



AWF Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2009

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2009 – 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p6)

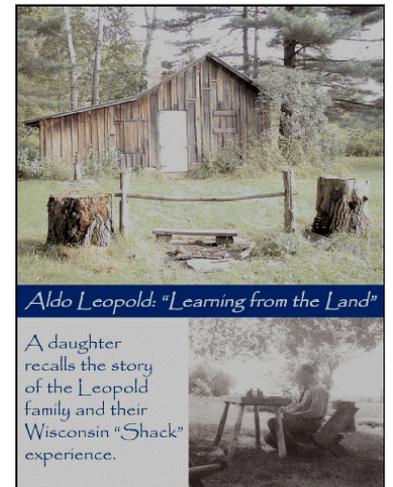
Movie Night

Aldo Leopold: "Learning from the Land"

This month, as part of the Centennial Celebration of Aldo Leopold's arrival in the Southwest, and to complement our September project at Steward Meadows (see page 2), we offer for your viewing pleasure a film that honors the roots of Leopold's legacy.

"Aldo Leopold: Learning from the Land" recounts the biography of this premier conservationist, and the story of how he and his family learned from the land and each other at their weekend retreat in Wisconsin, the "Shack." Featuring first-hand accounts by his daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley, and historic family photos, the film also includes dramatic readings, shot on location at the Shack, from Leopold's famous book, *A Sand County Almanac*.

Please join us for this film about the founder of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation and gain some additional insight into the experiences that guided his principles and his writings. We'll have our usual refreshments...and maybe a bag of popcorn or two!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I attended a Wildlife Corridors Workshop. Here's just a tiny bit of information that will be heartening to anyone concerned with the havoc development has wreaked on the land. The Western Governors' Association Wildlife Council is tasked with developing policy regarding natural resources from the get-go of the

decision process, inclusive of projects in oil and gas, transportation, climate change, land use, energy development and transmission. The "Western Renewable Energy Zones" Initiative (WREZ) will use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to identify crucial habi-

tats and corridors, so that land development decisions regarding renewable energy infrastructure might help protect and preserve sensitive regions.

Dave Parsons of the Rewilding Institute set the stage with his presentation about conserving wildlife in fragmented landscapes, explaining how biodiversity is threatened by habitat destruction from agricultural use, resource extraction, energy development, barriers created by transportation and human habitation. Large species are most susceptible to this disruption of migration corridors and food sources, and this bodes ill for the natural environment in general, because top carnivores are essential for species diversity and ecosystem health.

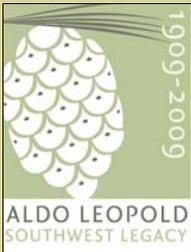
With this knowledge in mind, wildlife corridor protection efforts are proceeding region-wide, at local, state, and multi-state levels. Coalitions are building. There is progress—even some hopefulness—out on the landscape.

Glenda Muirhead

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

"The genuine sportsman is by all odds the most important factor in keeping wild creatures from total extinction."

*—Theodore Roosevelt,
U.S. President 1901-1909*



STEWARD MEADOWS SEPTEMBER 18-19-20, 2009

This event is part of the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation was founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 as the Albuquerque Game Protective Association, and AWF will honor his legacy with a weekend restoration project at Steward Meadows on the Tres Piedras Ranger District of the Carson National Forest, where Leopold served with the USFS from 1911-1913.

PROJECT TASKS: On Saturday we will build rock structures in a small watershed that drains into the meadow, make minor repairs to a major habitat project, construct a fence enclosure to protect willows and cottonwoods from grazing, and remove old

barbed-wire fencing that is hazardous to wildlife. Habitat restoration expert Bill Zeedyk will lead the activities.

CAMPSITE: Volunteers are invited to camp Friday through Sunday at the project site. We will set up **canopies** for “camp central” and there will be **portable toilets**.

FOOD: Plan on having breakfast burritos provided by AWF on Saturday morning, with plenty of coffee. We also will have drinks and snacks for you during the project day. Saturday evening there will be a potluck meal, so please bring a dish to supplement grilled burgers and sausage (veggie versions available). On Sunday morning, if there are leftovers from Saturday we'll put them on the table.

What to Bring?

