

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument One Year Anniversary of Dedication Celebration at Dripping Springs Natural Area

May 16, 2015

8:00 Bird Walk: Meet at the La Cueva Trailhead for a bird walk with CJ Goin from the Mesilla Valley Audobon Society. This will be about an hour in length with an easy hike/walk covering about a mile. Please bring binoculars if you have them, if not we have binoculars we will lend out. This is an easy to moderate hike.

9:00 Living History Hike: Meet the Hermit at the La Cueva Group Use Area for a presentation and a hike a mile up to his old home in La Cueva where one night on the 17th of April 1869 he met a mysterious end. This will be about an hour and a half in length hiking on a developed trail. This is an easy to moderate hike. Scott Green, Education Coordinator with the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, will be portraying the Hermit.

10:00 Guided Historical Hike: Meet at the Dripping Springs Visitor Center for a hike up Dripping Springs Trail ending at the ruins of the Van Patten Mountain Camp and Boyd's Sanatorium. This will be a three mile hike and should take about two hours. The trail is developed and it gains about eight hundred feet in elevation. It is moderately strenuous. Led by McKinney Briske and Eileen Davis.

11:00 Geology Talk: Join Keith Davis at the visitor center for a presentation on the geology of the Organ Mountains and surrounding area. This will be about an hour in length.

12:30 Birthday Celebration: Join is at the Visitor Center for a 15 year anniversary celebration of the National Conservation Lands. There will be cake provided by Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks NM. There will also be hands-on activities for children.

In celebration of the monument - day use fees will be waived at both Dripping Springs Natural Area and Aguirre Spring Campground on May 16 and 17, 2015. This is a part of a week long celebration with many community partners. For a complete listing of the activities of OMDP Anniversary week, go to locallascruces.com/omdpweek.

The Dripping Springs Natural Area is located 10 miles east of Las Cruces, on the west side of the Organ Mountains. From Exit 1 on Interstate 25, take University Avenue/Dripping Springs Road to the end where there is a parking lot. For further information, call McKinney Briske at BLM's office at 575-525-4334.

