



*Organized in 1914 to protect
and perpetuate our wildlife
and natural resources.*

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103
Associated With The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005, 7:30 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**** ** * PROGRAM ** ** ***

CEDRO CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

The AWF feature presentation at our Feb. 10, 2005 general membership meeting (7:30 pm at Bear Canyon Senior Center) will be by Beverly De Gruyter, Wildlife Biologist, Sandia Ranger District; Rebecca Salem, NM Museum of Natural History; Severn Thomas, The Quivira Coalition. Each presenter will discuss aspects of the Cedro Creek Restoration Project. Cedro Creek is a perennial stream in the Manzanita Mountains. AWF has worked with the US Forest Service in the past on short segments of the creek. Bill Zeedyk is a consultant on this project. At this meeting we will learn how AWF members and friends can help out with this effort. The project is designed to partner with local schools, teachers and students and become an "outdoor classroom." If you know a teacher or youth group leader or a student who might be interested in this project, please invite them to come.

**** ** * PRESIDENTS MESSAGE ** ** ***

Our January general meeting was held with the NM Wildlife Federation. The purpose for this combined meeting was to review, discuss and vote on 9 proposed changes to the NMWF Bylaws. All 9 were approved, and are summarized below:

1. Vote by mail for all elections and all other matters requiring a vote of the NMWF membership.
2. Affiliated clubs must have at least 15 members who hold dual memberships with NMWF. Currently, all affiliate club members must be dual members with NMWF. The current affiliate dues will remain \$10 per person.
3. Provide affiliated clubs the option of obtaining new members from NMWF. For this dual membership option, the affiliated club would receive \$10 per member attained from NMWF.
4. Raise membership dues from \$15 to \$25 for those who join the NMWF solely.
5. Raise life-time membership fee to \$500.
6. Affiliated clubs choose their Representative to the NMWF Board of Directors as they see fit.
7. Include the NMWF Executive Director as a co-signer on checks.
8. The NMWF president message's in the Outdoor Reporter would be would be a policy, but not a mandate
9. The NWF Representative would be required to write one column in the Outdoor Reporter immediately following the NWF annual meeting.

At our February board meeting, the effects of these bylaw changes on AWF will be discussed. Numbers 2), 3), and 6) appear to have a direct affect on AWF, which could result in an amendment to our bylaws. At the February general meeting, an update of the board's thoughts on these matters will be provided to you.

Speaking of the, February general meeting we are pleased to have Beverly Degruyter, AWF member and Forest Service Biologist for Sandia Ranger District, Rebecca Salem, NM Museum of Natural History, and Severn Thomas, The Quivira Coalition. Each presenter will discuss aspects of the Cedro Creek Restoration Project. See the February meeting announcement above.

The following is a partial list of speakers that Dr. Becker has put together.

March 10, Valles Caldera National Preserve, "What's Happening in 2005?" Ray Powell, Jr., DVM Executive Director and Bob Parmenter, Preserve Scientist".

April 14, Master Turkey Impresario, William "Bill" Zeedyk, And Luke Shelby.

May 12, Laurie Wearne, Talking Talons, Program Manager; Youth Leadership in Conservation.

June 8, Pat Hester (BLM), Oil and Gas on Federal Lands. This program is scheduled to precede our annual work project on the Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest in July, 2005.

If you would like to present a program or know of an interesting speaker, please contact Richard W. Becker, PhD, Chairman, Program Committee (505) 255-7156 or crbecker@swcp.com.

Gene Tatum, president

Quivira Coalition's Cedro Creek Restoration Project

By Beverly deGruyter-Wildlife Biologist-USFS, Sandia/Mountainair Ranger Districts

For many years the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation has worked with the U.S Forest Service-Sandia Ranger District on various riparian restoration projects on Cedro Creek, just south of I-40 in Tijeras. Long-time AWF member and riparian restoration specialist Bill Zeedyk has led the design and installation of several rock berms, one-rock dams and aprons, baffles and deflectors, as well as vegetation manipulation projects so successfully that portions of the creek are now perennial and wet meadows are recovering. Because of this work and the creek's proximity to Albuquerque, the Quivira Coalition has chosen Cedro Creek as a riparian and wet meadow restoration demonstration area with a focus on training a group of restoration specialists, since even Bill Zeedyk can't be everywhere at once. The work is funded by a grant from the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau through the EPA.

The two-year project will consist of:

1. continued restoration of Cedro Creek, with school children, their teachers and other partners like the AWF to restore and monitor two miles of stream and create about 16 acres of wetlands and meadows;
2. development and implementation of a series of five training seminars in innovative self-sustaining riparian and wet meadow restoration techniques that will result in at least 25 trained "restoration specialists";
3. development of a specialized training session for the New Mexico Department of Transportation focusing on interactions between roads and the riverine environment and wetlands.

