

# AWF Newsletter

JUNE 2009

## MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, June 11, 2009 – 7:30 pm  
Manzano Mesa Center (map p7)

### Rio Grande Community Farm

Guest Speaker: Susan Smith, Education & Outreach Coordinator

We are pleased to have Susan Smith from the Rio Grande Community Farm speak to us about its mission to celebrate the traditions of agriculture, enhance urban wildlife habitat, and demonstrate sustainable urban agriculture. Learn about the Farm's activities for all age groups, including tours, classes on agriculture, gardening and wildlife, and service projects.

The Rio Grande Community Farm is located on 138 acres of land acquired by the City in 1997 for open space. If not obtained by the City, the property located in the North Valley would have been developed for residential purposes, losing its traditional agricultural uses. After acquisition, an unusual pairing of the City Open Space Division and the non-profit Rio Grande Community Farm has established one of the most unique farms in the country, an urban farm and community garden dedicated to organic food, wildlife, and education for Albuquerque.

Now Education and Outreach Coordinator with the Farm, Susan had been active with outdoor activities and causes her whole life—gardening, bird watching, hiking and backpacking; teaching high school biology; volunteering for the Forest Service; working with the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition; and being an East Mountain homeowner who continues to work on living well with wildlife, fire prevention, and forest health in her neighborhood.

PHOTOS FROM RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY FARM WEBSITE



**Albuquerque Community Garden**—A place for everyone to grow their own food.



**Wildlife Habitat**—Los Poblanos Open Space dedicates 25% of the land for wildlife food.

*Jim Hubert's*  
**NOTABLE QUOTE**  
*of the month*

**"In the February issue of the Smithsonian Magazine, a rancher states in the article entitled 'Howling Success' that wolves that misbehave may be killed. But wolves neither behave nor misbehave—they try to survive wherever they happen to be. Wolves have a rightful place in the Rockies. Ranchers who graze their cattle on public land should accept some losses in return."**

— Kristine Patrick, Madras, Oregon  
[Thanks to Rich Leonard for passing this one on]

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was my pleasure last month to attend the 73rd Annual Meeting of the National Wildlife Federation, as alternate representative for the New Mexico Wildlife Federation. President Ed Olona was the NMWF representative, and also attending were Executive Director Jeremy Vesbach, Oscar Simpson, and Kent Salazar. We arrived in Pittsburgh on Thursday, April 30, a bit late to take part in the Resolution Committee discussions...but just in time for the evening reception.

The Conference theme was "People and Wildlife: Thriving in a Clean Energy Economy." On Friday the speakers and seminars began in earnest, and I was very impressed by NWF President and CEO Larry Schweiger, whose major commitment to the issue of global warming and its impacts on wildlife has led to finding like-minded partners in

*(Continued on page 2)*

unexpected places. Members attended from NWF affiliates as far away as Hawaii and the Virgin Islands. These are bright and dedicated people, striving vigorously to find ways to protect special places and engage citizens of all ages in commitment to nature and wildlife. Though I couldn't keep the late-night hours of many of the others (my bedtime, after all, is 10 pm), I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities for socializing during meals and breaks.

Among the Collaborative Learning Workshop choices were "Connecting Families to Nature," "Integrating Climate Science into Habitat Management," "Energy Development Impacts on Wildlife," and "Building Influential Networks in your State." (Oscar Simpson gave an excellent and very well-received presentation on network building based on his experience with the Valle Vidal Coalition.)

In keeping with NWF's state policy guide to connect children and the outdoors, several affiliates have been most effective: Washington State's Governor proclaimed June 2009 "Great Outdoors Month." Maryland's Governor issued a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. Kansas' Governor formed a Coalition for Children in Nature. As NWF says, "Be Out There"!

On Saturday, busloads of attendees disembarked at Hartwood Acres Park to partner with *TreeVitalize Pittsburgh* on a restoration project. Close to 1000 little trees were carefully planted, tubed, staked, and skirted. The gently-sloped hillside was quite a sight by the end of the afternoon!

At the Saturday evening banquet, several honors were issued, among them the "Affiliate of the Year" National Conservation Achievement Award, which went to the New Mexico Wildlife Federation. Ed Olona, accepting the award, spoke of successes after long, hard battles. Congratulations to NMWF for "blazing the trail and creating a proud model to emulate at the state level."

— Glenda Muirhead



At the end of the Planting Day: Well over 900 trees put in the ground! From left: Ed Olona, Jeremy Vesbach, Glenda Muirhead, and Oscar Simpson



Ed Olona, left, joins the ovation for outgoing NWF Board Chairman Tom Gonzales (a Santa Fe resident) at the closing Banquet Saturday night.



