

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

December 2014

Celebrating the Conclusion of AWF's 100th Anniversary Year

As AWF's momentous 100th anniversary year draws to a close, we were deeply honored to receive the Quivira Coalition's Radical Center Award for conservation. (It is fitting that the first winner of this award, back in 2007, was Curt Meine, a conservation biologist and author of the definitive biography of AWF founder Aldo Leopold.)

As the Quivira Coalition explains, the Radical Center award is given to individuals and organizations "who have shown remarkable and enduring leadership in the difficult job of working in the radical center—the place where people are coming together to explore their common interests rather than argue their differences. We believe that the radical center is where real change happens—on the 'actual landscape of the back forty' as Aldo Leopold put it."

Making a tangible positive difference on the landscape has been one of AWF's core values since its inception. Over the years, our methods have varied from ensuring that New Mexico had a state Game Warden who would fearlessly enforce hunting laws to organizing ecological restoration service projects at locations across the state. Our members come from diverse perspectives, sportsmen and scientists and environmental activists, but we share a deep commitment to conservation that has spanned generations.

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AWF Board President Scial, Vice-President Kristina, and board member Bill Zeedyk were on hand to accept the award at the Quivira Coalition's annual banquet on November 14, 2014.

Aldo Leopold wrote that he hoped AWF and other associations like it would "restore to every citizen his inalienable right to know and love the wild things of his native land." One hundred years later, this vision endures, as does AWF's work to accomplish it. We are grateful for the Quivira Coalition's recognition of AWF's efforts, and hope that in the coming years, AWF volunteers will continue to be leaders in protecting New Mexico's wildlife and wild lands.

Everything AWF has accomplished has been due to the dedication of our volunteer members, so if the work we do excites and inspires you (as it does me), I hope you'll come out and celebrate with us at this month's holiday potluck, renew your membership, and maybe even nominate yourself to serve on the board! Let's make the 101st year as great as the 100th.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Vice-President

DECEMBER 11, 2014: Annual Potluck Banquet & Board Election

Join us for our annual holiday potluck to celebrate the holidays and another amazing year of AWF!

Thursday, December 11, 2014, 7:00 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

AWF's holiday potluck always features exciting dishes from AWF's hunters, along with vegetarian fare and delicious desserts. Please bring a dish to share and come join the celebration!



Time to renew your AWF membership!

Annual memberships expire in December, so please renew yours today! You may pay at the meeting, fill out and mail in the form on the last page of this newsletter, or renew online at <http://abq.nmwildlife.org/> Your dues pay for restoration tools and supplies and make it possible for AWF to provide snacks at meetings and meals at projects.

The holiday potluck is also AWF's official annual meeting, when members elect the board for 2015. *If you are interested in becoming more involved with AWF, we encourage you to nominate yourself for the board!* Any AWF member is eligible to serve, and board members lead the planning for monthly speakers and restoration service projects.

Directions to the Meeting:

The Albuquerque Friends Meeting House is located at the corner of 5th and Bellamah. From I-40, take the 6th street exit, then South to Bellamah.



2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT

In reviewing the archive of newsletters from years and decades past, I found that in many years, AWF's board had produced an "activities report" in December, summarizing its accomplishments for the year. These reports were wonderful time capsules that helped document the history of the organization, so I thought it would be worth resurrecting that tradition (just as we did with the newsletter's original name, the *Pine Cone*).

Herewith is AWF's activities report for its 100th year:

Ecological Restoration Service Projects

March 22, 2014 – Day project clearing brush in Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary, Albuquerque

April 25-27, 2014 – Riparian restoration in Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais National Conservation Area

May 16-18, 2014 – Restoring the habitat of the Zuni Bluehead Sucker, Zuni Mountains

May 30-June 1, 2014 – Riparian restoration in the Valles Caldera

June 27-29, 2014 – Land restoration on Glorieta Mesa, near Santa Fe, NM

July 25-27, 2014 – Riparian restoration in the Valles Caldera

August 22-24, 2014 – Riparian restoration in the Valles Caldera

September 26-28, 2014 – Riparian restoration in the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

October 18, 2014 – Day project restoring Cedro Creek near Tijeras, NM

Monthly Educational Speakers

February – Judy Calman, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, "Update on the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument"

March – Phil Carter and Kristina Fisher, "The History of AWF's First Century of Conservation"

April – Bill Zeedyk, "Buying Time in Riparian Areas: On-the-Ground Adaptation to a Changing Climate"

May – Jennifer Owen-White, "Valle de Oro: New Mexico's First Urban Wildlife Refuge"

June – "Leave it to Beavers" documentary

September – Christopher Rustay, "Playa Lakes Joint Venture: Conserving the Playas, Prairies, and Landscapes of the Western Great Plains"

October – Dave Parsons, "How Modern Ecological Research Confirms the Ecological Wisdom of Aldo Leopold"

