



AWF Newsletter

MARCH 2008

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

GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: Thursday, March 13, 2008 — 7:30 pm

WHERE: Manzano Mesa Center (*map p6*)

PROGRAM: Keeping Wildlife Populations Healthy & Sustainable
— New Mexico's Conservation Strategy

GUEST SPEAKER: Ginny Wallace, Project Manager, DJ Case & Assoc.

We are pleased to have Ginny Wallace as our guest to speak about the *New Mexico Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy*. Ginny represents a natural resource consulting firm tasked with raising public awareness of our State's wildlife management plan, which was issued in 2006 with oversight by NMDG&F. Here's your opportunity to learn the details and ask the important questions!

The CWCS is a blueprint for conservation, through which federal, tribal, state, and local governments and private entities can coordinate conservation efforts and reduce expenses associated with the processes of listing and recovering endangered species.

The Strategy is a culmination of two years of efforts on the part of resource professionals, conservation organizations, commodity interests, private individuals, tribal interests, municipal governments, and others to construct a better wildlife conservation overview for New Mexico. Those efforts have been directed by a national initiative stemming from Congressional interest in the State Wildlife Grants program. Importantly, the Strategy is the springboard to an important conservation future for wildlife in New Mexico and

the Southwest. This Strategy is dedicated to expressing sensible approaches to conserving biological diversity in New Mexico.



Ginny serves as DJ Case & Associates' conservation education and interpretation expert, overseeing the New Mexico Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Outreach Services Project as DJ Case's Project Manager. Since joining DJ Case in 2007, she has also developed interpretive displays for Mexican wolf public scoping meetings.

Prior to joining DJ Case, Ginny enjoyed a 27-year career with the Missouri Department of Conservation, where she developed the agency's interpretive plan and curriculum materials for schools. She also oversaw construction, exhibit development and staffing of several nature centers.

Ginny has a bachelor's degree in biology from North Central College, a masters in botany from Utah State University, and a masters in public administration from the University of Missouri Truman School of Public Affairs.

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

Living wild species are like a library of books still unread. Our heedless destruction of them is akin to burning the library without ever having read its books.

— Representative John Dingell of Michigan

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was recently reading an article in *On Earth*, the Spring 2008 NRDC* magazine, titled "Time to Be Unfaithful to Old Faithful." The article opens with the sardonic suggestion that we sell Old Faithful to Exxon Mobil for geothermal development. "Surely the surrender of a national park, even if it was our first, is a small price to pay for making a dent in our reliance on fossil fuel and the Saudi royal family." The article is about tradeoffs that people and society make. It deplores the carbon emissions from air travel, but notes how essential air travel has become. The question is posed: by what other realistic means can a group of international climate experts get to Bali or any location for that matter to discuss global warming? The direct link to the article is <http://www.onearth.org/article/time-to-be-unfaithful-to-old-faithful>.

How do you perceive the message? I read it as one of optimism that we have the choice to apply the tools of the 21st century to sustain Earth and enjoy our planet's beauty and wildness.

There are also other articles of interest at <http://www.onearth.org/> where you can link to the entire Spring 2008 NRDC magazine. It is amazing to me how many interesting magazines are available on line.

This is a short message this month. I am engrossed, engulfed, consumed, but not overwhelmed, at least not yet, in the remodeling of our kitchen.

— Gene Tatum

*Natural Resources Defense Council

REPORT: LAKES, STREAMS ARE IN DANGER

Excerpted and edited from an article by Staci Matlock | The New Mexican | 2/14/2008

...Recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings and interpretations of those rulings by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency have weakened protections under the Clean Water Act. That has the state Environment Department, sportsmen, wildlife protection groups and water advocates worried. They're lobbying Congress to support bi-partisan legislation introduced last year to restore those protections.

In the dry Southwest, isolated and seasonal pockets of water and wetlands are critical to the survival of migrating water fowl, songbirds, fish and deer and other wildlife, said Jim Murphy, of the National Wildlife Federation wetlands council.

The rollbacks of Clean Water Act protections leave those waters vulnerable to dredging, filling and pollution.

The National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Wildlife Federation and Ducks Unlimited released a report analyzing the impact of the Clean Water Act changes on the Southwest. "Our analysis reveals that about 90 percent of stream miles and 4,000 playa lakes in New Mexico are no longer assured basic federal safeguards against filling or toxics dumping," said Mur-

phy, who co-authored the report. "These water resources are not renewable. Once they are gone, they are gone forever."