This grant is of particular interest to AWF Members and Friends because of our long-term commitment to the restoration of Cebolla Canyon.

The results of AWF's efforts over the years are most impressive.

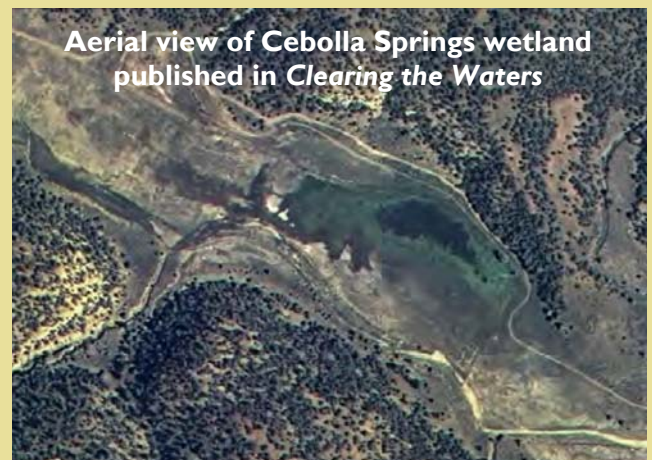
## NEW WETLANDS PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED

Four new federal grants totaling \$1,036,113 in federal assistance have been awarded to the NM Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) Wetlands Program through an EPA grant program, as reported by Maryann McGraw, NMED Wetlands Program Coordinator, in **Clearing the Waters** (Volume 14, No. 1, Spring 2009). These projects will be conducted with multiple community and agency cooperators.

### CEBOLLA CANYON GRANT

The project for "Restoring and Protecting Wetlands in Cebolla Canyon Closed Basin" will restore natural wetlands degraded by former agricultural practices primarily within the Cebolla Wilderness near Grants, New Mexico.

SWQB will partner with the Bureau of Land Management, Rio Puerco Alliance, Rio Puerco Management Committee, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, and other partners to restore historic wetlands by more than 80 acres. Workshops will be conducted on the restoration field methods. Project partners will also organize a Watershed/Wetlands Academy for students and teachers in the Grants area with special emphasis on local and tribal schools.



Aerial view of Cebolla Springs wetland published in *Clearing the Waters*

# TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT

## RIO DE LAS VACAS



## JUNE 19-21, 2009



**THE PLACE:** In the Santa Fe National Forest, southeast of Cuba. The Rio de las Vacas starts at the upper reaches of the Jemez River watershed in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness east of Cuba. We will camp in the same location as last year, near the stream.

**THE PROJECT:** This is a family- and kid-friendly event led by Bill Zeedyk. We will plant willows, build rock structures, and repair enclosure fencing as needed. We've also invited folks from New Mexico Trout to join us for the fun. Plan on a 9:00 am start on Saturday.

**EQUIPMENT:** Wear sturdy boots/shoes. Bring gloves, hats, sunscreen, and water and appropriate gear for camping. Waterproof boots will also be useful and plan for wet weather! *Please supply your own plates, cups, and eating utensils for meals.*

### DIRECTIONS TO RIO DE LAS VACAS

Head north from Albuquerque to Bernalillo, and follow Hwy 550 north to Cuba. At Cuba, take Rte 126 east and then south about 17.5 miles to Forest Road 20. Follow FR20 south for 2 miles to the campsite along the creek. *Or take the scenic route up through Jemez Springs.*

**TOOLS:** If convenient, please bring 5-gallon buckets, pruners and loppers, and fencing tools. We could use a wheelbarrow or two as well.

**FOOD:** Please provide your own meals for *dinner Friday, lunch Saturday and Sunday.*

**Saturday Morning:** Enjoy COFFEE and BREAKFAST BURRITOS.

Snacks and drinks provided during the project day.

**Saturday Evening:** BARBEQUE/POT LUCK MEAL AWF will grill burgers and sausage (veggie options available), so bring along something to share with the group...appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert.

