

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
**WILDLIFE**  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

July 2014

## History of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation: A Century of Conservation

*This 100th anniversary edition of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation's newsletter is longer than most. It includes a history of the organization drawn from archives, public records, and interviews with past and present board members. My appreciation to everyone who helped me compile this story — any errors or omissions are mine alone. I hope you enjoy reading about AWF's first century of conservation (and I encourage you to send me feedback for future revisions!).*

*Kristina G. Fisher  
AWF Vice-President*



The story of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation begins with a meeting of local sportsmen on July 21, 1914 at the Commercial Club in downtown Albuquerque. The group had come together out of a shared concern: that unregulated hunting was decimating the populations of many wild game species in the area, and that something had to be done before they disappeared forever.

The group's concerns were driven by the history they had witnessed. American bison had been reduced from millions of animals to fewer than 1,000 by 1890. The last wild passenger pigeon was killed in 1900; the final animal died in captivity the year AWF was founded. Here in New Mexico, bison, elk, and bighorn sheep had vanished from the state by 1909, and mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and wild turkeys were growing scarce.

In response to this situation, a "game protective movement" had developed. The first game protective organization in New Mexico was the Sportsmen's Association of Southwestern New Mexico, which was founded in Silver City in early 1914. The Albuquerque Game Protective Association (AGPA, which would eventually become AWF) followed closely behind.

A key organizer in both groups was Aldo Leopold, who had come to the Southwest in 1909 to work for the U.S. Forest Service and ended up serving as the Supervisor of the Carson National Forest. By 1914, Leopold was living in Albuquerque and focusing on game management for the Forest Service.

Although he played a central role in organizing the group, Leopold was not among the first officers of the AGPA.

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**JULY 19, 2014**

**3:00 p.m. to Sunset**

**7851 2nd St SW**

**(south on 2nd from Rio Bravo)**



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**Join us for a  
Festival at the Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge  
in the South Valley of Albuquerque  
in Celebration of the  
Albuquerque Wildlife Federation's 100th Birthday!**

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Tours of the refuge and bosque

Games and family activities

Booths from local conservation group partners

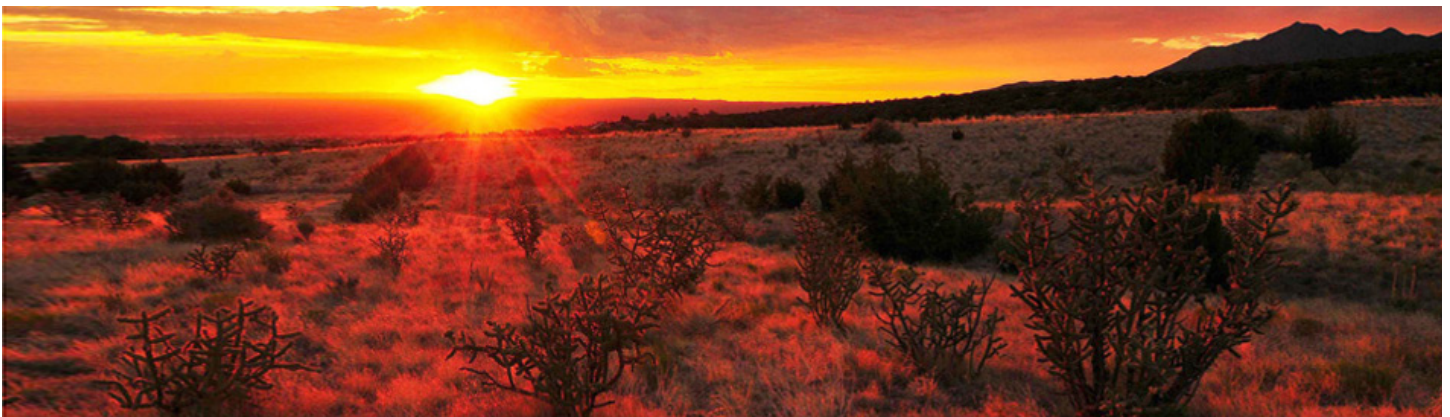
Food from the Street Food Institute food truck and Food Karma

Live Music by Annette Ahlander and Brad Bartlett & Estella Moore

Keynote speech by Jack Loeffler at 6:00 p.m.

