

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

December 2016

Keeping the Flame Alive

As 2016 comes to a close, AWF members will gather for our traditional holiday potluck to celebrate the accomplishments of this year and look ahead to the next one.

This past year was a very successful one for AWF, with nine well-attended restoration projects (and no cancellations for fire or floods, as we've had in the past!). In addition, as you'll see in our Activities Report on page 3, during 2016 AWF organized seven public presentations on issues important to New Mexico's wildlife and wild lands, and we weighed in on a number of important local and national conservation issues.

Finally, last month AWF board members spent a day participating in a strategic planning session to lay the foundation for our work over the next few years. It was invigorating to reflect on all that AWF has accomplished and to brainstorm ways we can enhance the organization's resilience and become even more effective at achieving the goal Aldo Leopold set out for us 102 years ago: **"to restore to every citizen his inalienable right to know and love the wild things of his native land."**

The coming year promises many challenges to this ideal, but through it all AWF will continue its essential work of connecting New Mexicans to their public lands and the



wildlife that inhabits them (like the spotted owls who have put on amazing concerts for us at our Limestone Canyon projects the past two years). Teaching people of all ages to know and love these animals, plants, and places is the only way we will be able to protect them for future generations.

If you are interested in helping plan and implement AWF's projects and educational programs, we encourage you to nominate yourself for the board. All dues-paying members are eligible, just put up your hand at the holiday potluck! (If you think you might be interested but you have questions about what it's like to serve on the board, please email me at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)

And if you're not ready for the board just yet, we hope you'll still renew your membership in AWF! Your dues purchase the supplies we need to make the restoration projects and educational programs possible – we couldn't do any of the work we do without your support.

Thank you for being a part of AWF, and we hope to see you at the potluck on December 8 or at a meeting or project in the new year!

Inside this Issue:

December Banquet & Board Election.....	pg 2
2016 Activities Report.....	pg 3
Update from Cebolla.....	pg 4
Events of Interest.....	pg 5
Membership Form.....	pg 6

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

DECEMBER 8, 2016: Annual Potluck Banquet & Board Election

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

Thursday, December 8, 2016, 7:00 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

AWF's holiday potlucks often feature exotic dishes from AWF's hunting members, 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. Thank you!

The holiday potluck is also AWF's official annual meeting, when members will elect the board for 2017. *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.



2016 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Ecological Restoration Service Projects

March 12, 2016 – Day project at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Albuquerque

April 15-17, 2016 – Riparian restoration in Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais National Conservation Area

May 20-22, 2016 – Riparian restoration in the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

June 17-19, 2016 – Riparian restoration in the Valles Caldera

July 22-24, 2016 – Riparian restoration in the Valles Caldera

August 19-21, 2016 – Wetland restoration in Midnight Meadows, near Questa, NM

September 9-11, 2016 – Riparian restoration in Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mountains near Magdalena

October 8, 2016 – Day project restoring land on Glorieta Mesa, near Santa Fe

October 15, 2016 – Day project at Cedro Creek near Tijeras, NM

Educational Presentations

February – Todd Leahy, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, “Malheur Wildlife Refuge: Defending Public Lands in the West”

March – Oscar Simpson, “Conservation & Management of New Mexico’s Forests”

May – Ray Powell, “Urgent Issues Facing New Mexico’s Public Lands”

June – David Stambaugh, “The New Mexico Youth Conservation Commission”

August – Melanie Gisler, Institute for Applied Ecology, “The Missing Ingredient for Habitat Restoration in the Southwest: Native Seed”

October – Ron Hamm, “Ross Calvin, Interpreter of the American Southwest”

November – Michael Dax, Defenders of Wildlife, “Grizzly West: A Failed Attempt to Reintroduce Grizzly Bears in the Mountain West”



Miscellaneous

February 29, 2016 – Sent letter of support for Los Amigos de Valles Caldera restoration grant; agreed to serve on Steering Committee to develop a Watershed Based Plan for the Valles Caldera National Preserve

March 8, 2016 – Signed onto letter requesting that the state of New Mexico require coal mine purchasers to post bonds to ensure reclamation and restoration

May 12, 2016 – Signed onto letter asking Congress to provide sufficient funds for maintenance activities in the National Park system

May 18, 2016 – Signed onto letter to the Santa Fe National Forest about improving its process for identifying new potential wilderness areas

June 10, 2016 – Submitted comments expressing concern about anti-government extremism on federal public lands to Representative Raul Grijalva