U.S. Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006 appeared to strip protections from any waters that weren't connected to a navigable river or lake. It also appears interpretations of the ruling stripped protections from closed basins, where water flows in but not out, Levitt said. About 20 percent of New Mexico's waters are in such areas including in the Mimbres, Tularosa and the Salt basins underlying Otero Mesa.

Scott Yaich, conservation programs director for Ducks Unlimited, said wetlands were already at risk in the Southwest before changes to the Clean Water Act. New Mexico has lost a third of its wetlands, Texas half and California more than 90 percent, he said.

Those losses impact water fowl and wildlife.

In Congress, 173 U.S. representatives including New Mexico's Tom Udall, a Democrat, joined sponsor Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., to support the Clean Water Restoration Act, which is currently in committee hearings. A related bill has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis.

"For people living in the arid southwest, water is our most precious natural resource. The government failure to protect these waters is akin to allowing poisoning of the roots while attempting to protect the tree. It just doesn't make sense."

Jeremy Vesbach,
Executive Director
NM Wildlife Federation

2008 FIELD PROJECTS "TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE"

MARCH 15 & 16 ● CEDRO CREEK

(Albuquerque Wildlife Federation)

Cedro Creek is one of the major drainages that feed Tijeras Creek, which forms the canyon between the Sandia and Manzano Mountains where I-40 runs. Both creeks have a history of human-caused impairment, not surprising given their proximity to major population centers. AWF has been working on restoring Cedro Creek for several years now and these efforts are paying off. More water is staying in the system, wetting meadows and benefiting wildlife.

THE PROJECT: This will be a day project on both Saturday and Sunday. We will build rock formations in the "Boundary Reach." There are some large rock structures already established here with the use of heavy equipment, and PNM volunteers planted willows here last Spring. This project will mark the first hand-built structures at the site. Bill Zeedyk will direct volunteers in the use of restoration techniques which he developed to modify the stream channel and encourage revegetation. We will also plant willow sprigs cut from local growth.

PLACE AND TIME: The project site is 5 miles south of Tijeras on Hwy 337 (Old South 14). We will park along Juan Tomas Road, and cross the highway to descend to the Creek. Orientation will begin at 9:00 am, and the day will wrap up by 4:00 pm on Saturday, earlier on Sunday.

EQUIPMENT: If you have them, please bring shovels, rock bars, wheelbarrows, clippers, and 5-gallon plastic buckets. Wear sturdy boots and bring gloves, hats, and sunscreen.

FOOD: In the morning, enjoy hot beverages and goodies provided by AWF, and snacks and drinks during the project. Volunteers, please provide your own lunch and water.

CONTACT: Glenda Muirhead at 505-281-2925 or g.muirhead@usfamily.net for more information and to sign up.



2008 PROJECT SCHEDULE

✪ MAR 8	LAS HUERTAS CREEK
MAR 15 & 16	CEDRO CREEK
APR 18-20	CEBOLLA CANYON
✪ MAY 2	SAN FRANCISCO RIVER
MAY 16-18	✪ LIMESTONE CYN
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

PARTNER PROJECT

March 8 ● Las Huertas Creek

(New Mexico Wilderness Alliance)

THE PLACE: Las Huertas Creek is one of the major drainages originating from the Sandia Mountains. The top of its watershed is near Hwy 536 at the top of the mountain. Small drainages gather to form Las Huertas Creek, which then heads north out of the Sandia Mountains. Many who spend time in the Sandias do not know that stretches of Las Huertas Creek flow perennially. This flow, along with springs and other riparian features, makes Las Huertas Creek critical to the long-term sustainability of the Sandia Mountain ecosystem, especially as development and recreation pressures increase from all sides. As Las Huertas Creek heads out of the Sandia Mountains, it turns west, flows past Placitas, and joins the Rio Grande near Algodones. Many local residents have become active in protecting and restoring this important watershed.

THE PROJECT: This project will be hosted by Forest Guardians. They have partnered with the local landowners to work on stretches of Las Huertas Creek that run through their properties. The goal of this project will be to plant native riparian vegetation in areas where previous work has been done to induce meandering and slow water flow.

FOOD: Forest Guardians will provide lunch.

MAXIMUM PARTICIPANTS: 40

CONTACT: Carol Norton at 505-988-9126, ext. 1150, or cnorton@fguardians.org for more info.

