



# Get A GRIP

PROMOTING HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES BY  
PROTECTING OUR  
ENVIRONMENT SINCE 1998

► **Responsible Mining** ► **Healthy Rivers** ► **Community Planning** ► **Aquifer Protection** ► **Environmental Health** ► **Sustainability**



## GRIP EXPANDS BORDER ACTIVITY

by Allyson Siwik, Executive Director

Living in southwestern New Mexico, we are acutely aware of our neighbors to the south. The border region is a dynamic place, linked economically, culturally, and through our environment and natural resources. Because our air, water and ecological systems don't have a passport, Southwestern New Mexico and northwest Chihuahua share threatened groundwater resources for drinking water and agricultural irrigation, the region's air quality is impacted by activities on both sides of the border while the ecologically important Chihuahuan Desert grassland ecosystem is imperiled throughout Mexico and the southwestern U.S.

GRIP plays an important role in efforts to find binational solutions to these transboundary problems through its participation in the Environmental Protection Agency's Border 2012 Program and as a member of the President's Good Neighbor Environmental Board.

SEE *BORDER* ON PAGE 7

## MEET REGINA WILLIS GRIP'S FIRST VISTA EMPLOYEE

by Richard Mahler, Newsletter Editor

A fresh new face has appeared at the GRIP office on Cooper Street. It belongs to Regina Willis, who joined the staff in February for a one-year assignment through the federally-funded VISTA program. (Other VISTA members will be assigned to GRIP in 2011 and 2012.) Regina, who hails from the Northeast, admits that our climate takes some getting used to. "My skin has become very dry," she laughs, rubbing hands together. "But I do like it here."

This is actually Regina's second stay in New Mexico. During the summer of 2008, she assisted Cornell biologist Mike Booth in a field study of native fish in the upper Gila River watershed. This time around she is working with GRIP and its partners in laying groundwork for clean-up of mine tailings along San Vicente Creek, conducting water-quality testing of that stream, developing a GIS map of the Silver City watershed, writing grants, and participating in various outreach and education activities, including Earth Day and the Gila River Festival. Partners in these initiatives include the Town of Silver City, Grant County Trails Committee, NM Environment Department/Surface Water Quality Bureau, and BAG/WAAG.



"My bachelor's degree [from Binghamton State University of New York] is in environmental studies," says Regina, who grew up near the Hudson River in Cossackie, NY. "I recently completed a 10-month outreach program on the Hudson, which included assignments both on and off the river."

Before her university graduation in 2008, Regina developed an interest in algae that expanded to include watersheds, wetlands, and water cycles. Since coming to the West, she has become intrigued by "legacy mines," a term generally applied to mining operations conducted before 1977 and thus not subject to more stringent subsequent clean-up legislation. Regina will be pursuing all of these interests while at GRIP, including gathering updated information about natural springs and legacy mines in the Silver City area. Hired through the Durango-based Western Hardrock Watershed Team, Regina already is involved in efforts that seek to remediate the discharge of old mine wastes into San Vicente Creek from a processor's tailings pile immediately adjacent to the streambed. As this issue went to press, GRIP awaited results of an analysis of water quality at the point where tailings leach into the creek.

"This site was studied about 20 years ago and the public risk from [mining waste] was then considered to be low," Regina points out. "But a lot has changed since then," she notes, "including addition of the recently completed River Walk and the Outdoor Classroom."

Please come and meet Regina Willis at the GRIP Open House on Apr. 6, 4-6pm.



## Gila Resources Information Project

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### Mission Statement

Recognizing that human and environmental systems are inseparable and interdependent, Gila Resources Information Project pursues two goals: to protect and nurture human communities by safeguarding the natural resources that sustain us all; and to safeguard natural resources by facilitating informed public participation in resource use decisions.

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GRIP was founded in 1997. It is supported by foundation grants and individual donations. Special gratitude for ongoing support is owed to the McCune Charitable Foundation of Santa Fe.

To become a member and receive a copy of Get A GRIP, a minimum donation of \$10.00 is appreciated. GRIP is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization; your contribution is tax-deductible.

## RECONNECT TO LAND AND SELF WITH ERICA WHEELER

Award-winning singer-songwriter Erica Wheeler will offer her Soulful Landscape creative writing workshop, organized, and co-sponsored by GRIP, on Saturday, April 17, from 9am to noon, at Silver City's Church of Harmony, 609 N. Alabama St. (She will be performing at 7:30 the previous evening at the Silco Theater in downtown Silver City, in a folk series concert sponsored by the Mimbres Region Arts Council.)

