



AWF Newsletter

MAY 2009

MONTHLY MEETING

DON'T MISS IT!

Thursday, May 14, 2009 – 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p5)

Masai Mara Wildlife Adventure — The Great Wildebeest Migration

Guest Speakers: Kirk and Tamara Gadzia

In August 2008, Kirk and Tamara Gadzia traveled to Kenya and the Masai Mara National Reserve to experience one of the last and greatest animal migrations on earth. The Masai Mara lies in the Great Rift Valley, a fault line some 3,500 miles long, from Ethiopia's Red Sea through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and into Mozambique.

The endless plains of east Africa are the setting for the world's greatest wildlife spectacle. From the vast Serengeti plains to the champagne-colored hills of Kenya's Masai Mara, over 1.4 million wildebeest and 200,000 zebra and gazelle, relentlessly tracked by Africa's great predators, migrate in a clockwise fashion over 1,800 miles each year in search of rain-ripened grass.

Kirk and Tamara will present spectacular photos from their safari "*Masai Mara Wildlife Adventure: The Great Wildebeest Migration*," and discuss the impact that large migrations have on vegetation and wildlife.

Kirk Gadzia is a Holistic Resource Management consultant who works with ranchers across the United States and internationally to improve the sustainability of their lands and enterprises. Kirk has more than 25 years experience in working on rangeland health and grazing issues and is



PHOTO BY GADZIA

co-author of *Rangeland Health* (*National Academy of Sciences* 1994). He has developed and implemented range monitoring techniques to provide early-warning indicators of deteriorating rangeland health. Kirk has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and an M.S. in Range Science.

Tamara holds down the fort at the Quivira Coalition in Santa Fe and looks forward to her time outdoors with all the wild beasts.

Jim Hubert's NOTABLE QUOTE of the month

"I'd rather be at the table than on the menu."

— Jeff Serba, CEO-PNM, March 16, 2009, regarding PNM's decision to join a national coalition to develop greenhouse gas emissions standards

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last Sunday a Montañita Co-op held its 20th Annual Celebrate the Earth Fest at Nob Hill last Sunday with a street fair featuring representatives from a multitude of diverse groups such as Hawkwatch, Amigos Bravos, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Animal Protection of New Mexico, Roots and Shoots, and Bike ABQ, as well as some fine musical entertainment. I had the pleasure of representing the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration at a table shared with the UNM Sustainability Studies Program.

My hour at the table was from noon until 1 pm. During that time, I visited with a variety of individuals to promote the legacy of Aldo Leopold and inform them of the

(Continued on page 2)

planned events and activities celebrating the centennial of his arrival in New Mexico. Naturally, I took every opportunity to emphasize that Leopold was the founder of Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, in 1914, and distributed flyers about AWF's restoration project in September as part of the Centennial Celebration, at Steward Meadows in the Tres Piedras Ranger District of Carson National Forest.

Responses to my query, "Are you familiar with Aldo Leopold?" ranged from "Not at all" to "I think I've heard the name" to "I've read all his books." But each person took the time to discuss this remarkable conservationist, maybe for the first time, perhaps for the twentieth.

AWF Board Member Linda Patterson also tended the table later in the day. She says, "...lots of folks stopped by our display...and I was so surprised by the fact that most knew who Aldo Leopold was. That's a good thing! Many did not realize that he had lived in New Mexico and were surprised to hear some of the impact that he had here."

There were several familiar faces: It was fun to chat with Ray Powell, of Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots, and Phil Carter, representing NM Wilderness Alliance. Bill Pentler (one of AWF's 2008 guest speakers) was just across the street at the City Open Space booth. And it was a special treat to be visited by Miguel Santistevan, an agricultural ecologist who spoke to great effect at the inaugural Leopold Centennial event in February, the "Cultural Conversation" symposium.

One of the attractions to the Leopold table was a drawing for a copy of *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold's most recognized work. A few demurred at filling out an entry form, saying they already had a copy, but I urged them to enter anyway, to share it with a friend if they should win. One way or another, the book will end up in the hands of an inquiring mind ready to appreciate the wisdom of this visionary. As Linda said, "That's a good thing!"

— Glenda Muirhead

ARE YOU AFRAID FOR THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT? — BILL ZEEDYK IS!

In January, the Bush administration pushed through a change to the Endangered Species Act that allows federal agencies without biological expertise to decide for themselves to what degree their own projects will impact endangered wildlife, eliminating the requirement for independent scientific review.

The new process removes the expert opinions of the government scientists who, for decades, have provided critical analysis of the consequences of federal projects for endangered species, and replaces them with the uneven oversight of agencies with potential conflicts of interest and without the relevant scientific expertise.

On March 11, President Obama signed a law that gives the secretaries of interior and commerce the authority to rescind the controversial rules. Secretary Ken Salazar and Secretary Gary Locke have until May 9 to roll back the flawed changes.

Below is Bill Zeedyk's compelling reaction to these changes. Bill is a retired Forest Service wildlife biologist, AWF Board Member and Past President, and habitat restoration ecologist.