Free birthday cake from A Cake Odyssey

**Spread the word and bring your friends and family to share in this  
once-a-century celebration!**



JULY 25-27, 2014 SERVICE PROJECT: Valles Caldera

**LOCATION:** Valles Caldera National Preserve

**THE PROJECT:** AWF is teaming up with Los Amigos de Valles Caldera for a restoration service project in the Valle Jaramillo in the center of the Valles Caldera. The creek in this narrow valley has been heavily impacted by grazing and logging, and sediment from headcuts and eroding streambanks has degraded water quality. Volunteers will build Zuni bowls and one-rock dams to control erosion in headcuts, as well as transplanting sod tiles to plug ditches that are draining adjacent wetlands.

Children are welcome but **no pets are permitted on the Preserve**. Tents, pickup campers, small RV's and tent or travel trailers are allowed. We will be camping in the Preserve, and access will be arranged through the main gate in the Valle Grande on Highway 4.

**SCHEDULE:** Friday, July 25 - Sunday, June 27

**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 a dish to share for the Saturday potluck dinner**, along with your own lunches, Friday dinner, Sunday breakfast, **and lots of water!** AWF will have some water available during the work days, but please bring your own water bottle.

**TO SIGN UP:** Contact Scial at [rioscial@gmail.com](mailto:rioscial@gmail.com) or 505-480-2906.  
*Directions and details will be sent to you after you sign up.*



## 2014 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 22.....Day project at Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary  
 April 25-27.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM  
 May 16-18.....Zuni Mountains near Gallup, NM  
 May 30-June 1.....Valles Caldera I  
 June 27-29.....Glorieta Mesa near Santa Fe, NM  
 July 19.....AWF 100th Birthday Celebration!  
   Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge, Albuquerque  
 July 25-27.....Valles Caldera II  
 August 22-24.....Valles Caldera III  
 September 26-28...Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge  
 October TBD.....Day project in the Sandia Mountains

## AWF BOARD 2014

## OFFICERS

*President – Michael Scialdone*  
*Vice President – Kristina G. Fisher*  
*Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*  
*Secretary – Toby Rosenblatt*

## DIRECTORS

*Stephen Bohannon*  
*Kurt Menke*  
*Dennis Muirhead*  
*Glenda Muirhead*  
*Bob Tilley*  
*Kristin Van Fleet*  
*Bill Zeedyk*



## RECAP OF JUNE 27-29, 2014 RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECT

*Thanks, Volunteers!*

### Participants in AWF's June 2014 Volunteer Service Project:

Abe Aufdermauer  
A.J. & Ashley  
Stephen Bohannon  
Kate Brown  
Lyle Brown  
Alyson Buchanan  
Peter Callen  
Phil Carter  
Laura Clor  
Rodney Conant  
Ben Davidson  
Barb Diver  
Rich Diver  
Kristina Fisher  
Holly Huffines  
Francois-Marie Patorni  
Collin Pena  
Toby Rosenblatt  
Peter Rothfeld  
Michael Scialdone  
Marilynn Szydlowski  
Bob Tilley  
Kristin Van Fleet  
William Zenger

At the end of June, AWF volunteers spent a weekend working on Giorieta Mesa, near Pecos, NM. The project took place on the 500-acre Giorieta Freedom Ranch, which was purchased by Brad and Kathy Holian who permanently protected the land with a conservation easement. As restoration project designer Jan Willem-Jansens explained, this area is an essential part of a network of wildlife corridors connecting the Sangre de Cristo mountains through the Galisteo Basin to the Sandia and Manzano Mountains.



Volunteers built a series of one-rock dams and Zuni bowls in a riparian area downstream from an old pond that is being enhanced to create a larger wetland area for the benefit of species from bears to bats. More structures were built in a meadow downstream from a road crossing, where AWF had worked a year ago. It was very rewarding to see how well the structures built last year were performing—all were successfully collecting sediment and growing thick grasses.

The weekend was made extra special by the culinary talents of Scial and Rodney Conant, who not only prepared AWF's signature Saturday breakfast burritos and bison burgers but also cooked dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday!



Before: New structure in 2013



After: same site in 2014



## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

### Fire on the Mountain

**THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**Valles Caldera National Preserve**

Dr. Doug Cram, Extension Wildland Fire Specialist, leads a tour of the Preserve with an eye for how past fires behaved on the landscape based on fuel conditions, weather, and topography. Participants will get to compare how vegetation communities have responded following different fires.