Gear for camping (tent / trailer / vehicle)
Warm bedding and clothing (be prepared for **freezing temperatures**, says Bill Z!)
Rain gear (it may rain)
Sturdy work boots and work gloves
Hat, sunscreen, bug repellent
Backpack or daypack for your stuff
Clothing and footwear changes (it may rain)
Food for yourself for Friday dinner, a Saturday bag lunch, and your meals for Sunday
Water adequate for your needs
Your own plate, flatware, coffee cup
Camp chair

TO REGISTER FOR THIS PROJECT CONTACT:

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

Once you have registered, you will receive follow-up messages and reminders during the week leading up to the project weekend.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY SEPT 14

Tour Leopold's House!

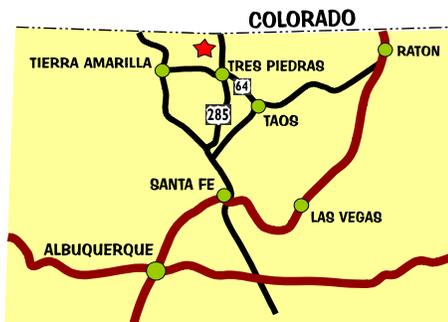
ENJOY A PROJECT EXTRA!

Stationed at Tres Piedras Ranger District from 1911 to 1913, Aldo Leopold became Forest Supervisor and built a home, which he and his soon-to-be wife would call “Mia Casita,” at the District’s administrative site.

A couple of years ago, the USFS refurbished the house under the direction of Benjamin Romero, Tres Piedras District Ranger, and in late August opened the home for a day to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Leopold’s arrival in the Southwest. The house is closed to the public—with the exception of an occasional private tour.

Steward Meadows project attendees are privileged to have an opportunity for just such a special peek. On Friday, September 18, at 2:00 pm, a Forest Service guide will open Leopold’s ranger residence to us for a tour lasting about one hour. If you can make it, don’t miss it!

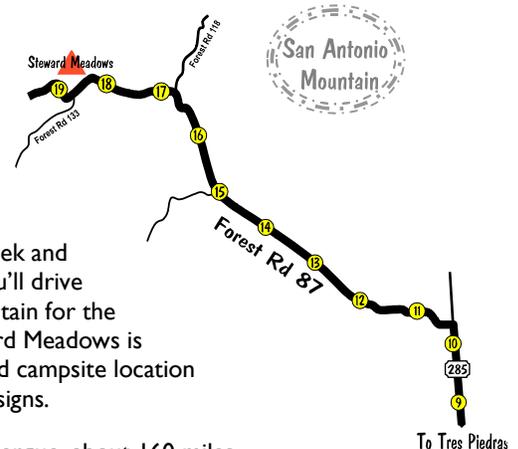
Parking for the tour will be at the Tres Piedras Ranger Station, located ¼ mile west of Hwy 285 on Hwy 64 on the north side (a right turn). Leopold’s house is a short walk from the Station.



DIRECTIONS:

From the intersection of US-64 and US-285 at Tres Piedras go north on US-285 about 10 miles. Turn west (left) on Forest Road 87 and travel 8-9 miles to the project site and campsite, which will be at the base of a long hill, next to San Antonio Creek and the Steward Meadows waterfowl area. (You’ll drive along the south slope of San Antonio Mountain for the first few miles after leaving US-285.) Steward Meadows is bordered by top-rail fencing. The route and campsite location will be marked with black-on-yellow AWF signs.

Driving Time: 3-3½ hours north of Albuquerque, about 160 miles.



PROJECT RECAP IN PHOTOS: VALLES CALDERA

Built Fence Exclosures around Bog Birch — Removed Old Barbed Wire Fencing

August 14-15-16



PHOTO BY JACKIE SHANE

- Sam G Beard
- Stephen Bohannon
- Howard & Misako Bradley
- Peter Callen
- Phil Carter
- Jim Counce
- Jack & Darlene Crane
- Tanya Critchfield
- Barb & Rich Diver
- Tracy Diver
- Kristina Fisher
- Roderick Flores
- Peggy Gautier
- Jennifer Hester
- Patricia Hester
- Laurie Marnell
- Cliff & Joyce Mendel
- Michelle Miano
- Sharon Miles
- Arlette Miller
- Glenda Muirhead
- Bob Nordstrum
- Laura Robbins
- Janet Rolsma
- Toby Rosenblatt
- Matt & Nora Schultz
- Michael Scialdone
- Warren Scoggins
- Jackie Shane
- Jessica Slocum
- Kevin Stillman
- Marilynn Szydlowski
- Gene Tatum
- Joseph & Lois Thompson
- Hamish Thomson
- Bob Tilley
- Shannon Van de Riet
- Al Webster
- Daniel Ziegler
- Adam Zipkin

VALLES CALDERA PROJECT PARTICIPANTS



PHOTOS BY G. MUIRHEAD except as noted

Sorry for omissions or misspellings

GILA RIVER FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF ALDO LEOPOLD'S LEGACY IN THE SOUTHWEST

One hundred years ago, young Aldo Leopold arrived in New Mexico, fresh out of Yale Forestry School, and eager to begin his career with the fledgling Forest Service. He spent only fifteen years in the Southwest, but his legacy outlives his brief residency.