DRIVING DISTANCE: 20 miles north of Albuquerque.

The following is an editorial forwarded by AWF member Ron Madsen that highlights an important player in the issue of global climate change.

THE SUN ALSO SETS

By INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Editorial

Posted Thursday, February 07, 2008 | 4:20 PM PT

Back in 1991, before Al Gore first shouted that the Earth was in the balance, the Danish Meteorological Institute released a study using data that went back centuries that showed that global temperatures closely tracked solar cycles.

To many, those data were convincing. Now, Canadian scientists are seeking additional funding for more and better "eyes" with which to observe our sun, which has a bigger impact on Earth's climate than all the tailpipes and smokestacks on our planet combined. And they're worried about global cooling, not warming.

Kenneth Tapping, a solar researcher and project director for Canada's National Research Council, is among those looking at the sun for evidence of an increase in sunspot activity. Solar activity fluctuates in an 11-year cycle. But so far in this cycle, the sun has been disturbingly quiet. The lack of increased activity could signal the beginning of what is known as a Maunder Minimum, an event which occurs every couple of centuries and can last as long as a century.

Such an event occurred in the 17th century. The observation of sunspots showed extraordinarily low levels of magnetism on the sun, with little or no 11-year cycle. This solar hibernation corresponded with a period of bitter cold that began around 1650 and lasted, with intermittent spikes of warming, until 1715. Frigid winters and cold summers during that period led to massive crop failures, famine and death in Northern Europe.

Tapping reports no change in the sun's magnetic field so far this cycle and warns that if the sun remains quiet for another year or two, it may indicate a repeat of that period of drastic cooling of the Earth, bringing massive snowfall and severe weather to the Northern Hemisphere.

As we have noted many times, perhaps the biggest impact on the Earth's climate over time has been the sun. For instance, researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Solar Research in Germany report the sun has been burning more brightly over the last 60 years, accounting for the 1 degree Celsius increase in Earth's temperature over the last 100 years.

R. Timothy Patterson, professor of geology and director of the Ottawa-Carleton Geoscience Center of Canada's Carleton University, says that "CO₂ variations show little correlation with our planet's climate on long, medium and even short time scales."

Rather, he says, "I and the first-class scientists I work with are consistently finding excellent correlations between the regular fluctuations of the sun and earthly climate. This is not surprising. The sun and the stars are the ultimate source of energy on this planet."

Patterson, sharing Tapping's concern, says: "Solar scientists predict that, by 2020, the sun will be starting into its weakest Schwabe cycle of the past two centuries, likely leading to unusually cool conditions on Earth."

"Solar activity has overpowered any effect that CO₂ has had before, and it most likely will again," Patterson says. "If we were to have even a medium-sized solar minimum, we could be looking at a lot more bad effects than 'global warming' would have had."

In 2005, Russian astronomer Khabibullo Abdusamatov made some waves – and not a few enemies in the global warming "community" – by predicting that the sun would reach a peak of activity about three years from now, to be accompanied by "dramatic changes" in temperatures.

A Hoover Institution Study a few years back examined historical data and came to a similar conclusion. "The effects of solar activity and volcanoes are impossible to miss. Temperatures fluctuated exactly as expected, and the pattern was so clear that, statistically, the odds of the correlation existing by chance were one in 100," according to Hoover fellow Bruce Berkowitz.

The study says that "try as we might, we simply could not find any relationship between industrial activity, energy consumption and changes in global temperatures." The study concludes that if you shut down all the world's power plants and factories, "there would not be much effect on temperatures."

But if the sun shuts down, we've got a problem. It is the sun, not the Earth, that's hanging in the balance.

OUR THANKS TO THESE NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Larry Blair & Matthew Blair