**Sunday Morning:** Enjoy coffee and leftovers.

**DRIVING TIME:** 2½ hours from ABQ

*Come for the whole weekend, or plan a Saturday arrival. Bill Zeedyk reminds you to bring your fishing gear!*

2009 AWF PROJECTS	
February 21	Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary at Los Padillas Elem. School (ABQ South Valley)
March 21	Cedro Creek (East Mountains)
April 17-19	Cebolla Canyon I
May 15-17	Limestone Canyon
June 19-21	Rio de las Vacas
July 17-19	Valle Vidal
August 14-16	Valles Caldera National Preserve
September 18-20	Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration at Steward Meadows—Carson NF
October 16-18	Cebolla Canyon II
November 7	Albuquerque Trails

**TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:**  
 Gene Tatum | 505-255-1960 | gtatum3@msn.com  
 OR  
 Glenda Muirhead | 505-281-2925 | g.muirhead@usfamily.net  
 Additional directions and information will be sent out to you by Wednesday, June 17.

**PLEASE SIGN UP BY JUNE 12**

## PROJECT RECAP: LIMESTONE CANYON *Revisited*

Last month's project (May 15-17) was our third year at Limestone Canyon. It was a pleasure returning to work with Dave Heft, Wildlife Biologist for the Magdalena Ranger District. Returning also allowed us to learn from our work of the previous two years. Dave said that there were several big flows last year, including a huge over-bank flood last August.



PHOTO BY DAVE HEFT, USFS

*Summer 2008—Monsoon flow from bank to bank*



PHOTO BY PAT HESTER

*May 2009—Same location, slightly different angle*

*Structure has filled with sand and gravel. Water has cut around left edge of structure.*

As shown above, the structures have successfully captured 12 to 18 inches of sediment, lowering the stream gradient and as a consequence reducing the erosive force of stream flow.

It was a great weekend: we moved a lot of big rocks rebuilding 24 structures. By Sunday, our crew was very accomplished, with a good understanding of the nuances and art of rock construction. Glenda was especially complimentary of the work of the finish crew, the "final editors" of the structures.

— Gene Tatum

### LIMESTONE CANYON PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

- Amanda (Dave Heft's summer intern)
- Dave Heft, USFS
- Tam Saimons
- Kathryn Turnipseed
- Kelly Blough
- Toby Rosenblatt
- Marilynn Szydlowski
- Michael Scialdone
- Hamish Thomson
- John Canaris
- Nathan Canaris
- Gene Tatum
- Kristina Fisher
- Phil Carter
- Glenda Muirhead
- Dennis Muirhead
- Jim Wilson
- Pat Hester



PHOTO BY PAT HESTER

## JEMEZ RANGER DISTRICT *Petitioned* TO CLOSE 27 ORV TRAILS

A coalition of concerned citizens, conservation groups, and private land owners has sent a petition to the Jemez Ranger District (JRD) of the Santa Fe National Forest to immediately close motorized routes that are degrading wildlife habitat. Kevin Stillman, a local landowner, spearheaded the effort.

The Jemez Mountains are a popular area for off-road vehicles (ORVs) eg, 4-wheel drives, ATVs, dirt bikes. Their unmanaged use is causing serious degradation of trails, creating conflicts with local landowners and quiet recreationists. Erosion from degraded trails is damaging water quality which affects fish habitat, while vehicle noise is disturbing all wildlife. The Citizen Petition, Jemez Emergency Protection Order, requests immediate closure of 27 motorized routes (66.9 miles) on the JRD to motorized vehicles. These routes are not official Forest Service roads but began haphazardly as poorly-maintained logging roads, temporary roads that were never closed, and/or routes that evolved illegally from tracks made by off-road vehicles.

The Forest Service is allowed 90 days to respond, and has yet to do so.

All the National Forests are going through the Travel Management Rule process. This is a public process to determine which routes will remain open to motor-

ized vehicles. When completed, vehicle travel will be limited to routes shown on Forest Service maps. For most Forests, the completion of this process is two years away at best. Given the severity of the problem in the Jemez Mountains, it was felt the petition needed to move forward.

Some of the routes are in areas already deemed closed to motorized use in the Forest Plan. This speaks to the root of the problem, which is failure to enforce rules pertaining to motorized use. The lax attitude from the Forest Service and skyrocketing ORV use, combined with a lack of understanding from ORV users as to proper trail design and maintenance, have led to the current situation. It is hoped that the petition will spur long-overdue action from the agency.

Senate Bill (SB) 379 passed the State Legislature this Spring. This Bill corrects a mistake in the original 2005 ORV safety bill that gave ORV oversight to the Dept. of Tourism. It is now under the Dept. of Game of Fish, an agency with experience in law enforcement. AWF supported and helped pass SB 379. Any step toward increased enforcement of ORV laws should help address the problems this form of recreation has created.

