



ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources

AWF Newsletter

JANUARY 2010

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, January 14, 2010 — 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p2)

Program: **A Look at 2009 – Year of the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration**
Guest Speakers: **Tony Anella and Dara Johnson**

Join us as we look back at the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration of 2009 with ALCC Committee Co-Chair Anthony Anella and Coordinator Dara Johnson. Leopold founded Albuquerque Wildlife Federation in 1914, and this year-long effort honored his powerful and lasting legacy in the southwest by inviting all citizens to think carefully about our relationship with the land as members of the biotic community.



Learn how the Celebration Year grew from the dream of a group of Albuquerque citizens, whose initial conversations grew into a substantial series of events involving individuals and organizations throughout New Mexico and Arizona. AWF participated by hosting a February tree planting project at the Aldo Leopold Forest in the Albuquerque Bosque, and a restoration project in September at Stewart Meadows in the Tres Piedras Ranger District, Leopold's first NM posting early in his Forest Service career.

Our guest speakers Tony and Dara brought such enormous enthusiasm and commitment to sharing the teachings of Leopold in 2009 that there are murmurings of continuing some of the events beyond the Centennial year. We'll hear about those possibilities as well.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone! Last year brought us many new members and project participants for whom we are very grateful. And to those of you who continue to support AWF with your memberships, attendance at monthly meetings, and willingness to get your hands dirty at our projects—**thank you**. We could not do this without you.

The officers and board of AWF are ready for another good year. There are no new faces among those elected at our Annual Meeting, but we do say goodbye to Barbara Coulter whose four-year term as vice president has expired. Thank you, Barbara, for your many contributions to AWF and the connections you helped develop to expand our organization. You truly made a difference.

I have high expectations for AWF as we start 2010—Let's get out there!

Glenda Muirhead

Jim Hubert's NOTABLE QUOTE of the month

"In utilizing and conserving the natural resources of the Nation, the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight.... The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life."

*— President Theodore Roosevelt
June 10, 1907*

2009 Annual MEETING

It was a fun evening! Thank you to the thirty-plus people who attended AWF's annual dinner meeting in December. Luke Shelby brought his wife Yvette and young son Isaac to enjoy the festivities, and we got to meet Bob Chestor, new AWF webmaster.

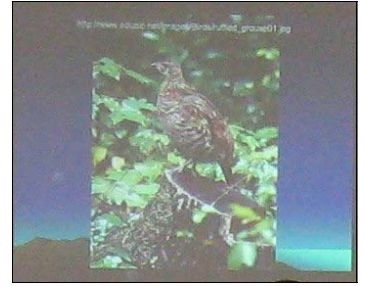
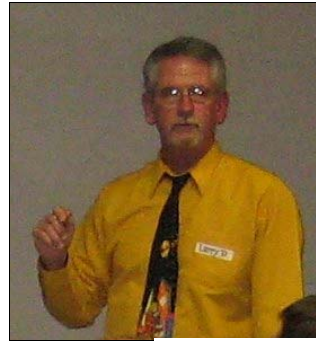
Wow, the food was amazing! A slew of stews in crockpots lined the serving table, accompanied by casseroles and salads...and there were desserts galore!

Larry Dwyer stood ready with a small propane stove to toast tortillas for hungry diners, and afterwards treated us to an excellent PowerPoint presentation about his Fall adventures at Valle Vidal and Pecos Wilderness in search of elk and Big Horn Sheep. Great photos...and chuckles too.

We said goodbye to our very good friend—but continuing member—Jim Wilson, who is off to Las Vegas (the one in Nevada). Best of luck, Jim...we'll really miss you.

The business part of the evening involved election of board and officers (results shown below). The makeup of the Board remains the same, except that Gene Tatum will serve as vice president. Bill Zeedyk continues on the Board, but only until he and wife Mary Maulsby move into their new home, away from the Albuquerque area. That will, sadly, be the end of an era for AWF.

December 10, 2009



Larry Dwyer presents an after-dinner slide show.



AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

PRESIDENT — Glenda Muirhead
VICE PRESIDENT — Gene Tatum
SECRETARY — Patricia Hester
TREASURER — Dennis Muirhead

DIRECTORS

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

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
 PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
<http://abq.nmwildlife.org>

AWF MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are now payable for 2010. Technically, the membership term is concurrent with the calendar year. However, as few people join AWF on exactly January 1, dues will be prorated according to the month. If you joined during 2009 and received a membership card, please check it to determine expiration date. Most likely it will take you through the end of 2010. If you don't know, feel free to contact the Treasurer, Dennis Muirhead, at 505-281-2925 or damuirh@usfamily.net to learn the proper fee to continue your membership in AWF. Thanks!

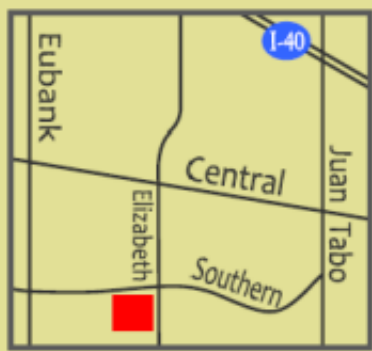
Howard Bradley, an AWF member in the Four Corners, sent along this note with his membership renewal:

"Everyone at AWF:

Misako and I have enjoyed our association with all y'all and really enjoy the camaraderie and company—and good food!—during the work projects. Wish we could be at more. Keep up the good work."

AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
 501 Elizabeth SE at Southern



RENEWED MEMBERS

Stephen Bohannon
 Howard & Misako Bradley
 Nancy Carrillo and Dave Huberty
 Brian Gleadle
 Joanne Hertz
 Ron Madsen
 Toby Rosenblatt — Sustaining
 Jim Wilson

Thank
 You!

NOTES FROM THE PROJECTS CHAIR

By Gene Tatum, AWF Vice President

I would like to thank all those dedicated souls who helped us have a great 2009 project season. Many demonstrated their commitment, braving subfreezing weather at Cebolla Canyon and rainstorms at Rio de las Vacas.

There were the challenges of working with almost 60 people at Rio de las Vacas, but we learned that we really could set up a camp to accommodate the needs of this many folks. Thanks to Scial, Pat, and many others who helped with camp management. Directing the efforts of 50 to 60 people is a daunting task. Thanks to Bill Zeedyk for rising to the challenge of providing meaningful work which is a key to the success of our projects. The impetus from last year provides us the incentive for 2010. Our tentative project schedule can be found at the AWF website <http://abq.nmwildlife.org> and is also shown below.

I would like to comment on a problem—livestock grazing—that was far too common at most of our project sites last year. It is noteworthy that most of our projects are restoration or mitigation from negative impacts of livestock grazing. It is possible that, with proper management, livestock grazing could be conducted without negatively affecting riparian areas.

Before livestock grazing had been excluded from a section of Cebolla Canyon there was no riparian area, just a

mud hole around Cebolla Spring. What is troublesome to me and others is that non-permitted livestock grazing has occurred in the Cebolla Canyon riparian areas for over a year. Many of us contacted BLM officials several times during the course of the year regarding the livestock grazing. What is most frustrating was that the officials did not even have the courtesy to respond to the concerns. Being ignored by people having the responsibility to manage public land for future generations is unconscionable.

Of course this is not the only project location where livestock grazing was an issue. At the Rio de las Vacas project area, cattle had to be excluded from grazing to allow woody species to return along the creek banks. The willows we transplanted are an important component of this recovery.

At Valle Vidal, we worked in the Ring Meadow to expand an enclosure allowing woody plant species, primarily willows, to prosper. We published photos in our August newsletter showing the contrast inside and outside of the enclosure: inside there is a continuous stand of willows with flowing water; outside the enclosure there are no willows; herbaceous riparian vegetation is woefully absent; and the flowing water rapidly disappears. We had been informed that cattle were finished grazing the Ring Meadow for the grazing season—yet there were cattle around

all weekend. In fact, on Sunday afternoon as we were leaving, even more cattle appeared. I was informed by a knowledgeable person that it isn't only cattle—the area is important elk winter range. Vegetation in the area is and has been overgrazed, causing the stream flow to be reduced and riparian vegetation to disappear.