More information: <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/calendar/ViewCal.html>



### Family Star Party

**TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2014, 8:30 p.m.**

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

During this family star party, PEEC Director Chick Keller will explain what we know of the galaxy's spiral shape and point out age-old remnants, clusters, nebulae, and more. This event is free and open to the public. More info: <https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/peecla/event.jsp?event=2992>



### Gila Wilderness Inventory

**AUGUST 9-10, 2014**

**NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE, Gila Wilderness**

This two-day workshop will train participants on how to conduct wilderness inventories in the Gila National Forest, as well as how to conduct citizen monitoring in wilderness areas. As a part of the workshop, participants will be provided with a detailed handbook in advance and will spend a full day conducting fieldwork in the Gila National Forest in order to gain a better understanding of the training.

More info: <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NewMexicoWildernessAlliance/default/item.php?ref=836.0.598801537>

### Volunteer Restoration Weekend on Comanche Creek in the Valle Vidal

**AUGUST 8-10, 2014**

**QUIVIRA COALITION, Valle Vidal**

Join the Quivira Coalition for a weekend of camping and riparian restoration work in New Mexico's beautiful Valle Vidal, near the Colorado border. More info:

[http://quiviracoalition.org/Land\\_Water\\_Program/2014\\_Restoration\\_Workshops/index.html](http://quiviracoalition.org/Land_Water_Program/2014_Restoration_Workshops/index.html)



### Celebrate the New Mexico Wildlife Federation's Birthday, too!

**AUGUST 16, 2014, Albuquerque**

The NMWF is holding its 100th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, August 16th in Albuquerque. Tickets are \$25, and include dinner and dessert, a chance to win door prizes including a \$500 gift certificate to Sportsman's Warehouse, exciting silent auction items and special presentations about the life and times of Aldo Leopold.

More info: <http://www.nmwildlife.org/nmwildlife/newsletter/july2014>

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



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

# Metropolitan

THE LIVEST MAGAZINE IN AMERICA  
432 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Office of  
Theodore Roosevelt

January 18, 1917.

My dear Mr. Leopold:

Through you, I wish to congratulate the Albuquerque Game Protective Association on what it is doing. I have just read the Pine Cone. I think your platform simply capital, and I earnestly hope that you will get the right type of game warden. It seems to me that ~~from~~<sup>in</sup> your association, New Mexico is setting an example to the whole country.

Sincerely yours,

*Theodore Roosevelt*

Mr. Aldo Leopold, Secretary,  
Albuquerque Game Protective Ass'n,  
Albuquerque, N. Mex.



## HISTORY OF AWF CONTINUED

*continued from page 1:*

Those were: Henry Westerfeld, President; Charles Quier, Vice President; Kenneth Baldrige, Secretary; and R. Fred Pettit, Treasurer. Other active early members included E.J. Strong, Ross Merritt, Jack Shehan, Mike Nash, Frank C. W. Pooler, and Raymond Stamm. Immediately after their first meeting that July, the group set to work recruiting members and reaching out to other sportsmen across the state in the hopes of creating a statewide movement. Their rallying cry was “Remember the Buffalo!” as they sought to prevent other species from meeting the sad fate of the American bison.

The AGPA received a major boost the following year. Nationally prominent conservationist William T. Hornaday, author of *Our Vanishing Wild Life*, came through Albuquerque on a national speaking tour and gave a well-attended talk to the AGPA on October 13, 1915. He also donated several hundred dollars to the AGPA from his Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund.

Hornaday’s talk and support lit a fire under Leopold and the other AGPA members. Six days later, they organized a meeting and elected Aldo Leopold as their Secretary, after which he embarked on a statewide organizing effort, meeting with existing game protective associations and helping organize new ones in places like Magdalena.

On December 2, 1915, the AGPA held its first annual meeting and, on a motion by Aldo Leopold, officially adopted its founding platform. That platform stated:



1) We stand for vigorous enforcement of the State Game Law.

2) We stand for the Federal Migratory Bird Law.

3) We stand for cooperation with stockmen in a systematic campaign against the predatory animal menace to game and livestock.

4) We stand for the Hornaday Plan of Game Refuges.

5) We stand for such an increase in game and fish as will furnish legitimate sport of every citizen and a new and material source of wealth for New Mexico.

6) We are pledged individually and collectively to observe the letter of the law and the spirit of good sportsmanship, and to report for prosecution, through and in the name of this Association, violations of the law which come to our notice.