Charles Easton

Cecil Haas — Patron

Quivira Coalition

Bill Zeedyk & Mary Maulsby —Sustaining

MEET OUR MEMBERS

LINDA PATTERSON

AWF Secretary

- Born/grew up where?** Southern Oregon **Marital status:** David, deceased.
- Age:** Ahhh...over the hill and then some. **Children:** Julie 42, Mike 40, Jessica 33, Scott 30.
- Education:** Oregon/Spanish, Tennessee/Law, New Mexico/Early Childhood Education BA and MA...Minor in Multicultural Education.
- Retired-From what profession?** Teaching.
- Previous jobs:** Junior college teacher in Oregon, Director of an Early Childhood program in Tennessee and kinder, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teacher in New Mexico.
- How long in New Mexico?** 27 years (Am I a native yet?)
- Favorite place in NM:** Chama area.
- Favorite outdoor activities:** Gardening, hiking anywhere in the mountains...especially the coastal range in Oregon, and walking in the beautiful Bosque here in Albuquerque.
- Favorite vacation destination/activity:** Paris...enjoying the spirit and magic of the city. Oregon Coast...whale watching in an old fishing boat (lucky to have someone who will take me) and beach bumming.
- Greatest adventure:** Exploring the Rain Forest in Peru and climbing Machu Picchu.
- Favorite book(s):** *The Old Man and The Sea*.
- Favorite magazine(s):** *Mother Earth News*, *Veranda*, and *Runner's World*.
- Hobbies/free time activities:** Gardening, African Drumming, reading, listening to good music and meeting friends for coffee.
- Other organizations you belong to:** Albuquerque Roadrunners, Retired Teachers Association, Albuquerque Rose Society, Irish American Society and the Irish Freedom Committee.

Personal goals:

1. I am passionate about the survival of the gray wolf and want to become more involved in the preservation of the species in New Mexico.
2. Simple living....I want to put into practice more of the information that I am learning and continue to create a welcoming, healthy habitat in my yard for both critters and the earth.
3. Become more active with the AWF and participate in more habitat restoration projects.

AWF member since: 2007.

Origin of my interest in wildlife: There was never a time in my life that wildlife critters were not important. I grew up in Southern Oregon with a Mom who was an avid gardener and gladly shared her garden space with most creatures. My Dad was a die hard fisherman who just loved being in the woods on a clear stream casting and reeling. We spent most weekends at our cabin just across the border into California with many wild animals including bob cat, deer, skunks, porcupine (ouch!!....some kids and their dogs have to learn the hard way), rattle snakes and bear...fishing, hiking and just enjoying being in the wilderness. We learned the importance of respecting them all. I was also fortunate to have been raised with horses and spent many days just riding the trails, or making my own, in the foothills where we lived. The health and well being of "critters" is deeply ingrained in my soul.

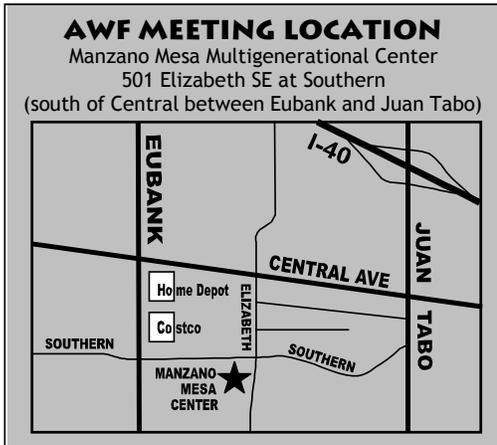
Why did you join AWF? I am drawn to the restoration of riparian areas in particular and am continually amazed at the expertise of those who are involved in the organization. There is so much knowledge being shared and so much to learn. Besides, the people are just the greatest!

Goals for AWF:

1. Continue with the restoration projects.
2. Continue to feature interesting speakers and presenters.
3. Continue to encourage new folks to become involved in such a welcoming way.



Here's Linda with a hairy little friend during her trip to Peru in 2007.



AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

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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

DIA DE LOS LOBOS!

Working to protect our Mexican Gray Wolves
Friday, March 14th, 7:00 pm — 9:00 pm
KiMo Theater in Downtown Albuquerque — FREE

Please come be a part of an historic evening and help send a message to Washington that our wild Mexican Gray Wolves need to be protected. With only 23 wild lobos left in New Mexico, the time to act is NOW!

Special guest speakers include: Rick Bass, distinguished author; Dave Parsons, former head of US Fish & Wildlife Service Wolf Reintroduction Program; Oscar Simpson, Conservation Policy Chair of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation; Cynthia Wolf, wilderness outfitter and wildlife biologist; local elected officials, plus music and film.

*Answer the howl to action
 and be the difference in saving our lobos!*

For more information, contact Nathan Newcomer, at 505-843-8696 or nathan@nmwild.org.

Sponsored by New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Student [under 18]	\$10	← [AWF Membership Only]	Dues \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35		*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$50-\$99		Contribution \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100		TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$500	← [One-time Payment]	