

# AWF Newsletter

## JANUARY 2009

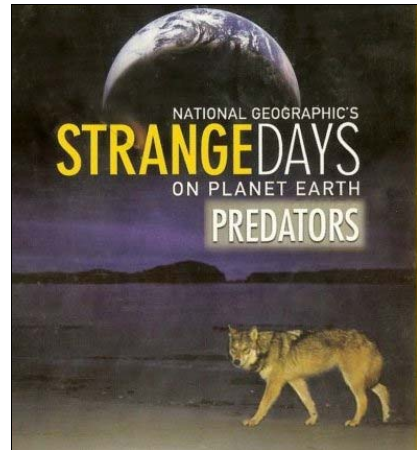
### MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, January 8, 2009 – 7:30 pm  
Manzano Mesa Center (map p4)

— Movie Night —  
**Strange Days on Planet Earth:  
PREDATORS**

Come enjoy a film from National Geographic about the role of predators in the world's ecosystems...even those close to home. We'll have popcorn and other snacks while we watch, and discuss the issues afterwards.

*From Caribbean coral reefs to Yellowstone's forests, serious disruptions in once-stable ecological zones are being linked to a common factor: loss of major predator species. In our suburban neighborhoods, cities and rural frontiers, most of us can feel safe from any attacks by large predators. In the battle over territory, we can clearly claim victory. Today, however, many scientists are beginning to question our gain. Predators, it turns out, serve an important function in the web of life. How valuable are they?*



*Learn how an entire ecosystem can change when its top predators disappear. At Yellowstone National Park, aspen trees and willow bush are disappearing from the landscape at an alarming rate. Could the demise of wolves in the park over the past century provide the answer? The bold move to re-introduce wolves back into the park may have outraged some of the locals living nearby, but it only takes a couple of years to see the difference their presence makes.*

*As scientists work to understand the vital role of predators, the question remains: Even if humans can coexist with large carnivores, is it too late to bring them back?*

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

**“Synthetic pesticides have been so thoroughly distributed throughout the animate and inanimate world that they occur virtually everywhere. They have been recovered from most of the major river systems and even from streams of groundwater flowing unseen through the earth. Residues of these chemicals linger in soil to which they may have been applied a dozen years before....They have been found in fish in remote mountain lakes, in earthworms burrowing in soil, in the eggs of birds—and in man himself.”**

— Rachel Carson, in her book “*Silent Spring*,” 1962

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone. No doubt we all look forward to better times in 2009 than we experienced during much of 2008.

AWF, however, had a very good year. It is my hope that, with the support of our strong and energetic board, we will continue the growth and engagement that Gene Tatum has worked so diligently to promote. *Thank you, Gene, for an impressive four years!*

One of the many successes of Gene's tenure as president is our collaboration with other like-minded groups, which has brought dozens of new faces to our field projects, increased our membership—and brought us to the attention of so many people who

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

were unaware that AWF even exists. (That's rather sad for an organization that's been around since 1914.) So we're moving toward our centennial mark in five years with determination and optimism—and having fun, too!

Speaking of centennials, 2009, as I hope you're aware, marks the 100th year since AWF founder Aldo Leopold's career brought him to the Southwest. On page 3 is an announcement of the first official event of the year-long Celebration honoring his legacy: "A Cultural Conversation," sponsored by the Aldo Leo-

pold Foundation, on February 13-14. Please think about attending this inaugural conference: the speakers are varied, the topics timely, and the cost quite reasonable.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as AWF president, and am grateful to all who have sent personal messages of encouragement. As I find my way through the responsibilities of the job, I will look to our talented Board for their skills and guidance, and to you, our members and friends, for input and suggestions.

— Glenda Muirhead



## 2009 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

2009 is looking to be another great year for getting out to AWF Volunteer Projects. These projects have become an integral part of the AWF mission. They are a fun and rewarding way to give back to the land while hanging out in beautiful places and meeting people who share a commitment to the protection and restoration of wildlife habitat. We make it easy to remember — they are on the third Saturday of the month from February through October. The complete listing is below. With every newsletter, we will send updated information. We may also have projects listed from some of our partner organizations. At every project, we are working to increase the variety of activities available — there is something for everyone.