In addition to her musical talents, Erica is an educator, conservation advocate, and public speaker. Her workshops combine a career grounded in the arts with Erica's life-long interest in natural and cultural history.

The fee for the Soulful Landscape workshop is \$15 and it is open to both writers and non-writers with any level of experience. According to Erica, the event may "empower the creative writer within" and help participants "generate fresh metaphors for use in songs, stories, poems, essays, and...leave with a renewed connection to your self and the places that have meaning to you."

Erica has released six critically-acclaimed CDs, the latest of which is Good Summer Rain, sponsored in part by The Trust for Public Land. Learn more at [www.ericawheeler.com](http://www.ericawheeler.com). Information about the upcoming workshop is available by contacting GRIP.

## GCC SEEKS SUMMER VISTA INTERN

Are you a college student or a recent grad looking to gain professional experience this summer? Are you interested in educating our community about the importance of the Gila River, New Mexico's last free-flowing river? GCC is seeking applicants for one 10-week, full-time summer VISTA internship. The VISTA intern will receive payment of \$2000 and an educational stipend of \$1000. The intern will work with GCC staff on educational projects related to the annual Gila River Festival. For more information or to request an application, please call Allyson at 538.8078 or [info@gilaconservation.org](mailto:info@gilaconservation.org)

## GET A "GREEN" GRIP

The printing and distribution of *GetAGrip* costs money, takes time, and consumes natural resources. We now offer an electronic version of our newsletter via-mail to those who are interested. (The newsletters are also always posted on our website, [www.gilaresources.info/newsletters.shtml](http://www.gilaresources.info/newsletters.shtml).) The content is exactly the same as the print version, but you will help us save postage, paper, and labor while receiving time-sensitive information that much faster. If you would like to make the switch, please let us know. Phone in your request at 538.8078, or send an e-mail message to [grip@gilaresources.info](mailto:grip@gilaresources.info). Thank you!



## RECYCLE YOUR E-WASTE APR. 24

All area residents and small businesses are strongly encouraged to take full advantage of Silver City's First Annual Electronic Waste Collection Event from 10am to 2pm at the Stone-McGee parking lot next to Penny Park on Grant Street, between 13th and Highway 180 West, near Pizza Hut.

Accepted items will include desktop and laptop computers, TVs, monitors, keyboard, mice, phones, radios, CD players, VCRs, DVD players, modems, scanners, batteries, and other gadgets. A \$10 donation is requested for the processing of old-style TVs and CRTs, which contain large amounts of lead and glass. Information, 534.4841 or [scearthday@gmail.com](mailto:scearthday@gmail.com).

# ARIZONA SETTLEMENTS ACT UPDATE

## STAKEHOLDERS GROUP CONTINUES TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROJECTS

by Allyson Siwik, Executive Director

In continuing discussions regarding how to utilize federal subsidy dollars and possibly Gila River water under the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA), stakeholders met in December, February, and March in order to review and discuss submitted projects based on eight evaluation criteria. Among others, the latter include compliance with the AWSA, whether the project meets a water supply demand, economic viability, and political and public acceptance.

The Gila Conservation Coalition submitted a set of projects for consideration that can meet the region's future water supply while maintaining the instream flow of the Gila River. These non-diversion alternatives, such as municipal and agricultural conservation and sustainable groundwater development, meet the region's needs at lowest cost and keep the Gila River intact. The strategies range in cost from \$11-\$360 per acre-foot for municipal conservation, \$517 per acre-foot for drip irrigation, and \$98-\$274 per acre-foot for sustainable groundwater development. These solutions compare to tens of thousands of dollars per acre-foot for construction of a Gila River diversion project.

During these stakeholder meetings, there was much agreement on three broad categories of projects, including agricultural and municipal conservation, infrastructure improvements, and watershed restoration. The Gila Basin Irrigation Commission was the only entity that submitted a project proposing construction of a Gila River diversion and offstream storage facility. There were also a couple of proposals for mainstem dams on the Gila. See [www.awsaplanning.com](http://www.awsaplanning.com) for more detailed project descriptions.

The next step in the process will be to complete a water needs assessment. A demand study, a key component of the analysis, is expected to be completed by June 30 and, in combination with the supply information, will allow for assessment of the region's future water needs. Once a water needs assessment is in hand, stakeholders will be able to match up projects with identified needs throughout the four-county area. These project ideas can then be defined in more detail and evaluated according to the Stakeholder's evaluation criteria.