— Michael Scialdone (*Scial*)

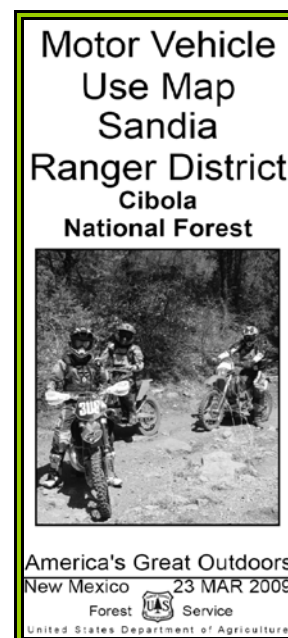
## MOTOR VEHICLE USE MAP NOW AVAILABLE *For Sandia Ranger District*

The Sandia Ranger District Motor Vehicle Use Map is now available to the public, displaying the roads and trails that are designated open for motorized vehicle use on the Sandia Ranger District, and the types of vehicles permitted for each route. Use of motorized vehicles off the designated travel system is prohibited.

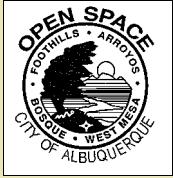
The map contains a brief overview, definitions and operator responsibilities. It is the responsibility of all visitors to the Sandia Ranger District to obtain a copy of the map, and understand where it is permissible to use motorized vehicles. If a motor vehicle is operated on National Forest System lands off the designated route system shown on the map, the operator is subject to fines of up to \$5,000, imprisonment for up to 6 months, or both. The Forest Service will update the Motor Vehicle Use Map annually to reflect any changes made to the system.

Motor Vehicle Use Maps are free. To obtain a copy, contact the Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office at 2113 Osuna Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87113; or request by phone at (505) 346-3900 or by e-mail to [cibolatravel@fs.fed.us](mailto:cibolatravel@fs.fed.us). You may also contact the Sandia Ranger District Office at 11776 Highway 337, Tijeras, NM 87059 or request by phone at (505) 281-3304. A copy may also be downloaded from the internet at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm\\_sandia/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm_sandia/index.shtml)

The district will concentrate on providing education and information about the new regulations, as well as installing signs and additional route markers for the remainder of this year.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE DIVISION

#### *7th Annual National Trails Day Event*

**Saturday, June 6 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
452-5216 | Kent Swanson

The Open Space Division and other local organizations have planned an exciting day of trails projects that will take place at the Elena Gallegos Open Space., located in Albuquerque, east of Tramway at the end of Simms Park Rd, just north of Academy. Volunteers will work on over 10 different projects ranging from reseeding to heavy trail maintenance and new trail construction in the Sandia Mountains and Open Space trail systems. Bring a hat, water bottle, snacks, sunscreen, and work gloves..

The Sandia Ranger District and Albuquerque Open Space will provide tools and instructions. At the end of the event, we reward our volunteers with lunch and lots of prizes donated by our generous sponsors! Register now at Recreational Equipment Inc (REI) by calling **247-1191** or stop by 1550 Mercantile Av (I-25 and Montano).

#### *2009 Open Space Summer Series* — 452-5222 | Bill Pentler

##### ➤ **SATURDAY SUNSET SERIES at Elena Gallegos Picnic Area**

The Saturday Sunset Series will feature talks, demonstrations and shows by some of Albuquerque's best speakers, teachers and performers at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area Amphitheater on Saturdays at **7:00 pm**.

**June 6** **Once Upon A Fig...** – An educational talk on the history of figs and dates in New Mexico by Lloyd Kreitzer

**June 13** **Kenneth Shaw – Accordionist** – Music from the former Yugoslavia

**June 20** **Flutes in the Foothills** – Musical performance by Bonnie Schmader

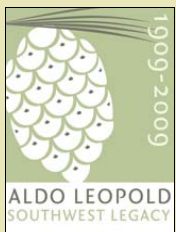
**June 27** **Johnny Alston – Native American Flute** – Musical performance and artwork

##### ➤ *Sunday Hikes — From varied areas of Open Space*

On Sundays, starting at 9:00 am unless stated otherwise, knowledgeable guides and members of our community lead explorations and offer demonstrations in an assortment of fields and specialties. Please call Bill Pentler at 452-5222 for **pre-registration**.