During the December meeting, members heard presentations about wild game in Alaska, the proposed federal Migratory Bird Law, and the Hornaday plan for a system of national wildlife refuges. The state game warden, the Forest Supervisor of the Manzano National Forest (now the Cibola National Forest), and Aldo Leopold also spoke to the group. AGPA elected a slate of officers for the coming year—including Aldo Leopold as Secretary—and discussed plans for creating a statewide organization. Leopold urged the group to maintain its own identity but affiliate with other groups into a statewide coalition.

## THE PINE CONE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ALBUQUERQUE GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

December 1915 also marked the launch of Leopold’s quarterly bulletin for the AGPA, which he named the *Pine Cone* after the newsletter he had written and distributed during his time in charge of the Carson National Forest. His mission for the paper was lofty:

“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 responsi-



ble. Thus, and thus only, will our wild life be conserved. Be this not done, and that quickly, it must forever vanish from the earth."

AGPA members went on their first game patrol on February 17, 1916. The members paired up and spent that Sunday patrolling areas around Albuquerque, from the Sandia foothills to what is now Tingley Beach, looking for violations of game laws to report to the state game warden.

The following month, on March 10-11, 1916, all of the game protective associations that Leopold had inspired across the state gathered in Albuquerque for the first conference of the New Mexico Game Protective Association. Joining the AGPA were game protective organizations from Carlsbad, Magdalena, Roswell, Santa Fe, Silver City, the Sacramento Mountains, and Taos, with a total membership of around 1,200. Leopold was elected Secretary of the New Mexico Game Protective Association, and he continued to serve in that role for the AGPA as well.



Toward the end of 1916, Hornaday praised New Mexico's efforts, writing: "It is a pleasant diversion for a tired man to look at the map of the United States, and behold New Mexico shining like a star beside the dark and bloody ground of Texas, and think that there, in the far Southwest, on the edge of the deserts, there are 1,200 red-blooded men who are unafraid, alert, and on guard in the defense of distressed wild life, determined that so far as in them lies all the wild life of their country and our country shall have a square deal. ... It is my prediction that New Mexico will bring back her big game, and that she will be the last of the western states to possess game on a basis of legitimate

sport. If New Mexico does not win out on that basis, no other state ever will."

In January 1917, AGPA received an even more impressive accolade. Former President Theodore Roosevelt wrote to Leopold: "My dear Mr. Leopold: Through you, I wish to congratulate the Albuquerque Game Protective Association on what it is doing. I have just read the Pine Cone. I think your platform simply capital, and I earnestly hope that you will get the right type of game warden. It seems to me that your association in New Mexico is setting an example to the whole country."



Later that year, the AGPA was awarded the Gold Medal of Hornaday's Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund. Leopold addressed the Albuquerque Rotary Club about the award, stating: "We have hitched our wagon to a star, but we are using just ordinary axle grease to speed it on its stony way. Let me illustrate what I mean. The G. P. A. ideal is to 'restore to every citizen his inalienable right to know and love the wild things of his native land.' We conceive of these wild things as an integral part of our national environment, and are striving to protect, restore, and develop them not as so many pounds of meat, nor as so many live things to shoot at, but as a tremendous social asset, as a source of democratic and healthful recreation to the millions of today and the tens of millions tomorrow."

Throughout the next seven years, the AGPA met regularly, organized game patrols, and collaborated with the other game protective associations across the state to advocate for policies that would protect game species, such as bag limits, closed seasons, and the creation of refuges. The groups also advocated for the appointment of a qualified, "nonpolitical" state game warden who would rigorously



enforce the state's hunting laws. In 1920, the AGPA helped draft legislation to create a state game commission and distributed the proposed bill in the July 1920 edition of the *Pine Cone*; the New Mexico Legislature enacted a version of that bill the following year.

In August 1918, the AGPA passed a resolution calling for the creation of a public park to protect the Rio Grande bosque through Albuquerque, "being convinced of the inestimable value of such a park to the town as a whole." In March of 1920, the AGPA held its first monthly "smoker" to brainstorm ideas for future actions. Following the tradition of the December 1915 meeting, the AGPA continued to hold annual rabbit dinners (serving rabbits supplied by the members), and in 1920 the group inaugurated its famous "Liar's Contests," which continued until at least the 1970's. Sportsmen competed to tell the best "fish story," with the winner receiving a golden bull trophy.