November – Michelle Briscoe, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, "Billion-Dollar Boondoggle: Update on the Proposed Diversion of New Mexico's Gila River"

Major Correspondence

April 2014: Signed onto Aldo Leopold Foundation letter to the Mayor of Albuquerque asking that the wild Rio Grande bosque be protected, not developed

August 2014: Signed onto the Wilderness Society's Citizen's Conservation Proposal, submitted to the U.S. Forest Service for consideration in its Forest Plan Revision for the Cibola National Forest



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2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT *continued*

August 12, 2014: Sent letter to the Bureau of Land Management's New Mexico office in support of the BLM's proposal to expand and enhance the enclosure protecting the Cebolla Canyon wetland in the El Malpais National Conservation Area

September 22, 2014: Sent letter to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service commenting on the proposed revision to the rule governing the reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves in the Southwest

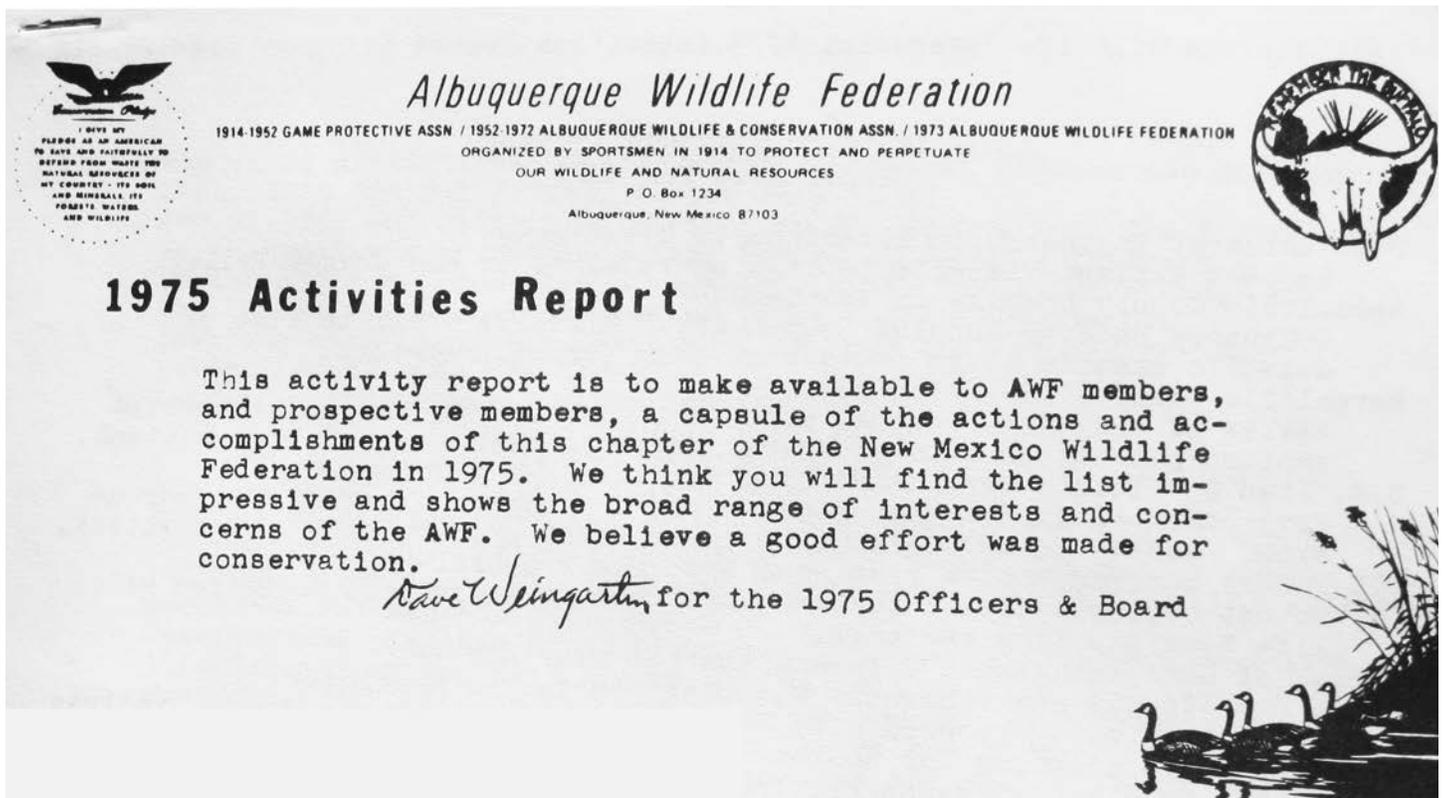
October 21, 2014: Sent letter to the EPA in support of the Clean Water Act Waters of the U.S. Rule, and signed onto a similar group letter authored by Amigos Bravos

Miscellaneous

July 19, 2014: Organized 100th Anniversary Celebration for AWF in the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in Albuquerque

November 14, 2014: Received the Radical Center for Conservation Award from the Quivira Coalition

