



AWF Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 2009 – 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p8)

PROGRAM: The Joys of Living With a Habitat Landscape
GUEST SPEAKER: Virginia Burris, Native Plant Society

For our February program, Virginia Burris will give a presentation on enjoying your backyard habitat. In her talk, she will discuss the differences between traditional landscape and habitat landscape in design, maintenance, and choice of plants.

Virginia is a Master Gardener and a past-President of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Native Plant Society. She designed and installed a wildlife habitat at the First Unitarian Church in Albuquerque and also in her own yard. These landscapes are certified by the National Wildlife Federation.

Virginia earned her BA in Biology from Antioch College in Ohio, and is a nationally and California State Registered Cytotechnologist. She is also a landscape designer, having completed coursework in plant selection at CNM and at UNM School of Architecture with instructor Judith Phillips.

Come join us! Get ideas on how to start moving your yard towards becoming a rewarding wildlife habitat using native plants.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last November, Dave Weingarten, a long-time AWF member, shared some historical documents with me, documents that speak to the history of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation. Titled "Lest We Forget," they date from 1950 and were compiled as a memento of the 35th annual meeting of the Albuquerque Game Protective Association, as AWF was then called.

Jim Hubert's
NOTABLE QUOTE
of the month

**"Nature knows no indecencies,
man invents them."**

— Mark Twain

Roger Neill, President, and Fred Landon, General Chairman, unearthed the original Charter of the group and also shared with the membership selections from minutes of early meetings. Some of them are surprising, others rather

amusing. Overall, though, what I found most compelling was the constancy of purpose expressed as the years passed.

The organization was first known as the Albuquerque Game and Fish Protective Association when it was founded by concerned sportsmen (most famously Aldo Leopold) to tackle issues of conservation of game species, game law violations, cooperation among vested interests, and public education.

After various permutations of designation ("Rio Grande Game and Fish Protective Association" held sway for a time), the organization eventually morphed into the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation of today. (I'd have to delve

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

into the archives to determine just when that happened—not an appealing prospect.) While the name has changed, the mission has held constant:

Conservation—Protection—Cooperation—Education.

This is something we can all take pride in, whether AWF members or not. The persistence of the founders’ legacy over the 95 years since 1914, the continuity despite internal leadership changes, governmental musical chairs, and local populace transformations, say very good things

about those who live here: there have been throughout AWF’s history people who are committed and dedicated to these important causes, and there always will be.

The documents from 1950 conclude with a Conservation Pledge: “...to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its soil and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.” I believe that is what we try to do.

– *Glenda Muirhead*

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT

LOS PADILLAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

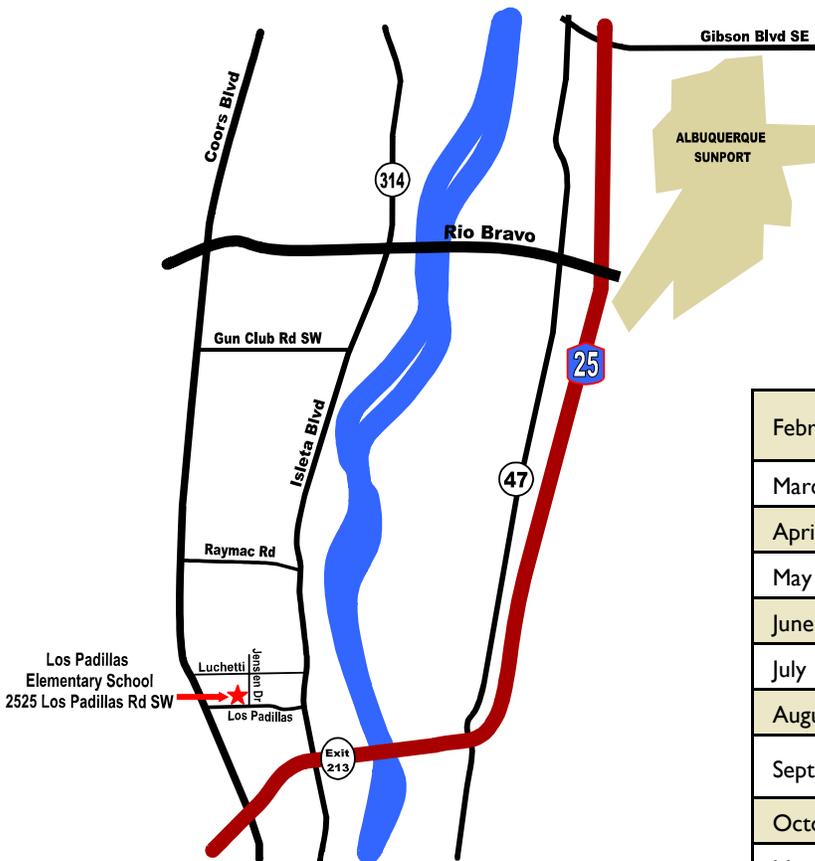
THE PLACE: Each year we kick off the Volunteer Project season with a one-day event in the Albuquerque region. This year we are proud to kick off the season by helping Los Padillas Elementary School in the South Valley. Near the school is a five-acre

patch of land that used to serve as part of their filtration system for gray water before the city finally ran sewer lines out to the school. The land dried up and has just sat there ever since. With help from Explora! a new vision is moving forward for this patch of land: to turn it into a restoration and education site for the kids at Los Padillas School. We will help make Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary a reality.

THE PROJECT: We will meet at the school at 10 am to get an overview of the project and a history of the site. We will help them follow through on their Noxious Weed Control Plan by pulling up non-native species. The two main target species are Perennial Pepperweed and Spiny Aster.

MEALS: Volunteers will need to bring their own lunch. AWF will have drinks and snacks for participants.

CONTACT: Michael Scialdone (505-232-8756, rioscial@gmail.com), or Glenda Muirhead (505-281-2925, g.muirhead@usfamily.net) to sign up.



2009 PROJECTS

February 21	Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary at Los Padillas Elem. School (ABQ South Valley)
March 21 & 22	Cedro Creek (East Mountains)
April 17-19	Cebolla Canyon I
May 15-17	Limestone Canyon
June 19-21	Rio de las Vacas
July 18-20	Valle Vidal
August 14-16	Valles Caldera National Preserve
September 18-20	Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration at Stewart Meadows—Carson NF
October 16-18	Cebolla Canyon II
November 7	Albuquerque Trails

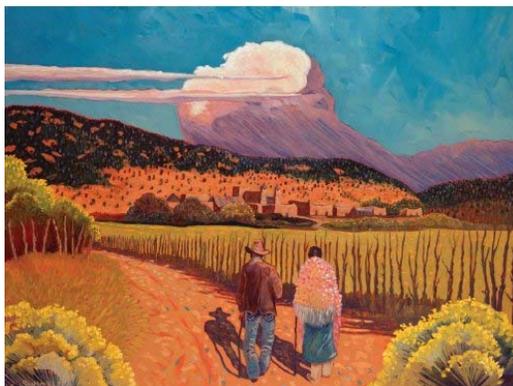
the Aldo Leopold centennial celebration 2009

"A Cultural Conversation: Aldo Leopold, the Southwest, and the Evolution of a Land Ethic for the Future"

February 13 and 14, 2009 — National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque

In 1909, the great American conservationist Aldo Leopold arrived in the Southwest as a ranger with the fledgling U.S. Forest Service. Over the course of a diverse and influential career, Leopold eloquently advocated a variety of critical conservation concepts, including wilderness protection, sustainable agriculture, wildlife research, ecological restoration, environmental education, land health, erosion control, biological holism, watershed management and, of course, a land ethic.

Each of these concepts resonates today — perhaps more so than ever as the conservation challenges of the 21st century grow more complicated. To this end, a diverse series of celebrations will take place in 2009, commencing in February with a creative discussion about the Southwestern roots of



Camino de Trampas by Ed Sandoval, 2007 (Taos, N.M.)

Aldo Leopold's land ethic, the roots of environmental ethics in Hispanic and Native American traditions, and the connections among them.

As the opening event in the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration 2009, this "cultural conversation" will be a creative discussion about the Southwestern roots of Aldo Leopold's land ethic, the roots of environmental ethics in Hispanic and Native American traditions, and the connections among them. Come join us in the conversation as we welcome participants from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and perspectives.

The program includes keynote speaker Gary Paul Nabhan, a Lebanese-American scholar, who will explore the challenge of living ethically in a time of global change. Then we'll investigate the roots of a land ethic in the Southwest, and a series of four panel discussions will look at the intersections of nature and culture from different cultural viewpoints.

REGISTER early as space may be limited! Registration is only **\$15**, plus optional meals. Register online at www.aldoleopold.org/southwest, or over the phone by calling Jeannine Richards at 608-355-0279, ext 25.

The Local & the Global

Aldo Leopold wrote "The Land Ethic" in the late 1940s, just as environmental concerns were becoming global in scope. His land ethic idea has helped to build an emerging global environmental ethic, while still emphasizing the need for local connections to our landscapes. Our first panel will explore connections between the local and global conservation challenges playing out in the Southwest and beyond.

Sustainability Across the Landscape

Sustainability aims to build healthy long-term relationships between people and land across cultural boundaries and landscapes—from wildlands to working lands to suburban and urban neighborhoods. Our landscapes are all interconnected by food, water, energy, and complex community and economic ties. Our second panel will examine the challenges and rewards of sustainability.

Community Engagement

Over the last two decades, community-based approaches to environmental stewardship have taken root in towns and cities across the country. This movement has deep roots in Leopold's own work engaging communities to protect watershed health in the Southwest and Midwest. Our third panel will explore how community-based projects contribute to the still-evolving land ethic.

Climate Change & Culture

With the reality of climate change now setting in, we face an obstacle unprecedented in human history. As we wrestle with understanding the magnitude of the situation before us, Leopold's land ethic can provide an essential part of the broader ethical foundation that can guide us as we seek solutions. Our fourth panel will address this great challenge from historical, scientific, and philosophical perspectives.

SPEAKERS

- Cyndie Abeyta** (ABQ), Middle Rio Grande coordinator/hydrologist, US Fish & Wildlife.
- Anthony Anella** (ABQ), principal of Anthony Anella Architect AIA.
- Estevan Arellano** (Embudo, N.M.), writer, poet, photographer, farmer, community leader.
- Richard Bartlett** (Dallas), vice president, Mary Kay Inc. and president, Thinking Like a Mountain Foundation.
- Butch Blazer** (Santa Fe), first Native American (Apache) state forester of New Mexico.
- Gregory Cajete** (ABQ), director of Native American Studies, University of NM.
- Susan Flader** (Columbia, Mo.), University of Missouri historian and Leopold scholar.
- Albino Garcia** (ABQ), founder of La Plazita Institute for at-risk youth.
- Drum Hadley** (Douglas, Ariz.), rancher, poet and founder of the Malpais Borderlands Group.
- Wenhui Hou** (Qingdao, China), translator of Leopold's A Sand County Almanac into Chinese.
- Buddy Huffaker** (Baraboo, Wis.), executive director, Aldo Leopold Foundation.
- Estella Leopold** (Seattle), professor emerita, University of Washington and daughter of Aldo.
- Ariel Lugo** (San Juan, P.R.), director, International Institute for Tropical Forestry, U.S. Forest Service.
- Bill McDonald** (Douglas, Ariz.), rancher and executive director of the Malpais Borderlands Group.
- Curt Meine** (Prairie du Sac, Wis.), Leopold biographer and senior fellow, Aldo Leopold Foundation.
- Bruce Milne** (ABQ), director, University of New Mexico Sustainability Studies Program.
- Ramona Montoya** (Isleta, N.M.), Natural Resources Department, Pueblo of Isleta.
- Milford Muskett** (Seattle), Navajo professor of Intra-American studies, Shoreline Community College.
- Gary Paul Nabhan** (Tucson, Ariz.), Southwest Center, University of Arizona.
- Miguel Santistevan** (Taos, N.M.), agricultural ecologist.
- Dan Shilling** (Phoenix), former director, Arizona Humanities Council and author, *Civic Tourism*.
- Carlos Vasquez** (ABQ), director of History and Literary Arts, National Hispanic Cultural Center.
- Cipriano Vigil** (El Rito, N.M.), folk musician and musicologist.
- Sylvia Hood Washington** (Chicago), School of Public Health, University of Illinois.
- Courtney White** (Santa Fe), co-founder and executive director of The Quivira Coalition.

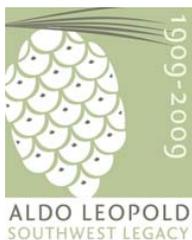
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, 13 February

- 1:00 PM Welcome
- 1:15 PM Keynote: *Ethics in a time of Global Change* — Gary Paul Nabhan
- 1:45 PM *Roots of a Land Ethic in the Southwest*: Susan Flader, Gregory Cajete, and Estevan Arellano
- 4:00 PM Panel I: *The Local & the Global*
- 5:30 PM Reception and buffet dinner (optional)
- 7:30 PM Film, stories, poetry and music from Southwestern traditions

Saturday, 14 February

- 8:00 AM Welcome
- 8:15 AM Panel II: *Sustainability across the Landscape*
- 10:15 AM Panel III: *Community Engagement*
- 11:45 AM Buffet Lunch (optional)
- 1:00 PM Panel IV: *Climate Change & Culture*
- 2:45 PM Break-out group discussions
- 4:00 PM Closing Round Table
- 5:00 PM Adjourn



On February 2, The City Council of Albuquerque proclaims 2009 as the Year of the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration!

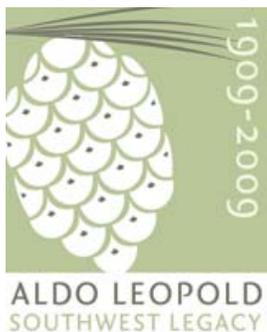
This historic proclamation is premised on Leopold's legacy:

In 1909, one hundred years ago, Aldo Leopold graduated from Yale's School of Forestry and arrived in Albuquerque, beginning a fifteen-year tenure in the Southwest. He was the first secretary of the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce (1918-1919), and while in that role expressed a dream of creating a Rio Grande Valley State Park along the Rio Grande, a dream which came to fruition in 1984.

Leopold was instrumental in forming the first wildlife organizations in New Mexico including the New Mexico Game Protective Association, the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

On February 15, the City of Albuquerque, the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District are dedicating the Aldo Leopold Forest in the Rio Grande State Park.

The Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration 2009 honors 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. 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 goal is to engage the citizens of our communities in the meaningful commitment to secure for our children the inheritance of a beautiful and healthy physical environment.



ALDO LEOPOLD FOREST DEDICATION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

As part of the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration, the City of Albuquerque and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District have established the **ALDO LEOPOLD FOREST** within the Rio Grande Valley State Park to celebrate and promote Leopold's vision for vibrant and healthy agriculture and wildlife communities and a river park for the citizens of Albuquerque to enjoy.

On the morning of February 15, Open Space will host Roots & Shoots and the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation for a volunteer service project to plant trees in the Aldo Leopold Forest. The goal is to plant 100 trees in honor of the 100 years since Leopold arrived in the Southwest.

A public reception to kick off the Centennial Celebration at the Open Space Visitor's Center will be held from 1 to 3 pm. The movie trailer for "Green Fire: The Life and Legacy of Aldo Leopold" will be shown. The film will be released in 2010. Speakers include dignitaries from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, the City of Albuquerque, and Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration.

A ceremony follows at 3 p.m. to dedicate the newly designated Aldo Leopold Forest, 53 acres of the Bosque, north of the Rio Grande Nature Center and south of Montano Boulevard, east of the Rio Grande.

WANT TO BE PART OF THIS?

If you would enjoy participating in the planting of 100 trees (actually 95—the final five will be placed at the dedication ceremony by attending dignitaries), please contact Glenda Muirhead (505-281-2925 or g.muirhead@usfamily.net) to express your interest. Roots & Shoots will have a contingent of close to 50 (mostly children, probably) at this project, so the planting process won't be an all-day affair. And Bill Pentler from City Open Space will offer information about planting techniques and history about Leopold as well, while everyone has lunch.

Details about where and what time will be provided when you call or email. You'll be there for the reception and dedication ceremony, too!

NEW MEMBERS

Van Clothier — Stream Dynamics
Laurie Marnell

RENEWED MEMBERS

Larry Blair
Matt Blair
Nancy Carrillo & Dave Huberty
Barbara Coulter
Jim Hines
Cliff & Joyce Mendel
Oscar Simpson
Gene Tatum & Pat Hester — *Patron*
Bill Zeedyk & Mary Maulsby — *Sustaining*

REMINDER:

AWF membership fees are due by February 11, 2009 (form on Page 8). If you need to check on your membership status please contact AWF Treasurer, Dennis Muirhead (damuirh@usfamily.net or 505-281-2925).

FAREWELL — AND NEW BEGINNINGS A NOTE FROM JON SCHWEDLER

I'm ensconced back here in Maryland and finally catching up on my farewells. Between getting the family moved and starting a new job I didn't have time to do the proper farewells as I would have liked. In lieu of that, I send this note to you all.

I wanted to thank AWF for the opportunity to serve on the board. It was a short time, but I enjoyed it immensely, as both my knowledge and life were enriched. Being able to serve with such passionate, committed folks was an honor and I truly appreciate the experience and company.

I hope everyone there remains healthy and able to enjoy New Mexico's great outdoors and wildlife (which I miss terribly—Jen has already caught me a couple times looking online at cabins for sale around the Gila!). I still receive the *Outdoor Reporter* here and keep track of things as best I can. Maybe one day I'll be lucky enough to land a job with The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico.

As for us, we're doing well. We are living close to the Potomac River northwest of Washington DC. I am working for The Nature Conservancy as their "senior media manager," which means I work with the press. Jen continues her web design work, and Luke and Isaac have transitioned here well....

I'll be back in NM in February for javelina season to fill my last NM tag. I had a great mule deer tag in the San Mateos but it was right when I had started my job, so I couldn't get back for that hunt. I was not happy about that.

Hope all is well, and take care!
Stay in touch!

Jon

PS: I wrote about AWF on my last blog, feel free to share with everyone: <http://thegreenneck.blogspot.com/>

Please check out Jon's Blog; it is informative. Jon also was very complimentary to AWF. For me it was a pleasure working with and getting to know Jon. He is missed here, but his contributions to wildlife and habitat on behalf of the conservation community will increase significantly. Best wishes to Jon and family. His successes will also be ours.

— Gene Tatum

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE — DO YOU HAVE DOUBTS?

By Gene Tatum

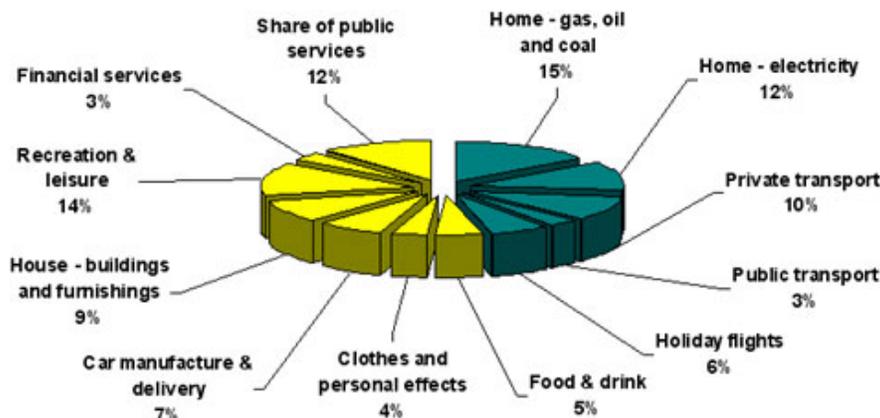
Many of us do not pay much attention to Global Climate Change. I remember last winter, doubters of global warming stated, "This has been the coldest winter I can remember, so I cannot believe that our planet's climate is changing." Of course there is real science to document that climate has in fact been changing. From the Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov/climatechange:

According to NOAA and NASA data, the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 1.2 to 1.4°F in the last 100 years. The eight warmest years on record (since 1850) have all occurred since 1998, with the warmest year being 2005. Most of the warming in recent decades is very likely the result of human activities. Other aspects of the climate are also changing such as rainfall patterns, snow and ice cover, and sea level.

If greenhouse gases continue to increase, climate models predict that the average temperature at the Earth's surface could increase from 3.2 to 7.2°F above 1990 levels by the end of this century. Scientists are certain that human activities are changing the composition of the atmosphere, and that increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases will change the planet's climate.

The carbon foot print is another commonly used term which most of us hear but do not really understand. The following info is excerpted from www.carbonfootprint.com/carbonfootprint.html.

A **carbon footprint** is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment, and in particular climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation, etc. The carbon footprint is a measurement of all greenhouse gases we individually produce and has units of tonnes (or kg) of carbon dioxide equivalent.



The pie chart above shows the main elements which make up the total of a typical person's carbon footprint in the developed world.

A carbon footprint is made up of the sum of two parts, the primary footprint (shown by the green slices of the pie chart) and the secondary footprint (the yellow slices).

1. The **primary footprint** is a measure of our direct emissions of CO₂ from the burning of fossil fuels including domestic energy consumption and transportation (e.g. car and plane). We have direct control of these.
2. The **secondary footprint** is a measure of the indirect CO₂ emissions from the whole lifecycle of products we use—those associated with their manufacture and eventual breakdown. To put it very simply: **the more we buy, the more emissions will be caused on our behalf.**

As the pie chart indicates, the secondary footprint adds more to greenhouse gases than the primary footprint. Here are some buying habits which you can modify to reduce your secondary footprint: *Don't buy foods out of season which have been flown or shipped in from far away • Reduce consumption of meat • Don't buy bottled water (especially if it has been shipped from far away) • Buy local fruit and vegetables, or even try growing your own • Try to buy products made closer to home (avoid items that are made in distant lands) • Buy organic produce • Don't buy over-packaged products • Recycle as much as possible •*

BEFORE THE NM LEGISLATURE

Brian Gleadle has prepared a summary of Legislative and Governor action taken on bills being tracked by the Department of Game & Fish during this 60-day session. Below are brief notes on a selected few of those bills that may interest AWF members. A more detailed review of pertinent bills can be made by logging onto <http://www.legis.state.nm.us/>.

HB 11: VALLES CALDERA ELK LICENSES (Wallace)

This amendment will direct the Director of the Department of Game and Fish to issue between 15 to 20 bull elk authorizations each year to the Valles Caldera National Preserve separate from the current lottery system allocation. The Valles Caldera National Preserve board would determine the process in which the authorizations would be issued and all money collected would be retained by the Preserve.

- **1/21/09** – Bill introduced and assigned to the Health and Government Affairs Committee.
- **1/27/09** – Bill received a “Do Pass” in Health and Government Affairs and now goes to the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

HB 68: NON-GAME FISH CAPTURE OR KILLING (Campos)

Directs the state game commission to adopt rules on the manner, method and devices used for the taking, capturing or killing of non-game fish necessary for the protection and conservation of game fish; and provides penalties consistent with state game commission rules. The bill is intended to help protect native species that may be affected in the current incidental take of non-game fish. This is a Department sponsored bill.

- **1/21/09** – Bill introduced and assigned to the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee.
- **1/30/09** – Bill received a “Do Pass” in House Energy & Natural Resources and now goes to the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 143: GAME & FISH PENALTY ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS

(Barela) – Amending the Penalty Assessment Statute that will create three new criteria for which a penalty assessment citation can be issued by Game and Fish officers. These include Upland game rule infractions; Waterfowl rule infractions; and Manner and Method infractions. This is a Department sponsored bill.

- **1/21/09** – Bill introduced and assigned to the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

HB 159: EXPAND CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Park)

The amendment seeks to expand and clarify the crime of cruelty to animals and provide or increase penalties for certain cases. The amendment also removes reptiles from those animals previously exempted for consideration in these types of violation and it is unclear how this change will effect the Department given its responsibility to regulate the taking of reptiles from the wild and the permitting for importation.

- **1/22/09** – Bill introduced and assigned to the House Consumer & Public Affairs Committee.

HB 163: CRIMINAL TRESPASS NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

(Vaughn) – Amending the posting and notice requirements for criminal trespass. Current posting requirements for private property to prevent trespass will be replaced with a requirement for the property owner to provide notice that trespass or entry onto the property is forbidden without permission of the landowner. This notice can include written communication by the landowner or someone act on their behalf; fencing or other enclosure of the property obviously designed to exclude intruders or to contain livestock; a sign posted on the property or at the entrance to the building, reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders, indicating that entry is forbidden; or the placement of identifying orange paint marks on trees or posts on the property.

- **1/22/09** – Bill introduced and assigned to the House Consumer & Public Affairs Committee.

HB 202: OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLES ON HIGHWAYS

(Tripp) – Removes the prohibitions of operating an off-highway motor vehicle on any paved street or highway.

- **1/22/09** – Bill introduced and assigned to the House Transportation and Public Works Committee.

HB 467: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL (Tripp)

Provides for the authority of the Director of Game and Fish to designate species of exotic or non-native animals or plants as aquatic invasive species; water bodies within the state as infested waters; and specific requirements to decontaminate conveyances and equipment. The bill also establishes enforcement authority to include impoundment of equipment for non-compliance and authorization for the State Game Commission to develop rules to implement and enforce the provisions of the Bill.

- **1/29/09** – Bill introduced and assigned to the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

HJM 4: WILDLIFE CORRIDOR INFO SHARING (Stewart)

Requests that State Agencies using existing resources work with other agencies, Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos and Private groups to share information about key wildlife corridors.

- **1/22/09** – Joint Memorial introduced and assigned to the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

SB 379: OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE REGULATIONS (Griego)

Among other changes to the Off-highway Vehicle Act, the significant amendment would move the responsible agency designation for oversight of the OHV Act from the Department of Tourism to the Department of Game and Fish.

- **1/29/09** – Bill introduced and assigned to the Senate Corporations & Transportation Committee.

HB = House Bill
HJM = House Joint Memorial
SB = Senate Bill

NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE SESSION DATES—2009

January 20	Opening day (noon)
February 19	Deadline for introduction of bills and capital outlay requests
March 21	Session ends (noon)
April 10	Bills not acted upon by governor are pocket vetoed
June 19	Effective date of bills not carrying an emergency clause or other specified dates

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS BILL?

By Dennis A. Muirhead

For your information, **Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009 (H.R.45 Gun Bill 2009)** has been introduced in the House of Representatives, and was referred to House committee on January 6. The bill may be viewed at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c11:H.R.45>.

I think this proposed legislation may be unconstitutional. If the Attorney General decided no one should have a gun, that would be the end of gun ownership. H.R.45 would give the Attorney General total control over guns, living arrangements, and personal life style. I am sorry Blair Holt was shot, but why force millions of gun owners to pay? Morals and ethics are the problem here, not gun control. Check out the website and read the bulk of this proposed bill. I do not think it will make it out of committee, but you never know.

BRIEF SUMMARY

1. Would require licensing for anybody who owns a gun, or wants to own a gun. The license can be turned down or denied by the Attorney General.
2. Would require photographs and a thumbprint.
3. Would require passing a test that covers:
 - the safe storage of firearms, particularly in the vicinity of those under 18 years of age
 - the safe handling of firearms
 - the use of firearms in the home and the risks associated with such use
 - the legal responsibilities of firearms owners, including Federal, State, and local laws relating to requirements for the possession and storage of firearms, and relating to reporting requirements with respect to firearms
 - any other subjects, as the Attorney General determines to be appropriate.

Amends Sec. 401—Criminal Penalties to allow for fines, imprisonment or both for failure to comply with specified regulations.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wildlife Tracking & Monitoring Workshop March 28-29, 2009

with professional trackers
Casey McFarland and Tanya Diamond

Wildlife Corridors of NM (Pathways & Galisteo) are seeking "Grassroots Naturalists" to help us track and monitor mammals and other wildlife in the Galisteo to Placitas area.

What: An intensive 2-day workshop for volunteers interested in tracking/monitoring 6 key species and reporting results for a minimum of one year to Wildlife Corridors of NM. This data is for use in County and State plans that "sustain viable and resilient populations" of wildlife.

Volunteers conduct "track surveys" and record data, walking specific transects or monitor locations monthly, recording tracks with photos, GPS, and written observations. Area wildlife professionals join volunteer teams to refine tracking techniques and wildlife sign recognition. Volunteers learn where to look for signs and about the ecology and behavior of local species.

Where: Workshop location is the Arroyo Hondo Fire Station #2, Old Las Vegas Highway. Directions: take I-25 to Old Pecos Trail Exit, turn north toward Santa Fe, then left at first light (Old Las Vegas Highway). Take OLVH east for 6.1 miles. You will see the large new firehouse on your right just past the turn for US 285 south.

Times: Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29, 8 am to 5 pm. Classroom instruction will be held at the Fire Station and trips into the field will convene there and be led to various locations nearby.

Workshop Fee: \$100 which includes two days of training, all materials and equipment, and snacks.

Application Deadline is February 28th, 2009. Please request an application from the Workshop Coordinator: Peter Callen at 4winged@gmail.com.

Brad Lancaster Lecture: Rainwater Harvesting

Brad Lancaster, an amazing speaker, will be lecturing at Albuquerque Academy on Feb. 25th at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts building. This lecture is free to the public, but seating is limited so come early. Brad is the author of *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond Volumes 1 and 2*. Brad is entertaining, informative and inspiring. Not to be missed!

Check out his website for details about his books and philosophy: <http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>

Be a "Stream Team" Captain For WildEarth Guardians

WildEarth Guardians is planning for our 2009 Stream Team — our annual tree planting effort restoring stream-side habitat across New Mexico, engaging hundreds of community members to plant more than 35,000 trees, helping to curb erosion, protect native wildlife, and improve water quality.

You might be interested in being a Stream Team captain for one or more of the dates below. It's pretty simple — you're the glue of your tree planting team on the day of and in charge of equipment (gloves and shovels mostly). There will be a pre-meeting on February 26 in the evening that all captains need to attend, or work with our Stream Team planner and Associate Director, Carol Norton, to get trained before the day of the event.

Also, on the day of the event, it's imperative that you arrive by 9:00 am (there can be no exceptions to this) and stay until the end of the day.

DATES: La Jencia near Socorro—3/7; Rio Puerco near ABQ—3/27 and 28; San Marcos near Santa Fe—4/4; Santa Fe River in Santa Fe—4/18.

If you're interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Carol at: cnorton@wildearthguardians.org or 505-988-9126 x1150. For more information on our Stream Team program, background, and pictures, check out: <http://www.wildearthguardians.org/WildRivers/ProtectingRestoringWildRivers/StreamTeam/tabid/62/Default.aspx>.

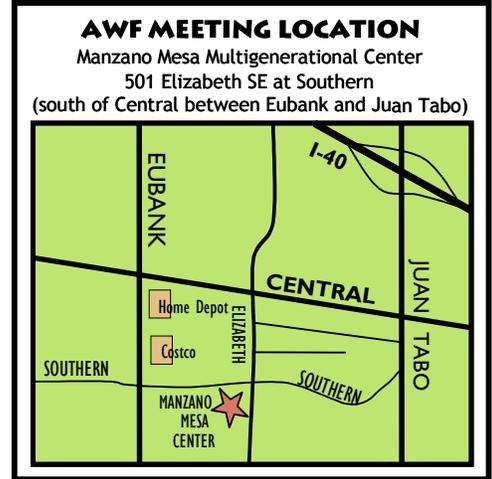
— Rebecca Sobel, Conservation Organizer, WildEarth Guardians

GOVERNOR APPOINTS KENT SALAZAR TO STATE GAME COMMISSION

On January 16, Governor Bill Richardson named Kent Salazar to replace Oscar Simpson on the New Mexico Game Commission. “Kent Salazar is an avid hunter and outdoorsman who is respected for his deep knowledge of conservation issues both in New Mexico and nationally. I am confident he will be an excellent addition to the Game Commission,” said Governor Richardson. “I’d also like to thank Oscar Simpson for his service and dedication to the State Game Commission.”

Kent Salazar is the National Wildlife Federation’s Regional Director. He also runs an environmental consulting business in Albuquerque. Previously, Kent worked for the City of Albuquerque’s Environmental Health Department for twenty years and he has also worked as an environmental planner and coordinator for the Land of Enchantment Clean Cities Program. Kent has a Bachelors degree in biology from the University of New Mexico. He will finish out Oscar’s term which expires on December 31, 2011.

We congratulate Kent and wish him success with the challenges of this new post. We also offer Oscar our sincere appreciation for his service on the Commission where he demonstrated determination and dedication to the environmental, wild-life, and habitat issues that touch all New Mexicans.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS	
MARCH 12	“Attracting Birds to Your Back Yard” • Barbara May, Wild Birds Unlimited
APRIL 9	“Let’s Talk Turkeys”: Calling, Hunting, Biology — New Mexico Style • Bill Zeedyk, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting & AWF Board Member
MAY 14	“Kenya’s Maasai Mara National Reserve – A Wildlife Photo Adventure” • Kirk Gadzia, Resource Management Services & Tamara Gadzia, Quivira Coalition
JUNE 11	Rio Grande Community Farm—Enjoy a tour and program • Susan Smith, Education and Outreach Coordinator

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
 PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

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

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