.

The Mesa Verde region is defined not only by the location of Mesa Verde NP but also the Montezuma Valley, the areas around Aztec Ruins NM, Hovenweep NM, and the northern end of the Chuska Mountains. Mesa Verde also contains small pithouse villages dating back to AD 500. Throughout the region, there are also sites that are affiliated with Chaco. However, following the end of the Chaco period, an increase in growth and population occurred at Mesa Verde. It is during this period (roughly AD 1150 to AD 1300) that large villages and cliff dwellings, such as Cliff Palace, are constructed. During the latter half of the 13th century, population begins to decline, and by AD 1300, the entire northern portion of the Four Corners region is vacant of Pueblo people.

NOTE: The history of the people of the Southwest is complex. Archeologists collect information from physical artifacts that include the remains of dwellings, roads, and daily use articles such as pottery, baskets, and clothing. They also rely on information from the descendants of the people who lived here so long ago. Oral histories have become an important ingredient in piecing together the past of these ancient, but still living, cultures.



Bandelier, NPS Photo by Sally King

# A Bandelier Calendar-What's in Season in the Park?

## March

### Skiing and Snowshoeing

From the looks of it, March may have days filled with snow this year. If so, it may be a great time to visit the Upper Frijoles Trails and either cross-coun-



Snowshoeing, NPS Photo by Wendy Artz

try ski or snowshoe along these beautiful routes. The blue trail is 2.4 miles round-trip and includes an overlook into Upper Frijoles Canyon at its terminus. The orange trail is 5 miles round-trip and offers two chances to view Upper Frijoles Canyon along its length. Snowshoe users are asked to stay beside the ski trail. The area is open during daylight hours only. Pets are not permitted. For current snow conditions, call the visitor center at 672-3861 x 517.

### Winter Birding

If birding is more to your taste, the Nature Trail in Frijoles Canyon may be just the thing for you. This trail is not cleared of snow in the winter but often offers excellent chances for solitude without a long hike. This winter many mixed flocks, including nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, and kinglets, have been spotted feeding along the trail. Red-naped and Williamson's sapsuckers have also been regular visitors in this area.



Golden-crowned Kinglet, NPS Photo by Sally King

## April

### Early Spring Wildflowers

Some of the earliest wildflowers include Canadian Violets, Golden Smoke, and Chiming Bells. Preferring a sheltered and moist environment, they often begin sprouting even before the last snow has melted. A sure sign of spring is the pungent and colorful bloom of the New Mexico Olive. It attracts a variety of bees, flies, and butterflies to feed when nectar is scarce. All of these early spring bloomers can be found along the Nature Trail just above Cottonwood Picnic Area.



Chiming Bells, NPS Photo by Sally King



Mourning Cloak, NPS Photo by Sally King

### Early Spring Butterflies

A warm day in February or March can lure the hibernating butterflies from beneath the loose bark where, in their adult form, they have slept the winter's cold away. By April, the mid-days are filled with dashes of color as the variety of butterflies in flight increases. The earliest butterflies, which include Mourning Cloaks, California Tortoiseshells, and Commas, feed on a variety of decaying plant material and are not reliant on flowers. The Swallowtails and migrating Monarchs which follow, have a diet much richer in nectar. Butterflies can be found on any trail in the park.

## May

### Migrating and Nesting Birds

By mid-May many of our "summer only" birds have returned to the park and are in competition

for mates and the best nesting sites. Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Plumbeous Vireos, and Yellow Warblers are among the birds who build nests within the park. Many find the lush riparian (stream-side) environment along Frijoles Creek an excellent place for raising young. Keep a careful eye out and you may see how much effort they put into creating a safe place for child-rearing. Don't get too close! You don't want to be the cause of a nesting disaster.



Yapashi Pueblo, NPS Photo by Dale Coker

### Backcountry Hiking

The warm but not yet hot weather of May is the perfect time to backpack into the more distant sites in the park. Yapashi Pueblo is a 12 mile round-trip hike from the visitor center. This mesatop village has excellent views of distant mountains and was once home to a few hundred Ancestral Pueblo people. The walls no longer support ceilings but you can still identify the many rooms and kivas. Remember, don't walk on walls or remove artifacts. These are important clues to the people who once called this place home and are sacred to their descendants, the modern Pueblo people. Take plenty of water, as it is rarely available along this trail. Wear sturdy hiking boots and carry a walking stick. If the hike is too much for one day, permits for overnight stays are available for free at the visitor center.