The first two are local to the Albuquerque area and are day trips. The remainder are weekend campouts, though some folks join us for just the day on these. On most of the campouts, we will continue to serve breakfast burritos to get you going before the main work day of Saturday. Then in the evening, AWF will provide burgers and veggie burgers to complement a potluck. The potlucks in the past have simply been amazing. Your membership with AWF helps pay for the food provided to the hard-working volunteers on our projects.

For the 27<sup>th</sup> year, we will head up to the Valle Vidal in July, continuing to build on the great work that has been done there. Valles Caldera is on the list for August. Last year we were the first volunteer group allowed to camp in the Preserve and we did such a great job it looks good for our return. In September will be a special event near Tres Piedras to commemorate

the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Aldo Leopold in New Mexico. And a personal favorite, we will do two trips this year to Cebolla Canyon near the El Malpais National Monument, in April and October. The progress made here in the last ten years is outstanding. Come see it for yourself.

*Oh — and a quick introduction. My name is Michael Scialdone and I go by the nickname Scial (pronounced 'shell'). I have joined the AWF Board of Directors and am looking forward to serving as Volunteer Coordinator for the organization. If you have questions or ideas about the projects, I welcome your input. I can be reached at: [rioscial@gmail.com](mailto:rioscial@gmail.com) or 505-232-8756.*

### 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

### 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 this 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. *Our goal is to engage the citizens of our community in the meaningful commitment to promise our children the inheritance of a beautiful and healthy physical environment.*

[www.leopoldcelebration.org](http://www.leopoldcelebration.org)

# A Cultural Conversation:

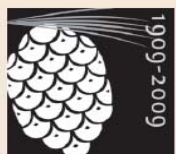
## Aldo Leopold, the Southwest, and the Evolution of a Land Ethic for the Future

Beginning a Year-Long Centennial Celebration of Aldo Leopold's Arrival in the Southwest

February 13-14, 2009

### National Hispanic Cultural Center

1701 4th Street SW  
Albuquerque, N.M.



ALDO LEOPOLD  
SOUTHWEST LEGACY

The conference is co-sponsored by the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Additional funding has been provided by the New Mexico Humanities Council through the We the People initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The conference kicks off the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration 2009. For more events throughout the year, visit [www.LeopoldCelebration.org](http://www.LeopoldCelebration.org).

*"Nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written'... it evolves in the minds of a thinking community." Aldo Leopold*

#### Speakers:

Gary Paul Nabhan: Southwest Center, Univ. of Arizona; Susan Flader: Leopold scholar; Gregory Cajete: Dir. of Native American studies, UNM; Estevan Arellano: poet, farmer, and community leader; and many others. Special evening program with Cipriano Vigil and Estella Leopold.

#### Topics:

- The Roots of a Land Ethic
- The Local and the Global
- Sustainability Across the Landscape
- Community Engagement
- Climate Change and Culture

**Registration \$15/person**

Conference registration is through the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Find conference information and registration at: [www.aldoleopold.org/southwest](http://www.aldoleopold.org/southwest).

## 2009 BOARD ELECTED AT AWF ANNUAL MEETING

Thirty people came bearing delicious—and often interesting—food for AWF's Annual Meeting and potluck dinner on December 8. Once the bountiful meal was completed, the issue of electing officers and board members for 2009 was addressed efficiently as the proposed slate was approved by acclamation (*complete list on page 4*). We welcome new Board member Michael Scialdone, who will also act as Volunteer Coordinator, and we say "goodbye" to Toby Rosenblatt, who has stepped off the Board—but not off the Projects Committee (*got that, Toby?*). Also, Jon Schwedler has departed for the East Coast and a new opportunity with The Nature Conservancy. *Best of luck to Jon*. And the extraordinary Bill Zeedyk returns for another year, maintaining his unbroken streak of service on the AWF Board (*more than two decades now, Bill?*).