Over the course of the next year, the planning process will compare

projects and strategies and screen them to a shortened list to be assessed in more detail. After more in-depth analysis, the group will identify a final set of projects and strategies that will be moved forward to the Interstate Stream Commission and New Mexico governor for consideration. The Stakeholders Group will strive for consensus in its recommendations to the ISC.

The next meeting of the AWSA Stakeholders Group is scheduled for 9 am, April 27, at the Grant County Administration Building in Silver City.



*"[We] were much fatigued by the difficulty of getting through the high grass that covered the heavily timbered bottom."*

— trapper James Ohio Pattie, describing his party's first 1824 descent into the Gila River valley

## GILA RIVER FESTIVAL PLANNING UNDERWAY

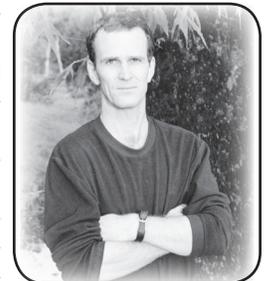
GRIP, the Gila Conservation Coalition, the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, Western Institute for Lifelong Learning, Gila Conservation Education Center, SWNM Audubon Society and partners have begun planning for the sixth annual Gila River Festival. To be held September 16 – 19, this year's theme is "Celebrating the Gila's Web of Life" and will focus on Gila River biodiversity and conservation. If you'd like to be a presenter at this year's festival or want to join the planning committee, please contact Donna Stevens, Gila River Festival coordinator at 575-590-5698. The festival planning committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month. For information about the Gila River Festival, check out [www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org) or call 575 538.8078.

Events associated with last year's festival attracted more than 700 attendees over four days, highlighted by commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Aldo Leopold's legacy in the Southwest. In 1921, Leopold proposed establishment of what became the first federally designated wilderness, later created within the Gila National Forest.

### MICHAEL BERMAN FUNDRAISER PHOTO

Supporters of GRIP are being offered a rare opportunity this fall to support the organization while obtaining a remarkable piece of photographic art. As an adjunct to the Gila River Festival, board member Michael

Berman is donating proceeds from a special print sale of images he has captured in the border region. (Details to be announced.) Berman, a photographer whose



work specializes in natural features near the U.S.-Mexico border, is based in the Mimbres Valley but travels widely throughout the backcountry of the American Southwest and northwestern Mexico.

SEE Michael Berman ON PG. 4

**MICHAEL BERMAN (CONT'D. FROM P. 3)**

"Most people approach the [desert] with an idea of what the landscape will be," Berman explained in an interview. "The idea I have been working with is to show what is actually there. ...What I really like to do is look at things." His recent work on the Southwestern grasslands has been supported in part through receipt in 2008 of a prestigious Guggenheim fellowship. Last fall, some of the resultant images appeared in one of Berman's several collaborations with Arizona writer Charles Bowden under the title, *Trinity*.

Linda Brewer, whose Blue Dome Gallery exhibits Berman's work in Silver City, considers the photographer's images to be "beautifully crafted and well thought out, with great depth of field. He's a master at what he does." Allyson Siwik, GRIP's executive director, has praised Berman for "bridging the gaps between art, conservation, and the environment."

In 1998 Berman was one of three founding board members of GRIP, which subsequently challenged longstanding mining practices and engaged in actions aimed at preserving threatened resources. "We became a voice that was significant," Berman recalls, noting that few spoke in defense of local ecology 12 years ago. With the emergence of GRIP antagonists "could no longer say, 'Those [environmentalists] are people from the outside, because we lived here, too.'" Today, he feels, there is growing regional awareness that residents of all persuasions must work together to reach a workable consensus on resource



*"JANOS." COURTESY MICHAEL BERMAN, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED*

management. "How we allow our landscape to have some integrity as a natural system is really the larger question for everyone."

Besides the deserts of the southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico, Berman is drawn to the Gila River watershed and he loves to make extended treks there. "The Gila is one of the more unique places on the planet," he believes, "and one of its healthiest ecosystems." The area's forests, lands, and waterways, Berman believes, are "in an amazing recovery cycle that you don't see anywhere else. [But] I rarely manage to do photographs there because I'd personally rather simply go hiking and look at stuff."

Berman's photographs are included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Amon Carter Museum, and the Museum of New Mexico. He has received painting fellowships from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Wurlitzer Foundation. His installations, photographs, and paintings have been reviewed in *Art in America* and exhibited throughout the country. Learn more and see additional images at Berman's [www.fragmentedimages.com](http://www.fragmentedimages.com).



