

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

**GENERAL MEETING - JANUARY 13, 2000**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE**

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\*\*\*\*JANUARY PROGRAM\*\*\*\*\***

Leon Fisher, Wildlife Program Leader for the Southwest Region of the US Forest Service will be speaking to us about ice fishing. Leon has been an avid ice fisherman for several years and will discuss techniques and show us some of his ice fishing equipment..

In addition, the NM Department of Game and Fish Chief of Fisheries, Jack Kelly will be present. He has some interesting and maybe tragic information about Whirling Disease and the potential impacts to New Mexico fisheries resources.

This promises to be a exceptional program. You can expect to be entertained and educated about fish and winter fishing in New Mexico

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting and holiday party was held on Thursday, December 9th. The annual election was held and the following people were elected for the 2000.

**President:** Harold F. Olson  
**Vice President:** Richard Becker  
**Secretary:** Cecil Haas  
**Treasurer:** Andy Iskra

### Board of Directors:

Bill Zeedyk	Jean Olson
Chris Chadwick	Jim Hubert
Dennis Muirhead	Richard Leonard
Larry Dwyer	Dale Hall

In addition, Past President Cliff Mendel is automatically a board member.

Andrea Linderoth-Hummel and Beverly DeGruyter presented AWF with a Certificate of Appreciation from the New Mexico Riparian Council for our work projects in riparian areas.

The holiday party was a success as usual with plenty of good food, including several excellent dishes with meat from wildlife. After dinner, Richard Becker pointed out that this is the 50th anniversary of Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*. A show of hands indicated that almost everyone in the audience had read this wonderful book and some had read it multiple times. Richard showed us pages from a book *Thinking Like a Mountain*, by Susan Flader, which included a copy of a 1917 newsletter, *Pinecone*, of the Albuquerque Game Protective Association (one of two names this organization had before it became AWF). This was followed in the book by a copy of a note to Leopold from President Theodore Roosevelt (1904-1908) after reading the GPA newsletter and commending Leopold and the GPA for its programs to protect wildlife. If you recall, many wildlife species were badly depleted at this time and Roosevelt, and of course Leopold, were trying to rectify the situation.

## THANK YOU

I want to thank the members who have agreed to run for the Officers and Board of AWF for the year 2000. We have two new board members, Jean Olson and Richard Leonard and a new President, Harold F. Olson. I imagine most of you know Harold, but for those of you who do not, he was on the staff of New Mexico Game & Fish from 1959 to 1978 when he became of the department, a position which he held until his retirement from the department in 1988. Harold's administration of the department was noteworthy for its emphasis on the wildlife resource and service to hunters and anglers. He always stood up for his subordinates when there was a controversy. After retirement from Game and Fish, he worked for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation until 1997. We are indeed fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and capable president.  
Cliff Mendel, Past President

## **ELK, DEER MONITORED FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

*NM Department of Game and Fish news release*

**SANTA FE, N.M.** New Mexico has joined the ranks of western states monitoring their deer and elk herds for chronic wasting disease, one of a family of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

Most members of the Western Wildlife Health Cooperative are checking for the disease and sending brain tissues to the Wyoming Wildlife Laboratory. Chronic wasting disease has been found in captive and free-ranging deer and elk in Colorado, Wyoming and other states, but never documented in New Mexico.

New Mexico Game and Fish biologists are collecting brain samples from up to 125 deer and elk this year, said Darrel Weybright, big game supervisor for New Mexico's Division of Wildlife. Hunters, game processors and taxidermists are being contacted for tissue samples, he said and samples should be collected within 24 hours of each animal's death for the most reliable results.

"We've never had a confirmed case of this in New Mexico," Weybright said, "and transmission from an animal to a human has never been documented. All tests to date show the disease cannot be transmitted from deer or elk to livestock.

"Our participation in this study is an effort to document how widespread chronic wasting disease is and whether or not it's affecting our deer and elk herds," Weybright said.

Chronic wasting disease is neither a virus nor a bacteria, however infected brain tissue does accumulate protease-resistant prion proteins. The diseases are called spongiforms because brain tissue, when examined under a microscope, exhibits a sponge-like degeneration.

Humans and livestock have their own forms of spongiforms. Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, kuru and Gerstmann-Straussler syndrome are three very rare spongiforms that occur in humans. In the 1980s, British cattle became sick with "mad cow disease" and sheep and goats long have suffered from scrapie, another spongiform.

Infected animals appear to slowly waste away. They may seem to drink water excessively, stumble and tremble. Death is a certainty. Crowded conditions, such as research facilities, game farms or deer or elk "feeders", indicate where the disease is most prevalent in Colorado and Wyoming.

"We have no suspicions that chronic wasting disease exists in New Mexico," Weybright said, "but until a sufficient number of samples have been taken and analyzed hunters are encouraged to observe the following precautions:

- Do not shoot deer or elk that exhibit strange or sickly behavior. Report those animals to the closest Department of Game and Fish office.
- Wear protective latex or rubber gloves when field dressing your animal.
- Avoid contact with the brain or spinal cord of your animal. If you do contact the brain while removing the antlers or skullcap, thoroughly clean your hands and

cutting tools.

- Do not eat deer or elk brains or spinal cords. There also is evidence the disease agent may accumulate in eyes, spleens and lymph nodes.

## **NEW NATIONAL FOREST ROADS**

In October of 1999, President Clinton directed the US Forest Service to develop a policy to protect roadless areas in the Forests. The Service has held a number of hearings on the subject, one of them in Albuquerque on the 16th of November. At that meeting, AWF presented a statement endorsing the initiative. There were many groups and individuals making presentations at the meeting and all but a few supported the initiative.

