

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

October 2017

Hope is a Thing with Spots

Not long ago, jaguars were considered extinct in the United States. The third largest cat species in the world once roamed from the Sierras in California to the Grand Canyon to parts of Louisiana. Like so many species, they were hunted out, and much of the habitat they relied on north of the U.S.-Mexico border was destroyed.

But in the past few years, at least three have returned to their traditional homelands in the sky islands of Arizona and New Mexico.

First, “El Jefe” (named by Tucson middle school students) was photographed more than 100 times between 2012-2015 by trail cameras in the Santa Rita Mountains. Then “Yo’ko” (named by students at Hiaki High School on the Pascua Yaqui reservation), was repeatedly spotted between December 2016 and May 2017 in the Huachuca Mountains in southern Arizona.

Last month, the Center for Biological Diversity released remarkable video footage of “Sombra,” in the Chiricahua Mountains of southern Arizona. Because Sombra was first photographed in the area back in November 2016, researchers believe that the cat has established its residence in the mountains. Sombra, which means “shadow” in Spanish, was named by students of the Paulo Freire Freedom School in Tucson.



All three of the recently photographed jaguars are males, so we are still waiting for a female jaguar to cross the border in order for jaguar cubs to be born in the U.S. once again. However, the fact that jaguars are not only crossing the border but are remaining here is cause for celebration – and hope.

Life is remarkably tenacious. As we see with AWF’s restoration projects, just a little bit of help can begin to bring damaged ecosystems back to life and health. Perhaps a species as large and magnificent as the jaguar can thrive if we can only give them a little breathing space, wild habitat, and protected corridors to travel.

So keep resisting efforts to build a wall across the paths they need, and join us in protecting and restoring their Southwestern landscapes. If jaguars are able to return, there is no telling what else might be possible.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

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OCTOBER 12, 2017 MEETING: Bill Zeedyk

Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:30 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

Topic: How to Read the Landscape

Bill will talk with us about how to identify places that would benefit from restoration structures and how to determine which structures would work the best in which locations. If you've volunteered with us before and would like to gain a deeper understanding of the work, or if you're just intrigued to know more about what happens on AWF's restoration projects, this is your chance. *We encourage you to attend Bill's talk and then join us on Saturday the 14th to put the knowledge into action at our Cedro Creek workshop!*

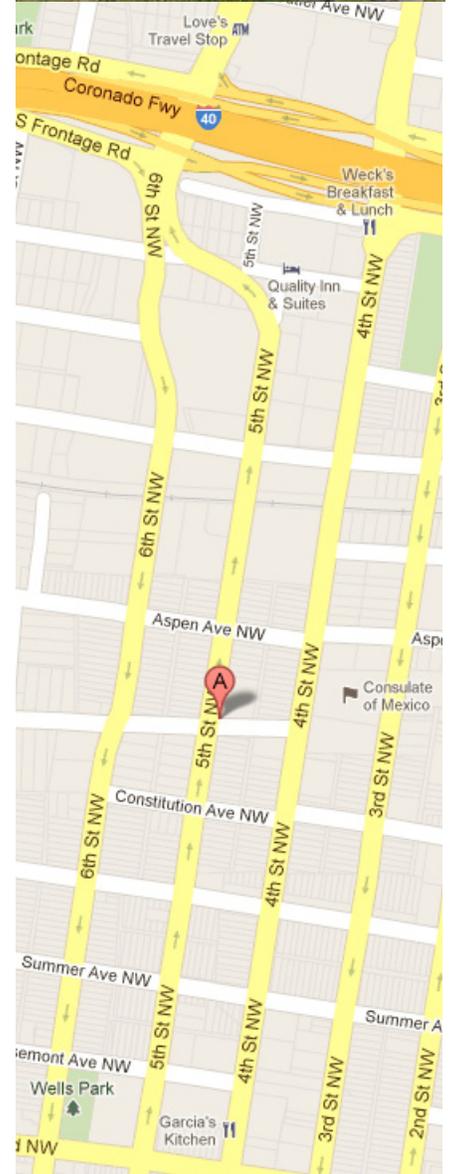
Speaker Bio: Bill Zeedyk

Bill Zeedyk has been a board member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation since the 1970s. He and his wife, Mary Maulsby, own a small consulting business specializing in riparian and wetland restoration. During the past 20 years, Bill has designed more than 280 projects throughout the Southwest, many of which have been implemented by volunteer groups such as Albuquerque Wildlife Federation. Bill has developed many types of structures, especially hand built types, now commonly used here and abroad to halt erosion, increase stream stability and restore wetlands.

