

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

October 2019

Weaving Together the Strands of Leopold's Legacy in New Mexico

On September 14, most of the AWF board spent the day in Tres Piedras with Richard Rubin, the Volunteer Steward of Aldo Leopold's Mi Casita cabin.

Leopold built the cabin in 1912, when he was 24 years old, newly married and the recently appointed Forest Supervisor of the Carson National Forest. The Forest Service (only seven years old itself), appropriated \$650 for the supervisor's quarters, and Aldo and his bride Estella built Mi Casita and moved in. In their time there, with a view out over the Taos plateau, Leopold began contemplating the ideas that became his land ethic. Two years later, the Leopolds moved to Albuquerque and Aldo continued his efforts on behalf of New Mexico's wildlife – including founding AWF in the summer of 1914.

One hundred and five years later, the board members of the organization he created were oiling the porch railings and touching up paint on his cabin.

Mi Casita was restored by the Forest Service in 2005 and is now used for writer's residencies organized by the Leopold Writing Program (whose board includes former AWF board president Glenda Muirhead, and whose advisory board I recently joined).



In 2012, AWF donated a small collection of books to the library at Mi Casita, in honor of longtime AWF leader Dr. Richard Becker. On this visit, we added a copy of Bill Zeedyk's *Let the Water Do the Work*.

Mi Casita is not generally open to the public, but if you would like to add your labor to Leopold's legacy, Richard is always seeking volunteers. To sign up to assist with painting and other small maintenance projects at the cabin, just email him at: rlrubin46@gmail.com

We certainly plan to be back. It is remarkable to reflect on the continuity of this web of connections and to be able to continue weaving together the strands of Leopold's legacy into the future.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

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OCTOBER 10, 2019 MEETING: Glenn Harper, Santa Ana Pueblo

Thursday, October 10, 2019, 7:30 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

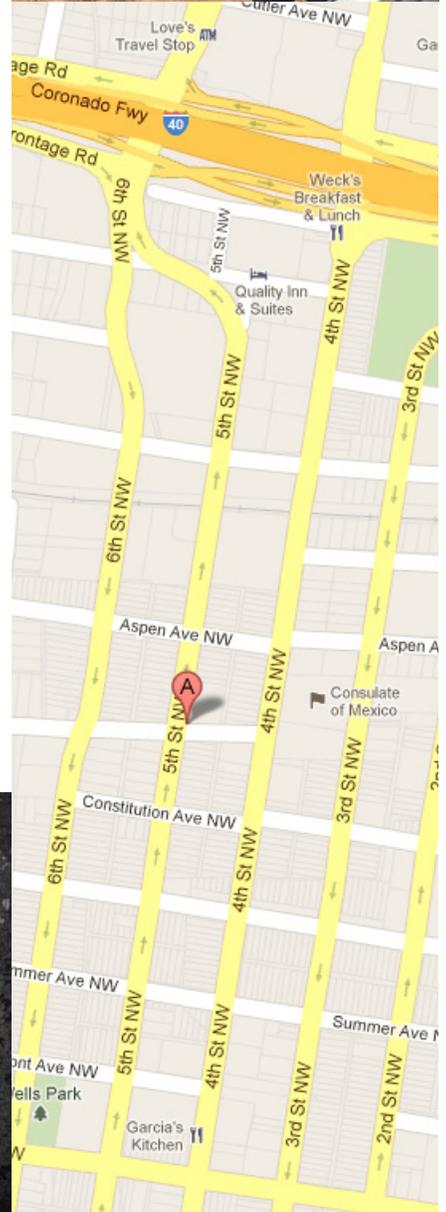
Topic: Wildlife Conservation and Habitat Restoration on the Pueblo of Santa Ana

Speaker: Glenn Harper

Glenn Harper graduated from the University of New Mexico with a double BS in Biology and Psychology in 1992. After graduating, he worked at Natural Heritage New Mexico for 7 years where he was tasked with surveying, monitoring, and mapping vegetation communities and rare and endangered plants and animals throughout the Southwest and in Northern Mexico. Glenn began working as the Range and Wildlife Division Manager at the Pueblo of Santa Ana Department of Natural Resources in 1999. In his current position, he is responsible for managing approximately 143,000 acres of semi-arid woodland, shrubland, and grassland habitats to promote flourishing plant communities and wildlife populations necessary for the Santa Ana people to maintain their traditional lifestyle. Fortunately, he is gifted with the support of the Tribal Council, Santa Ana Community, and a Department of dedicated professionals that work tirelessly in the field and in the office to help achieve Santa Ana's long-term natural resource goals. When he's not at work, Glenn spends much of his time exploring the outdoors with his wife and two children, usually along a river or stream with a fly rod in hand.

