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*Special Places
Wide Open Spaces*

The Frontera Land Alliance
3800 N. Mesa, Suite A2-258
El Paso, TX 79902 USA

News from



FRONTERA Annual Meeting Coming Soon!

We hope you'll join us at Ardivino's Desert Crossing on Wednesday, January 30th, 2008, for the Annual Meeting of The Frontera Land Alliance. This is an opportunity for Frontera's Board of Directors to report to the community about what the land trust has been working on over the past year. It's also a chance to enjoy Ardivino's relaxed atmosphere and delicious food alongside friends and neighbors who share a commitment to El Paso's natural environment and quality of life.

A casual reception with an hors d'oeuvres buffet and cash bar will start at 6 PM, and then we'll sit down for the meeting at 7. Please come out and learn more about our local land trust!

P.S. A map and directions to Ardivino's are available at www.ardovinos.com/map.html ■

New Web Site

We're delighted to announce the debut of our new and vastly im-

proved website--if you have a moment, please take a look: <http://www.fronteralandalliance.org/> There you'll find all sorts of information about Frontera, local conservation efforts, and the natural heritage of West Texas and Southern New Mexico.

Many thanks to **Anne Giangiulio** (<http://www.giangiulio.net/portfolio>), graphic artist and UTEP professor, for her beautiful work designing the site and creating Frontera's new "Western Sun" logo. We connected with her last year through the "Save Our Arroyos" show at the Hal Marcus Gallery--one of many enduring legacies from that landmark event. ■

Fall 2007 Clean Up at the Wakeem/Teschner Nature Preserve of Resler Canyon



Above: Volunteers with some of the items found during the Fall 2007 clean up

On October 21, 2007, the WTNP received its fall clean up by approximately 20 volunteers who collected about 400 cubic feet of trash including shopping carts, a computer tower, and a box of firecrackers. The clean up crew included members of Franklin High School's student council and Richard Teschner, himself. Many thanks to all who spent a beautiful fall afternoon tending to the canyon! ■

LTA RALLY 2007

In October 2007, Frontera board member Michael Gaglio was sent to represent the group at the Land Trust Alliance's (www.lta.org) annual meeting known as Rally 2007. Rally is the big national meeting for land trusts and includes professionals, board members, tax people, lawyers ...you name it. If it has anything to do with land conservation, it's at Rally. More than 2200 people gathered under the roof of the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver in early October for the largest gathering on land conservation in the world.

Although Mike could have chosen to go on one of 12 field trips, such as a trip up Pike's Peak on the historic Cog Railway or a bicycle tour of Summit County's open space and pathways, he followed instead the call of duty. As Frontera's Standards and Practices lead, he opted to attend relevant courses including "Avoiding Conflicts of Interest and Running an Ethical Land Trust" and "Successful Land Conservation Programs." In addition to the 37 seminars offered, Rally was host to over 142 sessions taught by 57 different faculty--recognized leaders in conservation. He learned about real estate law, "10 Rules to Conserve By," the ethics of operating a land trust, drafting and implementing easements and management plans, mineral rights issues, military land conservation strategies, and pros and cons to fee ownership of conservation land as taught by an enlightening group of seasoned land trust executive directors.

Mike returned to El Paso fired up and ready to help Frontera operate "up to code" as well as

achieve some of our more ambitious goals, like becoming a fully accredited organization through LTA's accreditation program.

Mike brought back an LTA survey of salaries and benefits from land trusts with paid staff. Out of 214 responses, it appears the average executive director of a land trust makes over \$65,000/year in salary. But then, the majority of land trusts in the survey have an operating budget of over \$1 million! Frontera has a ways to go! (FYI, Frontera has no executive director--all work is done by its volunteer boards--and its current operating budget is, shall we say, significantly less than a million dollars.) ■



Above: Mike insists he is somewhere in this photo of a group listening to Sylvia Bates discuss Successful Land Conservation Programs at the Land Trust Alliance's 2007 Rally

Land Trusts 101 - Postponed Til Spring

We've postponed the date of the Trans Pecos/ West Texas Regional Land and Water Trust Workshop to Spring 2008. The Frontera Land Alliance is partnering with the Texas Land Trust Council to organize a full day of seminars on the nuts and bolts of land preservation, covering topics of interest to landowners, government officials, and citizen conservationists.