Bill retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1990 with 35 years as a wildlife biologist, with service in the Northeast, Southeast and Washington, D.C., before coming to New Mexico in 1977. In addition to streams and wetlands, Bill has had a long term interest in restoration and management of wild turkeys and he served on the Board of the National Wild Turkey Federation for nine years. Later he wrote a monthly outdoor column for the former magazine, "New Mexico Fishing Monthly" addressing conservation issues and hunting and fishing opportunities across the state.

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.



OCTOBER 14, 2017 RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECT: Cedro Creek

LOCATION: Cedro Creek in the Sandia Mountains, near Tijeras, NM

THE PROJECT: For our final volunteer restoration service project of the season, we will be returning to one of our legacy sites, Cedro Creek in the Sandia Mountains. This year, we will be working farther upstream than we have been able to do for the past several years, so it will be fun to see how the structures we built five or more years ago are working up in the watershed! We will repair and add to those rock structures to prevent the stream from downcutting and to stabilize the channel.

After we finish up our work, we'll gather at the nearby Pine Flat day use area for a late lunch potluck to celebrate all the great restoration work accomplished by AWF volunteers during the 2017 season!

SCHEDULE: Saturday, October 14, 9:00-4:00

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a day of outdoor work, including gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Dress in layers to be prepared for New Mexico's variable weather.

FOOD: AWF will provide bison or veggie burgers for the afternoon potluck. Please bring a dish to share along with snacks and water for the work day.

TO SIGN UP:

Contact Scial at rioscial@gmail.com or 505-480-2906.

Directions and further details will be sent to you after you sign up.



2017 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- April 1.....Day project at Valle de Oro
- May 12-14.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- July 14-16.....Valles Caldera I
- August 11-13.....Valles Caldera II
- August 18-20.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- September 8-10.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- Sept 29-Oct 1.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM
- October 14.....Day project in the Sandia Mountains

AWF BOARD 2017

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- President – Kristina G. Fisher*
- Vice President – Cameron Weber*
- Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*
- Secretary – Toby Rosenblatt*

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- Braden Belliveau*
- Stephen Bohannon*
- Phil Carter*
- Michael “Scial” Scialdone*
- Bob Tilley*
- Kristin Van Fleet*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

RECAP OF SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2017 LIMESTONE CANYON PROJECT

Thanks, Volunteers!

Braden Belliveau
Carmen Briones
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Kathy DeBlasio
Barb Diver
Rich Diver
Linda Doherty
Kristina G. Fisher
Roderick Flores
Jamie Head
Leslie Kryder
Laurie Marnell
Chris McGahan
Kaitlyn Meissner
Dennis Muirhead
Glenda Muirhead
Shantini Ramakrishnan
Toby Rosenblatt
Michael "Scial" Scialdone
Ed Sprigg
Heidi Strickfaden
Marilynn Szydlowski
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilly
Cameron Weber
Kent Zoob

This was AWF's tenth year of restoration projects at Limestone Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains, and it is inspiring to see the difference a decade's worth of work can make. Narrowleaf cottonwood seedlings are popping up all across the upper meadow, and our one-rock dams have captured tons of sediment, raising the streambed and helping flood flows infiltrate into the meadows.



A terrific crew of long-time and first-time volunteers turned out to build on our past efforts. The work this year focused on repairing and adding to rock structures we had built in previous years, which clearly showed the effects of one or more major flows. We also fixed up the exclosures we built several years ago to protect the young cottonwood seedlings from being overgrazed (the seedlings outside the fencing have been heavily browsed). As always, it was a beautiful spot to spend a September weekend, and we look forward to returning again next year.



RECAP OF SEPT 29-OCT 1, 2017 CEBOLLA CANYON PROJECT

Thanks, Volunteers!

Theresa Araiza
Braden Belliveau
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Linda Doherty
Kristina G. Fisher
Roderick Flores
Janet Rolsma
Toby Rosenblatt
Michael "Scial" Scialdone
Hamish Thomson
Cameron Weber

During our 17 years of restoration projects in Cebolla Canyon, AWF has seen some wild weather, from sandstorms to blizzards (sometimes in the same day). This year, we had to cancel our project planned for the final week of April when an enormous rain and snowstorm swept through the state. So we weren't really surprised that when, after we rescheduled this year's project to the last week in September, parts of New Mexico broke rainfall records in the days before our project.



