

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
WILDLIFE  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

June 2014

## AWF's Landscape Legacy : Protecting Wild Lands for Wildlife

As we described in last month's newsletter, AWF's founders were ahead of their time in recognizing the need to protect wildlife species from extinction.

One key strategy they promoted to accomplish this goal was to set aside land specifically for the preservation of game and fish species—an idea that eventually led to the creation of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

At the time, however, the concept of setting aside land for wildlife was as radical as the idea that hunting needed to be limited in order to prevent the wholesale extermination of game species. In the 15th issue of the *Pine Cone* in March 1920, Leopold included a detailed explanation of "Game Refuges: what they are and how they work." He wrote that "game refuges will accomplish the most immediately necessary thing in the whole range of game protection problems: they will furnish inviolable sanctuaries where at least a nucleus of game animals can survive and breed." Simply establishing hunting limits and seasons, he explained, would not be sufficient without protected areas.

The Albuquerque Game Protective Association had been active in this issue from its founding. In the inaugural issue of the *Pine Cone* in December 1915, Leopold reported



that the AGPA had passed a resolution calling for Stinking Lake to be set aside as a refuge for migratory birds. This lake (which was later renamed Burford Lake after Miles Burford, the first President of the New Mexico Game Protective Association) is a 2,000-acre natural marsh located on the Jicarilla Apache reservation in Rio Arriba County. Because of its location on tribal lands, it was never designated as an official wildlife refuge—however, Leopold and the AGPA did succeed in preventing the lake from being leased to a small group of wealthy Colorado sportsmen, which would have effectively privatized the resource.

Although the first wildlife refuge on federal lands was designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, it was not until 1966 that the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act formally established a system of National Wildlife Refuges under the management of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Today, the National Wildlife Refuge system has grown to 560 refuges—including eight in New Mexico—protecting 150 million acres of land and water. The latest innovation has been the establishment of urban wildlife refuges,

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## MAY 8, 2014 EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Leave it to Beavers

**Thursday, June 12, 2014, 7:30 pm**  
**Albuquerque Friends Meeting House**  
**1600 5th Street Northwest**

### Topic:

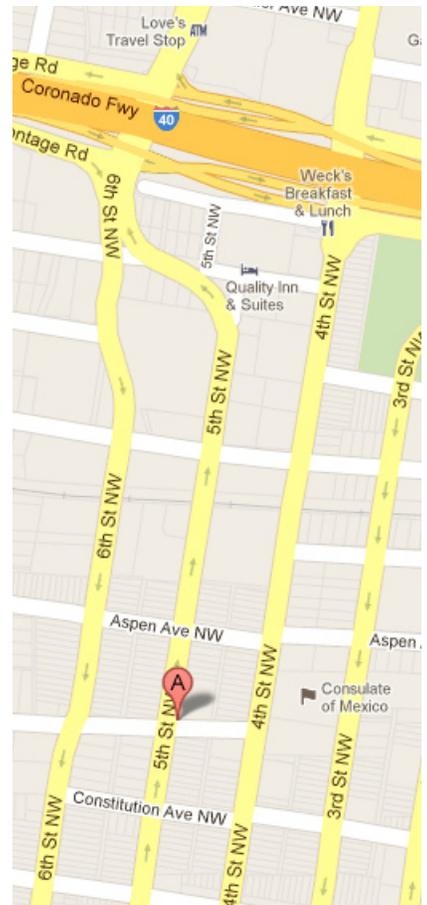
Leave it to Beavers

### Description:

At the June meeting, AWF will be showing a new hour-long documentary that tells the fascinating story of beavers in North America—their history, near extinction, and current comeback. A growing number of scientists and conservationists have come to regard beavers as overlooked tools when it comes to reversing the disastrous effects of global warming and worldwide water shortages. Once valued for their fur or hunted as pests, these industrious rodents are seen in a new light through the eyes of a novel assembly of beaver enthusiasts and “employers” who reveal the ways in which the presence of beavers can transform and revive landscapes. Using their skills as natural builders and brilliant hydro-engineers, beavers are being recruited to accomplish everything from re-establishing water sources in deserts to recharging water tables and coaxing life back into damaged lands.