AWF has followed up with a letter to the Forest Service reinforcing our meeting statement. There is a general consensus that the high density of roads in many areas of publicly owned wildlands is one of several major contributors to the low population of mule deer in most of the Rocky Mountain region. It also contributes to erosion, silting of rivers and streams and invasion of noxious weeds. Our letter the USFS also states that we regard the low level of financial support for road maintenance as a major contributor to the erosion and sedimentation problem.

### **NOTE:**

Your membership renewal date is identified on the address label. If needed, please use the attached application form to renew your membership. If your membership is current, please use the form to recruit a neighbor and/or friend to become a member.

---

## **CALENDAR**

**January 10, 2000**

**January 13, 2000**

**February 10, 2000**

**Board meeting**

**General meeting**

**General meeting**

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**

**General Meeting – February 10, 2000**

**7:00 P.M.**

Bear Canyon Senior Center – 4645 Pitt NE

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro

Left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\*\*\*\*FEBRUARY PROGRAM\*\*\*\*\***

Happy New Year to all friends and members of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Wildlife Federation (AWF). We have started the new year with many activities. Our first program was an excellent kick off for our Chapter. Exciting news about Whirling disease and how to ice fish New Mexico waters were well received topics.

On February 10, 2000 John Peterson, District Ranger for the Jemez District of the Santa Fe National Forest will be our speaker. He will lead a discussion on the Baca Ranch purchase. When the purchase goes through, the Jemez Ranger District will manage the Baca ranch.

John has a video and some exciting thoughts about this future acquisition.

In case you are interested, please write your congressional members to thank them for their support of the Baca Ranch purchase. It would be nice if the purchase was completed prior to the break for elections.

We will also ask the Game and Fish to give us a legislative update. Since the 10<sup>th</sup> is near the end of this 30 day session a lot will be happening during the last few days.

Our March 9, 2000 program is set for another exceptional fishing program. Warm water fisherman and guide at Elephant Butte, Frank Urzetta will be our program. He has slides and other information about Fly Fishing for warm water fish in Southern New Mexico.

We hope to put together a turkey hunting review for our April meeting.

The President and several Board Members have attended meetings about coordinating our efforts to help the Game and Fish with legislation. We hope you all will take a personal interest in watching the legislative reviews.

### WORK PROJECTS

Again in 2000, Bill Zeedyke will lead us on work projects. We are trying to coordinate at least six beginning later this spring.

The New Mexico Riparian Council would like some help with a project on February 5, 2000. The Las Huertas Creek Open Space area is the location. Both Albuquerque and Placitas Open Space and some BLM lands will benefit from this project. All participants should meet at the Homestead Village Shopping Center in Placitas at 9:00 A.M. Take I-25 north, exit 242 and go east on Rt. 165 to the shopping center. Hope to see you there.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

We will have a booth at the Bob Gerding's Outdoor Adventures on February 11, 12 and 13, 2000.

Anyone interested in helping us with the booth can call Harold Olson at 891-0355.

The Legislature may deal with the purchase of Eagle Nest Lake. The state has received a safety report of the dam and it looks good. An appraisal will soon be finished. The Game and Fish lease of Eagle Nest Lake expires in April this year.

This is certainly something we should support. However, the total cost should not come from Game & Fish funds. The trading of the Barker Wildlife area for part of the cost should also be unacceptable. They are in the fishing business and NOT economic development. I believe Game and Fish and local and state governments should share the costs. However, it would be neat if the legislature would appropriate the entire amount.

Your President and several Board Members continue to be active with other conservation interests. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, (RMEF); Wild Turkey Federation; New Mexico Trout and Ducks Unlimited (DU) are recipients of our efforts. The RMEF banquet is April 1, 2000. Contact Bob Kaup at 299-1515 for tickets. The Wild Turkey volunteers are planning a banquet for May 20, 2000. Contact Richard Becker 255-7156 for more information. There is a westside DU fund raising effort on March 18, 2000. The contact is Dennis Schneider 994-9160.

These groups provide valuable funding assistance for wildlife habitat improvements. In addition, their volunteers help with work projects to help reduce project costs. It is especially gratifying that the AWF members assist with these volunteer efforts. I hope you will support one or more of these groups during this year.

**NOTE:**

Your membership renewal date is identified on the address label. If needed, please use the attached application form to renew your membership. If your membership is current, please use the form to recruit a neighbor and/or friend to become a member.

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234,  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \* (\$25.00)

Name of Person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

Additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Membership\* (\$20.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Includes one NMWF membership

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**  
**General Meeting – March 9, 2000**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Bear Canyon Senior Center – 4645 Pitt NE  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
Left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

## \*\*\*\*\*MARCH PROGRAM\*\*\*\*\*

We have another exciting program for our March 9, 2000 meeting. Frank Urzetta, a professional fishing guide and avid fly fisherman will be our speaker. Frank's topic is Fly Fishing for Warm Water Fish and it is his passion. Imagine, hooking a large stripped bass on a fly rod.

I have hooked large trout with a fly rod but always practice LDCR. That is "long distance catch and release". I never seem to get them close to a net. Larger warm water fish would be a tremendous fly fishing experience.

Our program for April 13, 2000 will be about hunting and calling Turkeys. Bill Zeedyke will host this timely session. Turkey season opens the following Saturday (4-15-00).

If any of you have ideas about future programs, please call Harold Olson 891-0355. It would be especially helpful if you could also provide a name for the future speakers. Thanks.