*Reconnect with the Land. Reconnect with Yourself.*

**Saturday, April 17; 9 am—noon**  
**Church of What's Happening**  
**609 North Alabama St.**  
**WORKSHOP FEE—\$15**

**Find your stories of place and belonging. Generate fresh metaphors for use in songs, stories, poems, essays and more. Leave with a renewed connection to yourself and the places that have meaning to you.**  
**For writers and non-writers alike. All levels of experience welcome.**

**Reserve your space by calling 538-8078 or [grip@gilaresources.info](mailto:grip@gilaresources.info)**

***Sponsored by:***



Gila Resources Information Project  
*Promoting healthy communities by protecting our environment since 1990*

**Trails and Open Space Fund**



**San Vicente Farms**

*A Green Cluster Housing Community*



**Erica Wheeler—award-winning singer/songwriter, educator, conservation advocate**  
[www.ericawheeler.com](http://www.ericawheeler.com)

## OUR BEST WISHES TO MARYA GENDRON

After more than five years of working with GRIP on-site as well as via telecommuting from Portland, OR, Marya Gendron is now pursuing exciting projects with the Little White Salmon Biodiversity Reserve in Hood River, WA. Marya fulfilled a critical role with GRIP and the Gila Conservation Coalition, maintaining the GRIP, GCC, and Viva Verde websites, designing all of our promotional materials, and managing electronic communications. It was a big job that she performed effectively despite the distance between us. We benefited greatly from Marya's design talents which gave our materials creative flair as well as professional sensibility. We appreciate her dedication and commitment to GRIP's mission, and we thank her for her amazingly hard work on behalf of our community.

Marya is working for World Steward, a land-based organization committed to a collaborative, place-based, systems-aware, learn-by-doing approach to education. She will be involved with their Neighborwood Program, the BigSmall Network, and the Highland Center for the Art and Science of Sustainable Culture. She will be developing a website for the group's Little White Salmon Biodiversity Reserve, collaborating with a group of scientist co-chairs, including forest pathologists and mycologists who oversee the management of the reserve. Marya will also be coordinating publicity and project management for the Neighborwoods Program which restores the region's oak forests through tree thinning to prevent catastrophic wildfire and in turn sells cordwood to support the not-for-profit wildlife refuge and donates fuel wood to seniors and families in need.

Marya has learned over the years to support her nonprofit work by supplementing it with other diverse income streams, as she builds on a broad skill base. She is owner and principal designer for a graphic design company, Emerge Media Arts ([www.emergemedia.net](http://www.emergemedia.net)), which has a client and referral base consisting of progressive organizations that includes companies in New Mexico. A licensed massage therapist, Marya is also pursuing training in Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy through Michael Shea.

Best of luck, Marya!  
We will miss you!



Nick McCormick and Marya Gendron near their home on the Little White Salmon Biodiversity Reserve in the Pacific Northwest.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interested in contributing to your community and helping worthy local non-profit organizations? GRIP and GCC are offering a number of volunteer opportunities, including office and event-related tasks as well as assistance in organizing and presenting this September's four-day Gila River Festival. For information, please contact GRIP at 575.538.8078 or [grip@gilaresources.info](mailto:grip@gilaresources.info). You can stay informed of upcoming activities through [www.gilaresources.info](http://www.gilaresources.info), [www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org), or [www.vivaverdenm.com](http://www.vivaverdenm.com)

*MARK YOUR CALENDAR:  
6TH ANNUAL GILA RIVER  
FESTIVAL  
SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH 19,  
2010*

### Please Renew Your GRIP Membership

If you're already a member, you'll receive a renewal notice by mail. Please help us continue our efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of our communities, protect the Gila River and its watershed, and to safeguard our regional water supply. With your help we can continue to improve our lives and those of our children and grandchildren to come. You can make a secure on-line donation at [www.gilaresources.info](http://www.gilaresources.info).

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEGISLATION PASSES IN NM LEGISLATURE

by Allyson Siwik, GRIP Executive Director

Although the 2010 New Mexico state legislative session was marked by battles over a strained budget, there was one piece of legislation that received broad support. SB200, Energy Efficient Public Building Standards, passed the House unanimously and the Senate by a 37-to-2 vote and was signed by Governor Richardson on March 9. Spearheaded by the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter and supported by the Environmental Alliance of New Mexico, of which GRIP is a member, the bill will require that all public buildings meet EPA's Energy Star requirements, achieving 25% to 30% reductions in energy use over the 30 to 40 year life cycles of such buildings. This bill will save the public money in ongoing operations of public buildings and help to reduce New Mexico carbon emissions that cause climate change.