### 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.



### 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, in the inaugural issue of the Pine Cone*

## JUNE 27-29, 2014 SERVICE PROJECT: Glorieta Mesa

**LOCATION:** Glorieta Mesa near Pecos, NM

**THE PROJECT:** This June, AWF volunteers have a unique opportunity to camp and work on land set aside for wildlife and conservation on Glorieta Mesa. The land is part of the 500-acre Glorieta Freedom Ranch, which is dedicated to land stewardship and the demonstration of sustainable off-grid building techniques, including passive and active solar and 100% roof water catchment (no wells). A large part of the land has been permanently protected from development with a conservation easement, and this is where AWF volunteers will be building structures to control erosion and help hold water in the landscape to improve wildlife habitat.

**SCHEDULE:** Friday, June 27 - Sunday, June 29

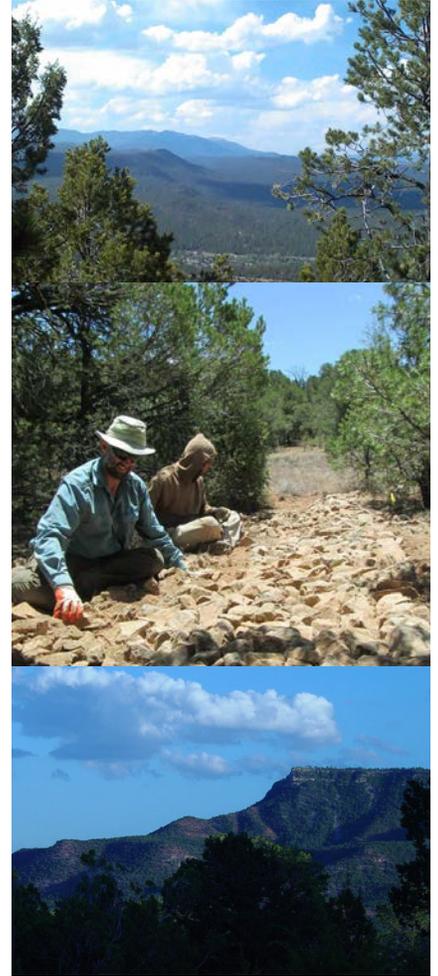
**GEAR:** Bring everything you need for a weekend of camping. For the work, don't forget gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water are essential.

**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 further 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 MAY 16-18, 2014 RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECT



*Thanks, Volunteers!*

**Participants in AWF's  
May 2014 Zuni Mountains  
Volunteer Service Project:**

Stephen Bohannon  
Phil Carter  
Jack Davis  
Beverly DeGruyter  
Kristina G. Fisher  
Toby Rosenblatt  
Michael Scialdone  
Hamish Thomson  
Kristin Van Fleet  
Beth Von Seggern  
Consuelo Zamora

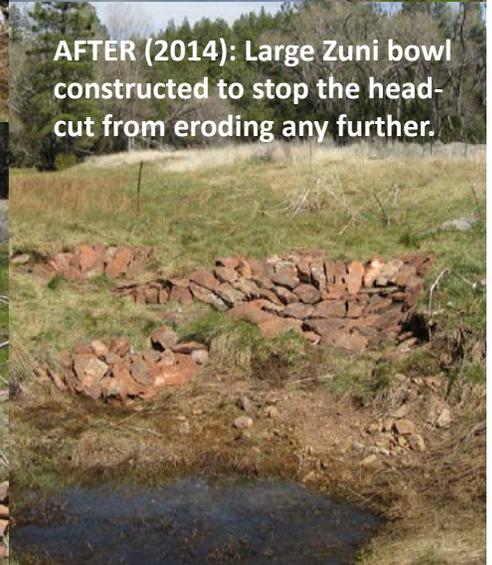
In mid-May, AWF volunteers spent a weekend working to improve riparian habitat for the rare Zuni Bluehead Sucker, which once lived throughout the Zuni River system but is now found only in a handful of pools and streams.

Our work focused on the Agua Remora area, where volunteers repaired fence enclosures to keep cattle out of the pools where the fish are living, and built several large Zuni bowls to prevent downstream erosion from draining the pools. Everyone enjoyed having a chance to observe the fish (we rarely get a chance to see the wildlife we are working for!) and it was very satisfying to see how well the structures we had built the year before were performing.

