



ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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

AWF Newsletter

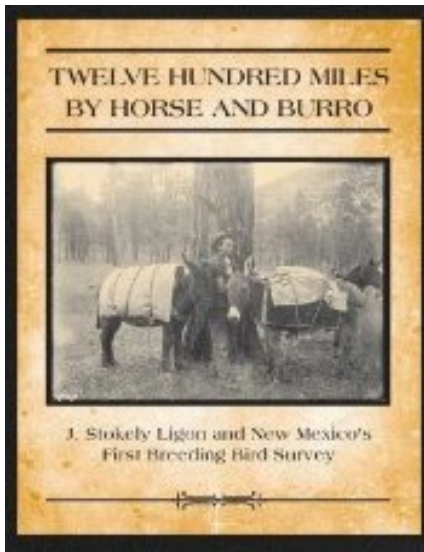
SEPTEMBER 2011

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, September 8, 2011 – 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p5)

Ligon's Ride

Guest Speakers: Harley Shaw and Mara Weisenberger



AWF is pleased to announce a special program for our September meeting. Harley G. Shaw and Mara E. Weisenberger are co-authors of the soon-to-be-released *Twelve Hundred Miles by Horse and Burro: J. Stokely Ligon and New Mexico's First Breeding Bird Survey*, and they will offer us an insider's peek at this brand new history of a pioneer conservationist in the Southwest. And they will bring 10 early copies of the book, too!

J. Stokely Ligon was a peer of early wildlife biologists Aldo Leopold and Elliott Barker. He was a self-made naturalist who grew up in a west Texas ranching family. From 1900 on he carried a large format camera wherever he went and left some 3000 photos in various collections. He was hired by the U. S. Biological Survey in 1913 to carry out a statewide survey of nesting waterfowl in New Mexico, which he did on horseback with two pack burros. He left photos and a daily diary and written report of this survey. Our speakers will focus on this journey during which Ligon rode some 1200 miles over the course of the summer. Using his original itinerary and handwritten report, the authors revisited many of the places that Ligon surveyed and in a few cases were even able to locate and repeat Ligon's early photographs, many of which will be highlighted in their presentation.

Harley Shaw retired from Arizona Game and Fish Department in 1990, after 27 years as a research biologist. During his tenure with that department, he worked on white-winged doves, mule deer, Merriam's wild turkey, mountain lions, and desert bighorn. Since retiring he has continued to write and carry out contract research. His popular publications include *Soul Among Lions*, an account of his eight years doing mountain lion research, and *Stalking the Big Bird*, tales of studies of Merriam's turkey. Shaw's interests have increasingly focused on history of wildlife management in the Southwest, and he is currently doing research for a book on the Animas Creek watershed in New Mexico's Black Range.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

No president's message this month. Gene Tatum will be back with an article in October's newsletter.

Jim Hubert's *Notable Quote of the Month*

"A wildlife refuge is an investment...It is true that an area may be withdrawn from hunting, just as money you invest in stocks is not in your pocket to spend. In a few years, however, the refuge investment begins to pay the sportsmen dividends."

– Rachel Carson, about 1950,
in her booklet series on National Wildlife Refuges

Volunteer Project #5

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE September 23-25, 2011

This is AWF's second opportunity this summer to camp at Valles Caldera. As you drive in, you will see many areas impacted by the Las Conchas Fire. This month we will be on the Santa Rosa drainage, which the road to Rio San Antonio parallels. This is where we worked a few years ago before we moved over to Alamo Bog. The work will be important as it will directly address erosion issues in the drainage that are being exacerbated by the effects of the fire.

Plan to join us for the day and a half of work and two nights camping. Children are welcome, but **no pets** are permitted on the Preserve. Tents, pickup campers, and travel trailers are all acceptable. Most likely, access will again be through the main gate on Highway 4 in the Valle Grande. The camping location is not yet determined, but you will be advised once you're on the sign-up list.

Plan to participate at a level that suits your energy. As always, be prepared for the possibility of wet feet and wet clothes — our August project included some light rain during the work hours, and some stronger downpours Saturday evening. Be sure to have dry clothing changes. Nighttime temperatures may be cold, so bring appropriate bedding. Day packs with rain gear, lunches, and plenty of water are necessary. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and your own plate and cup.

You can plan for a Friday afternoon/evening or early Saturday morning arrival. We will serve coffee and a hot breakfast Saturday, and grilled bison and veggie burgers/brats at a POTLUCK Saturday evening. Please bring a dish to share for the dinner. There may be leftovers for Sunday meals, but please be prepared with adequate food for yourself.

The number of volunteers will be limited, so RSVP soon. **Further directions and details will be provided once you have signed up.**

To sign-up or if you have questions, contact Michael Scialdone at rioscial@gmail.com or telephone 505-232-8756.

2011 PROJECT SCHEDULE

March 19	Montessori of the Rio Grande—Wetlands
April 29-May 1	Cebolla Canyon--CANCELED
May 20-22	Bear Trap Canyon—Magdalena RD
June 17-19	Rio de las Vacas
July 15-17	Valles Caldera--CANCELED
August 19-21	Valles Caldera I
Sept 23-25	Valles Caldera II
October 15	Cedro Creek + End-of-Season Celebration

AWF Has a Trailer!

AWF is the proud recipient of a trailer for storing all our gear and supplies and tools, and for bringing everything to projects.

We are extremely grateful to AWF member **Hamish Thomson** for his generosity in contributing a trailer he had specially designed and built for transporting goats. It's mostly enclosed, with some ventilation grating, and Michael Scialdone ("Scial") has plans for outfitting it with shelving and bins to make his tasks of camp management more organized and compact.

We are also very grateful to frequent project participant **Tanya Critchfield** for allowing us to store the trailer at her home between projects.

And a huge thank you also to **Peter Blemel** and his family for coming to the rescue and towing the trailer from Albuquerque to Valles Caldera and back for the August project...you were all great sports!

NEW MEMBERS

James Wolcott
Dan Ginter & Chris Hannum

RENEWED MEMBERS

James Hickerson
Betsy Adamson

Thank You!

Project Recap

Valles Caldera in August

Those who arrived after dark didn't see it, but they couldn't miss it on the way home on Sunday – the unmistakable evidence of the Las Conchas fire on the hillsides of Valles Caldera National Preserve. Skeletal remains of trees lined the horizon, and black ash washed down by the subsequent rains filled the gullies. It was sad...but thankfully most of what we saw was still beautiful and green and very special.

The August project was a cooperative effort between Los Amigos de Valles Caldera and AWF—always a pleasure. Our tasks for the weekend involved learning a new method for restoring wet meadows: the “plug and pond” technique developed to slow water flow through channels, to allow water to penetrate the surrounding areas. It involves sharp shovels and heavy boots! Sod was dug from the sides of a channel and mounded and stomped into place in the channel downstream for several feet to “plug” the flow, forming a “pond” where the sod was removed. As you may imagine, results were immediate.

In other places, as we headed upstream, deeper erosion required some one rock dams and Zuni bowls. Many participants climbed the hillsides to provide a supply of rocks, while others fashioned the necessary structures.

Downpours interrupted our Saturday evening potluck meal, but camp cook Michael Scialdone (“Scial”) threw a tarp over the food table and continued grilling burgers, and most diners crowded into the cabin at the campsite for refuge from the rain. Our always-helpful volunteers managed to retrieve many of the dishes—especially the desserts—to bring inside and complete the meal.



The group assembles for a look at a previous project near the campsite. Van Clothier, second from right, points out the results of the “plug and pond” method applied to repair the meadow's flow patterns.



A Note of Thanks for the Volunteers

After Jack Crane, of Los Amigos de Valles Caldera, reported back to Tim Haarmann of the Valles Caldera National Preserve on the successful project weekend, Tim replied with this note:

“Please pass along our appreciation to everyone; we rely heavily on volunteers and appreciate all their efforts and hard work—especially your hard work.”

Jack Crane adds: *“I think all of the volunteers made a tremendous effort and one they can be proud of. It will be interesting to see the area in a couple of years to see the real payoff.”*

AUGUST VALLES CALDERA PARTICIPANTS

Okmi & Peter Blemel
Hyunju Blemel
Insun Blemel
Siona Briley
Amy Brown
Caroline & Jon Bull
Phil Carter
Van Clothier
Dale Counce
Jack & Darlene Crane
Tanya Critchfield
Shawn Dietrich
Kristina G. Fisher
Peggy Gautier
Annalisa Johnson
Jodey Kougioulis
Laurie Marnell
Alfred & Gail Meidinger
Cliff & Joyce Mendel
Dennis & Glenda Muirhead
Francis E. Peter
Virginie Pointeau
Toby Rosenblatt
Michael Scialdone
Kevin Stillman
Marilynn Szydlowski
Hamish Thomson
Bruce Wedda

NEWS FROM NMWF

Tod Stevenson, Director of the Department of Game and Fish, has announced he will retire Oct. 26. He was already retired after a long career with the department when Bill Richardson appointed him as director in 2008. That announcement caught sportsmen by surprise because the appointment was contrary to state statutes that give the hiring-and-firing authority to the Game Commission. The commission had little input into the selection and it was never known to the public that a search was being conducted. Richardson's appointment process was one of many that have undermined New Mexico sportsmen's confidence in the Game Commission and department that spend some \$36 million of sportsmen's dollars every year.

On August 25, the State Game Commission discussed a range of items including Rio Grande cutthroat trout, the Habitat Stamp Program, and Silver City's mule deer problem, but failed to take up the most important issue facing New Mexico sportsmen today: planning the search for a new director of Game and Fish.