At Valles Caldera, managers realized that grazing negatively affects riparian habitat and decided to limit cattle grazing to upland pastures. However, the wetlands/bogs of Alamo Canyon were included in this uplands pasture designation. It is a little annoying to know that the bog birch we are trying to protect from elk grazing could be adversely affected by the grazing of livestock.

At Stewart Meadows—another area technically closed to livestock grazing—cattle were nonetheless present due to lack of fence maintenance. For the life of me, I do not understand why livestock grazing permittees are not held responsible for maintaining fences. If there were no cattle on our public lands, there would be little need for fences.

More and more, we the public will need to find ways to make our concerns known to the managers of our public lands. Admittedly, these managers do have a difficult job. And of course it is more difficult to correct abuses once they have become common practice. We started a letter-writing campaign regarding grazing in Cebolla Canyon. Based on the lack of response, we must be diligent in seeking opportunities to engage public land managers to make constructive change. If management change cannot be effected, our hard work on the ground could easily be undone.

As a final note, I worked for the BLM for 28 years; most of that time was spent working on livestock grazing issues. As a consequence, I have an understanding of the BLM public land livestock issues and concerns. I plan to write a series of monthly articles regarding our BLM public lands, hopefully to provide a perspective regarding livestock grazing. Next month, I will start with an article about the creation of the public domain.

2010 PROJECT SCHEDULE

February 20	* Tree Planting at Aldo Leopold Forest (<i>Albuquerque Bosque</i>)
March 20	Cedro Creek (<i>East Mountains</i>)
April 16-18	Cebolla Canyon I
May 14-16	Limestone Canyon (<i>San Mateo Mountains</i>)
June 18-20	* Mount Taylor or Cuba Ranger District
July 16-18	Valle Vidal
August 20-22	Valles Caldera National Preserve
September 17-19	Cebolla Canyon II
October 16	Local Day Project and End of Season Celebration

* Subject to change

To sign up for any of these projects, please contact Glenda Muirhead at 505-281-2925 or g.muirhead@usfamily.net by Monday prior to the project weekend.

WHITES PEAK TRADE CONTROVERSY — *Letter to the Editor*

I am a life long resident and sportsman and I hunt strictly on public land. It is not that hunting is better on public lands. The issue is money. Like most residents of New Mexico I do not have the income to pay for a private "landowner" permit. That is what prompted me to write Public Lands Commissioner, Patrick Lyons regarding the trade of land in the Whites Peak area used by residents for big game hunting.

Commissioner Lyons states, "Over the years, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has documented numerous trespassing and poaching citations surrounding the acreage in question in the White Peak area." Trespassing on private lands is not the responsibility of the State Lands Office. Law enforcement agencies are perfectly capable of enforcing trespass laws in Whites Peak as they do for the rest of New Mexico.

Commissioner of Public Lands, Patrick Lyons, wrote in his reply letter, "This exchange will improve land management capabilities for a healthy and productive ecosystem that not only improves hunting opportunities, but the overall health and vigor of the forest." His letter also states, "The most fundamental public interest in the White Peak area is the privilege and opportunity to hunt big game." There is no doubt that this exchange will improve hunting opportunities for landowners and their (mostly out-of-state) hunters that can afford to hunt on private land in New Mexico. Residents of New Mexico will forever lose the opportunity to hunt state land that has been used by generations of New Mexico residents.

These and other issues beg the question: Why would the State Land Commissioner entertain a trade that would so obviously favor the landowners at the expense of the public land users? Money! Landowners would get more landowner elk permits that are sold to hunters willing to pay thousands of dollars to hunt what is now public land. Perhaps this is a favor to friends of Lyons for financial support for his campaign. Now that he is a lame duck commissioner he can do this trade without worry of constituent backlash. When questions like this come up regarding misguided actions of elected officials, too often it all comes back to money.

—Larry Dwyer, AWF Board Member

Gregg's Pics

At right, bobcat captured by automatic camera at water station on Kirtland AFB

Far right, blue-winged teal

Photos courtesy of Gregory Dunn, Conservation Specialist at KAFB



PHOTO BY GREGORY DUNN

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 \$ _____