

FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

ANNUAL REPORT

2000

LOOKING BACK

What can one say in this year's annual report? The year 2000 was like no other, and we hope never to see its like again. With the devastating Cerro Grande Fire in May, Bandelier and the surrounding communities were forever altered. The fire, ignited as a controlled burn by Bandelier, consumed the forests above Los Alamos and on lands of the San Ildefonso and Santa Clara Pueblos. Judging by rejuvenation from past wildfires, we will not have mature forests again in our lifetimes.

But by far the worst consequences befell over 400 families whose homes were totally destroyed. Even now, nine months after the fire, many of these people cannot plan a course for their lives. Despite the allocation of hundreds of millions in federal relief, the homeowners have not received the compensation they were promised. They still pay mortgage and taxes on vacant lots and rent on their current quarters. They still don't know what their compensation will be, so they can't yet plan to rebuild or relocate. Those I've talked to say the paperwork is awful and getting worse. Los Alamos is a small town. Everyone knows someone who was burned out. Until our families are settled, we can't really revert to a normal life.

The Park Service acted quickly to keep Bandelier functioning. Superintendent Roy Weaver accepted responsibility, stepped down, and took early retirement. It was a sad end to a distinguished career. Although he was vilified by some, Roy was deeply touched by an outpouring of goodwill by local citizens and fellow Park Service personnel. Acting Superintendent Alan Cox worked tirelessly to coordinate the Park Service's part in emergency recovery efforts. Despite the trauma, Bandelier continued to welcome visitors from around the world. A visitor to the monument in summer 2000 would not know that catastrophe had befallen.

We do want to convey good news. We are all profoundly grateful that there were no serious injuries or deaths resulting from the fire. Los Alamos and the National Laboratory were truly touched and gratified by the outpouring of help and support and goodwill from neighboring communities, from across New Mexico, and even the nation. Our congressional delegation, local, state, and federal agencies set recovery processes in motion with good intentions, even though bureaucracies grind slowly.



Superintendent Vasquez agreed to write the annual State of the Park Report for us this year, but his schedule is so frantic that we quit nagging. Hopefully, we can catch him later in the year.



LOOKING FORWARD

In November, the new superintendent arrived. He is Dennis Vasquez, a native of the Southwest, lifelong (since age 18) employee of the National Park System, and former superintendent at White Sands National Monument. Dennis is making the rounds to introduce himself and is putting a new team in place, first with Lynne Dominy, formerly Chief of Interpretation at Point Reyes National Seashore. Dennis has high regard for Lynne's abilities. Lynne is also introducing herself to the local community.

Dennis and his team face lots of unfinished business. How shall they manage overpopulation of elk and pinyon/juniper trees? Roy Weaver set studies in motion. Now Dennis must continue these studies and decide on appropriate corrective measures. In addition, Dennis assumed a new responsibility. In November, the government acquired the Valles Caldera property; it will be managed by a nine-person board of trustees. With few guidelines, the board is setting up its rules and procedures for management. Watch for public hearings and listening sessions around the area as the board collects ideas from the public. In addition, the Park Service and Forest Service must discuss the status of the upper watersheds of Bandelier. A delicate task is ahead for Dennis to try to acquire 6,200 acres of headwaters of the major canyons in Bandelier.

The fire burned Bandelier's credibility as well as the trees. A serious question is that of the future of prescribed fire. It could well be a victim of increasingly stifling regulations so that nothing can be done. Unfortunately, there is no other reasonable way to restore and maintain forest health. Despite the massive destruction of the Cerro Grande Fire, areas of our forests still are densely overgrown. Dennis' path forward is strewn with delicate tightrope balancing acts.



It is too soon to tell what effect the fire will have on the membership of the Friends. We've received many expressions of sympathy and support, with only one emphatic cancellation. We continue to express our love for the canyons, mesas, ruins, wildlife, and plants—the things we always treasured about the park. We can't do anything without you, our faithful friends. We sincerely hope that you will stick with us through good times and bad.

These certainly are interesting times.

Dorothy Hoard
President, Board of Trustees



FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

Financial Statement 2000

We granted \$14,400 to Bandelier for 2000, but the rangers weren't able to spend it all because of time commitments for fire-related activities. In addition to the \$3,476.76 shown below, we disbursed \$2,425.75 more after December 31, which will show in our 2001 statement. Our total aid for 2000 was \$5,902.51.

