

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

April 2021

Reasons for Hope this Earth Day

It is all too easy to find reasons to despair over the state of the environment, from mass extinctions to the climate crisis. But our species' ability to protect and nurture is just as powerful as our ability to destroy, and recent weeks have seen a steady drumbeat of positive news stories that show how we can make things better if we try.

- During the recently concluded legislative session, the New Mexico legislature finally banned the use of traps on public lands across the state. The bill passed the state House by a single vote: every election matters.
- The U.S. Department of the Interior, now under the leadership of our nation's first indigenous Cabinet Secretary Deb Haaland, has revoked a Trump-era policy gutting the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The MBTA, which AWF founder Aldo Leopold successfully advocated for more than a century ago, is one of our nation's oldest environmental laws, and it can now continue its generations-long work of protecting over 1,000 species of birds.
- The U.S. Forest Service has rescinded its approval for turning over the sacred Oak Flat (Chich'il Bildagoteel) in Arizona to an international copper mining corporation. The land transfer has been halted for the moment in order to allow for more public input and consultation with tribal nations.



We have been given one more chance to save this sacred land.

- The population of wild lobos roaming the Southwestern U.S. has doubled in size over the last five years, and now totals 186 animals. This is the largest number of wild wolves our region has seen since reintroduction efforts began with the release of 11 wolves in 1998.
- Last month a group of scientists published a report identifying 20 million acres (about 32,000 square miles) of habitat in New Mexico or Arizona that could support a breeding population of more than 150 jaguars. We just need to tear down the wall and protect their access to wildlife corridors, as multiple jaguars have recently been captured on wildlife cameras just south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

None of these good news stories came about by accident. They are the result of diligent, dedicated work by individuals and organizations engaged in political activism, grassroots organizing, and scientific research. So this Earth Day, help create more good news stories by finding a group doing the work you care most about, and join and support them. As for AWF, we'll be out there healing some of New Mexico's precious riparian landscapes as our habitat restoration projects ramp up over the coming months.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

Inside this Issue:

April Educational Presentation.....	pg 2
April Restoration Project at Rio Mora.....	pg 3
Events of Interest.....	pg 4
Membership Form.....	pg 5

APRIL 8, 2021 MEETING: Riparian Restoration with Clay Structures

Thursday, April 8, 2021, 7:30 pm

Location: Online

Directions to the Online Meeting

To join this presentation from your computer, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87308775199?pwd=Njc4YjBqSUK3Z1hRYURhdkg3ejQ4UT09>

The Meeting ID is: 873 0877 5199

The Passcode is: 072114

To join by phone, dial either of the following numbers:

1-253-215-8782 or 1-346-248-7799

Then enter the Meeting ID: 873 0877 5199

Then enter the Passcode: 072114

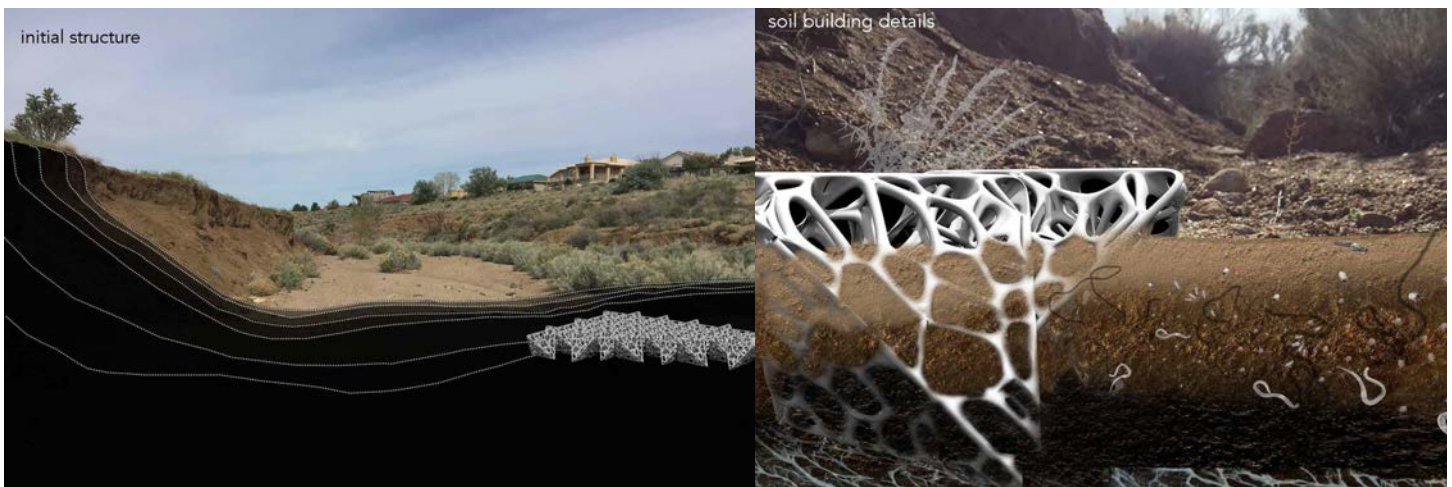


Topic: Innovating Riparian Restoration with Clay Structures

Paul Ross will discuss his UNM Master's project in landscape architecture, which investigated the potential of using unrefined clay to construct in-stream erosion control structures. The project rose from an interest in structures designed to respond to their environments over time, instigating a process of human engagement rather than a finished and static object. The project draws from the work of Bill Zeedyk and Ronald Rael, and will hopefully continue to evolve in the future.

