



ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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

AWF Newsletter

DECEMBER 2009

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Thursday, December 10, 2009 — 6:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p2)



Please join us for the **AWF Annual Meeting and Year-End Celebration!** AWF's December meeting is traditionally a time to enjoy good food and good people. We hope to see all our members, and we especially like to invite our friends who have been part of the year's activities, **including our wonderful guest speakers and project participants.**

We will start the evening at 6:30 with a potluck meal, so here's your chance to try out a new recipe! Expect the hunters among us to bring some tasty game-based dishes, but don't forget there will be vegetarians too. Dinner with AWF is always an adventure!

After the meal, we have some brief business to take care of...electing officers and directors for 2010. Voting is open to AWF members only (election slate at right). Nominations from the floor are always entertained, and remember: you may nominate yourself for any position.

After business comes pleasure: Larry Dwyer will present a program of nature photographs from his many scouting trips into the beautiful Pecos Wilderness this fall, preparing for his successful once-in-a-lifetime Big Horn Sheep hunt.

Please let us know if you will attend, so we can be sure to accommodate everyone.

Contact Glenda Muirhead at 505-281-2925 or g.muirhead@usfamily.net by Dec 9th.

Write it on the calendar now — and we'll see you there!

Slate for Election of Officers and Board of Directors

President: Glenda Muirhead
Vice President: Gene Tatum
Secretary: Patricia Hester
Treasurer: Dennis Muirhead

Directors:

Stephen Bohannon
Larry Dwyer
Brian Gleadle
Kurt Nolte
Linda Patterson
Michael Scialdone
Luke Shelby
Bill Zeedyk

— Submitted by Gene Tatum,
Nominations Chair

Jim Hubert's NOTABLE QUOTE of the month

"The Jemez landscape is what you could call a 'climate canary.' Our recent studies in the Jemez Mountains show that average temperatures have increased rapidly, and precipitation has declined significantly over the past 40 years."

— Terry Sullivan, NM State Director,
The Nature Conservancy, Nov 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As organizers of AWF's monthly project outings, we are always gratified by the energy, commitment, and productivity displayed by our volunteers in the field. But we aren't the only ones who admire these qualities.

This month's newsletter includes expressions of appreciation to the AWF members and friends who participated in our final two projects of the year: Cebolla Canyon in October and Piedra Lisa Trail in November. We also receive verbal compliments throughout the year for AWF's efforts on the land.

You do good work, and people notice. Thank you. And we hope to see you again next year.

Glenda Muirhead

Praise for AWF's Cebolla Canyon Volunteers

Dear Albuquerque Wildlife Federation:

Please accept my compliments for the supportive and pro-active role you all played this past October. As you know this long term restoration project in Cebolla Canyon is a labor of love that many AWF members feel strongly about. I am grateful that the group felt comfortable to express doubts, raise questions, and honestly participate in a frank discussion covering numerous sensitive topics.

You demonstrated the leadership style that other environmental groups and even government agencies rarely do. Your willingness to participate as co-equals was most welcome and will continue to make this restoration project successful.

Thank you for giving your time, energy and enthusiasm. It will and already has paid off in a big way.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Schramm — Park Ranger, Wilderness Coordinator of El Malpais NCA



STATE LAND OFFICE PLANS WHITES PEAK TRADES

Public could lose thousands of acres of prime hunting lands

NM Wildlife Federation has uncovered plans for four trades in the Whites Peak area of northern New Mexico, perhaps the highest quality state lands in New Mexico. But sportsmen and the public come out on the losing end of the two trades that have been set in motion.

According to documents obtained by NMWF, the public will lose some 3,700 acres of state trust land if the first two trades go through. Even worse for sportsmen, the lands lost are much higher quality habitat, featuring ponderosa pines, small lakes and streams and abundant wildlife. A substantial portion of the lands the state would receive in return from these trades would be in a single parcel of treeless grazing land strung out along State Highway 120.

Hundreds of New Mexico sportsmen have written to State Land Commissioner Patrick Lyons opposing these proposed trades that the State Land Office has spent the last 2-1/2 years working up behind closed doors with several landowners in the area. Commissioner Lyons wrote back to many of them and castigated the New Mexico Wildlife Federation for publicizing the details of the trade that he would likely prefer remain behind closed doors. But he still has not offered sufficient explanation for this trade and how it benefits the people of New Mexico.