Black-headed Grosbeak, NPS Photo by Sally King

# A New Way To Enjoy “America The Beautiful”

The New National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program

By Park Ranger Brenna Lissoway

Beginning January 1, 2007, a new federal fee program was implemented for most federal land management agencies, including the National Park Service. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), passed by Congress in December 2004, authorizes federal agencies to initiate or expand collection of fees at federal recreation sites. A majority of the increased revenue will be reinvested to enhance those sites.

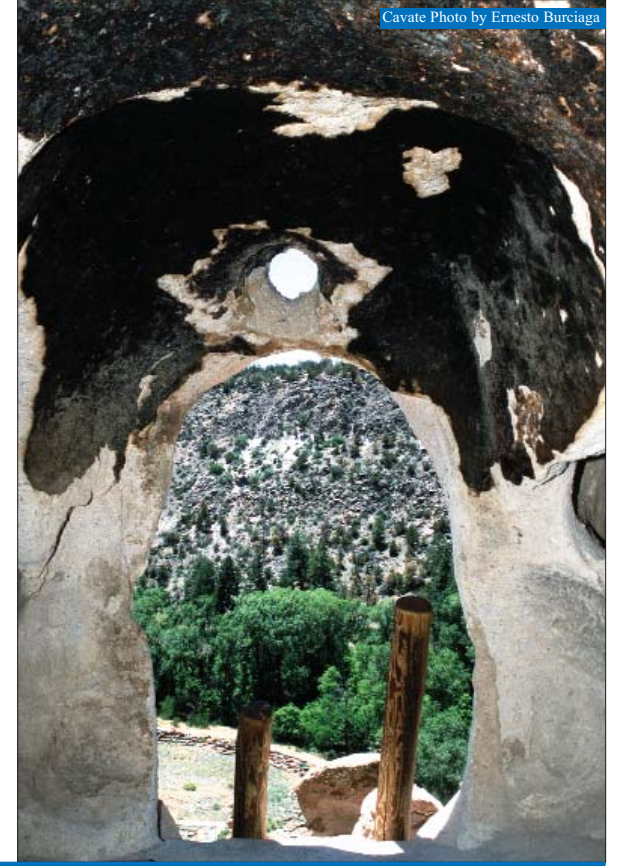
The inaugural program features several new passes, however, all current valid passes will continue to be honored. The *America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass* – or IA Pass - (\$80) replaces the discontinued Golden Eagle and National Park Pass. The Volunteer Pass (free), is a new annual pass earned by individuals contributing over 500 hours of volunteer service on federal public lands and has the same benefits as the IA Pass. Both cover Entrance Fees or Standard Amenity Fees at any National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, or Reclamation site; they do NOT cover expanded amenity fees such as camping, boat launch, tours, etc. Passes are non-refundable, non-transferable, and are valid for 12 months from the month the pass is issued.

The new Senior Pass (\$10) which has replaced the Golden Age Pass, remains the lifetime pass available to U.S. residents aged 62 or older. This pass entitles the owner to the same benefits as the IA pass, but with the added advantage of discounts on some Expanded Amenity fees.

Each year the IA Pass will feature the Grand Prize winning image from the *Share the Experience* Photo Contest ([www.sharetheexperience.org](http://www.sharetheexperience.org)); maybe your photo from your visit to Bandelier could be featured next year!

Passes can be purchased on-line through the U.S. Geological Society store, or at any federal recreation fee area – but keep in mind, your purchase directly benefits the site at the point of sale!

The current Bandelier Annual Pass features a photograph by local photographer, Ernesto Burciaga, of one of the cavates along the Main Loop Trail.

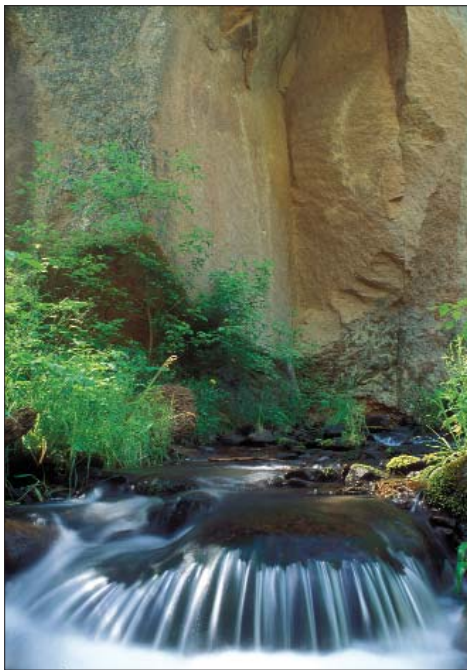


Cavate Photo by Ernesto Burciaga

## Nature Odyssey: A Summer 2007 Nature Camp for Kids

Are you looking for quality experiences for your child this summer? Does your child love to explore nature, to be outside and to unravel mysteries of science? If so, register him or her for this summer's Nature Odyssey for the opportunity to explore several of New Mexico's natural landmarks under the guidance of outstanding teachers.