During his years with the Forest Service, Leopold, an enthusiastic naturalist and sportsman, learned to read the land. He eventually came up with the idea of preserving large tracts of land as wild-

erness, and convinced the Forest Service to adopt his proposal. In 1924, a full 40 years before the passage of the Wilderness Act, the Forest Service set aside more than half a million acres as the Gila River Forest Reserve, now called the Gila Wilderness. New Mexico's last wild river, the Gila, originates in the Gila Wilderness and flows through the heart of Aldo Leopold country.

In honor of the centennial of Aldo Leopold's legacy in the Southwest, the **5TH ANNUAL GILA RIVER FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 17-20**, will celebrate the historical connection of Aldo Leopold, America's

most influential conservationist, to the Gila. Scientists and experts from many disciplines will explore the importance of his conservation ethic to the protection of the Gila River, his influence on the creation of the National Wilderness Preservation System, his relationship to the wild places he loved, the enduring impact of his classic book, *A Sand County Almanac*, and the legacy of wildness he represents.

Events include an Aldo Leopold living history presentation by actor Tim Evans, a keynote address by Dave Foreman, an Aldo Leopold film festival, and many guided hikes. One field trip in particular will interest Albuquerque Wildlife Federation members: an all-day hiking/fishing trip to the Gila River, led by author and New Mexico Game Commissioner Dutch Salmon and Jeremy Vesbach, the Executive Director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation. They will discuss why Leopold chose the Gila National Forest for the nation's first Wilderness Area, and talk about his "Round River" parable, as it applies to the Gila River.

Other events are a gallery tour and reception, a presentation on the flora of the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas, kayak trips down the Gila River, special kids' activities, and much more.

Hope to see you at the Gila River Festival in Silver City!

— Donna Stevens

For a complete schedule, online registration, and more information about the Gila River Festival, please visit www.gilaconservation.org or call 575.538.8078.

SOME ISSUES FROM AUGUST GAME COMMISSION MEETING

Jeremy Vesbach of NMWF prepared a comprehensive report on the August Game Commission meeting in Albuquerque. Among the multitude of issues addressed that day are these two notable items:

SPORTSMEN SPEAK OUT AT GAME COMMISSION MEETING

Several dedicated sportsmen gave up most of a day to attend the August State Game Commission meeting in Albuquerque, advocating on behalf of wildlife and the public interest and speaking out against an idea to reopen the broadly supported trespass posting rule.

The trespass issue was on the day's agenda. But after hearing from sportsmen like **Larry Dwyer of Albuquerque**, commissioners opted not to reopen the rule for potential amendment. In his comments to the commissioners, Dwyer asked them to stick with the private land posting rules approved this spring after extensive public comments and strong support voiced by sportsmen and most landowners. More than 100 sportsmen turned out for the special January meeting held on a Saturday in Albuquerque.

RANCHER THREATENS TO 'MOW THEM DOWN' IF HE DOESN'T GET ELK TAGS

As the department considers possible changes to elk hunting rules in Unit 6, one rancher in the area gave shockingly direct testimony on how the **state depredation law is used by a few landowners to extort valuable transferable elk tag "authorizations" from the Department of Game and Fish**. The rancher said he needs transferable elk tags for "between four and five mature bulls, three cows and at least four or five bow and arrow."

State law...provides a liability shield protecting landowners who allow free public access to hunters, including access to deal with depredation problems.

However, the rancher plainly stated that if he did not receive that minimum of transferable license "authorizations" for four or five either-sex archery and four or five mature bull tags he would start to kill elk.

"And then these guys are telling me they're going to drop my allocations even lower," he told the commission. **"Then you put me in a corner, and you give me no other option but to mow them down."**

Gov. Bill Richardson has pledged to spearhead an effort in the 2010 legislative session to reform the state's problematic depredation law. Last year a broadly supported bill by the Department of Game and Fish passed all legislative committees but ran out of time in the final hours of the legislative session before it could be approved.