## WORK PROJECTS

Bill Zeedyke has finalized a work program beginning in April. The dates and locations are as follows:

April 15, 2000 Socorro BLM.

We will be installing a water catchment for Bighorn Sheep on Polvadero Mountain

May 20, 2000 Tijeras Ranger District

A continuation of the David Canyon project

June 17, 2000 Jemez Ranger District

We will work on a riparian protection project

July 15, 2000 Valle Vidal

This is our traditional Carson Forest project in this beautiful setting.

August 19, 2000 Tres Piedras District

Again on the Carson Forest. We will be continuing our work in the Sisneros Park area.

September 16, 2000 Rio Puerco BLM

We have more fencing to remove at Elk Springs.

Meeting time and locations will be provided in future newsletters.

A new group organized in the Albuquerque area will try again to solidify the sporting organization into one strong vocal body. They are the New Mexico Coalition of Hunters and Anglers. It would be nice to have a unified voice for the political world and wildlife management decisions.

We will have more information about this group at future meetings. I hope the Board of Directors will be able to get involved and recommend a course of action for our chapter. We may want to lend our support to this group and I certainly would appreciate the thoughts of all members of our chapter.

A new national coalition of sportsmen is being organized. The Mule Deer Foundation has been asked to provide leadership for this new alliance. It is dedicated to reviving the conservation legacy of Theodore Roosevelt. The "Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance (TRCA) is an affiliation of sportsmen's groups formed "to educate and engage hunters and anglers in fostering our American conservation legacy in working to protect and enhance our wildlife habitat base on our National Forest Systems".

The Mule Deer Foundation, Izaak Walton League of American, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Wildlife Forever and the Wildlife Management Institute are on the TRCA Board of Trustees.

We will be hearing more from the TRCA in the future. They are asking other sportsmen's groups and individuals to join them in their efforts. There are NO membership dues required because they have a significant grant of \$2.3 million from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Most of you know that the Legislature approved money to lease Eagle Nest Lake until a purchase agreement can be reached. The bad news is they said the entire cost of \$4 million was to come from the Game and Fish Department license monies.

Again, it is appropriate for the hunting and fishing license fees to pay for some of the costs. However, it is also appropriate for the local and state governments participate because of the great economic impact that the fishery has for New Mexico.

Maybe we will have a chance to discuss this some more during the special session of the Legislature as they consider budget development.

The following are some upcoming events that might interest you:

March 11, 2000 Wild Turkey Symposium. Contact Richard Becker at 255-7156

March 18, 2000 Ducks Unlimited Westside banquet fundraiser.  
Contact Dennis Schneider 994-9160

April 1, 2000 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Big Game Banquet.  
Contact Bob Kaup 299-1515

May 20, 2000 The Wild Turkey Federation is holding their fund raising banquet  
Contact Richard Becker 255-7156

To quote a verse from the TRCA brochure, "like rain drops that pool together on the forest floor, then trickle to the stream that builds into a powerful raging river, your voice becomes part of a thundering waterfall that must be heard."

Their goal is high but the message is important at all levels of participation by sportsmen and women. For the AWF to be an advocate for hunting and fishing, we need to recruit new members. Please use the enclosed membership form to renew yours and/or bring a new member to our next meeting.

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**  
**General Meeting – April 13, 2000**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Bear Canyon Senior Center – 4645 Pitt NE  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
Left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\*\*\*\*APRIL PROGRAM\*\*\*\*\***

I can hardly believe that the first three months of 2000 are history and the turkey season is two weeks away. Our April program is all about turkey hunting and calling. Bill Zeedyke, the most avid turkey hunter that I know will lead the program. Do not miss this event, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bear Canyon Senior Center. This is only two days before the opening of the turkey season.

Our programming continues to bring in quality activities. The May 11 program will be Nancy Kaufman, the Regional Director for the US Fish and Wildlife Service here in Albuquerque. She will bring us up to date on many issues now confronting the Southwestern Region.

## **WORK PROJECTS**

We start our Volunteer work program on April 15, 2000. Our first project is helping install a water guzzler for small game and possible big horn sheep use for the Socorro BLM district.

If you can help, call Bill Zeedyke 281-9066. We need at least six people to help with this job. Bill will also coordinate transportation.

Our May 20, 2000 project will be coordinated with the Tijeras Ranger District.

## GAME AND FISH NEWS

Big game hunting seasons for next year will be set at the Game Commission meeting on August 18 and 19, 2000. There are two programs, the first is a telephone survey and the second is a questionnaire that is available to the public. You can participate in this survey by getting the form from the Game and Fish offices or on their web site at [www.gmfsh.state.nm.us/](http://www.gmfsh.state.nm.us/) and do the report via e-mail.

The schedules are as follows:

April 7, 2000 Survey form deadline and the Department incorporates all input into recommendations.

May – June, 2000 Public Involvement by commenting on draft recommendations.

June 29-30, 2000 First presentation to the Game Commission in Santa Fe

July – August – More Public input possible

August 18 – 19, 2000 Final recommendations to Game Commission in Farmington, NM

## OTHER NEWS

In a recent Wildlife Management Institute Outdoor News Bulletin, they reported that the National Audubon Society (NAS) has proposed separation of the National Wildlife Refuge system from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Apparently, this was a surprise move that has alienated the NAS from nearly all other conservation groups. I have asked Ms. Kaufman to brief us about this at our May 11, 2000 meeting.