Our thanks to those of you who made supportive phone calls to legislators this session on two key pieces of legislation, SB186 and HB259. Signed by Governor Richardson, the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (SB186) will allow the state to acquire conservation easements to protect important conservation-sensitive areas and wildlife habitat. Introduced by Speaker Ben Lujan and supported by Senator Howie Morales, the bill establishes a funding mechanism for the state to receive federal and other sources of funding for purchase of easements as well as to conduct restoration projects. The fund also received a \$5-million appropriation during the legislative session. By using conservation easements, the state may now purchase "development rights" from landowners that will prevent future development from occurring on their land. The easement remains in place even if the land is subsequently sold or inherited.

Narrowly defeated in the House by a vote of 32 to 34, the measure entitled Private Right of Action to Enforce Environmental Statutes (HB259) would have amended the Environmental Improvement Act, the Water Quality Act and the Oil and Gas Act to allow private citizens to enforce the pollution provisions of those statutes. At a time when our state's budgets are tight and New Mexico agencies have limited resources to enforce our existing environmental laws, regulations, and permits, this bill would have provided citizens with an important tool for cleaning up their own neighborhoods. Our thanks to all of you

who followed through on GRIP's action alert and called representatives Rudy Martinez and Andy Nuñez. In the end, Representative Martinez voted for bill passage, while Representative Nuñez voted against it.

These and all other bills can be viewed at the New Mexico Legislature website at [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov).

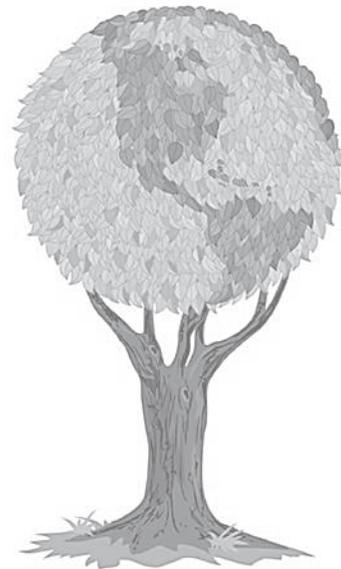


## 40th Anniversary of *Earth Day*

@ Penny Park  
Saturday, April 24th, 10 am—2pm

Join local organizations and businesses for a day of fun at our community built park!

- Tree planting with memories of past Earth Days
- Time capsule with notes from any and all
- 1st annual electronic waste collection and recycling drive
- Enjoy dance performances, music, drumming, litterbug puppet making, Earth Day trivial pursuit raffle
- Purchase your plants: vegetable, herbal and native



Organized by: Allyson Siwik, Carolyn Smith, Dianna Wynn, Mirel Manning, Regina Willis, Terry Timme and Tricia Hurley

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
call 538-8078 or [scearthday@gmail.com](mailto:scearthday@gmail.com)

Think globally & act locally by carpooling, biking or walking to Penny Park

Sponsored by:

Town of Silver City & Gila Resources Information Project



Since the 1983 signing of the La Paz Agreement, the U.S. and Mexico have cooperated on improving the quality of the environment in the border region. GRIP has been actively involved in the New Mexico-Chihuahua Rural Task Force, a binational forum that facilitates environmental priority setting and implementation of projects to meet Border 2012 goals in southwestern New Mexico-northwestern Chihuahua. GRIP's Executive Director, Allyson Siwik, serves as the U.S. Co-leader of the task force. Over the past five years the Task Force has completed an inventory of scrap tire piles and cleaned up 6,000 scrap tires from the region; developed an inventory of paved/unpaved roads and disturbed land that cause particulate matter air quality problems in Columbus-Palomas; developed recommendations for dust control; provided workshops on alternatives for dust control and scrap tire management and disposal; established a binational water dialogue on Mimbres Basin groundwater issues; in partnership with NMSU created interactive maps of environmental quality data for the region; held a binational VIP water tour to identify and discuss shared water problems in the region; provided on-going support for environmental fairs; and in partnership with the Gila Conservation Education Center created environmental education (EE) trunks for each of the three priority environmental problems in the region and trained teachers to deliver the EE curricula in primary and secondary schools throughout the task force region.