THE FACES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Photo Contest

A Fair Climate Project of the National Wildlife Federation

ENTER: What does Climate Change Mean to You? We are looking for striking digital images of what climate change looks like in your community - both the problems and the solutions. Your images may be taken anywhere in the world. Your images may show portraits of people, images of industry, transportation, your home or your community, portraits of wildlife in natural habitat, public demonstrations, weather, or people interacting with nature. We are especially interested in images that showcase what fair climate solutions look like in your community. **Tag your entries "FairClimateProject" in Flickr or TwitPic. Submission Deadline: September 15, 2009**

VOTE: Help us select the top 20 semi-finalists. **Voting runs until September 30, 2009**

WIN: The top two photos will win an opportunity to come to Washington DC and meet with their elected leaders.

SPEAK UP: All photos submitted will be turned into a photo collage that we will deliver to the U.S. Senate as a visual representation of the urgency and opportunity to address climate change.

Contest rules and submission guidelines are available at <http://fairclimateproject.org/photocontest>

Questions? fairclimateproject@nwf.org

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

presents A Murder of Crows

and Other Spooky Bird Tales

(A murder is the name for a large group of crows, but crows don't harm anyone—they are smart and very cool!)

Birds can be downright spooky sometimes. A starling flies at your head; thousands of crows roost in a downtown park; a pigeon takes over your balcony. With Halloween just a few weeks away, we want to see and hear spooky things about birds! We'll explain what's really going on with their puzzling behavior.

Photo-Video-Art Challenge

Go outside and take a photo, do a painting, write a story or poem, or even shoot a video showing crows, pigeons, starlings, an owl, or any kind of bird doing something strange to you. To learn more about the contest visit www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org or email urbanbirds@cornell.edu for more information.

Get Creative!

Great prizes: binoculars, birdfeeders, CDs, books, posters, and more. The first 50 entrants will get a poster showing behaviors of crows, jays, and other birds. Selected entries will be included on the Encyclopedia of Life and Celebrate Urban Birds websites.

Deadline for entries is Halloween: October 31!

2009 AWF PROJECTS

February 21	Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary at Los Padillas Elem. School (<i>ABQ South Valley</i>)
March 21	Cedro Creek (<i>East Mountains</i>)
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

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SECRETARY — Patricia Hester
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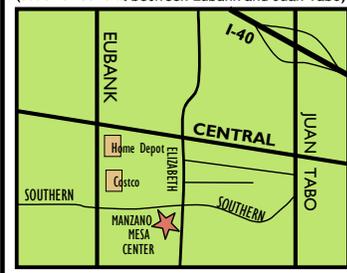
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 Kurt Nolte

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)



NEW MEMBER

James Hickerson

Welcome!

LOS LUNAS *Silvery Minnow* REFUGIUM WINS AWARD

*“A project like no other in the world, it provides a real benefit to the region’s ecology within a very small budget.” So said the judges at Engineering News-Record, who declared the Los Lunas facility a **winner in the Small Project category** of the publication’s design contest. Below is an article from the website of HDR Engineering, the habitat project’s design engineer.*

The Rio Grande slices a north-south path through New Mexico, then turns southeast where it carves the boundary between Texas and Mexico. Decades of diversion and alteration of the natural flow of the river and a continuing influx of population have stressed the natural ecosystem of the Rio Grande Valley, leaving some native fish populations challenged. Finding sustainable solutions requires cooperation and consensus-building among many stakeholders, mixed with sound aquatic engineering and fisheries science.

The need to create places where the Silvery Minnow could spawn safely to increase its numbers without placing greater demands on an already limited water supply prompted development of a series of three refugia along a 90-mile stretch of the Rio Grande in New Mexico, supporting both state and federal agency projects.

The result is three unique rearing and breeding facilities (designed by HDR) that mimic the natural spawning and hatching conditions of the Silvery Minnow in a variety of conditions. The facilities include the Los Lunas Refugium, a project for the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission; a Rio Grande Silvery Minnow sanctuary sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation; and the City of Albuquerque-run BioPark.



PHOTO SOURCE: WEBSITE OF HDR ENGINEERING

The Los Lunas Refugium is a one-of-a-kind facility that simulates a 460-foot-long meandering stream, incorporating ponds and overbank features that returns nearly all of the water it uses to the aquifer. Recirculating pumps vary the water flow from 200 to 1,800 gallons per minute. With precise timing, the water can be raised up to four feet to trigger a spawning event. The pumps pull water from a well that produces an average 12 gallons per minute, of which 10 gallons are returned to the aquifer via an infiltration gallery of underground pipes.

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 \$ _____