

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
WILDLIFE  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

January 2024

## A Year of Milestones for Leopold's Legacies

This year will mark several milestone anniversaries that trace their roots to Aldo Leopold.

A century ago, on June 3, 1924, over half a million acres were set aside by the Forest Service as the Gila Wilderness, the first designated wilderness in the world. Leopold had fallen in love with the natural landscape of the Gila when he was posted there as an early Forest Service employee. When a proposal was made to extend roads into the backcountry, he made the case for protecting this unique area in its natural state, and the Forest Service agreed.

In the years that followed, Leopold continued to make the case for preserving intact natural areas, and sixty years ago, the Wilderness Act was signed into law. Aldo's dream of protecting the untrammelled Gila has now secured over 111 million acres of protected wilderness for all of us to roam. In the *Sand County Almanac*, Leopold wrote that, "I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in," and thanks to the law he inspired, wild country was preserved for all of us who followed him.

Stretching back even further than both the Gila Wilderness and the Wilderness Act is the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, founded on July 21, 1914 as the Albuquerque Game Protective Association. In its early years, Leopold and other founders educated their members about the need for better laws protecting wildlife,



and organized them to push for the enactment and enforcement of those laws. Today, nearly 110 years later, AWF educates our extensive volunteer community about the need for habitat restoration, and organizes them to undertake that restoration.

All three of these legacies demonstrate the lasting impact of one who loved the wild earth and devoted his life to persuading others to care and to act. That last part is key: Leopold's ideas would have gone nowhere had he not persuaded many other people to believe in them, and to work to make his proposals into living realities. AWF continues to thrive due to its distributed and renewing volunteer leadership, which has handed off the baton from generation to generation since 1914.

This year marks a transition in that leadership, as outgoing President Cameron Weber has completed her four years in that role and is handing the presidency off to Phil Carter, an AWF volunteer since 2006 and a board member since 2016, as well as working in various roles in conservation policy and ecological restoration.

Whether Leopold's legacies will still be thriving in another 60 or 110 years depends on what we choose to do with them today and tomorrow. We hope you'll join AWF for a restoration project this year – look for the 2024 schedule coming up in next month's newsletter.

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Kristina G. Fisher  
AWF Secretary

## 2024 VOLUNTEER ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

The AWF Projects Committee will be meeting later this month to develop the schedule for this year's volunteer ecological restoration service projects. If you have ideas for projects or would like to be involved in the planning process, please contact our President Phil Carter at philcrater@gmail.com. Look for the 2024 project calendar in next month's newsletter!



## NO AWF MEETING IN JANUARY — SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!

Do you have suggestions of speakers, topics, or educational workshops you would like to see at AWF's public meetings this year? Please email any suggestions to [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)!



## WELCOME TO THE 2024 AWF BOARD!

As an all-volunteer organization, AWF's board is responsible for organizing our restoration service projects and educational presentations, as well as carrying forward the legacy of this nearly 110-year-old organization.

AWF continues to thrive thanks to the time, energy, and dedication of our hardworking volunteer board. We are grateful to all of last year's board members for continuing their service, and we are excited to welcome long-time AWF volunteer Rod Flores to the board for 2024.



### AWF BOARD 2024

#### OFFICERS

*President – Phil Carter*  
*Vice President – Cameron Weber*  
*Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*  
*Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher*

#### DIRECTORS

*Abe Aufdermauer*  
*Steven del Favero*  
*Rod Flores*  
*Lia Griesser*  
*Toby Rosenblatt*  
*Barbara Rosensimon*  
*Michael "Scial" Scialdone*  
*Sean Solowiej*  
*Hamish Thomson*  
*Bob Tilley*  
*Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



**Bolson Tortoises are coming to Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge**

Sevilleta NWR has been selected by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to establish a self-sustaining population of Bolson Tortoises, the largest and rarest of the tortoises native to North America. Learn how this will be done from Dr. Chris Wiese, Senior Biologist with the Turner Endangered Species Fund, and leader of the highly successful Bolson Tortoise Project on the Armendaris and Ladder Ranches.

This talk will take place at the annual meeting of Amigos de la Sevilleta. Members and non-members are invited.

January 20, 2024 2-4 pm  
Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge  
(Exit 169 off of I-25)

Free, no reservations required  
Refreshments provided



### **Bolson Tortoises are Coming to Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge** **SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

The largest and rarest of the six North American tortoise species, the Bolson Tortoise is thought to have once lived throughout most of the Chihuahuan desert, but its current range is restricted to a small area in north central Mexico. In an effort to bolster the population of this critically endangered species, Sevilleta has been selected by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to receive a group of these animals starting in 2024, with the goal of establishing a self-sustaining population there. Learn more about this effort from Dr. Chris Wiese, Senior Biologist with the Turner Endangered Species Fund, and leader of the highly successful Bolson Tortoise Project on the Armendaris and Ladder Ranches near Truth or Consequences. For more details:

<https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/calendar>

### **Cabazon Peak Day Project**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 9:00 am-5:00 pm**

#### **NEW MEXICO WILD**

New Mexico Wild is leading a project to better define the popular Sharkey Loop Trail in the Cabazon & Chamisa Wilderness Study Area. Several sections of this trail have become indiscernible, and we aim to help users navigate this trail with ease through the construction of cairns. For more info and to RSVP: <https://www.nmwild.org/event/cabazon-peak-day-project/>



### **Backcountry Film Festival**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 7:00 p.m., SALA, 2551 Central Avenue, Los Alamos, NM**  
**PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

PEEC and the SALA Event Center are teaming up to host the Backcountry Film Festival again this year! The Backcountry Film Festival is produced by Winter Wildlands Alliance, a national nonprofit organization that partners with groups at the local level to inspire and educate

the backcountry community to protect and care for their winter landscapes. Doors open at 6 pm.

For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=50613>

### **Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students**

**ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2024, 6:00 pm**

In the Aldo Leopold Writing Foundation's annual student essay contest, students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit an essay on an environmental topic. Learn more about the details of contest and how to participate:

<https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/writing-contest1.html>

### **Aldo & Estella Leopold Residency for Writers**

**APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 16, 2024**

An inspiring retreat for professional environmental writers at "Mi Casita", Aldo and Estella's first home in northern New Mexico, the Aldo and Estella Leopold Residency provides a one-month residency with stipend for writers and respected thinkers interested in reshaping the cultural story about the relationship between humans and Nature. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/residency.html>

Send your event information to: [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto: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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**