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234,  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \* (\$25.00)

Name of Person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

Additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Membership\* (\$20.00) \_\_\_\_\_, includes one NMWF membership

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**  
**General Meeting – May 11, 2000**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Bear Canyon Senior Center – 4645 Pitt NE  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
Left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\*\*\*\*MAY PROGRAM\*\*\*\*\***

The speaker for our next meeting will be Ms. Nancy Kaufman, Southwest Regional Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque. She will talk to us about general activities of the Service including wolves, waterfowl, refuge reorganization and the allegations of abuse of the Federal Aid monies by the Washington staff.

## WORK PROJECTS

Our May 20, 2000 project is close to home this time. We will work on the David Canyon wet meadow restoration project started last year. This is in the Manzanita Mountains, Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest.

Bill Zeedyke, our project coordinator suggests that we make this a family outing. This one is ideal for kids of all ages. Other groups will be joining us including folks from the Raven Road community nearby. Let's meet at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras at 8:30 am and carpool or convoy to the site. For late comers, follow NM 337, old South 14, south eight miles to Raven Road. Turn west about 2 miles to Mars Court and turn right. Follow a primitive Forest Service road about one mile to work site. We'll sign the route from the Raven Road turnoff.

Bring the usual: lunch, water, gloves, hat, and sunscreen. Bring hand tools like shovels, picks, axes, if you wish. The Forest Service will be furnishing some tools. Please call Bill Zeedyke to sign up, 281-9066. Come team up for wildlife and have some fun, too.

## GAME AND FISH NEWS

There are many things happening within the New Mexico Conservation community. I hope you all have had a successful spring, either fishing, turkey hunting or both.

Apparently, Jerry Maracchini was asked to resign by Commission Chairman Steve Emry and Stephen Doerr. It probably will be effective on or shortly after the May 18, 2000 commission meeting in Las Cruces. I talked to Jerry and he confirmed the action and Stephen Doerr told several people about this action during the past few days.

I was in a similar circumstance 12 years ago and understand the problems facing Jerry. We need to make sure we stay aware of replacement possibilities and that a professional wildlife manager be hired as Jerry's replacement. The need for a strong wildlife coalition of hunters and fishermen are crucial at this time. Bring a friend and new member to meeting on May 11, 2000.

Big game hunting seasons for next year will be set at the Game Commission meeting on August 18 and 19, 2000. At their meeting on June 29 and 30, they will review the first draft of the regulations. You can get copies of proposed regulations from the Department of Game and Fish and comment on them prior to the June 29 meeting.

The schedules are as follows:

- May-June, 2000 Public Involvement by commenting on draft recommendations
- June 29-30, 2000 First presentation to the Game Commission in Santa Fe
- July-August- More public input possible
- August 18-19, 2000 Final recommendations to Game Commission in Farmington.

## MEMBERSHIP

Please use the enclosed membership form for new members. The sportsmen and women of New Mexico need to be heard as a strong advocate for our wildlife resources.

## OTHER NEWS

I hope you had the opportunity to read about the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). The Albuquerque Journal carried an article written by Jerry Maracchini and Outdoor Reporter had a brief explanation about the CARA activities. This certainly could be an asset for wildlife agencies, especially in the non-game and endangered species efforts.

I received a message from the Wildlife Management Institute that indicates a wide range of support for this effort. The following is a quote from that message.

“This proposal would redirect the flow of about \$2.9 billion annually for 15 years from outer continental shelf oil and gas revenues and dedicate those funds to the following important activities:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| • Impact assistance & coastal conservation            | \$ 1 billion  |
| • Land & Water Conservation Fund revitalization       | \$900 million |
| • State wildlife conservation, education & recreation | \$350 million |
| • Federal & Indian land restoration                   | \$200 million |
| • Payment in lieu of taxes & refuge revenue sharing   | \$200 million |
| • Conservation easements & species recovery           | \$150 million |
| • Urban parks and recreation facilities recovery      | \$125 million |
| • Historic preservation fund                          | \$100 million |

You are invited to help carry out the following actions promptly to advance CARA, as amended:

- Urge House members, particularly those on the House Resources Committee, to seek and hold an early vote on the House floor on H.R.701, as amended
- Update your Senators on CARA's progress in the House and ask them to urge members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to act promptly to reconcile S.2123 (CARA), S.25 and S.2181, and report out a compromise bill in May.”



# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103  
General Meeting – JUNE 8, 2000  
7:00 P.M.**

Bear Canyon Senior Center – 4645 Pitt NE  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
Left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\*\*\*\*JUNE PROGRAM\*\*\*\*\***

With the Memorial Weekend behind us, it is time to pursue our summer activities. The lack of moisture sure has inhibited many of us. Some of us will need to locate new camping and fishing locales since the closure of National Forest lands and some State Parks.

One important activity for each of us will be the meeting on June 8, 2000. The hunting regulations for next year are drafted and will be presented to us by the Department of Game and Fish. It is essential that we all take a part in the development of these regulations. Barry Hale, Chief of the Division of Wildlife will brief us on proposed 2001-02 Big Game Hunting Regulations.

I know that depredation on private property exists and care needs to be taken to insure all interests are heard before making management decisions. Please join us as we review and develop a response to the Game and Fish Departments' proposals for the 2001 seasons.

The resignation of Director Jerry Maracchini will bring a new aspect to these discussions. Some of our commission members advocate significant reductions in certain big game herds, especially elk. No one has presented the biological information to our attention. Does the U.S. Forest Service have evidence of habitat degradation or does the Game and Fish know of over population problems?

