

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

May 2020

Time for Transformation

Last month, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day was supposed to bring massive public demonstrations and protests against ecological destruction. Instead, it brought something quite different: a glimpse of a different way for us to coexist with the natural world.

With large portions of humanity limiting our movements and sheltering in our homes, the air rapidly cleared. Satellite images showed levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter plummeting around the world. People in the Indian state of Punjab, 125 miles from the Himalayas, were able to see the massive mountains from their homes for the first time in 30 years.

Meanwhile, the animals noticed that there was room for them again. Coyotes howled from the middle of San Francisco streets, wild goats took over the town of Llandudno, Wales, and flamingos flocked to Mumbai in numbers three times higher than usual. Everywhere people shared photos of cougars, wild boars, even jaguars walking city streets in the absence of humans.

A simplistic, nihilistic reaction to these images is to conclude that the world is better off without us. A more fertile question to ask is: how can we make the world better off with us?



AWF volunteers know the answer to this question on a small scale. As we go out, year after year, building structures and planting native trees to restore a piece of the landscape, we come away knowing that this one small place is better for our having been here.

The benefit of this moment is that it shows us how this is possible on a global scale. If we rapidly transition off fossil fuels, shift our economy and transportation to renewable electric power, and adjust our activities to leave more space for other species—protecting and creating wildlife corridors, keeping our night skies dark, nurturing urban wildlife habitat throughout our cities, and welcoming species that are sometimes seen as nuisances—we can have this beauty and wonder all the time, not only in the midst of an unprecedented crisis.

The powers that be have long argued that we would never make the necessary changes, because they are too hard and involve too much sacrifice. But look around at the creativity, ingenuity, and generosity flowering in this moment. Everywhere people are sewing masks and donating food and changing their lives to protect the lives of their neighbors.

Lives are at stake beyond this moment—it was only four months ago that half a billion animals perished

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in the Australian wildfires that were fueled by climate change. And transforming our society wouldn't just benefit wildlife, but us as well. More people are dying right now of the novel coronavirus in places with higher levels of air pollution.

Tragedies can change our perspective, refocus our priorities, and inspire us to make changes we have long known we need to make. Building a better world on the other side of this pandemic is a way for us to redeem the immense suffering of this moment. We can look out the window now and see what is possible, if we work for it, if we fight for it.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary



*Congratulations to long-time former
AWF board members
Stephen Bohannon & Kristin Van
Fleet on the birth of their son
Alden Merrill Bohannon!*

*Welcome to the world, Alden!
We have high hopes for you.*

UPDATE ON 2020 VOLUNTEER RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECTS

First the bad news: due to the ongoing public health restrictions, AWF is regretfully postponing the projects we had planned for May 15-17 at Fort Union Ranch and June 5-7 on the Rio San Antonio in the Jemez Mountains.

We are very sorry about this both because we know the restoration work we had planned is urgently needed, and even more so because we miss spending time with all of our wonderful volunteers in the close-knit AWF community.

The good news is that it shouldn't be too much longer before we are able to be together once again. AWF's board is working on new safety protocols so that we can resume our restoration projects as soon as the public health restrictions are lifted, and we are in touch with our partners at Amigos Bravos and the Forest Service about the project we have planned for Midnight Meadows next month.

Moreover, we are planning to reschedule both the Fort Union and Rio San Antonio projects for later this year. We have Fort Union on the calendar for September 18-20, and the new dates for the Rio San Antonio project will be announced soon.

In the meantime, we encourage you to reflect on your memories of AWF projects past, and send us any stories you'd like to share. Please also let us know if you are interested in another virtual "fireside chat" with AWF board members and other volunteers, as we could hold another one later this month (with details about how to join the conversation sent out to this newsletter list once it is organized). Feel free to reach out to us anytime at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com. Stay safe and well, and we'll see you out on the land soon.



2020 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- March 7.....Day project at Valle de Oro
- June 26-28.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- July 17-19.....Valle Vidal
- August 21-23.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- September 4-6.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- September 18-20.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union Ranch, NM
- October 24.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2020

OFFICERS

- President – Cameron Weber*
- Vice President – Braden Belliveau*
- Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*
- Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher*

DIRECTORS

- Phil Carter*
- Rachel Moore*
- Toby Rosenblatt*
- Michael “Scial” Scialdone*
- Hamish Thomson*
- Bob Tilley*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

UPCOMING *VIRTUAL & ONLINE* EVENTS OF INTEREST

Society for Ecological Restoration Wednesday Webinars

WEDNESDAYS from 11:00 am-12:00 pm Mountain time

Every Wednesday from 11:00 am-12:00 pm join the Society for Ecological Restoration for a live webinar focused on a range of restoration topics, from road ecology to selecting native plants for restoration projects; the recordings of these webinars will also be available after the event. SER hopes these will serve as a resource for anyone looking to stay connected, maintain professional development, or find interesting content for online courses. Sign up at: <https://www.ser.org/news/494576/Wednesday-Webinars.htm>

Audubon New Mexico Webinar on Animal Tracking

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 4:00-5:00 pm

Trying to figure out if those tracks you saw are bobcat, coyote, or bear and what they are up to? Join local expert Ann Hunkins to learn basic animal track and sign identification. Sign up at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IJT-SNLOTzSyiiLerwkcCQ



TrapFree New Mexico Webinar

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 5:30-6:30 pm

Join members of the TrapFree New Mexico coalition for an online presentation on trapping, why it's still a serious problem in New Mexico, and what we're doing to rid public lands of these dangerous, cruel, and indiscriminate devices. Sign up at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E0hHQKbIRoW1rVQcxdbvYQ

New Mexico Wild-Live

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE CENTER

Follow the New Mexico Wildlife Center on Facebook for live-streaming presentations with their ambassador animals. Coming up Tuesday, May 5, check out "What's a Falcon?" starring Olympia the Peregrine Falcon and Pancho the American Kestrel. On Thursday, May 7, watch "Falcon vs Hawk" starring Olympia and Cinder the Red-tailed Hawk. NMWC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoWildlifeCenter/>
NMWC YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtowMHqkZUj85mTgHIs05qw>



2020 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Online

SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

MAY 26-MAY 31; JUNE 3-7, 2020

A fundraiser for the Santa Fe Watershed Association, join our experiment and experience The Wild & Scenic Film Festival without leaving your home. The Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour inspires environmental activism and a love for nature through film, encouraging festivalgoers to learn more about what they can do to save our threatened planet, and to take action on behalf of urgent local issues. The first half of the festival will stream live May 26 and be available for viewing May 27-May 31; the second half will be available June 3-June 7. Sign up at: <http://www.santafewatershed.org/wild-and-scenic-film-festival/>

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: \$ _____