

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

June 2021

Carrying Forward the Far-sighted Vision of AWF

This issue of the *Pine Cone* is the one-hundredth that I have written since inheriting the role from Glenda Muirhead in March of 2013. It was a bit daunting to step into the shoes of so many who have kept this story going for over a century, starting with our founder Aldo Leopold and his companions. But it has also been a privilege to enter into this ongoing dialogue with AWF's past, present, and future, telling this chapter of an ongoing story.

Last summer, I digitized copies of the old newsletters that we have in hard copy, and they are now posted on AWF's website, stretching from 1985 to the present – nearly a third of our organization's lifespan. (Thank you to Glenda and Dennis Muirhead, Dave Weingarten, and Cliff and Joyce Mendel for saving all those hard copies!) They join the very earliest years of the newsletters that Leopold authored from 1915-1931, available online courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Archive at the University of Wisconsin.

Looking back through the years, the newsletters document how AWF's work has evolved from an initial focus on policy advocacy, championing early environmental laws like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, to our current prioritization of on-the-ground ecological restoration projects that teach volunteers how to care for their public lands.

Even as our main activities have changed, AWF has consistently kept its eyes turned toward the far hori-

"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."

-Inaugural issue of the Pine Cone, December 1915

zon, thinking ahead multiple generations. Leopold and AWF's other founders made sure that all of us living a century later would still have bison – and countless other species – around to enjoy. Those of us doing the work today are storing water on the landscape so that precious desert wetlands and the myriad life they support will still be here long after we are gone.

Perhaps that far-sighted view helps explain how AWF is still going strong as it approaches its 107th birthday next month, having survived multiple pandemics, World Wars, and the evolution of the environmental movement from protecting game animals to enhancing ecosystem resiliency, pursuing environmental justice, and healing the divide between humanity and nature.

As AWF's legacy continues to grow, I am grateful to all of you who read the newsletter and send me feedback, and especially to our dedicated, inspiring volunteers who show up month after month and year after year at our ecological restoration projects. AWF's most meaningful story is the one we are writing together on the landscape, as we heal the damage caused by generations past, and build habitat and resiliency for a more hopeful future.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

JUNE 4-6, 2021 SERVICE PROJECT: Ft. Union Ranch

LOCATION: Ft. Union Ranch near Watrous, NM

THE PROJECT: This month AWF is continuing the project we started last month, restoring Higgins Canyon on Fort Union Ranch in partnership with the Hermit’s Peak Watershed Alliance. Our restoration activities are part of a larger, landscape-scale conservation effort that includes the nearby Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge. During this project, volunteers will hand-build rock restoration structures designed by Bill Zeedyk to help heal a gully created by the old wagon highway to Mora.

SCHEDULE: Friday, June 4 – Sunday, June 6

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 and restoration work, including work gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. We recommend bringing a change of shoes, and waterproof boots or boots you don’t mind getting wet. Rain gear, layers, warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water are essential.

FOOD: The Saturday evening potluck is back! 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!

TO SIGN UP: Email Kristina at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com
Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.

[Click here to review AWF’s revised COVID-19 safety protocols.](#)



2021 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- April 23-25.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- May 14-16.....Ft. Union Ranch
- June 4-6.....Ft. Union Ranch
- 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

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- President – Cameron Weber*
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- Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*
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- Hamish Thomson*
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- Mara Yarbrough*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

RECAP OF MAY 14-16, 2021 FT. UNION RESTORATION PROJECT

Thanks, Volunteers!

Jeffrey Bargiel
Betty Bastai
Anjali Bean
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Candace Duran
Russ Duran
Kristina G. Fisher
Tera Gambill
Rebecca Goldman
Conrad Greaves
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Ellie Smith
Marilynn Szydlowski
Hamish Thomson
Joshua Wagner
Cameron Weber
Tyler J. White
Sarah Wood
Bill Zeedyk



Last month we were delighted to return to Ft. Union Ranch, a 95,000-acre property that is being managed with conservation and restoration of ecological functions as key goals. In the past three years, we worked to restore the Wolf Creek wetlands, and this year, we began work at a new site: Higgins Canyon, which was once a busy wagon highway between Ft. Union and Mora. Wagon wheels wore deep ruts in the river bottom, downcutting the channel and draining water out of the system. So Josh Miner and the other ranch managers have teamed up with the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance and Bill Zeedyk to design a series of rock structures to repair the damage, restore sinuosity to the creek, and bring back wetland vegetation like willows and cottonwoods.

AWF volunteers completed eight of the 24 enormous structures that Bill had laid out. Afterwards, several of us cooled off with a dip in the ranch's lovely swimming pond before enjoying dinner with a view of stormclouds over the Turkey Mountains.

Bill reports that, in recent days, Ft. Union Ranch received over an inch of rain, and all of our structures held water and soaked the banks beautifully. We hope to see many of you back to admire the results and continue the work the first weekend in June!



See lots more photos of this and other restoration projects at: abq.nmwildlife.org/

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Start of Summer Celebration at the Wildlife Center

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Join the New Mexico Wildlife Center as they celebrate the start of summer as well as the reopening of their indoor areas! Enjoy scheduled guided tours, animal encounters, and get to meet all of our Ambassador Animals! For more info: <https://newmexicowildlifecenter.org/event/start-of-summer-celebration/>



Dispatches from New Mexico: Nurturing the Next Generation of Land and Water Stewards

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1:00-2:00 p.m., online

NM OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

Transformative outdoor experiences for youth are about more than just recreating, they can open the door to bigger conversations around mental and physical well-being, racial and social justice, climate change, equity, conservation and stewardship, and cultural heritage, among others. Join us for this month's Dispatches from New Mexico speaker series to hear from amazing organizations throughout the state who are striving to provide equitable access to the outdoors for our youth and learn how you can be a part of the movement. For more info & to register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7661577757165786640>



Revitalizing Cultural Burning Practices, New Mexico and Beyond

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 10:00 a.m., online

NATURE CONSERVANCY NEW MEXICO

Join The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for a virtual event that highlights the long-standing relationship between American Indian cultures and fire, challenges related to fire faced by Indigenous communities and ways in which partners and TNC are supporting American Indian communities' efforts to revitalize their traditional cultures in today's context. To register to attend:

https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEIdieuqTsrGN00jSyuaMa_HhodCCDPj4ce

Galisteo Basin Erosion Control Projects

JUNE 10, 11, 12, 18, & 19, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., lunch provided

SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust invites volunteers to sign up for erosion control work in the beautiful Galisteo Basin. The work will include the construction of one-rock dams, rock bowls, rock rundowns, media lunas, and brush mats. Volunteers will receive instruction from Jan-Willem Jansens, who is leading the restoration project, and work in small groups for safe and efficient work performance. To sign up for one or more days:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWDj3-zDZ8Vst0VSbnkk5UHtBhOxMIG2nli6ShL19sgET-sg/viewform>

Protecting Pollinators as a Community

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 7:00 p.m., online

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Learn what you can do to protect pollinators at a community level at this live-streamed program from Kaitlin Haase, Southwest Pollinator Conservation Specialist with the Xerces Society.

For more info: <https://peechnature.org/events/details/?id=36978>

Send your event information to: 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: \$ _____