\*\*\*\*\*OTHER BUSINESS\*\*\*\*\*

I am very concerned that specific criteria must be in place to aid the State Game Commission as they select a new Director. Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I sent to the Governor with a copy to each Commission member. Also, the State Game Commission members and their addresses are included for your information.

Steve C. Emery, Chairman                      Phone (505) 856-0963 home  
13223 Jo Lane, NE                              Fax: (505) 856-0964  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Bud Hettinga                                      Phone (505) 524-3551 office  
P. O. Box 2409                                  Fax (505) 526-0835  
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Steve Padilla                                      Phone (505) 298-0901 home  
1641 Speakman, SE                              Fax (505) 298-1901  
Albuquerque, NM 87123

George Ortega                                      Phone (505) 471-6044 office/home  
2908 Calle De Pinos Altos                      Fax (505) 438-4284  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Stephen E. Doerr                                  Phone (505) 359-1289 office  
2106 Aspen                                      Phone (505) 356-6700 home  
Portales, NM 88130                              Fax (505) 359-1898

Ray Westall                                      Phone (505) 885-3674 home  
POB 4    Phone (505) 677-2370 work  
Loco Hills, NM 88255                              Fax (505) 677-2361

J. Karen Stevens                                  Phone (505) 327-0846 home  
5207 Villa View Drive  
Farmington, NM 87402

Our meetings and programs continue with interesting and timely information. Our meeting and program for July will be at the Valle Vidal in the Carson National Forest. I surely hope the forest closures will be lifted by then.

Our August speaker will be Ed Sceery. Ed owns and produces the Sceery Game Calls at his business in Santa Fe. He will be giving us advice on game calling, especially elk. This is especially timely with Archery elk seasons opening in September.

I hope each of you can join us for these summer activities and programs.

## WORK PROJECTS

Our June work project schedule has changed. The Jemez Mountains are closed. Bill Zeedyke has arranged for us to return to the David Canyon project where we worked in May.

We must get six to eight volunteers and be at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras Canyon at 8:30 a.m. on June 17, 2000. Late arrivals will not be able to drive to the work site.

Bring the usual: lunch, water, hat, gloves and plenty of sunscreen. The Forest Service will provide the equipment. Call Bill Zeedyke (281-9066) to sign up. We need to confirm our participation by Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Please let Bill know at your earliest opportunity.

Come team up for wildlife and have some fun while we are helping. The project will terminate between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. so we will be home early.

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**

## JULY

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is not meeting in July. The long anticipated Valle Vidal work project was cancelled. Although the Carson Forest is open, so much effort went into the fire program that the Forest Service could not get ready for the work project. This is the first time in many years that the Albuquerque Chapter has not held their meeting and work project at the Valle Vidal.

The dry weather has sure reduced the number of work projects. Both of our June and July projects were cancelled. However, our next work project is still on track of August 19, 2000.

We will again be in the Carson National Forest for the August work project. This is another successful effort to reestablish a wet meadow in Sisneros Park. In addition to the work effort, we can review some of previous year's work. Thanks to Bill Zeedyke, we can see rewards of our efforts at both Sisneros Park and the Valle Vidal. Bill has certainly been successful in plotting our work efforts in both areas.

Some of us expect to camp at or near Hopewell Lake. The Sisneros Park project is a short drive from there. More precise directions will be included in the August newsletter. If you want more information, please contact Bill Zeedyke at 281-9066.

## OTHER NEWS

You may recall we printed a schedule of the process for the Game and Fish to produce the big game seasons for 2001 and 2002. You were represented at the presentation to the State Game Commission on June 29, 2000. The final product for those big game seasons will be at the Commission meeting in Farmington beginning on Friday, August 18, 2000. You need to be there.

Much is going on that should concern us all. The elk killing by landowners continues. We hope that this issue can be put to rest without more losses. A betting person might assure us that the women and men who buy the licenses will be the losers.

The Commissioners address and telephone numbers were listed in the June newsletter. The telephone numbers are provided again. Please keep the Commission informed about your interest in our wildlife resources.

Steve Emery, Chairman	505-856-0963
Bud Hettinga	505-526-0835
Steve Padilla	505-298-0901
George Ortega	505-471-6044
Stephen Doerr	505-356-6700
Ray Westall	505-885-3674
J. Karen Stevens	505-327-0846

The authorization to buy the Baca Ranch is being considered in the U. S. House of Representatives as this newsletter is being written. We had hoped the action would be completed earlier. Many thanks to those who contacted our congressional delegation on behalf of this purchase.

The political agendas almost ended the Baca Ranch acquisition. What a tragedy if this property escapes the U. S. Forest Service control and becomes a host of small ranchettes for summer homes.

Also, on the political front, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) still need your support. Again, our congressional delegation needs to hear from us. This act could truly enhance wildlife populations and habitat improvements in New Mexico.

#### MEMBERSHIP

We continue to need new members. Please use the attached membership form for your renewal or recruit a friend



*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

**AUGUST GENERAL MEETING  
7:30 P.M. THURSDAY, August 10, 2000**

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**PHIL NEFF: FIRE MANAGEMENT ON THE JEMEZ RANGER DISTRICT**

Fire Management Officer Phil Neff of the Jemez Ranger District will discuss fire management practices on the District. Prescribed fire is an important part of managing public lands. Neff will give an overview of the burning program on the District and talk about the program's benefits.

**JOHN PETERSON: BACA UPDATE**

In addition, District Ranger, John Peterson will update us on the Valle Caldera National Preserve (Baca Location #1 or Valle Grande).

**AUGUST TEAM-UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT: SATURDAY AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>  
CISNEROS PARK, TRES PIEDRAS DISTRICT, CARSON NF**

(See page 2)

## STATUS OF RING MEADOW CREEK

Our annual Valle Vidal project was canceled this year because Forest personnel were so busy with fire control that they had no time to prepare. Nevertheless, Valle Vidal was opened to the public on June 29<sup>th</sup>, so we decided to spend the weekend there and inspect the progress of our work in Ring Meadow from previous years.

Due to the low precipitation, the stream in the meadow was rather narrow, typically 18 inches or so, with no very large, deep pools. However, there was a lot of life in the stream. Many fish, insects, mud snails, and grasses and sedges. The west end of the stream, the end toward the fence, had not developed much additional sinuosity, but that is the part we did last, and probably has not yet seen a good spring runoff. Nevertheless, the structures remain in good shape and are causing the water to spread and making the surrounding ground more moist, with beneficial effects on plant life.

The enclosure we partially completed has kept cattle out, and the contrast between the surrounding area is marked. Sedges have grown up and the willows are growing rapidly. We only put the lower level of fencing wire up, and it is obvious that cattle are leaning on it to try to reach the plants inside. We should finish the job, and perhaps also extend the enclosure downstream where there are more willows in need of protection.

The eastern, lower end of the stream shows remarkable results. Tall sedges are growing in broad, extended areas around the stream. The stream is very sinuous, and there are small oxbows making the wet areas effectively 50 or 60 feet wide in places. However, there is clearly a problem with the cattle grazing in these areas. There were many recent holes along the stream from their hooves and fresh cow pies in abundance. They have broken down many

of the rock structures in this region. A maintenance work project may be in order, and we need a way to monitor grazing there.

It might be a good idea to have a second, more modest project there each year. We probably would not need Forest Service personnel to spend a little time repairing structures and monitoring the progress of the meadow.

Cliff and Joyce Mendel

## AUGUST TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT Saturday, August 19

For this project we will again work with our friend Ben Romero of the Tres Piedras Ranger District of Carson National Forest. Go west from Tres Piedras on US 64 to Forest Road 133, and then north (see map, page 3). We will be building structures further along the stream.

Friday and Saturday nights we will camp at the Cisneros Park area which we used last year. It is within walking distance of the project. Most find it more pleasant than the Hopewell Lake campground, which is again open, and can also be used.

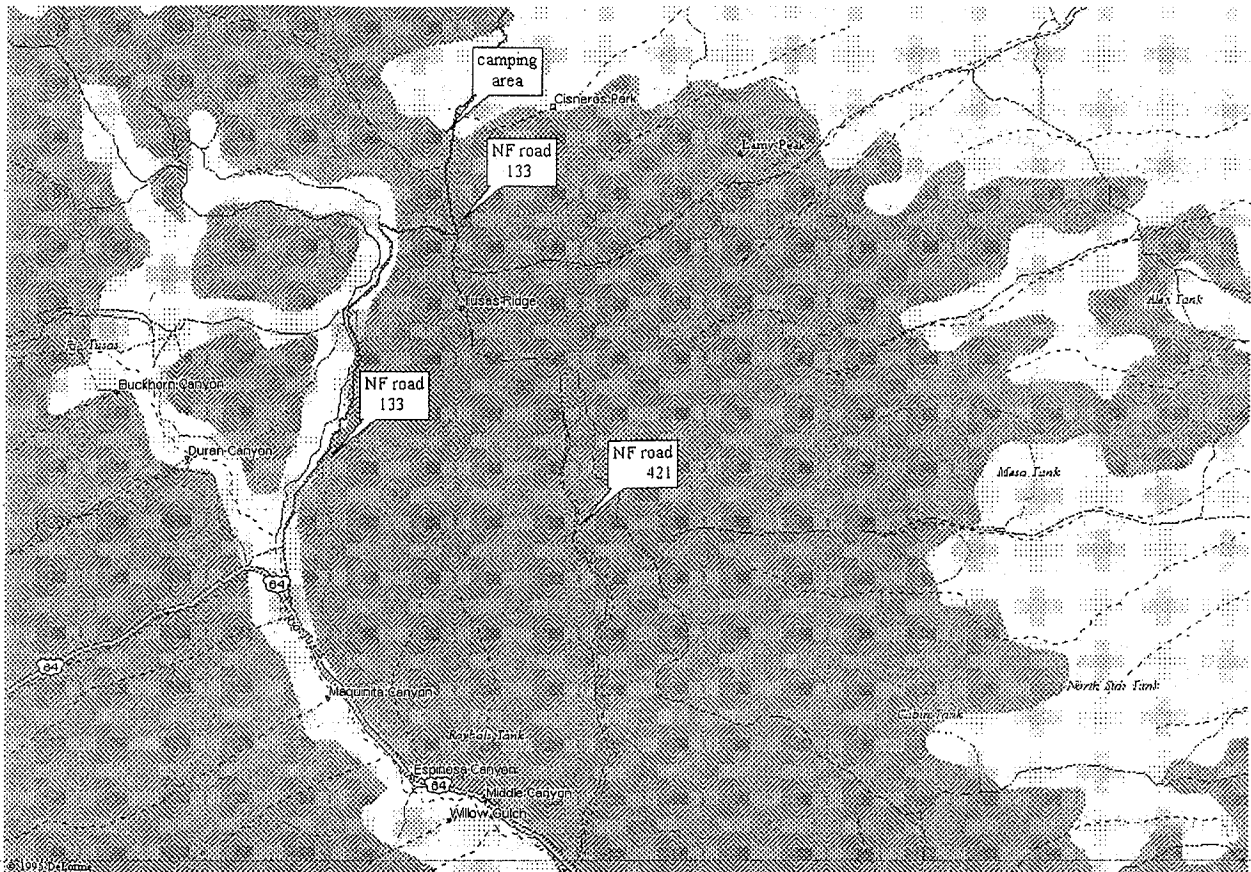
This is a delightful project in a beautiful area, and we will be working with some nice people from the Forest. Although we do not have an organized meal, Saturday night is usually something of a social event. Please join us. We like to have an idea of how many will attend. If you believe you might join us, please call Bill Zeedyk at 281-9066. Bill is very busy right now, so leave a message on his answering machine if necessary. You can also let us know at the general meeting.