The Board prides itself on keeping our own expenses as low as possible. Our overall 13-year administrative expense average is 5.2% of expenditures, mostly spent on postage and paper. Los Alamos National Bank has been a BIG help in keeping our expenses low. Be sure to tell them THANKS when you go in. Now, we welcome and thank First State Bank for their help in reproducing our newsletter.

**FRIENDS OF BANDELIER ANNUAL
FINANCIAL REPORT**
January 1, 2000—December 31, 2000

Balance Forward as of December 31, 1999:	
General Fund	9,441.44
Major Purchase Fund	<u>13,289.14</u>
TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD	22,730.58
Income:	
Contributions	12,535.00
Proceeds	732.50
General Fund Interest	456.19
Major Purchase Fund Interest	<u>696.35</u>
TOTAL INCOME	14,420.04
Disbursements - Bandelier National Monument:	
Butterfly Research	2,500.00
Coffee with a Ranger Program	186.76
Cultural Awareness Crafts Demonstrations	500.00
Purchase of Crafts from Folk Artists	90.00
Photo Developing	<u>200.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	3,476.76
Expenses - Friends of Bandelier:	
Advertisement	141.07
Bulk Mailing Permit Renewal	100.00
Corporate By-Laws Change Fee	10.00
Corporate Report Filing Fee	10.00
Internet Service Routing Fees	30.00
Postage (deposit held by Post Office)	150.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	485.07
Net Income:	
General Fund	18,203.30
Major Purchase Fund	<u>14,985.49</u>
TOTAL NET INCOME	(Cash Balance as of December 31, 2000) <u>\$33,188.79</u>

Friends of Bandelier Projects	1988 - 2000
Archaeological	
Surveys, excavations, equipment,	\$46,947.09
Studies, publications, photos	14,585.00
Soc. Am. Archaeology meeting	1,078.00
Interpretation	
Museum sculptures	\$10,800.00
Parking lot attendants	6,456.35
Supplies, shipping, training	4,539.88
Desk, pottery, freezer	4,276.00
Ranger meeting, membership	1,490.00
Resource Management	
GPS units and supplies	\$10,847.00
GIS technician, tapes	7,310.00
Video camera, microscope	2,750.00
Emergency trauma kit	414.95
Cultural Awareness	
Pueblo Crafts Demonstrations	\$10,471.60
Crafts purchases	1,660.00
Ecological	
Greenhouse facility supplies	\$5,000.00
Pinyon-juniper restoration study	4,800.00
Ecological technician	4,000.00
Butterfly survey	2,500.00
Handicapped	
Campsite Upgrades	\$2,100.00
Handicapped Ramp	1,625.74
Campground Doorknobs	1,500.08
Wheelchair	640.00
Telephone Device for the Deaf	443.30
Braille Labels for Touch Table	106.50
Social Events	
Coffee-with-a-Ranger	\$2,051.75
VIP Party, receptions	1,001.57
GRAND TOTAL	\$149,394.81



In Memorium
For his wife, Catie
Randi Hart

In Memorium
For Jeff Weaver
Dick and Judy Opsahl, Dorothy Hoard

In Memorium
For her mother, Rosalie Goetz
Dorothy Hoard

FRIENDS OF BANDELIER

Membership

2000

OUT OF STATE

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CAROLYN SMITH
JAMES & LINDA SMITH
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DR CHARLES MITCHELL
SAMUEL SEEMAN
RON GOLDWYN
ELAINE & PETER LYONS
NANCY KOPF
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FITZGIBBON

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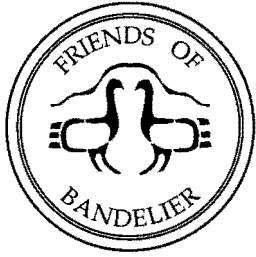
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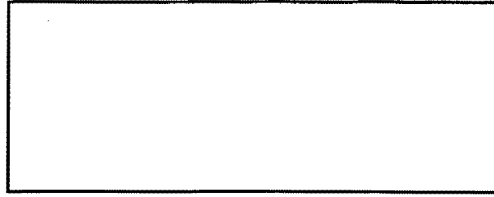
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ANNUAL REPORT 2000

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