Right now, possible topics include the following: conservation easements 101 (basics); tax incentives (current IRS and NM state policies for cash, land, and easement donations); public-private partnership options, military lands and conservation; marketing a land trust; building landowner relationships; calculating easement endowment/stewardship costs; mineral rights; the new federal guidelines for environmental assessments; and water rights and the role of water trusts. But these are just topics the Board has an interest in. If you have other suggestions, drop a line to info@fronteralandalliance.org. We'll give you the exact date and place (probably northeast El Paso) as spring approaches. ■

Frontera Land Holdings as of December 2007:

Acquired 2005:

- Wakeem/Teschner Nature Preserve at Resler Canyon (approx. 91 acres)
- Colonia Vista parcel (approx. 5 acres)

Acquired 2007:

- Thunder Canyon Conservation Easement (approx. 25 acres)



Above: Deer in the snow, Resler Canyon, early 2007 (thank you Roger Poel)

From the Board:

PHOTOS NEEDED

This past September, Frontera launched its new website www.fronteralandalliance.org, which features lots of images and information about the spectacular landscape of West Texas and Southern New Mexico.

We're approaching the site as an ongoing work-in-progress, and are asking for your help to expand and improve it: do you have any original digital photos we could post on the site? Scenic vistas? Candid shots from a Frontera event? Close-ups of plants and animals in Resler Canyon or Thunder Canyon?

If you have a picture you're willing to share, please send it along with a brief description and credit info to info@fronteralandalliance.org. Please let us know in advance if you have a particularly large (>10 MB) file to send. We may not be able to use every image in the website, but we'll certainly try! We're really looking forward to seeing the creativity this open call attracts. Thanks for your help! ■

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

On September 12, 2007, the Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition and the Las Cruces Homebuilders Association held a joint press conference to announce that they had reached an agreement in support of wilderness in Doña Ana County and new boundaries for the proposed National Conservation Area along the Organ Mountains. After several months of negotiations between the groups, an agreement was reached to move a boundary for development closer to the Organ Mountains than Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition had originally proposed, while home builders agreed move the boundary farther away from the Organs than they had originally proposed. ■

Dear Friends:

Money, as we all know, has no intrinsic worth. It has value only because of the things it can buy, like love, friendship, and utility services. Frontera has a substantial amount of love and friendship, and, thus far, no utilities to pay, and we are thankful for this. Nonetheless, as

at the end of every year, we now begin our low-key membership drive. The rewards of being a member of Frontera are great:

1. That ineffable feeling of inner serenity that results from having participated in a noble cause.
2. It may be the only investment you will ever make where your rate of interest increase year to year.
3. You get a constant flow of information (these newsletters) about what is going on in the arroyos and hallways of El Paso.
4. You could bring warmth and light into a conservationally cold climate.

Memberships are \$25 and up (see back page).

Be Judicious, Just, & Generous!

We will utilize every cent of your tax deductible CONTRIBUTION. ■

As of December 2007:

THE FRONTERA LAND ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maria Trunk, President
Kevin von Finger, Vice-President
Scott Cutler, Secretary
Charlie Wakeem, Treasurer
Nancy Hanks, Newsletter Editor
Jamie Ackerman
Michael Bray
Doug Echlin
Michael Gaglio
Chuck Kooshian

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John Moses
Amy Schoemaker
John Sproul
Marcia Turner
John Walton

**YES! I want to help The Frontera Land Alliance preserve the special places
and wide open spaces of West Texas and Southern New Mexico.**

Enclosed is my contribution for:

___ \$25 ___ \$40 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 _____ other

___ *Please designate my contribution to the Wakeem/Teschner Nature Preserve (Resler Canyon) endowment fund.*

___ *Please use my contribution for general support of Frontera projects and programs.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Does your employer have a matching gift program? If so, please note the contact information:

Please make checks payable to **The Frontera Land Alliance** and send to:

3800 N. Mesa, Suite A2-258, El Paso, TX 79902

Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Frontera Land Alliance
3800 N. Mesa, Suite A2-258
El Paso, TX 79902 USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED