

AWF Newsletter

JANUARY 2008

Founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, January 10, 2008

WHEN: 7:30 pm (following AWF Board Meeting)

WHERE: Manzano Mesa Center (map p4)

PROGRAM: National Wildlife Federation and NMWF
What they do — How we fit in

GUEST SPEAKERS: John Gale, National WF Regional Representative
Jeremy Vesbach, NMWF Executive Director

Ever wonder how AWF relates to the New Mexico Wildlife Federation...and the National Wildlife Federation? John Gale will speak to us about the relationship between the national organization and its state and local affiliates, what national initiatives are planned for the year, and how we can support their efforts. Jeremy Vesbach will discuss the state group's structure and staffing, the kinds of issues which will be featured in 2008, coordination with federal and state land management agencies on planning and environmental assessments, and how AWF enters into the picture.



JOHN GALE

Growing up in Idaho and working for the state senate, John Gale received degrees in Natural Resource Management from the University of Idaho. After two years in Morocco with the Peace Corps and USAID, he moved to Washington D.C. to direct grassroots conservation programs for Trout Unlimited. At the end of 2005, John returned to the west working for the National Wildlife Federation in Boulder, CO. As Regional Representative for NM, AZ, UT, and NV, John oversees wildlife conservation efforts in those states and collaborates with NWF's affiliates and partners there.

His primary goals for state development center on building resources that will help NWF and its affiliates grow bigger, stronger, and more financially prepared to face the challenges of wildlife conservation.

Jeremy Vesbach was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and grew up in the small town of Hardin, Montana. Nearly every free moment growing up was spent outdoors.

Jeremy graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in a program called Biological Aspects of Conservation, a field of study designed by NMWF founder, Aldo Leopold. He moved to Albuquerque in 2002, after several years of working as a journalist and volunteering with conservation causes in Montana and Oregon. Because wildlife and the outdoors have so enriched his life, Jeremy feels privileged to be able to devote his working life to passing on and improving these opportunities for future generations.



JEREMY VESBACH

**Jim Hubert's
NOTABLE QUOTE
of the month**

Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf.

— Aldo Leopold

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

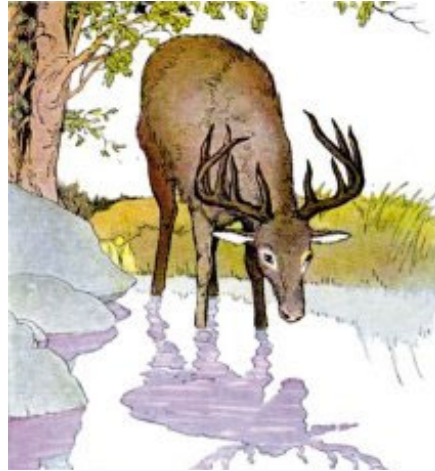
For 2008, the challenges to protect our environment still loom on the horizon. Each succeeding year, the need to curb the massive amounts of greenhouse gases exhaled into the atmosphere from a globalized economy becomes more critical. Al Gore's movie and book "An Inconvenient Truth" certainly brought this issue clearly to the American people. But it was like preaching to the choir. For those concerned, the movie stated the problem clearly, scientifically, and alarmingly. For those in denial, Mr. Gore's credibility was challenged and his character was impugned. Meanwhile the rest of the world community still wonders when their rich neighbor will demonstrate a real leadership role in stabilizing our planet.

In the 2000 election Mr. Gore spoke of green technology developed by our scientists, manufactured by our people and marketed to the rest of the world to reduce dependency on non-renewable resources while reducing air and water pollution. An informed green, clean renewable economy to help meet the challenges of a global marketplace and the rising expectations of a developing world was and is still possible. I listened to a John McCain speech prior to the Iowa Caucuses. He does not believe in global warming, but, interestingly, he *is* concerned about the influence that greenhouse gases have on the future of our children. Change and progress are happening, but too slowly for me.

The AWF plans for the year are to follow the old axiom "Think Globally but Act Locally." We have expanded our Board by three. So our challenge is to take the new talent and convert it into help with our goals for the year.

Speaking of goals, at our December annual meeting and dinner, I was asked about my AWF presidential platform. I think the question was sort of posed in jest, but it was actually a very good question. So, I took off on a rambling 10 minute extemporaneous reply which was longer than a prepared response would have been. Here now is a list of my thoughts for this year. I hope to formalize with our Board a set of AWF goals for 2008. Once finalized, our goals will be presented in our newsletter.

— Gene Tatum



2008 AWF GOALS (PRELIMINARY)

Most importantly continue to do what we do well: our conservation field projects and our monthly programs.

Continue to connect with the New Mexico Wildlife Federation; find ways for us to support their initiatives, and to utilize their resources to promote AWF.

Expand our partnership with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

Participate in planning and environmental assessment processes initiated by Federal and State land management agencies, such as Forest Service Transportation Management Planning, potential Wilderness Assessment (Mills Canyon).

Find ways to get young people outdoors, collaborating with, e.g., Albuquerque Society of Friends youth group (Hamish Thomson), the Roots and Shoots Program.

Have fun, appreciate outdoor opportunities, and enjoy the camaraderie that is an integral part of the AWF.

AWF CELEBRATES A GOOD YEAR

About 30 people attended the AWF Annual Meeting and Dinner held December 10 at Manzano Mesa Center. There was plenty of delicious—and unusual—food, some members brought guests, we recapped the 2007 project season, and we held elections .

One lucky person from each table won a Valle Vidal commemorative T-Shirt. And thanks to Linda Patterson, everyone had a “goody bag” to take home.

As determined at the AWF 2007 Annual Meeting, below are the Officers and Board of Directors of AWF for 2008.

PRESIDENT

Gene Tatum

VICE PRESIDENT

Barbara Coulter

SECRETARY

Linda Patterson

TREASURER

Glenda Muirhead

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Stephen Bohannon

Larry Dwyer

Patricia Hester

Dennis Muirhead

Kurt Nolte

Jon Schwedler

Luke Shelby

Bill Zeedyk

APPOINTED DIRECTORS*

Greg McReynolds

Toby Rosenblatt

** AWF Bylaws specify a maximum of eight elected Directors, with the President empowered to appoint up to four additional Directors.*

ALDO LEOPOLD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PLANNED

As members of an organization founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914, we were excited to learn of plans to celebrate his life in Albuquerque and New Mexico. Here are excerpts from the Committee's mission statement, overview, and calendar. As plans and events are finalized, we will keep you informed.

The year 2009 marks the centennial of Aldo Leopold's arrival in the Southwest. Planning is underway for the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration to honor Leopold's legacy in New Mexico by promoting Leopold's vision that an ethical relationship with the land is essential to a vibrant and healthy community.

Initially inspired by Albuquerque architect Anthony Anella, the organizing committee also includes representatives from the Bosque School, National Forest Service, Roots & Shoots, University of NM, City Open Space, the Quivira Coalition, AWF, and more. The Leopold Foundation will participate as well.



The theme of the yearlong celebration is the relevance of Leopold's Land Ethic

to how we address today's pressing environmental issues and make policy decisions about our future. The Committee's goal is to engage the citizens of our community in the meaningful commitment to promise our children the inheritance of a healthy and beautiful physical environment.

This ambitious venture proposes a multitude of activities beginning in the Fall of 2008 and continuing through 2009, among them neighborhood reading groups, school-based projects, essay-writing, UNM seminars, field trips, tours, and land art. The Quivira Coalition's 8th Annual Conference in January 2009 in Albuquerque will revolve around the theme "Land Health and Leopold's Land Ethic: Alive and Well in the 21st Century."

In September 2009, the UNM School of Architecture and Planning, in collaboration with the ABQ Chamber of Commerce, will host an interdisciplinary symposium titled "Aldo Leopold and the Quest to Make Conservation Profitable."

2008 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE FIELD PROJECTS SCHEDULE

FEB 23	RIO GRANDE BOSQUE
MAR 15 & 16	CEDRO CREEK
APR 18-20	CEBOLLA CANYON
MAY 2-4	*LIMESTONE CANYON
JUNE 20-22	RIO DE LAS VACAS
JULY 18-20	VALLE VIDAL
AUG 15-17	VALLES CALDERA
SEP 19-21	WIND RIVER RANCH

* Project of NM Wilderness Alliance

AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
501 Elizabeth SE at Southern
(south of Central between Eubank and Juan Tabo)



ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
PO BOX 1234, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

TO SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR
THE AWF NEWSLETTER:
Please contact Glenda Muirhead
505-281-2925 or g.muirhead@usfamily.net

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION, PO BOX 1234, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

An affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

➔ **PLEASE ✓ ONE** : AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP ↴

Designate NMWF member(s*) _____

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

✓ MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Student [under 18]..... \$10 ◀ [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual..... \$25
- Family..... \$35
- Sustaining..... \$50-\$99
- Patron..... \$100
- Lifetime..... \$500 ◀ [One-time Payment]

Dues \$ _____

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____