Choose from three five-day sessions: Valles Caldera National Preserve, Bandelier National Monument, and Espanola's Wildlife Center. Each day for



Upper Frijoles Creek, NPS Photo by Dale Coker

the Valles Caldera and Bandelier sessions will begin and end at the Pajarito Environmental

Education Center, Los Alamos' nature center, and run from 9am to 4pm. The Espanola Wildlife Center session similarly will begin and end there. Activities are tailored for two groups: late elementary (students entering grades 4 - 6) and middle school (students entering grades 7 - 8).

Each session takes advantage of a new spectacular location. The first session, June 4-8, takes students into the Valles Caldera National Preserve to explore old-growth forests, streams, volcanic rocks, historic cultures and more. The second session, June 11-15, focuses on Bandelier National Monument for adventures in meadow ecology, stream monitoring, petroglyph explorations and more. The final session, June 18-22, involves students with the Espanola Wildlife Center and understanding of wildlife, the Rio Grande and historic cultures.

The Nature Odyssey is made possible by PEEC, the Pajarito Environmental Education Center. The cost

for each week is \$350 with several discounts



Merlin Falcon, NPS Photo by Sally King

possible: PEEC membership, early registration, additional siblings and multiple weeks. The fee includes educational activities and materials, transportation, and a t-shirt. Day care will be available for the hour before and

after the camp for an added fee. To enroll, call PEEC at 662-0460, e-mail at [Center@PajaritoEEC.org](mailto:Center@PajaritoEEC.org) or visit the center at 3540 Orange Street between noon and 4pm Tuesday – Friday and Saturday 10am - 1pm. The number of openings is limited, so register early.

## Focus on the Falls Trail

The Falls Trail is a beautiful trail in any season. Starting in the Backpacker's Parking Lot (just across the bridge from the visitor center), the trail drops 700 feet in its 2.5 mile length passing two waterfalls on its way to the Rio Grande. A riparian (stream-side) sanctuary, this lower section of Frijoles



Rio Grande, NPS Photo by Sally King

Canyon is home to a diversity of plant and animal life. With all this season's snow we expect that flow over the waterfalls will be excellent in the spring as well as the bounty of wildflowers. Until the spring thaw, expect the trail to be snowy and icy in places. Watch for rockfalls on the trail especially on warm days following cold nights. This trail is not recommended for wheelchairs or strollers. Take plenty of water, even in winter. Don't drink water from the creek without purifying it.

### SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### Late Winter (February – March)

In winter, the Falls Trail is an excellent place to find solitude, to listen to the quiet bubble of Frijoles Creek as it flows beneath an intermittent cap of ice and snow or the happy cry of a canyon wren as it searches for food in the rocky crevices. Abert's squirrels, cute little tree squirrels with tufted ears, are often out and about searching for their favorite food, Ponderosa pine cones. Mule deer readily eat

the bushy ends of the Ponderosa pine boughs that the squirrels discard from their lofty perches.

Winter on the Falls Trail is also a good place to get frostbite if you are unprepared. Gaiters, water-proof boots, and a sturdy walking stick are requirements to achieve the best benefit of a winter hike here. Snow on the trail can be knee-deep or greater and rocks underlying the snow can be slippery. Why hike here then? In addition to solitude, hiking here is the only way to see the Upper and Lower Falls, each with their own winter personalities. The Upper Falls



Abert's Squirrel, NPS Photo by Sally King

tends to spurt rather than fall, forming a magnificent ice sculpture at its base. This year there are actually two squirts instead of one, each creating its own glorious ice monument.

#### Early Spring (late March, April, and early May)

Spring comes early to the mouth of Frijoles



Lower Falls, NPS Photo by Sally King

which tumbles approximately 80' down the exposed basaltic neck of an ancient volcano tends to ice on the sides. On the coldest days, the ice spreads toward the center, muffling the otherwise tumultuous roar of its descent. Lower Falls drops over a similar volcanic feature, but

Canyon. Here, it is not unusual for the first willows to bloom in late February or early March. With such abundance of nectar, the bees and the butterflies soon follow. The waters of the Rio Grande flow reddish-brown with their load of rich sediments stolen from upstream farmlands. Unfortunately, they also carry a treasure trove of non-native plant seeds. During high run-off the waters of Cochiti Lake can reach this area. As these burdened waters slow and stagnant they drop their cargo of undesired seed onto the muddy shores where they sprout and thrive, competing with the native plants. Non-native plants that flourish here include: tamarisk, Russian olive, Showy milkweed, and thistle.