The policies incorporated in the Bush changes to the Endangered Species Act, reference Section 7 Consultation, totally gut the Act and will have the effect of repealing it without the outcry that actual repeal would have entailed. Even those Federal agencies with the scientific capability for properly assessing the effects of projects and programs on Threatened and Endangered species will probably not be inclined to do so now, knowing that there will be no one to look over their shoulders. Agency goals, pet projects and personal agendas will prevail. Those who scorn the Act will be in charge.

As the first national-level endangered species biologist for the Forest Service, 1975-77, I led the effort to write agency policy and procedures implementing the Act on the National Forests. I learned the lesson well. There has to be a Federal watchdog agency with the authority to challenge other agency decisions and demand honest, straight-forward assessments (Biological Evaluations). Where there is open disagreement

between agencies as to probable effects of proposed actions, it's up to the courts to sort it out.

Under the Bush changes, no threats will ever come to light, the public will never learn what species are being jeopardized next, nor where, nor by whom, and no one will ever be the wiser for it. Secrecy shall prevail. No issue will ever get to Court. There will be no scientific debate.

What species shall we nominate for the "you go extinct next" list? Let's take a poll. How about the Silvery Minnow, the Gila Trout, the Mexican Wolf, the River Otter, Leopard Frogs, the Bald Eagle, or the Socorro Isopod? Now there's a good one. No one will ever miss that thing. "What good is it anyway?"

The issue should be of burning concern to **everyone** who cares about our natural resources and what's left. Not just Scientists.

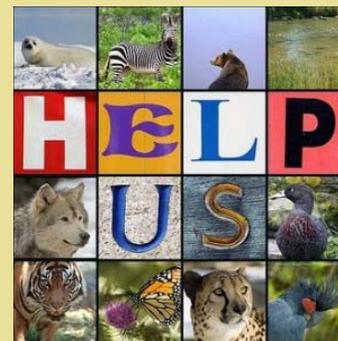
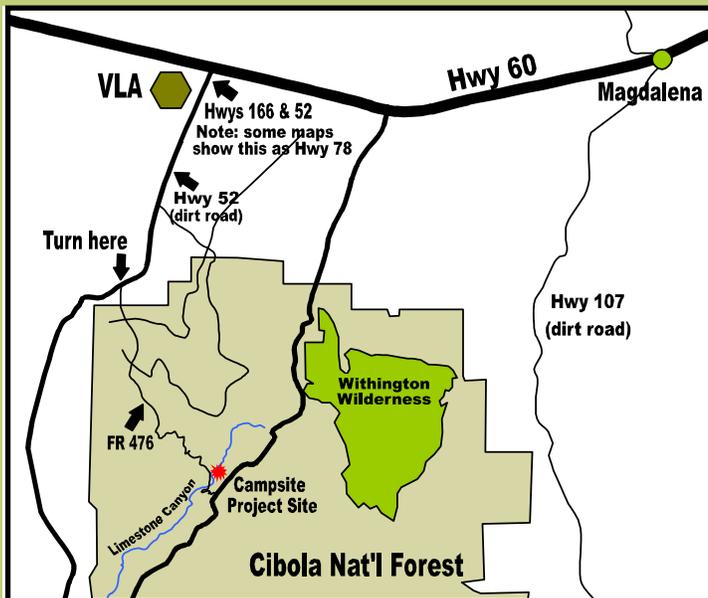


IMAGE FROM REBATESGREEN.COM

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT

**LIMESTONE CANYON
MAY 15-17, 2009**



THE PLACE: We return for the third year to this beautiful, isolated canyon on the north end of the San Mateo Mountains, near Magdalena. Our camp will be at the base of the work area where FR 476 crosses the canyon.

THE PROJECT: The stream in Limestone Canyon is intermittent. We will be performing riparian restoration tasks to promote sediment deposition.

EQUIPMENT: Wear sturdy boots/shoes and bring gloves, hats, sunscreen, and water and appropriate gear for camping.

FOOD: Please provide your own meals for
Friday dinner
Saturday and Sunday lunches

Saturday Morning: Enjoy COFFEE and BREAKFAST BURRITOS.

Snacks and drinks provided during the project day.

Saturday Evening: BARBEQUE/POT LUCK MEAL—AWF will grill burgers and sausage (veggie options available), so bring along something to share with the group...appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert.

Sunday Morning: Enjoy coffee and leftovers.

DRIVINGTIME: 2½ hours from ABQ, 3 hours from Las Cruces.

CONTACT

Gene Tatum | 505-255-1960 | gtatum3@msn.com
OR

Glenda Muirhead | 505-281-2925 | g.muirhead@usfamily.net

Additional directions and information will be sent out to you by Monday, May 11.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY MAY 11

CORRECTION

Apologies to Gene Tatum for failing to identify him as the photographer of this handsome Merriam's Turkey in the April AWF Newsletter. Gene snapped this great shot during a float trip on the Rio Grande south of Espanola.



2009 AWF PROJECTS

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

PROJECT RECAP: CEBOLLA CANYON APRIL 17-19

This project was a great success due to the participation of the hearty souls who would not let camping in 20 degree weather with winds of 20 mph deter their enjoyment of the beautiful days, meaningful work and camaraderie.