These trades would clearly hurt hunting opportunity. They also will be bad for the public at large and for public schools that earn income from state lands. The State Land Office has repeatedly said the trades are necessary to resolve conflicts between the public and private landowners in the Whites Peak area, but has never said how the trade will benefit public education, which is its primary mission.

Read more at the NMWF website: www.nmwildlife.org

AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

PRESIDENT — Glenda Muirhead
VICE PRESIDENT — Barbara Coulter
SECRETARY — Patricia Hester
TREASURER — Dennis Muirhead
PAST PRESIDENT — Gene Tatum

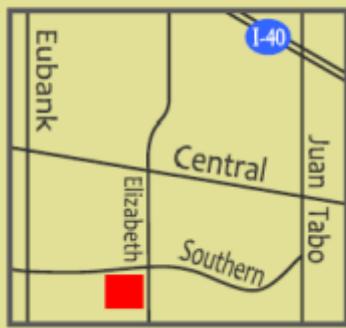
DIRECTORS

Stephen Bohannon Linda Patterson
 Larry Dwyer Michael Scialdone
 Brian Gleadle Luke Shelby
 Kurt Nolte Bill Zeedyk

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
 PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
<http://abq.nmwildlife.org>

AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
 501 Elizabeth SE at Southern



welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Kate Brown & Lyle Aufdermauer
 and Abe Aufdermauer

Steven Ginsberg

The AWF website has a new look!
<http://abq.nmwildlife.org>

PROJECT RECAP *in photos* : PIEDRA LISA TRAIL MAINTENANCE

November 7, 2009



Photo by Reid Bandeen



Photo by Reid Bandeen



Photo by Bill Velasquez



Photo by Reid Bandeen



Photo by Bill Velasquez

It was a tough hike in to the work area, but an excellent crew of hardy souls took on the challenge of scaling the heights to reach a portion of the Piedra Lisa trail in Placitas that hadn't seen attention in several years. By carving trail tread from the hillside and grading the slope for proper drainage, the group made many useful improvements to this popular hiking route.

Afterwards, to close out the AWF project season, Michael Scialdone hosted a gathering at Anasazi Fields Winery in Placitas after the trail activities, featuring wine tasting, food, and the vocal talents of his wife Anne.

PIEDRA LISA TRAIL PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Stephen Bohannon & Michelle Miano
 Reid Bandeen, Las Placitas Association
 Kate Brown and Abe Aufdermauer
 Phil Carter & Kristina G. Fisher
 Barb & Rich Diver
 Denise, Adam, Noah, and Benjamin Harmon-Stern
 Toby Jorin
 Jodey Kougioulis
 Dennis & Glenda Muirhead
 Matthew Rotunno
 Michael Scialdone
 Hamish Thomson
 Shannon Van de Riet
 Susan Van Note
 Bill Velasquez, Friends of Piedra Lisa South
 Carl & Marilyn Weik
 David Wilson

...and More Praise for AWF Volunteers

from **Bill Velasquez, Friends of Piedra Lisa South**

"Below is the report I filed with Sandia Ranger District. [Please] pass on to the folks that were there Saturday how impressed I am with the work they did! It was a pleasure to be with you all on the trail. The work that got done warmed my heart."

Cibola Trail Rangers

Subject: Report from Piedra Lisa North

I worked Saturday on Piedra Lisa North with Albuquerque Wildlife Federation (AWF). We removed remaining downed trees crossing the trail so it is all clear now. We also repaired/replaced 20 water bars and drain dips. We re-benched and widened nearly ½ mile of trail.

...

Praise goes to AWF for their dedicated work! They exceeded my expectations in every way and it was a joy to work with them!

Gregg's Pics

WILDLIFE ENJOY A GOOD DRINK

Since Gregory Dunn, Conservation Specialist at Kirtland Air Force Base, was our guest speaker in October, he has been sending along photographs of wildlife from Kirtland and around the state. We'll try to include some in each newsletter for your oohs and aahs.

Here are some pictures shot by automatic cameras at water stations on Base in November. Cool!



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 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 \$ _____