Aldo Leopold left New Mexico in May of 1924, but the work of the AGPA continued. The group helped raise funds to create the first trout hatchery in the state, successfully advocated for a revision of the state game laws so that the Game Warden was appointed by the Game Commission (which was viewed as less subject to political influence than the Governor) and assisted in the creation of a biological survey of the wildlife of New Mexico. In 1936, Elliott Barker, who had worked under Aldo Leopold in the Forest Service and become an active member of the New Mexico Game Protective Association, represented New Mexico at the founding of the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C.

Along with continued efforts to ensure that protective hunting and fishing regulations were enacted and enforced, two areas of focus for the organization through the 1930's and 1940's were ensuring public access to hunting and fish-



ing areas and restoring native species that had been lost. In 1930, AGPA worked for the reintroduction of bighorn sheep to the Sandia Mountains (several sheep were eventually brought in from Banff, Canada). Elk, beavers, and the tassel-earned Albert gray squirrel were also reintroduced to parts of the state from which they had disappeared years before.

In 1943, AGPA was active in calling for the opening of the Conchas Dam lakefront to public access for fishing and recreation, and in 1946, the group called upon the state legislature to formally recognize the right of public access to all waters in the state for recreation purposes. Doc Burnett, a longtime leader of both the Albuquerque and New Mexico game protective associations, played a key role in developing Tingley Beach to provide fishing opportunities in the Albuquerque area.

During the 1930's-1940's, the national discourse was shifting from a focus on game protection to a focus on wildlife management. Thanks to the efforts of Aldo Leopold, among others, there was a growing public understanding of scientific concepts of ecology, and a realization that more needed to be done than simply limiting hunting. Instead, whole interconnecting networks and communities of species—even the predators that the AGPA had initially supported exterminating—needed to be protected in order to maintain the desired animals. One of the key strategies for this was the protection and improvement of habitat.

In 1949, AGPA members participated in some of their earliest habitat restoration projects. Although some of the early restoration techniques were not ideal in hindsight—such as planting non-native Russian Olives along the Rio Grande to provide food and shelter for wildlife—the tradi-

tion of habitat improvement became a key component of the group's work.



On January 10, 1952, the Albuquerque Game Protection Association was formally incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of New Mexico. Consistent with the national shift from a focus on game to one on wildlife, in the following years the group came to be known as the Albuquerque Wildlife & Conservation Association, and eventually the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation (AWF), which it remains to this day. (The name was not officially changed to AWF until 1991.)

The 1960's brought an even more transformative change than the expansion of interest from game species to all wildlife. With the 1962 publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, a national environmental movement blossomed across the nation. Two years later came the passage of the Wilderness Act, fulfilling a dream of Leopold's, followed by the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act.

Interestingly, Leopold had hinted at this transformation many years before, in a 1919 article in the AGPA bulletin titled "Wild Lifers vs. Game Farmers," in which he wrote: "the Wild Lifer regards the perpetuation of native species as an end in itself, equal if not greater in importance than the perpetuation of 'something to shoot.' It may be safely concluded that as to this point the Wild Lifer enjoys the advantage of an ethical as well as of a utilitarian objective."

AWF's activities and interests expanded along with the growing national environmental consciousness. In 1976, AWF's first female board president, Roberta Dye, launched the Conservation Action League. The Conservation Action League was designed to help young people build stron-

ger connections with wild lands through activities such as hunting, fishing, and orienteering. It aimed to teach the next generation to become "spokespeople for wildlife and protectors of wildlife habitat." Among other activities, Conservation Action League members participated in hikes, orienteering courses, wildlife watching, ice fishing, and restoration projects.

Another AWF board member, C. K. Collins, also focused many of his efforts on educating young people. Collins had worked in the Forest Service, and along with Aldo Leopold he became concerned about the long-term consequences of fire suppression. In 1967, he pushed "Fire and Forest Management in the Southwest," describing how fire helps to maintain grasslands and pine forests. Collins developed educational materials to teach fifth grade students about the importance of fire in forest management, and AWF partnered with the Albuquerque Junior Woman's Club to create filmstrips of Collin's presentation, which were distributed to Albuquerque Public Schools.



In 1978, Collins and AWF went on to develop and distribute films including, "You and Wildlife in the Wildlands," for grades 4-7, "Little Friends Around a Mountain Cabin," for young elementary school children, and "The Changing Wildland Environment," for high school students and adults. Collins was honored as the KOB-TV 1976 Conservationist of the Year and became one of only six New Mexicans—and the only environmentalist—to receive a national Jefferson Award in 1978.