**BEFORE (2013):** A headcut threatens the pond (up-stream) where Zuni Bluehead Suckers live.



**AFTER (2014):** Large Zuni bowl constructed to stop the head-cut from eroding any further.



**Building a Zuni bowl in 2013...**



**...and seeing the success (more vegetation, less erosion) a year later!**



## RECAP OF MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2014 RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECT

*Thanks, Volunteers!***Participants in AWF's  
May 2014 Valles Caldera  
Volunteer Service Project:**

Abe Aufderanher  
 Dolores Barbero  
 Jack Becker  
 Alexa Churan  
 Laura E. Clor  
 Scott Compton  
 Rodney Conant  
 Elliot W. Conn  
 Rachel Conn  
 Silas J. Conn  
 Jack Crane  
 Ben E. Davidson  
 Curly G. Dorko  
 Edward Lucero  
 Daniel Malvin  
 Sharon Miles  
 Dennis Muirhead  
 Glenda Muirhead  
 Bob Nordstrom  
 Jim O'Donnell  
 Lee Otten  
 Frank Reeves  
 Toby Rosenblatt  
 Peter T. Rothfeld  
 Michael Scialdone  
 Erik Schlenker-Goodrich  
 Marilyn Szydowski  
 Doug Thiesen  
 Hamish Thomson  
 Bob Tilley  
 Steve Vrooman  
 Susan K. Watts  
 Walter G. Watts  
 Haley White  
 Amber D. Willyard  
 Isaac R. Willyard  
 Jen Zawacki

At the end of May, AWF partnered with Los Amigos de Valles Caldera to complete restoration work in the Six Tributaries area of San Antonio Creek in the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Volunteers put up a cattle enclosure to protect sensitive riparian vegetation and built many structures—such as sod plugs, worm ditches, and Zuni bowls—to help retain water in the wet meadows of the Caldera.



We were delighted to have volunteers join us from as far as Tulsa, OK and Lubbock, TX, as well as Albuquerque, Los Alamos, Jemez Springs, Santa Fe, and Taos. The work completed by this terrific group will go a long way toward protecting several nearby springs and restoring vegetation in the valley, which will ultimately improve the water quality of San Antonio Creek.

We look forward to returning to the Valles Caldera for our July 25-27 and August 22-24 restoration weekends, when we will again be partnering with Los Amigos.



## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

### Join us for AWF's 100th Birthday Party next month!

**When:** Saturday, July 19th, 3:00-10:00 p.m.

**Where:** Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley of Albuquerque



**What:** The celebration will include food trucks, music, tours of the adjacent bosque, and family friendly games and activities throughout the afternoon. Representatives from many different environmental and conservation organizations, such as Hawks Aloft and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, will be there with booths, materials, and activities. Around 6:00 p.m., noted environmental historian and author Jack Loeffler will provide a keynote address about AWF founder Aldo Leopold and his development of a land ethic, which will be followed by more music—and free birthday cake! Anyone is welcome to join us for all or part of the afternoon and help celebrate the first 100 years of AWF's work.

**How you can help:** Share the word with your friends and family and plan to come out and participate in this once-a-century celebration!



### AWF Volunteers Eligible for Big Discounts at La Montanita Co-op!

La Montanita Co-op Food Market, which has locations in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Gallup, offers its members discounts for volunteering with approved nonprofit organizations—including AWF! For every hour spent volunteering, a member is eligible to receive a discount card worth 18% off one shopping trip at the co-op.



To participate, simply print out the **Volunteer Sheet** and bring it to your next restoration service project for Scial or Kristina to sign (available at: <http://192.185.4.53/~lmcoop/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/VolunteerWS.pdf> ). More information is available at: <http://lamontanita.coop/volunteer/>

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

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Community Wildlife Habitat Forum

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

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

A panel discussion examines how to improve wildlife habitat in New Mexico communities. This event is free and open to the public. More info: [http://www.pajaritoeec.org/outreach/community\\_wildlife\\_habitat.php](http://www.pajaritoeec.org/outreach/community_wildlife_habitat.php)

### Ute Mountain Hike

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2014

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

Join NMWA for a hike of Ute Mountain, a proposed wilderness area within the recently designated Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Ute Mountain sits in Taos County and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Hikers will enter on the north face of Ute Mountain, approaching from the Colorado-New Mexico border. Since no developed trail system is in place, we will utilize game trails to scale the mountain. BLM ranger Daniel Rael will act as an interpreter to give detailed geological information about the area located in the Wild Rivers Recreation Area within the Taos Plateau. More info: <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/NewMexicoWildernessAlliance/default/item.php?ref=836.0.598791289>



### Good Bugs

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Cerrillos Hills State Park

Guest presenter Tessa Grasswitz will explain how to create habitat for both predatory & parasitic insects (for biological pest control), native bees and other pollinators. Meet at the park visitor center, 37 Main St., Cerrillos. More information: <http://www.cerrilloshills.org/events>

## AWF in the News!

Gallup Independent photographer Cable Hoover and reporter Vida Volkert joined us in the Zuni Mountains for our May restoration service project, and AWF was featured in an article in the paper on May 20, 2014.