Due to the number of volunteers, we were able to divide into three teams: Willow Transplanters, Rock Team, and Wicker Team.

Willows were transplanted from upstream to locations primarily on developing point bars to provide stability.

The rock structures built in previous years were reinforced to continue the successful collapse of steep arroyo walls to provide sediment needed to build up and raise the creek bottom. With the help of Steve Carson and Van Clothier, our skills set was expanded to allow for moving big old rocks (boulders).

Pickets (juniper poles) were used to build baffles—triangular shaped structures designed to add curvature (meander) to the creek bottom. Meanders add to stream length which slows water flow, allowing more infiltration into the soil to aid growth of riparian vegetation.

As we were making coffee for the crew Sunday morning before the sun came over the mesa, I saw a volunteer with a big beautiful smile. That smile was the crowning touch for a great weekend.

— Gene Tatum

PHOTOS BY TATUM/HESTER



It takes a team effort to move a boulder.



Pickets are cut and sharpened.



About 45 pickets are pounded into the channel to form a baffle.



The willow transplanters dig in.



Branches are woven into the baffle to trap sediment.

CEBOLLA CANYON PROJECT PARTICIPANTS	
Barb & Rich Diver	Jody Kougioulis
Bill Zeedyk	John Canaris
Mary Maulsby	Laurie Marnell
Connie & Bill Green	Steve & Nancy Carson
Daryl Woolems	Steve Vrooman
Greg Weir	Toby Rosenblatt
Kelly Dix	Van Clothier
Hamish Thomson	Warren Scoggins
Jessica Slocum	Gail Baker
Jenifer Schramm	Michael Scialdone
Jennifer Plaut	Gene Tatum
Leroy Danielson	Pat Hester
Jim Wilson	Albert Naljahih
	& 2 daughters



A finished baffle undergoes final inspection.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC LANDS ACTION NETWORK

505-459-4304 | cscnm@aol.com | www.newmexicoplan.org

Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, May 22 | 12:00 – 3:00 pm

FREE (Please RSVP as soon as you can)

For all those interested in the issues arising from ATV (all-terrain vehicle) use on public lands in New Mexico, including health, safety, enforcement, natural resources, policy and community. Enjoy speakers and lunch at The Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, located at 2000 Mountain Road NW in Albuquerque.



INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

State Water Plan Update
Public Meetings for Region 12
—Middle Rio Grande

The Interstate Stream Commission invites you to provide input for the State Water Plan Update on the following water resource management issues:

- population growth / water demand
- conservation
- climate variability
- water projects needed in your region

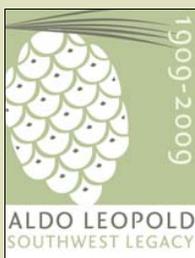
Thursday, May 7, 6:30-8:30 pm

UNM Continuing Education
1634 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque

Tuesday, May 12, 6:30-8:30 pm

Transportation Center Community Room
751 Juan Perea Rd SE, Los Lunas

For more information call (505) 764-3864 or visit the Office of the State Engineer/ Interstate Stream Commission website at www.ose.state.nm.us, “Hot Topics” “State Water Plan Update”



ALDO LEOPOLD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

www.leopoldcelebration.org

The Forester’s Log: Musings from the Woods

Author Mary Stuever will be sharing stories and slides based on her book about forestry in the West. Stuever draws her inspiration from Aldo Leopold, the great forester and writer who wrote prolifically and poetically about issues in the forests.

Over the last quarter century, Mary Stuever captured stories from her work as a forester in the American Southwest in her monthly column, “The Forester’s Log”. The Forester’s Log is about people and places, familiar to many in the Southwest... Grand Canyon National Park, Philmont Scout Ranch, Jemez Mountains, Sandia Mountains, Rio Grande, pueblos, fire camps, mountain forests, riverside bosques.

For more information: www.foresterslog.com

Saturday, May 9, 2009, 11 am

North Valley Library, 7704-B 2nd Street NW, Albuquerque

Saturday, May 16, 2009, 1 pm

East Mountain Library, 1 Old Tijeras Rd, Tijeras, NM (next to Tijeras Post Office)

NEW MEMBERS

Gail Baker
Barb & Rich Diver

RENEWED MEMBER

Randall Isler

NEXT MONTH’S AWF PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 11
7:30 pm

Learn about the Rio Grande Community Farm—Enjoy a digital tour and program by Susan Smith, Education & Outreach Coordinator.

AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

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

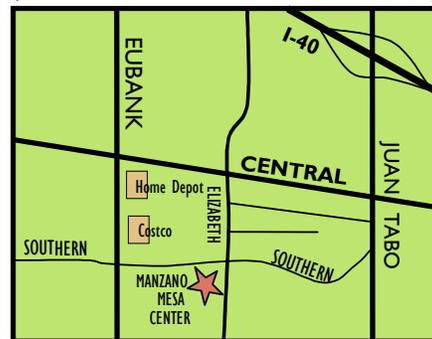
DIRECTORS

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

AWF MEETING LOCATION

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



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 \$ _____