BLAST FROM THE PAST: 1975 ACTIVITIES REPORT HEADER



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

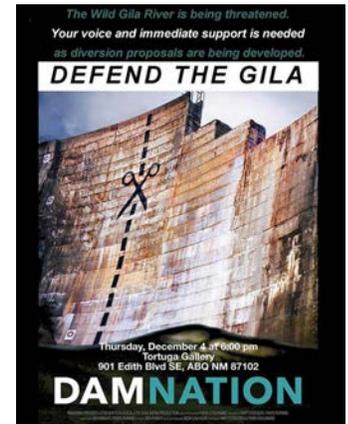
DamNation Movie and Gila River Update

DECEMBER 4, 2014, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

TORTUGA, 901 Edith Blvd SE, Albuquerque

DamNation is a powerful film odyssey across America exploring the sea change in our national attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers. This screening will follow a public lecture and Q&A with former Interstate Stream Commissioner Norm Gaume regarding the Gila River Diversion project recently recommended by the Interstate State Stream Commission. Cost: \$12.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/866209820091188/>



Bats of New Mexico

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (PEEC), Los Alamos, NM

Join wildlife biologist Justin Stevenson and discover the beautiful and remarkable world of bats. Learn about the biology, ecology, behavior and importance of these extraordinary mammals and meet two of the 29 insectivorous bat species endemic to New Mexico. Enjoy photographs and videos as Justin discusses common misconceptions, current threats to North America's bat species, and how you can become a bat advocate. This program is free, and no advance registration is required.

More information: <https://peecla.z2systems.com/np/clients/peecla/event.jsp?event=5066>



Christmas Bird Count

DECEMBER 14, 2014-JANUARY 5, 2015

AUDUBON NEW MEXICO, Statewide

This winter, at more than 30 locations in New Mexico, groups of bird-watchers will be counting every bird they see or hear! As a participant in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, you can join more than 63,000 counters at over 2,000 locations stretching from the Arctic Circle to the tip of South America. Since 1900, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has provided scientists with critical data about bird populations in the Americas.

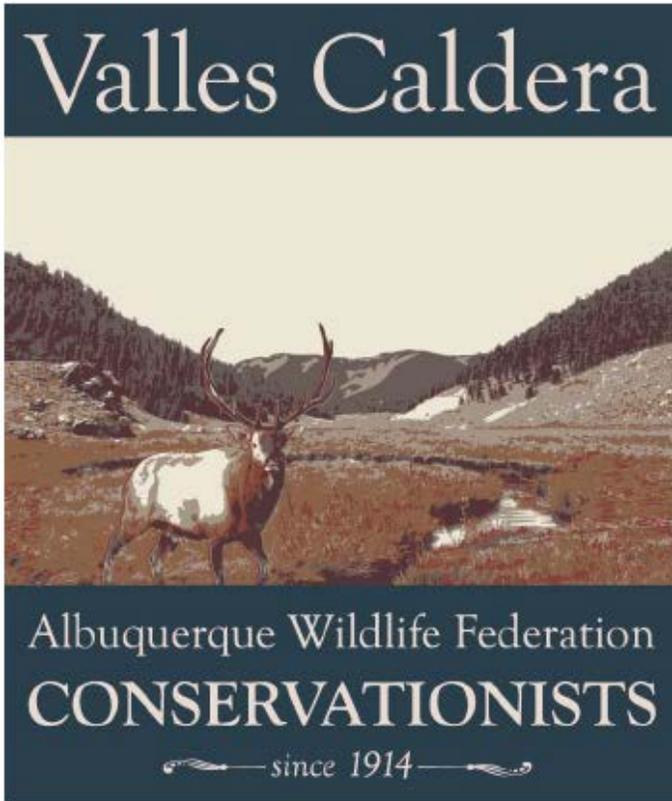
More information: <http://nm.audubon.org/nm-christmas-bird-count>



Send your event information to: abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!

MAKE THE NEXT 100 YEARS POSSIBLE: JOIN THE ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION!

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation has survived and thrived for a full century thanks to the dedication and generosity of generations of members who responded to the call to contribute. We encourage you to join this proud legacy by becoming a contributing member and helping support AWF's restoration service projects, monthly conservation education presentations, and this year's special 100th anniversary events.



Along with becoming a member, you can support AWF's work by purchasing one of our Valles Caldera commemorative T-shirts, designed by graphic artist and AWF board member Stephen Bohannon. It is printed on an organic cotton shirt and available in sizes S, M, L, & XL.

Price: \$20 Shipping: \$5

To order, mail in the form below or email your order to: abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com



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 (under 18) _____ \$10
- Individual _____ \$25
- Family _____ \$35
- Sustaining _____ \$50-99
- Patron _____ \$100
- Lifetime _____ \$500 (*one-time payment*)

Dues: \$ _____
 Extra Contribution: \$ _____
 T-shirt & Shipping: \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____