Commission Chairman Jim McClintic did not put the search on the agenda, even though he had more than two weeks to do so. And when other commissioners asked for an opportunity to discuss the search at the meeting, McClintic refused. It was a disappointment to sportsmen who had hoped to see the commission embrace a public search for the next director of Game and Fish.

Gov. Martinez has an opportunity to help restore sportsmen's confidence in their wildlife managers by simply asking the Game Commission to do what is done in most states -- conduct a full and transparent search, starting with a widely publicized announcement that NMDGF is looking for a new director.

Martinez should take the opportunity to clear up questions regarding Game Commission seating so sportsmen have confidence in who is officially representing their interests. Chairman Jim McClintic's term expired at the end of 2010 and the governor has never officially reappointed him, nor has the rest of the commission voted him in as chairman.



7TH ANNUAL *Gila River* FESTIVAL September 15-18

Register now for field trips and workshops!
Credit card payment and online registration
available at:
www.gilaconservation.org/7thannualgrf.shtml
or call 575.538.8078 to register or for more
information.

Festival highlights include:

Silco Theater Events:

- "Water: Will There Be Enough?" Keynote address by Sandra Postel, National Geographic Society.
- "The History of Cochiti Lake from the Pueblo Perspective" by Regis Pecos, Cochiti Pueblo Traditional Tribal Council.
- Two lectures on local water supply, by Peter Russell and Allyson Siwik.

Bus Tour:

"The Story of the Gila" Bus tour of the natural and cultural history of the Gila River, the latest threat to divert 14,000 acre-feet of water per year, and common-sense solutions for meeting the region's future water needs while also protecting the Gila River.

Field Trips:

- "Fish Tales" with Dr. David Propst, formerly of New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
- "Diversions, Dams, Dikes and Riparian Degradation" with Mike Neal of HawkWatch International and many more...

Workshops:

- "Writing From Place" with writer Mary Sojourner
- "Water Harvesting" with Van Clothier

Puppet Parade:

"Monsoon Puppet Parade & River Otter Story" Parade, Kids' Story & Original Music

Courtyard Film and Dance:

"Power in the Pristine" Courtyard showing of film about river diversion in Patagonia, Chile, introduced by director/producer James Q. Martin, followed by dance with Kas Nelson Trio.

¡Buen Apetito! Farm-to-Table Brunch with Ray Powell, NM State Land Commissioner.

BearWatch Helping to Feed, House Bear Cubs

BearWatch recently asked for donations to the Wildlife Center for food for abandoned bear cubs, and the response resulted in Dr. Ramsey receiving 5,000 pounds of dog food for the bears...with no room for any more. Any extra monies after food expenditures are intended to go toward building a bear enclosure.

Dr. Ramsey now has 23 cubs with space for just two more cubs on her property . The Wildlife Center took several of the bear enclosures for other wildlife a while back which has created a lack of space for more eventual bear cubs.

Jan Hayes of BearWatch believes that the worst is yet to come with many more abandoned, starving cubs needing help in coming months. Wildlife West and the Albuquerque Zoo have generously offered to house a total of 6-8 cubs until another bear enclosure can be financed.

BearWatch is now in the process of trying to find financing and get estimates for building more bear cub enclosures. This would go through NM BearWatch which is a 501-c3 non profit. A single enclosure can house approximately 4-6 cubs, so more than one are needed.

Jan sends out a big Thank You to all who have generously given money for the bear cubs!

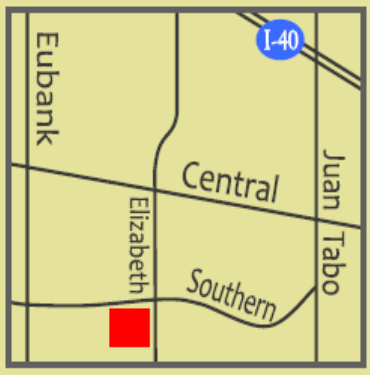
AWF HISTORY



Dale Hall, Manager of the Habitat Stamp Program for the NM Department of Game and Fish, has encountered another piece of AWF history. This sign shows evidence of the organization at work in 1980, helping to install the Cerro del Pino Trick Tank in the Jemez Mountains. Thanks for the photo, Dale!

AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
501 Elizabeth SE at Southern



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President – Michael Scialdone
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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

PO Box 1234 | Albuquerque, NM 87103
abq.nmwildlife.org

AWF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation | PO Box 1234 | Albuquerque, NM 87103

An affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

I'd like to belong to AWF ONLY or I'd like to belong to AWF + NMWF: Designate NMWF member(s) _____

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

Student [under 18 ----- \$10 (AWF membership only)

Individual ----- \$25

Family ----- \$35

Sustaining ----- \$50-\$99

Patron ----- \$100

Lifetime ----- \$500 (One-time payment)

Dues \$ _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____