August 29, 2016 – Signed onto Wilderness Society letter asking the Forest Service to consider designating more land as wilderness within the Cibola National Forest

September 24, 2016 – Participated in the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge’s 4th birthday celebration

October 22, 2016 – Participated in *Celebrate Sevilleta!* at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

November 6, 2016 – Held board retreat and strategic planning session for AWF’s future

UPDATE FROM CEBOLLA CANYON

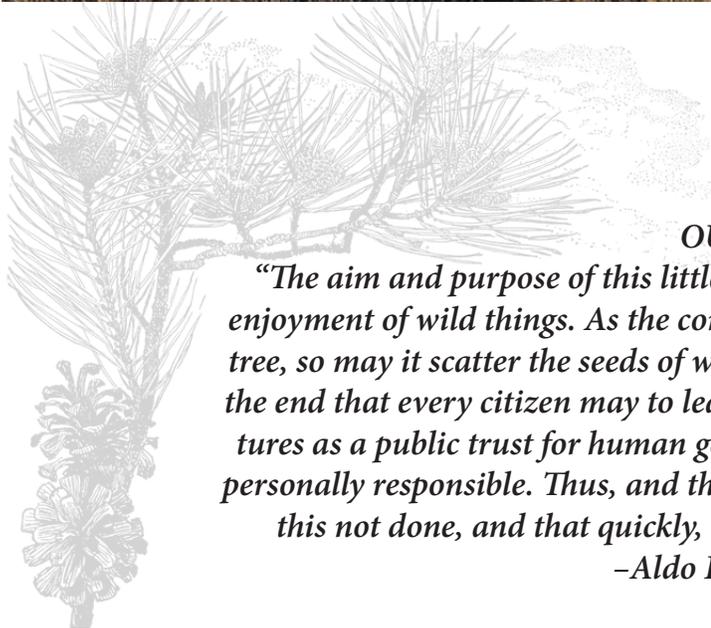
Cebolla Canyon in El Malpais National Monument is one of AWF's legacy sites, where we have worked on numerous restoration projects since 2000. This fall, longtime AWF volunteer Hamish Thomson visited and took some photos documenting the impressively wet and healthy-looking landscape. Those of us who saw these spots when they were dry, dusty, and devoid of vegetation sometimes wondered how any homesteaders came to settle the canyon in the first place. Yet we knew it was the roads and irrigation ditches dug by those settlers that ultimately caused the ecological damage we were seeing. Now that the damage is gradually being healed, we are beginning to catch a glimpse of the Cebolla Canyon that once was, and what a marvelous place it is!



OUR AIM:

“The aim and purpose of this little paper is to promote the protection and enjoyment of wild things. As the cone scatters the seeds of the pine and the fir tree, so may it scatter the seeds of wisdom and understanding among men, to the end that every citizen may learn to hold the lives of harmless wild creatures as a public trust for human good, against the abuse of which he stands personally responsible. Thus, and thus only, will our wild life be conserved. Be this not done, and that quickly, it must forever vanish from the earth.”

—Aldo Leopold, 1915



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Out from Under the Methane Cloud

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Albuquerque Mennonite Church, 1300 Girard Blvd NE
RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB**

This workshop will provide information about the findings of the recent NASA study on the methane hotspot in the Four Corners Area. Workshop leaders will also explain the latest policy to capture that methane and how you can help. For more information: <http://www.riograndesierraclub.org/events-calendar/>



Winter Solstice at Chaco Canyon

DECEMBER 20-22, 2016

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

Join the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance for three days in the Chaco Canyon area! Experience astroarcheology in Chaco Culture National Historical Park, explore the strange formations of the Ah-shi-sle-pah Wilderness Study Area, and hike the Bistide-na-zin Wilderness in search of petroglyphs, paleontology, and otherworldly landscape features. For more information:

<http://www.nmwild.org/events-outings/41-winter-solstice-at-chaco-canyon>

Christmas Bird Count

DECEMBER 14, 2015-JANUARY 5, 2016

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



Nominations Sought for Excellence in Wildlife Conservation Awards

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2017

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is soliciting nominations for its Excellence in Wildlife Conservation awards to be presented February 18 at the Governor's Special Hunt Auction & Banquet at Expo New Mexico in Albuquerque. The awards are in recognition of outstanding achievements and contributions to wildlife conservation in New Mexico. For more information about the awards and how to nominate someone:

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/nominations-sought-nms-excellence-wildlife-conservation-awards/>



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 (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: \$ _____