Fortunately, a hardy band of volunteers were not deterred by the stormy weather. It was remarkable to see Cebolla's usually dry meadows saturated and deep under water. We worked on a series of one-rock dams to help slow the water down and allow it to soak into the ground, and we could see the results of our work immediately. We also removed some fencing that was no longer functional.

As it happened, Saturday's storm missed our work site, hammering camp with rain and hail instead. The storm had blown over by the time we returned, and we were treated to a spectacular sunset, moonrise, and rainbows. You haven't deterred us yet, Cebolla – we'll see you next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

6th Annual Aldo & Estella Leopold Residency Lecture

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Harwood Museum of Art, 238 Ledoux St, Taos, New Mexico 87571

Ben Goldfarb will discuss “Restoring Beavers, Healing Landscapes.” Ben is an award-winning environmental journalist whose writing has appeared in High Country News, Orion Magazine, Science, Mother Jones, The Guardian, and many other publications. For more info: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/residency-program/>



Quivira Coalition Monitoring & Native Seed Gathering Workshop in Red Canyon Reserve

OCTOBER 6-8, 2017

Join the Quivira Coalition for two days of landscape assessment, monitoring, and building at Red Canyon Reserve. This workshop is perfect for ranchers, land managers, students, or anyone looking to learn these methods. For more info: <https://quiviracoalition.org/workshops/>

Star Party in the Valles Caldera

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017, 6:30-10:00 p.m.

Viewing the night sky far from city lights is a truly special experience. Grab your telescopes, camp chairs, and blankets and join preserve rangers and educators from PEEC in appreciation of the night sky! For more info: <https://www.nps.gov/vall/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?event=00ECE08A-1DD8-B71B-0B8BC4DB8F325C87>



Celebrate Sevilleta!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017

Celebrate Sevilleta! is an annual opportunity to experience New Mexico's most ecologically diverse refuge. This year will feature new tours, hands-on activities, new exhibitors, new Ten Minute Talks, live animals, live music, drinks & snacks, photography and haiku contests, and most of all—the chance to spend the day enjoying the memorable place that is Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. For more information: <https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/calendar>

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program Fall Field Tour

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Join BEMP in the field to learn more about their work and research findings. BEMP staff and partner groups will discuss the status of bank-lowered flooded projects and forest restoration treatments. The 2017 Fall Field Tour will be held at BEMP's Belen monitoring sites. Transportation provided. For more info: <http://bemp.org/events/>

“Born to Re-Wild” Movie

OCTOBER 28, 2017, 4:45 p.m., CCA, Santa Fe

OCTOBER 29, 2017, 1:00 p.m., The Guild, Albuquerque

This new film follows John Davis as he treks 5000 miles in 8 months from Mexico to Canada to raise awareness about the importance of connected wildlife corridors along the spine of the continent. The movie will be followed by a panel discussion.

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



HERMIT'S PEAK WATERSHED ALLIANCE

PLAYA LAKES JOINT VENTURE - CONOCOPHILLIPS GRANT

Wolf Creek Riparian and Wetland Restoration Project

Help restore Wolf Creek Wetlands for birds, other wildlife and watershed health. Get hands-on training in the construction of one-rock dams and other restoration structures. This project was designed by Bill Zeedyk who will be on site to provide instruction two of the days.



The project will take place at the Fort Union Ranch (next to Fort Union National Monument).

From Las Vegas: Take I-25 North to exit 366 onto NM-161 to Fort Union National Monument. Travel 6 miles and then turn left at the Fort Union Ranch sign (on the left). Look for the Marshall House sign on the right indicating a left turn. Drive about 2 miles on dirt road and keep an eye out for parked vehicles on right side of road.

What to Bring:

- Work gloves
- Boots (rubber boots helpful)
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Lunch
- Water bottle (water will be available on site)

*Some snacks will be provided



9:00 AM- 3:00 PM Work Days:

- ~~1. September 16, 2017 (Jeremiah Martin will be instructor)~~
2. October 14, 2017 (Bill Zeedyk will be instructor)
3. October 21, 2017 (Bill Zeedyk will be instructor)

For more information, contact Lea Knutson (505) 425-5514

HPWA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

www.hermitpeakwatersheds.org

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: \$ _____