Speaker: Paul Ross, AWF Board Member

Paul grew up in southern California, often roaming the western U.S. on river trips and his parents' geologic mapping field camps. He attended Columbia University in New York City, followed by the University of New Mexico, earning a Bachelors in Sustainable Development and a Masters in Landscape Architecture, respectively. Paul has explored interests in agroecology, soil health, wild food, athletics, and simple technologies through work as a farmer, trail guide, ski instructor, educator, and student. He currently lives in Albuquerque, working with Rio Grande Return and Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District.



APRIL 23-25, 2021 SERVICE PROJECT: Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge

LOCATION: Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge near Las Vegas, NM

THE PROJECT: AWF's first project of the season will be a bit unusual for us: the work will involve assisting with the construction of the first public trail at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge, rather than building riparian restoration structures. **Due to ongoing public health restrictions, this project is limited to 10 volunteers:** please RSVP promptly if you would like to participate. Once we reach 10 sign-ups, we will create a waiting list.

If trail-building doesn't appeal to you, or if this project fills up too quickly for you to join, don't worry: next month's project at Ft. Union Ranch (which borders on Rio Mora) will involve our traditional riparian restoration work, and we do not anticipate having to limit volunteer numbers.

SCHEDULE: Friday, April 23 – Sunday, April 25

Volunteers do not need to be present for the entire weekend to participate. You are welcome to join us just for the work day Saturday, or camp for just one of the two nights.

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a weekend of camping. For the work, don't forget gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water are essential.

FOOD: AWF will provide breakfast burritos on Saturday morning and bison or veggie burgers on Saturday evening. Please bring your own lunches, Friday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and lots of water!

TO SIGN UP: Contact Scial at rioscial@gmail.com or 505-480-2906. *Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.*



2021 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- April 23-25.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- May 14-16.....Ft. Union Ranch
- June 4-6.....Valles Caldera
- June 25-27..... Polvadera Creek, Jemez Mountains
- July 16-18.....Valle Vidal
- August 13-15.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- September 10-12.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- September 24-26.....Rio en Medio, near Santa Fe, NM
- October 23.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2021

OFFICERS

- President – Cameron Weber*
- Vice President – Phil Carter*
- Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*
- Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher*

DIRECTORS

- Lia Griesser*
- Rachel Moore*
- Toby Rosenblatt*
- Barbara Rosensimon*
- Paul Ross*
- Michael “Scial” Scialdone*
- Hamish Thomson*
- Bob Tilley*
- Mara Yarbrough*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

earthLINES Online Chat with Gabe Vasquez and Kevin Bixby

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 6:30 p.m., online

SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

The extinction crisis is accelerating. Scientists say that more than one million species are on track for extinction in the coming decades. What does this mean for us, and how can we make a difference? Kevin Bixby of the Southwest Environmental Center and Gabe Vasquez, city councilor in Las Cruces and the founder of the Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project, will discuss some of the most critical conservation questions of our time.

To register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x6izJrLIR6mEnDo3YiOT8w

NMSUCCESS Online Presentations on Climate Change

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 5:30-7:00 p.m. - Solving the Climate Crisis by 2030

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 6:00 p.m. - Regenerative Agriculture

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 - Biomimicry

New Mexico State University Climate Change Education Seminar Series (NMSUCCESS) is an interdisciplinary series bringing a range of experts to New Mexico State University and venues in Las Cruces to promote informed discussion of the causes and consequences of climate change.

For more info: <https://sustainability.nmsu.edu/nmsuccess/>

Día de la Tierra - Earth Day Celebration

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, online

Celebrate Earth Day with Ranger Rebecca and other staff from Los Luceros Historic Site! Since Los Luceros is currently closed to the public, follow us for our 2nd virtual Earth Day celebration as we tour around the beautiful bosque, Rio Grande, and blossoming apple orchard. Learn about the natural environment of northern New Mexico and ways to protect this precious landscape. Then stick around for our new Earth Day craft which you can do with materials in your very own home.

For more info: <https://www.museumfoundation.org/events/dia-de-la-tierra-earth-day-celebration/>



Check out the cover story in the March 26, 2021 issue of Science News, which features Bill Zeedyk's restoration work in Gunnison, Colorado!

[Click here to read the article.](#)

ECOSYSTEMS

Simple hand-built structures can help streams survive wildfires and drought

Building simple structures with sticks and stones — and inviting in dam-building beavers — can keep water where it's needed to fight drought and wildfires.

By Brianna Randall • March 26, 2021

Send your event information to: [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)

JOIN US!

Become a Member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is an all-volunteer organization founded by Aldo Leopold and dedicated to protecting and restoring New Mexico's wildlife and habitat resources.

Our work is only possible thanks to the generous support of our members.

If you like the work we do, we hope you will help keep this legacy going by becoming a member or renewing your membership.



AWF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation | P.O. Box 20225 | Albuquerque, NM 87154

Yes, I'd like to join AWF! This is a gift membership from: _____

name(s): _____

address: _____

city, state, zip: _____

phone: _____ email: _____

- Student _____ \$10
- Individual _____ \$25
- Family _____ \$35
- Sustaining _____ \$50-99
- Patron _____ \$100
- Lifetime _____ \$500 (one-time payment)

Dues: \$ _____
 Extra Contribution: \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____