On behalf of AWF, Larry Dwyer presented Luke Shelby with a handsome plaque (*designed by our own Stephen Bohannon*) honoring his 25 years of service with the Game & Fish Department and his dedication to NM's wildlife. Now retired, Luke will serve on our Board as a "real person." By appointment, Brian Gleadle will replace Luke as the DG&F rep on the Board.

Barbara Coulter continues as Vice President; newly elected were Glenda Muirhead as President, Patricia Hester as Secretary, and Dennis Muirhead as Treasurer. Gene Tatum remains on the Board as Immediate Past President.

## MEETING TO ADDRESS PRIVATE-LAND ACCESS, POSTING

*E-mail from Ross Morgan, Public Information Officer-NM Department of Game and Fish, December 12, 2008:*

The State Game Commission will have a **special meeting in Albuquerque on Saturday, January 10**, to hear public comments and discuss proposed rules regarding hunters' and anglers' access to private lands. The special meeting was called to gather more information from the public about proposed amendments to state hunting and fishing manner-and-method rules, specifically how property is posted against trespass. The proposed amendments also address responsibilities of landowners, hunters and anglers in obtaining or granting permission to hunt or fish on private land.

The meeting will be from **1 to 4 pm** in the first-floor multi-purpose room of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Road NW, in Albuquerque. More information is available by calling (505) 476-8008.

Private landowners are an active, consolidated group who engage the Department and Commission to ensure that their interests are considered. As a consequence, hunters, anglers and other outdoor recreationists must consolidate to ensure that the concerns of public land users receive equal and fair consideration. ***It is important that we attend the meeting and be an advocate for public land users.***

**SUMMARY:** Four years ago the Commission passed a rule which required public land deer hunters to receive written permission from private landowners to hunt on their land. Although wildlife is publicly owned, the rule appears to be a reasonable means to protect private property rights. However, the responsibility for posting private land boundaries has been and continues to be a contentious issue. Private landowners maintain that posting boundaries is an economic hardship, and want to have public land hunters entirely responsible for avoiding trespass.

The Department proposed rule is expanded beyond deer: "It shall be unlawful to hunt, capture, take, attempt to take, or kill any game animal, furbearer, game bird, or game fish without possessing written permission on any private property...." The Department's proposed rule does refer to compliance with NM Statute 30-14-6, which requires that private property be posted by the owner to prevent persons from trespassing or entering upon the property without permission of the owner" (30-14-6.B.).

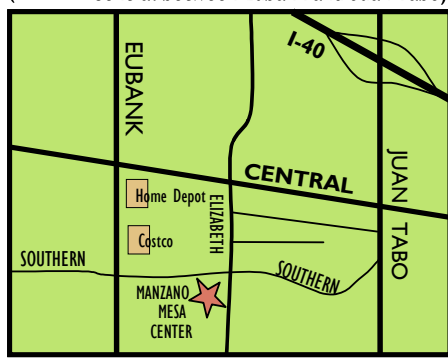
Given the specific requirements of NM's Trespass Statute and the primary unresolved issue regarding responsibility for posting private land, I am concerned by two points:

First, why is the Commission still considering input on rule-making when existing statute already establishes responsibilities? Second, the proposed rule states: "A. It shall be unlawful to hunt, capture, take, attempt to take, or kill any game animal, furbearer, game bird, or game fish without possessing written permission on any private property that is in compliance with 30-14-6 NMSA posting requirements unless otherwise allowed for in rule or statute." This wording appears to present a contradiction and an opportunity for the 30-14-6 NMSA to be avoided. Additional information can be found at the Department website [www.wildlife.state.nm.us/documents/privatelandrule.html](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/documents/privatelandrule.html).

— Gene Tatum

### AWF MEETING LOCATION

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



### 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  
Greg McReynolds      Bill Zeedyk  
Kurt Nolte

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

### REMINDER:

Membership fees are due by  
**February 11, 2009**  
(form on Page 5)

### RENEWED MEMBERS

Andy Iskra - Sustaining  
Richard E. Leonard - Patron  
Ron Madsen  
Larry & Marianne Miller  
Dennis & Glenda Muirhead  
Luke Shelby  
Jim Wilson

**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 \$** \_\_\_\_\_