**June 7** **Geologic Highlights of the Golden Open Space** – Geologist Jack Babcock. Meet at 8:30 am for a strenuous hike to one of Open Space's outlying areas. Bring water and whatever you need for a 2 to 3 hour hike. **Pre-register.**

**June 14** **Mesa Prieta** – Dr. Matt Schmader, Open Space. Mesa Prieta Canyon. Meet at 8:30 am for a strenuous hike in a little traveled area of the Petroglyph National Monument. Bring water and whatever you need for a 2-3 hour hike. **Pre-register.**



### ALDO LEOPOLD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

[www.leopoldcelebration.org](http://www.leopoldcelebration.org)

*New Mexico Reads Aldo Leopold* — Sponsored by Bernalillo County Open Space

**Saturday, June 6 | 9:00 am — 12 noon | Free**

Gutierrez-Hubbell House located at 6029 Isleta Blvd, 3 miles south of Rio Bravo

Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez will lead a trio of local citizens in reading from Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* at the historic Gutierrez-Hubbell House in the South Valley as part of the year-long Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration 2009. This event initiates a state-wide series of reading of Leopold's writings. Poet John Egbert, former director of the Nature Conservancy's New Mexico programs, and writer/naturalist Verne Huser will join the mayor as readers. Free books will be given to the first 25 people to RSVP to Colleen Langan at 505-314-0398 or [calangan@bernco.gov](mailto:calangan@bernco.gov).



### SANDIA MOUNTAIN NATURAL HISTORY CENTER

[nmnaturalhistory.org](http://nmnaturalhistory.org) | 281-5259

#### *Medicinal and Edible Plants*

**Saturday, June 6 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm | Free**

For centuries plants have been an important source of food and medicine. Learn which plants in the Sandias you could eat and which might help cure a cold. Additional info at <http://nmnaturalhistory.org/smnhc/index.html>



### NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY

**Saturday, June 13 | 10:00 am — 2:00 pm | Tingley Beach | Free**

The habit of spending time outdoors is quickly being lost in many American families, which is why NMWF and hundreds of like-minded groups are holding National Get Outdoors Day. Kids can learn to fish, take a guided hike through the adjoining bosque, try their hand at GPS orienteering, or climb an artificial rock wall.

## WE WON'T HAVE A MEETING IN JULY

### Join us at *Valle Vidal* July 17-19

...for a restoration project on the east side, at Ring Place Meadow. This is the site of the Rally to preserve the Valle Vidal in 2005, and is a location of on-going effort for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation. We haven't been back to Ring Place for a few years, so it will be interesting to observe the changes and the needs here. We'll have our usual campout and cookout — plan to join us!



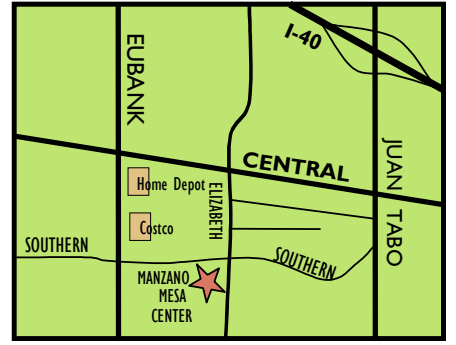
PHOTO BY DENNIS MUIRHEAD

## RENEWED MEMBERS

Dave & Joan Weingarten

### AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center  
501 Elizabeth SE at Southern  
(south of Central between Eubank and Juan Tabo)



## NEWS FROM NMWF

Governor Bill Richardson appointed NMWF Executive Director Jeremy Vesbach to the New Mexico Mining Commission in May. Vesbach will be the environmental representative on the seven-member board. There also is a mining industry representative, as well as the heads of five state natural resources agencies — from the Environment Department, Public Lands Office, Office of the State Engineer, Department of Game and Fish, and the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. The panel meets several times a year to consider surface mining regulations and rules.

*Congratulations, Jeremy!*

### AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

**PRESIDENT** — Glenda Muirhead  
**VICE PRESIDENT** — Barbara Coulter  
**SECRETARY** — Patricia Hester  
**TREASURER** — Dennis Muirhead  
**PAST PRESIDENT** — Gene Tatum

#### DIRECTORS

Stephen Bohannon    Linda Patterson  
Larry Dwyer        Michael Scialdone  
Brian Gleadle      Luke Shelby  
Greg McReynolds    Bill Zeedyk  
Kurt Nolte

**ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION**  
PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION, PO BOX 1234, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

An affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person\* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

➔ **PLEASE ✓ ONE :**  **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY**     **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** ↴

Designate NMWF member(s\*) \_\_\_\_\_

name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ✓ MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Student [under 18].....\$10    ⚡ [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual.....\$25
- Family .....\$35
- Sustaining.....\$50-\$99
- Patron.....\$100
- Lifetime.....\$500    ⚡ [One-time Payment]

Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Second NMWF Member \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_