From 1974-1979, AWF and Albuquerque Junior Woman's Club members distributed environmental educational materials in celebration of the National Wildlife Federation's annual Wildlife Week every April. In 1979, AWF distributed 900 Wildlife Week kits and loaned five different film-strip and slide programs to teachers at 18 schools.





During this same time, AWF's participation in restoration activities was growing. Starting in 1973, AWF published annual activities reports reviewing everything that had been accomplished during the year, from public policies that the group had supported (or opposed) to the educational presentations that it had hosted. The first activities report describes AWF's work assisting with a springs cleaning project in the Carson National Forest to make more water available to wildlife, and the following years brought projects at Three Gun Spring in the Sandia Mountains, the Sargent Wildlife Management Area near Chama, and the Rio Chamita, among other locations.

In 1982, AWF's restoration projects ramped up as AWF member Jose Padilla volunteered to become the group's official projects coordinator. AWF became the first organization allowed to work in the Valle Vidal, which the Forest Service had just acquired from Pennzoil. Volunteers removed old fences blocking wildlife corridors, planted native vegetation to stabilize streambanks, and built structures to remedy stream downcutting in the valley.

Over the next decade, Padilla would organize 5-6 projects a year, with as many as 200-300 volunteers participating. He coordinated with groups like the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and others to get people out on the land, not only in the Valle Vidal but also in locations like the Manzano Mountains and Bluewater Lake in the Zuni Mountains. AWF's work helped bring many federal conservation dollars into New Mexico, as the expansion in restoration projects coincided with new requirements that federal funding be matched by volunteer hours.

In 1988, AWF's restoration work received two major recognitions: first, in January New Mexico Governor Garrey Carruthers recognized AWF at the First Annual Governor's Community Achievement Awards ceremony. Then on July

26, 1988, Jose Padilla traveled to the White House to accept a national "Take Pride in America" award from the U.S. Department of the Interior. The following year AWF received a "bronze beaver" award from the Izaak Walton League of America.



AWF also made a big impact on restoration activities by campaigning for the creation of New Mexico's Habitat Stamp program throughout the 1980's. In 1991, the State Game Commission gave its final approval to the program, which imposes a \$5 fee on sportsmen who hunt, fish, or trap on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or Forest Service lands in New Mexico. The funds collected—about \$1 million a year—are matched by federal dollars and dedicated to habitat improvement programs on public lands across the state. The New Mexico Game Commissioner reports that as of 2014, Habitat Stamp projects have "improved over 594,000 acres of habitat, enhanced over 10,500 acres of riparian habitat, built 690 places for wildlife to obtain water, completed 680 wildlife population/habitat surveys, completed 17 wildlife transplants (bison, pronghorn, and turkey), improved 74 fishing areas, and maintained previously built structures 6,400 times."

Throughout the 1980s, 1990's, and 2000's, one of the key leaders of AWF's restoration work was Bill Zeedyk, who had worked with the Forest Service and been an active AWF board member since the late 1970's. In the 1980's and 1990's, Zeedyk began developing riparian restoration techniques designed to hold water in the landscape by inducing stream meandering. The structures and techniques Zeedyk developed became the backbone of much of AWF's resto-

ration work in the years that followed, and he continues to be a core member of AWF's projects committee.



AWF's restoration efforts were foreshadowed by some of the work that Aldo Leopold did while still living in New Mexico. In late 1923, he published the *Watershed Handbook*, which focused on the serious land degradation he was seeing as a result of human activities, and proposed remedies like maintaining grass and willows along streambanks, and even damming some small channels—not too far from some of the structures that AWF members regularly build nearly a century later.

Along with its on-the-ground work to improve wildlife habitat, AWF continued a longstanding tradition of participating in the policy discussions that govern how wildlife is managed in New Mexico. AWF board members flew to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the protection of the Valle Vidal during the negotiations with Pennzoil, and AWF regularly made extensive comments to the State Game Commission on wildlife policy and to the Forest Service and BLM on land management decisions. Longtime AWF president Dave Weingarten was the leader of much of AWF's advocacy work during the 1970's-1980's.