To read an electronic version of the article, as well as other recent media coverage of AWF, please visit: <http://abq.nmwildlife.org/news.html>



Cable Hoover/Independent  
Volunteer Hannah Thomson poses in a small pond in the Zuni Mountains Subalpine. Thomson and a small group of other volunteers from the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation came to the restoration work on the highly eroded Red Heaven the Zuni watershed back in May.

### Fish story

Volunteers protect endangered fish's habitat

By Vida Volkert  
Staff writer  
awf@abqjournal.com  
**M**AGUIFEY — After a dozen volunteers with the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation led by AWF volunteer Hannah Thomson spent the day in a creek, a small group of volunteers from the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation came to the restoration work on the highly eroded Red Heaven the Zuni watershed back in May. The volunteers worked on the restoration of the Zuni watershed back in May. The volunteers worked on the restoration of the Zuni watershed back in May. The volunteers worked on the restoration of the Zuni watershed back in May.



Volunteers from the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation work on the restoration of the Zuni watershed back in May. The volunteers worked on the restoration of the Zuni watershed back in May. The volunteers worked on the restoration of the Zuni watershed back in May.



## WELCOME TO NEW MEXICO'S NEWEST NATIONAL MONUMENT!

### Introducing the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

On May 21, 2014, President Obama established the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico. The new monument encompasses nearly 500,000 acres in Doña Ana County, and protects not only the iconic Organ Mountains but also the Potrillo Volcano Field, Kilbourne Hole, Aden Lava Flow, Robledo Mountains, and Sierra de Las Uvas Mountains, along with many acres of Chihuahuan desert grasslands. We encourage all AWF members to explore and enjoy New Mexico's newest national monument!



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designed not only to protect wildlife but also to provide educational opportunities for the many people who live in urban areas and would not otherwise have the chance to observe and learn about wild creatures.

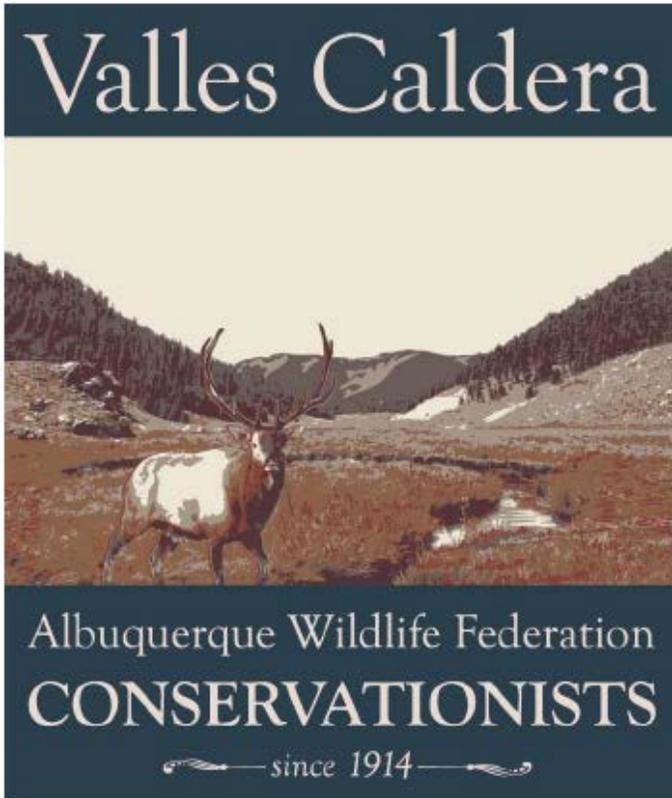
We are delighted that AWF's 100th birthday celebration will be held in New Mexico's first urban wildlife refuge, the Valle de Oro in the South Valley of Albuquerque. The location serves as a tangible illustration of the results of Aldo Leopold's advocacy for a national system of wild-

life refuges (as well as his work to protect the Rio Grande bosque) and it will provide ongoing opportunities to educate young New Mexicans about the land ethic that he so eloquently expressed. We believe that there could be no better place to celebrate AWF's centennial, and we hope you'll come out and join us for the celebration.

*Kristina G. Fisher*  
AWF Vice-President

# 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**