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 19, 2019 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 year, we will be returning to one of our longtime legacy sites, Cedro Creek in the Sandia Mountains. This year, we will be partnering with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to repair and add to rock structures we have built in past years to prevent the stream from downcutting and to stabilize the channel.

After we finish up our work, we'll gather nearby for a late lunch potluck to celebrate all the great restoration work accomplished by AWF volunteers during the 2019 season!

SCHEDULE: Saturday, October 19, 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.



2019 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 2.....Day project at Valle de Oro
March 15-17.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
April 19-21.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union, NM
May 17-19.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
June 7-9.....Valles Caldera
July 19-21.....Valle Vidal
August 16-18.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
Aug 30-Sept 1.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
September 20-22.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM
October 19.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2019

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

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

RECAP OF SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2019 CEBOLLA CANYON PROJECT

Thanks, Volunteers!

Braden Belliveau
Stephen Bohannon
Don Caliche
Phil Carter
Candace Duran
Russ Duran
Kristina G. Fisher
Rod Flores
Tera Gambill
Jamie Head
Laurie Marnell
Toby Rosenblatt
Scial
Hamish Thomson
Kristin Van Fleet
Cameron Weber
Bill Zeedyk



It was a beautiful weekend to return to one of our legacy project sites at Cebolla Canyon. Roads built by homesteaders in the 1930s captured storm runoff and eroded into deep gullies. Over the past 19 years, AWF and other non-profits and state agencies have worked to restore seven miles of the canyon.

This year our work focused on the meadows just down from the perennial Cebolla Spring. We had built structures in this area five years ago, and they were performing very well, with many disappearing into the landscape as they captured sediment and grew vegetation (see the next page for some inspiring before and after photos). This year we added layers to those old structures and built a few new ones to continue healing this landscape. We were pleased to see standing water and wetland plants like sedges and reeds growing throughout this meadow, which had been dry and dusty when we first began our restoration efforts.

We had perfect weather for the Saturday work day, but Cebolla never lets us leave without a surprise: in this case, as the final volunteers were packing up camp on Sunday, a dust devil scooped up one of our pop-up canopies and sent it somersaulting end over end toward the canyon. When it finally came to a stop, it was so broken it had to be taken apart to get it back in the trailer. (Longtime AWF volunteers may recall this is the third canopy that Cebolla has claimed, with two others crumpled by high winds and water weight from an intense late night rain.) We tip our hat to the wild weather of Cebolla Canyon, and we remain undeterred: see you next year, Cebolla.



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

THE DIFFERENCE FIVE YEARS CAN MAKE: CEBOLLA CANYON STRUCTURES IN 2014 & 2019

Cebolla Canyon, at first glance, is a place that can be hard to feel hopeful about. What was once a series of flat, wet meadows downstream from a perennial spring is now scarred by a gully 40 feet deep, and the fine wetland soil is dried out and blowing away. But look closer.

Two decades of work by AWF and many others have widened the gully bottom, stopping the downcutting and creating new floodplain. Headcuts have been halted, and smaller gullies have been healed, nurturing lush vegetation in the upper meadows. Up at the spring, over 40 acres of wetlands have been restored, and waterbirds like the Sora Rail have returned. Once, this wetland provided habitat to migrating sandhill cranes; perhaps one day it will again.

You can see the difference with this one media luna structure that was built by AWF volunteers in 2014 and maintained this year. During the past five years, the structure has captured soil, held water, and grown vegetation. The landscape around it is transformed. As Bill Zeedyk notes, this is a perfect example of the rule, “when it stops getting worse, it starts getting better. In this case, much better.”

This sort of hope made visible on the landscape is why we do what we do.