Pussy Willow, NPS Photo by Sally King

On warm spring days hikers must be wary. As the plants along the Rio Grande grow and flower they attract a broad variety of wildlife such as hummingbirds, muskrats, butterflies, and rattlesnakes. The higher the mixed vegetation grows the more difficult it can be to see where one is placing their feet. Take care not to wake a sleeping reptile. Their bite can be as bad as their rattle. Snake-proof gaiters are highly recommended for this jaunt along the Rio anytime



Butterflies on Non-native Thistle, NPS Photo by Sally King

the flora has grown tall enough to hide the fauna.

## Junior & Deputy Rangers

### START YOUR COLLECTION TODAY!!

Bandelier National Monument has a Junior (preschool through eighth grade) and a Deputy (ninth grade and up) Ranger program. Junior Rangers can help a squirrel find his food, recreate rock art with a pencil and paper, describe the life of an animal using words and pictures, and help keep the park clean by picking up trash. Deputy Rangers assist Bandelier by thinking of creative new ways to prevent

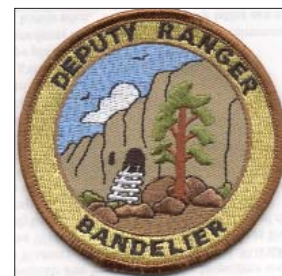
graffiti and learn to identify plants unfamiliar to them. Both receive an embroidered Bandelier patch and a colorful certificate. The program is free. Children need parental approval to participate. If you are interested, inquire at the Visitor Center desk.

Many National Park Service sites across the country offer Junior Ranger programs. Some are free and some charge a minimal fee. All allow you to learn more about the park you're visiting, so feel free to participate in as many Junior Ranger programs

as you can. Also check out [www.nps.gov/webrangers](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers) where you can become a junior ranger on-line.



Junior Ranger Patch, NPS Photo



Deputy Ranger Patch, NPS Photo

# Friends of Bandelier

## Who are we?

The Friends of Bandelier are private citizens who love the monument. A Board of Trustees governs the activities under a formal Memorandum of Agreement with the National Park Service. Park rangers request help on special projects and they try to meet the needs. The membership stays informed of Friends' activities, and of key issues affecting the Monument, through letters, field trips, and announcements in the local newspapers. The mission of the Friends of Bandelier is to provide assistance to Bandelier National Monument. You are invited to join the Friends. Dues start at \$15 per year. (and gratefully accept more). Send to P.O. Box 1282, Los Alamos NM 87544.



Join the Friends of Bandelier by sending this information with your membership fee or donation to:

**Friends of Bandelier**  
P.O. Box 1282  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

annual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_  
contributing \$30 \_\_\_\_\_  
sponsor \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
senior/student \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
special gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## What do we do?

The Friends of Bandelier provide support for:

- \*Handicapped Access
- \*Education
- \*Archeology
- \*Scientific Research
- \*Traditional Crafts
- \*Special Projects such as trail maintenance
- \*Visitor Amenities like the visitor center water fountain
- \*Publications, including this newspaper

Further details concerning the Friends of Bandelier can be found at [www.friendsofbandelier.org](http://www.friendsofbandelier.org).

## Volunteers

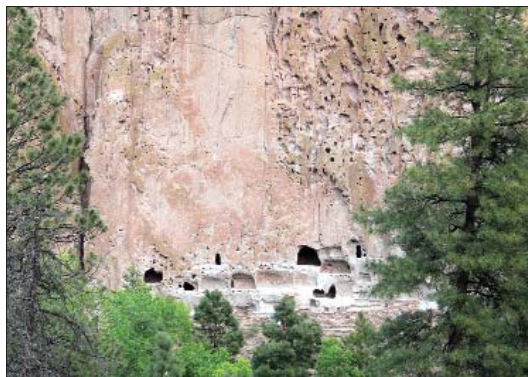
### OUR MISSION

The National Park Service Volunteers-In-Parks Program (VIP) was authorized by Public Law 91-357 enacted in 1970. The primary purpose of the VIP program is to provide a vehicle through which the National Park Service can accept and utilize voluntary help and services from the public. The major objective of the program is to utilize this voluntary help so as to be mutually beneficial to the National Park Service and the volunteer. Volunteers are accepted from the public without regard to race, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.



NPS Collection

For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/volunteer> on the Web.



View from Long Trail, NPS Photo by Sally King



Winter at Tyuonyi, NPS Photo by Sally King

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Bandelier National Monument  
15 Entrance Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544-9508

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