## 2001 NMWF Annual Meeting

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation will hold its annual meeting in Las Cruces in February of 2000. AWF President Harold Olson would like AWF to have a significant number of members in attendance. Please

watch your mail from NMWF for more information on the meeting. In years past NMWF was a strong voice for wildlife and hunters and anglers in New Mexico. We would all benefit if we can return it to its previous stature.

## MAP TO AUGUST TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT, CARSON NATIONAL FOREST





Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation,  
PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

family membership\* (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

name of person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

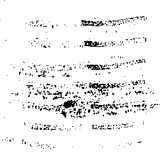
additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

single membership\* (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

\* includes one NMWF membership

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

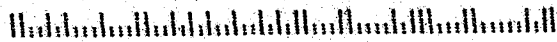


Albuquerque Wildlife Federation  
PO Box 1234  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1234



2000 4 F B L  
Harold & Jean Olson  
1700 Sunset Road SE  
Rio Rancho NM 87124

87124+





*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**

**BEAR CANYON SENIOR CENTER—4645 Pitt NE  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
Left on Pitt BCSC is one block down on the left)**

### **SEPTEMBER 14, 2000 PROGRAM**

Please join us on September 14, 2000 at 7:00 for an informative presentation on elk management.

In a dazzling display of wildlife management, the State Game Commission ordered the Department to increase the elk license numbers for 2001 by 20,000. The Department recommended an increase of approximately 3,000 licenses above the 2000 seasons. That came to approximately 40,000 licenses. The 20,000 increase brings the number of elk hunters in 2001 to 60,000.

The Department is now challenged to decide where the extra 20,000 hunters will be assigned. Darrell Weybright, the Big Game Program Coordinator will tell us about these assignments and the Elk Management Operational Plan at our meeting on the 14th.

### **WORK PROJECTS**

September 16 is our next work project. We will be going back to the Elk Springs area of the Rio Puerco BLM District

This is a one day affair and can be a fun time for the family. We will meet at the BLM office, 435 Montano NE in Albuquerque at 8:00 am and caravan to the work site.

For more information about the work project call Bill Zeedyke (505) 281-9066 or Andy Iskra (505) 294-7516.

## OTHER NEWS

The State Game Commission has been active. Their deadline for the Director applications was September 1, 2000. Let's hope they select a true wildlife professional for that very important job unlike Colorado who just appointed the Speaker of the House of Representatives, an attorney, as their new Director.

On May 15, 2000, I wrote Governor Johnson with copies to the Commissioners offering our help in establishing the criteria for evaluating Director applicants. I still have not received a reply from anyone. Commission Steve Padilla did call about the letter ---the only response. I guess we know how popular we are with the Commission and our Governor.

I attended the Game Commission meeting in Farmington instead of helping with the work project. I am sure the Sisneros Park camp would have been more fun.

The Commission did not finalize the elk regulation. They will do that at the meeting in Santa Fe on September 28 and 29. The reason for the delay was to require the Department to increase the elk license numbers and distribute them to the appropriate hunt units.

Again, the Department's recommendation was approximately 40,000 licenses. Commissioner Hettinga moved to increase the license numbers by 20,000. **IT PASSED.** In 2001 there will be 60,000 elk hunters roaming New Mexico. This along with the increased number of depredation licenses issued to Landowners should significantly reduce our elk herds.

There is some good news. President Clinton signed the Baca Ranch purchase into law. Now the management team must be appointed to supervise the ranch operation. Our member, Dale Jones and your President have both expressed an interest in being on the management team (Trust) to represent wildlife interests. Let's hope that the selection for the position is a professional wildlife manager if neither Dale nor I make the team.

The Forest Service will not open the Baca Ranch to the public until the management team is in place and have established a plan for the ranch operation.

## MEMBERSHIP

We continue to need new members. Please use the attached membership form for your renew or recruit a friend.

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**

**BEAR CANYON SENIOR CENTER —4645 Pitt NE**  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
Left on Pitt BCSC is one block down on the left)

## OCTOBER 12, 2000 PROGRAM

The program for this month is going to be an outstanding demonstration of calling wildlife. Ed Sceery is the owner of Sceery Game Calls located in Santa Fe and will be our speaker. He will provide insight on the use of a variety of calls.

## NEWS

Larry Bell, former Assistant Director has been appointed to head up the Game and Fish Department. The State Game Commission appointed Larry as Director of the agency on September 29, 2000. Larry has worked for our Game and Fish Department for 22 years. He started his career as the District Officer in Quemado and held various positions in his rise to the Department's top job.

## CONGRADULATIONS LARRY AND GOOD LUCK

Our November program will include a visit from Director Bell. I am looking forward to hearing his plans for the future of the agency.