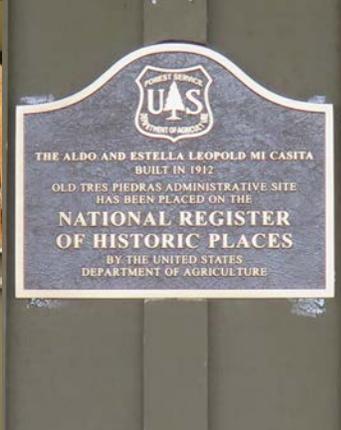
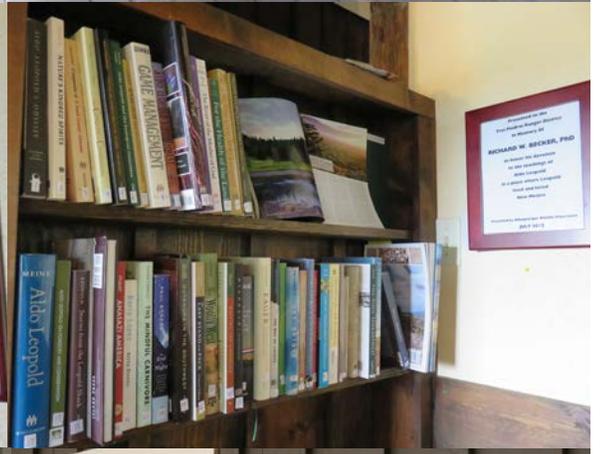
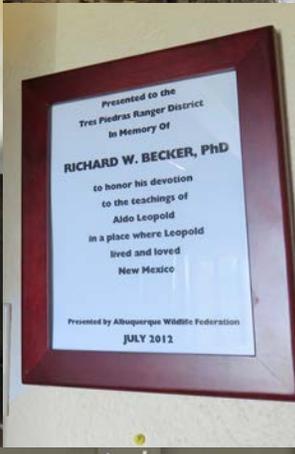
2014



2019



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE AWF BOARD'S MI CASITA WORK PROJECT



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Elizabeth Kolbert & Laura Paskus in Conversation

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7:30-9:00 p.m., KiMo Theater, Albuquerque

516 ARTS, in partnership with the Lannan Foundation, welcomes Elizabeth Kolbert, author of “The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History,” in conversation with New Mexico journalist Laura Paskus. Paskus’s book “At the Precipice: New Mexico’s Changing Climate” is forthcoming from the University of New Mexico Press. More info: <http://www.516arts.org/programs/events/conversation-elizabeth-kolbert-laura-paskus>

Quivira Coalition Workshop at Red Canyon Reserve

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019

Join the Quivira Coalition for two days of landscape assessment, monitoring, and seed collecting at Red Canyon Reserve. This workshop is perfect for ranchers, land managers, students, or anyone looking to learn these methods. More info: <https://quiviracoalition.org/rcrfallws-2019/>



Keyline Pasture Restoration Workshop

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, Valmora, New Mexico

Join Hermit’s Peak Watershed Alliance, Quivira Coalition, and Tooley’s Trees for an interactive workshop using keyline design principles to improve a degraded pasture! During this 1.5-day workshop, Gordon Tooley will demonstrate how to mark out keylines and the use of a keyline plow. In addition, participants will plant a pasture with an annual and native perennial seed mix intended to increase biodiversity above and below ground. For more information and to sign up to attend: <https://quiviracoalition.org/keylinews-2019/>



Willow Planting & Beaver Dam Analog Maintenance Workshop

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019

Join Trout Unlimited and the U.S. Forest Service to plant willows along the Rio Cebolla in the Jemez Mountains and maintain Beaver Dam Analog wetland restoration structures built by volunteers in 2018. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, email Art Vollmer at fish4rgct@gmail.com

American Bison Society Conference

OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 2, Buffalo Thunder Resort

Join the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Pueblo of Pojoaque for a week of discussions, workshops, and events focused on bison, their cultural role, and their restoration across North America. Learn more and register to attend: <https://programs.wcs.org/ambisonsociety>

Regenerate Conference

NOVEMBER 19-22, Albuquerque

The Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, and American Grassfed Association are collaborating to convene ranchers, farmers, environmentalists, land managers, scientists, medical professionals, nutritionists, students, teachers, and others for an inspiring four-day conference. Learn more and register to attend: <https://quiviracoalition.org/regenerate/>

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: \$ _____