In 1991, AWF president Cliff Mendel and past-president Joyce Mendel reviewed the organization's bylaws and found that they still included as one purpose "to aid in the destruction of predatory animals." This language was a holdover from the earliest days of AWF, and no longer reflected the organization's understanding of the key role that predators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems. The Mendels brought the issue to the attention of the rest of the board and they filed paperwork with the state to remove the language from AWF's organizing documents. On October 21, 2010, AWF took one more step toward formalizing its structure when board leaders Glenda Muirhead, Gene Tatum, and Kristina Fisher successfully applied for

501(c)(3) certification from the IRS, making AWF a stand-alone own tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

Today, AWF continues to engage in many of the activities that have marked it throughout its long history. The group continues to organize monthly educational meetings, the current incarnation of the original "smokers," during which speakers provide educational presentations on issues affecting wildlife, land, and water in New Mexico. From March-October, AWF organizes well-attended volunteer restoration service projects on public lands across New Mexico, led by Bill Zeedyk and current president Michael "Scial" Scialdone. Because the group returns to many of the same locations year after year, it has recorded impressive improvements in areas like Cebolla Canyon in El Malpais National Conservation Area, where the work of AWF volunteers has resulted in a wetland growing from nonexistent in 2000 to over 100 acres in 2014. Similarly, in Limestone Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains, AWF volunteers were able to raise the level of a streambed so successfully that cottonwood seedlings germinated for the first time in decades, and conditions may soon be wet enough to allow for the reintroduction of Chiricahua leopard frogs.



AWF also continues to monitor and weigh in on public issues that affect wildlife and wild lands, recently joining many other sportsmen's and conservation organizations in opposing a proposed diversion of the Gila, the last undammed river in New Mexico, and joining with the Leopold Foundation in urging that the needs of wildlife be considered in the proposed development of the Rio Grande bosque. Finally, AWF continues to communicate about all these issues and activities with its approximately 400 members and friends via a monthly newsletter—which this year was renamed the *Pine Cone* in honor of Leopold's original publication.



In reflecting on AWF's century of history, what is perhaps most impressive is that all of its accomplishments have been the work of volunteers. It is rare for a nonprofit organization to last this long; rarer still for one with no paid staff or fundraisers to keep it going from year to year. In every generation, AWF's mission has inspired individuals to come together and keep it going. The focus and work of the organization have evolved as the understanding of what is needed has changed through the years, but the essential ingredients remain the same as they were on that

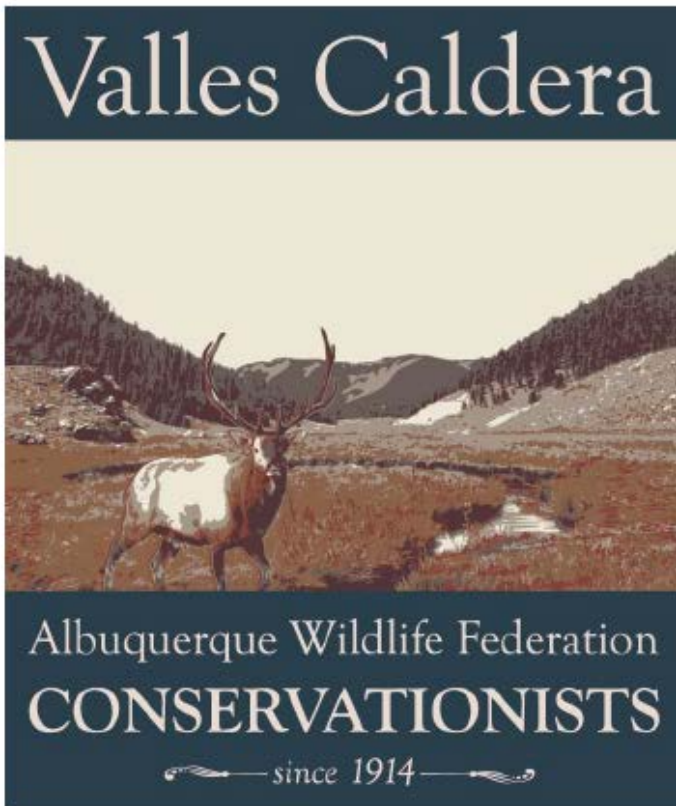
July day a century ago: New Mexicans who are passionate about wildlife and wild lands and are willing to put in the time to do what is needed to see that they are protected and restored.

On July 19, 2014, AWF's members and friends will gather at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, adjacent to the now-protected Rio Grande bosque, to celebrate this momentous anniversary and rededicate ourselves to this important work.



## 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: \$25   Shipping: \$5**

To order, mail in the form below or email your order to:  
[abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto: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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**