On November 18 and 19, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation will have a booth during the "Festival of the Cranes" at Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Any one interested in helping is welcome. We hope you will have the time to visit the refuge at this time. Come by and visit the booth.

The State Game Commission established the elk seasons at their meeting on September 28 and 29. They did not continue with the proposed 20,000 increase in hunter numbers. They actually agreed to a level of hunting close to the department's recommendation at the August meeting. An interesting approach to developing an elk management strategy.

## OTHER NEWS

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation held their quarterly board meeting in Socorro on September 30. There are lots of plans for future Wildlife Federation activities. Both they and the Albuquerque Chapter are interested in supporting the newly developed New Mexico Coalition of hunters and anglers. The hope is to pull together all of the wildlife groups to provide a stronger contingent of support for sound wildlife management.

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation annual convention will be in Las Cruces on February 16 through 18, 2001. The major emphasis will be with activities on Saturday, February 17. The theme is "Wildlife Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, where are we going and how do we get there." More information will be provided later about the actual schedule of events beginning on Friday evening.

We anticipate excellent speakers with former Forest Service Chief and current Executive Director of the International Association of Wildlife Agencies, Max Peterson. All of the agencies associated with wildlife management in New Mexico will be asked to participate.

We hope the New Mexico Coalition interest will join us for a consolidated effort. The Don Ana Consolidated Sportsmen of Las Cruces will host the Convention.

We have mentioned the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance (TRCA) in previous newsletters. A copy of their program is enclosed.

## MEMBERSHIP

We continue to need new members. Please use the attached membership form for your renewal or recruit a friend.



*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**

**BEAR CANYON SENIOR CENTER —4645 Pitt NE**  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
Left on Pitt BCSC is one block down on the left)

### NOVEMBER 9, 2000 PROGRAM

Larry Bell, the new Director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will be our speaker. Please join us for an informative review with him. The Department of Game and Fish is currently confronted with a lot of demanding issues.

Mr. Bell was appointed by the New Mexico State Game Commission during the September 28, 2000 Commission meeting. His leadership will be challenged as the Department moves into the new millennium with more and more of the public wanting special considerations for wildlife values. I know we all will be interested in hearing Larry's comments. He will offer his outlook on the potential impacts of the upcoming Legislative session and other important wildlife issues.

### OTHER NEWS

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation will be active with the Festival of the Cranes November 18 and 19, 2000 at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. This is always a fun event. Join us to celebrate the arrival of fall and meet with conservation groups from around the state.

Do not forget the state convention is February 16 through 18, 2001 in Las Cruces. This is an excellent time for the sports men and women of New Mexico to rally around wildlife issues. This is scheduled during the Legislative session and an update on issues in the legislative process will be part of our program.

December 14, 2000 will be our Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner. This is always a fun time for the family. You will get another reminder in early December.

Also, our December meeting will include the election of officers. I will be retiring as President and am looking forward to helping as a Board member in future years.

This is a critical time for our club. We need additional members and people willing to hold offices. Any of you who would like to serve as an officer of our organization need to contact Dale Hall at (505) 827-7975 or Cecil Haas at (505) 271-2103.

We hope your fall hunting efforts were successful. This is undoubtedly the greatest time of the year. Any hunting or fishing activities in the New Mexico landscape is rewarding. Good Hunting.

MEMBERSHIP

We continue to need new members. Please use the attached membership form for your renewal or recruit a friend.

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234,  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \* (\$25.00)

Name of Person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

Additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Membership\* (\$20.00) \_\_\_\_\_, includes one NMWF membership



# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect and  
perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation—PO Box 1234—Albuquerque, NM 87103**

BEAR CANYON SENIOR CENTER —4645 Pitt NE  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
Left on Pitt BCSC is one block down on the left)

DECEMBER 14, 2000 MEETING 7:00 PM

Our December 14 meeting is our annual family get together. It is a potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share and your own eating utensils. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided. After dinner a brief meeting will be held for electing the 2001 officers.

December already. Wow, this year went by in a hurry. This year was a mixed bag for the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation (AWF). The drought and fire season caused us to cancel some work projects.

The AWF working group was really disappointed when we had to cancel the Valle Vidal project. This is really a high point in our summer activities.

We were successful in the spring efforts and helped with work projects for the Socorro BLM and Cibola National Forest. I am looking forward to continuing our habitat projects in 2001.

Please keep in mind the need to support the NM Wildlife Federation at their annual convention in Las Cruces February 16, 17 and 18, 2001.

Joe Albert of the Dona Ana Consolidated Sportsmen is doing the legwork for this convention. He needs donations of items for a raffle prior to and during the convention. Anything you can gather for this event will be appreciated.

We have an outstanding program in sight and we will be addressing the theme of "Wildlife Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Where are we going and how are we going to get there?" The leaders in New Mexico's conservation community will be participating with us on Saturday, February 17, 2001.

In addition to our local programming, the Executive Director of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Max Peterson will be spending time with us. Mr. Peterson is a former chief of the U. S. Forest Service.

February 22 through 25, 2001 is the date for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) international elk camp and exposition at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The RMEF is returning to New Mexico for their annual gathering. I am sure we do not want to miss this show.

I hope you have had an exciting year. I am looking forward to seeing you all on December 14 and may you have an especially rewarding holiday season.

#### MEMBERSHIP

We continue to need new members. Please use the attached membership form for your renewal or recruit a friend.

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234,  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \* (\$25.00)

Name of Person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

Additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Membership\* (\$20.00) \_\_\_\_\_, includes one NMWF membership