The Border 2012 Program recently awarded GRIP a grant to translate the Viva Verde Guide into Spanish and develop green business and energy efficiency resources for border communities in southwestern New Mexico. In collaboration with the Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico and the new Silver City/Grant County Office of Sustainability, the project will also conduct home energy audits and basic weatherization for low-income residences in Columbus, Deming and Lordsburg. Underemployed and unemployed youth from these communities will be selected to participate in a training program to conduct the audits and weatherization and will gain valuable skills and experience that can be used to obtain a job in the green workforce. This project will begin in late spring/early summer.

GRIP's Executive Director Allyson Siwik, has also served for two years



Gila River at the Mogollon Box. (Richard Mahler photo)

on the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, an independent, non-partisan advisory committee that provides advice to the President and Congress on U.S.-Mexico border environmental and infrastructure issues. Due out in June, the Board's 13th report will discuss issues for immediate priority action that need to be addressed by the Obama administration in order to preserve and improve quality of life for border residents, such as provision of fresh water for human populations and for ecosystem protection; contamination of ground and surface sources of water; and contamination of air basins, especially along transportation corridors, at ports of entry, in binational border urban areas, and in some rural areas.

## GNEB ADVISES PRESIDENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF BORDER FENCE

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board released an advice letter to the Obama administration in December that offered a list of recommendations to mitigate environmental impacts from border fence infrastructure projects. "While we recognize," the letter stated, "that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was mandated by Congress to rapidly build the border fence, and that the border fence has had some positive outcomes and is appropriate in targeted areas, the construction has caused negative impacts to natural and cultural resources." Although construction of Normandy-style fencing in New Mexico's Bootheel was cited as a positive outcome from the fence program, since it has impeded vehicle traffic while also allowing wildlife to cross the fence, the Board described a range of outcomes from border fence design, construction and maintenance that negatively impacted natural resources, such as loss of critical habitat for important species, fragmentation of wildlife corridors, erosion, and flooding, as well as damage to cultural resources and sacred sites.

The Board provided 12 recommendations to the administration, including a requirement that all border security infrastructure projects fully comply with the National Environmental Policy Act; monitor the entire fence and supporting infrastructure for effects resulting from its construction and develop actions to modify, redesign, or mitigate the negative outcomes realized or anticipated by the existing construction; and fully incorporate adequate environmental review, public participation, and scientific analysis into the design and implementation of all border security infrastructure projects. To read the advice letter in full, visit [http://www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb/pdf/2009\\_1202\\_advise\\_letter.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb/pdf/2009_1202_advise_letter.pdf).



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*Change service requested. Printed on recycled paper*

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**APRIL 6 - Faux Finishes for Walls: Introduction to Natural Finishes** - 10am to 2pm; hands-on class at Silver City's Material Good with Elli Sorenson teaching techniques that use clay paints, latex paints, and glazes. Registration required; \$25 fee plus materials to keep. Details at [www.materialgood.com](http://www.materialgood.com).

**APRIL 6 - Open House at the GRIP Office** - 4pm to 6pm; learn more about GRIP and meet our new VISTA member, Regina Willis. Hear details about GRIP's newest project: to clean up the tailings along San Vicente Creek and support redevelopment of the San Vicente open-space corridor.

**APRIL 11 - Growing in the Southwest** - 10am to 3pm; workshop covering drylands gardening basics, selection, design, and seed starting. Free and open to the public, but space is limited and registration required. Lunch provided. Register or get info via 388.3343 or [martha@guadalupemontessori.com](mailto:martha@guadalupemontessori.com).

**APRIL 17 - The Soulful Landscape: A Writing Workshop with Singer/Songwriter Erica Wheeler** - 9am to 12pm. Cost is \$15; sponsored by GRIP, Esperanza Hills, Trails and Open Spaces Fund, and San Vicente Farms. Church of What's Happening, 609 N. Alabama St., Silver City.

**APRIL 24 - Silver City Earth Day Celebration at Penny Park** - 10am to 2pm; kids' hands-on activities, native plant sales, music, food, and entertainment, and collection of recyclables, including electronic waste. Vendors needed: contact Carolyn Smith at 575.388.2343.

**APRIL 27 - Southwest NM Green Chamber of Commerce** - 9am to 10:30am; coffee, pastries, and discussion of latest initiatives, including "buy local" campaign. Shevek & Company, Silver City.

**APRIL 27 - AWSA Stakeholders Meeting** - 9am; Grant County Administration Building, Silver City.