The restoration project is designed to be an educational project, and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History is already involved by providing riparian and watershed restoration workshops for teachers so they can effectively involve their students in the project. AWF member Dr. Richard Becker and others will be instrumental in networking various volunteer and educational opportunities with local schools and other partners like the New Mexico Riparian Council. To follow Richard's lead in quoting Aldo Leopold, "Ecology is now teaching us to search in animal populations for analogies to our own problems. By learning how some small part of the biota ticks, we can guess how the whole mechanism ticks. The ability to perceive these deeper meanings, and to appraise them critically, is the woodcraft of the future."

Learn more about this effort at this month's meeting on February 10, where Beverly deGruyter and others will supply the details.

Highlights of the AWF Board Meeting – January 13, 2005

Discussion Issues. Should we: (1) Move the board meeting to a different day to allow more time for discussion; (2) Form a membership committee; (3) Develop partnerships with former NMWF affiliates that have become shooting sports organizations. NMWF now has only two affiliates (AWF and DACAS), where in the past there were over 30; (4) Change our mission statement to include "promoting youth involvement" and "connecting people with the outdoors"?

The Membership Enhancement Subcommittee will continue to address problem areas identified last November and in similar efforts made in May 1998 (memo to be provided by Dale Hall).

NMWF is putting out a Sportsman Alert and collecting letters to send to President Bush protesting proposed coal-bed methane drilling on the Valle Vidal. Larry Dwyer noted that AWF could be more influential if we encouraged letter-writing on issues of concern, such as the Valle Vidal; he volunteered to provide paper, envelopes, and stamps for members to write such letters during our meetings. Gene Tatum advised that pre-scoping comments are being taken on the Valle Vidal by George Long, USFS, Questa Ranger District.

The Executive Committee of NMWF has discussed hiring a lobbyist for the upcoming NM legislative session. Subjects to be pursued by the lobbyist include: (1) equitable public access, (2) Rio Grande Trail, a state-wide feasibility study, and (3) license fee increase.

AWF Newsletter will be sent to members via email unless they request paper copy, to save on printing and postage costs.

Selections from Luke Shelby's Legislative Update:

1. Okay given to pursue a Habitat Acquisition Fee (\$5.00 charge added one time to any hunting or fishing license). Estimated revenue of \$1.5 million to be used for purchase of land, water rights, etc.
2. Gaining Access into Nature Program on State Game Commission properties. This will allow for fees to be charged for outdoor recreation activities (example, cross-country skiing) on state wildlife areas during non-critical times of the year.
3. Process for applying for Special Hunts on-line to be changed to permit electronic signature.
4. Change in law to allow license fees to be refunded under special circumstances and to allow transfer of license to wish-granting organizations.
5. Resident and non-resident fee increase to be introduced.

Lois Jones reminds us to visit our state senators and representatives so they will know there are conservation-minded folks out there (who also vote). Richard Becker suggests we send letters and emails to thank our legislators when they do something we approve of, not just to complain.

TO AWF MEMBERS: Does this summary add to your understanding of what AWF is about? Would you like to have a BOD meeting summary in each newsletter? Please provide feedback to Glenda Muirhead at gmuirhead1@msn.com or 281-2925. Thanks.

Glenda Muirhead

AWF 2005 Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President, Gene Tatum Vice President, Bill Zeedyk
Secretary, Richard Becker Treasurer, Glenda Muirhead

Board-Members:

Chris Chadwick, Barbara Coulter, Larry Dwyer, Jim Hubert, Dale Hall
Dennis Muirhead, Randy Isler, Luke Shelby, Lois Jones

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name _____

Address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email address _____

single membership \$20; includes one NMWF membership: _____

family membership \$25; includes one NMWF membership: _____

additional NMWF member; \$10/NMWF member: _____

contribution to AWF: _____

Total: _____

Thank you!

Name of NMWF member(s): _____

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**** ** * PROGRAM ** ** ***

**VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2005?**

Ray Powell, Jr., Director
Dr. Robert R. Parmenter, Preserve Scientist

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation invites our members and friends to a very special presentation by Ray Powell, Jr, DVM, Executive Director of Valles Caldera National Preserve, and Dr. Robert R. Parmenter. Our guests will review "What's Happening in 2005?" The Valles Caldera National Preserve consists of 89,000 acres situated inside a collapsed crater, high in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. Congress established the Valles Caldera Trust in 2000, creating a nine-member board of trustees with a dual mission: to protect resources and to generate revenue to benefit the property. Here is your chance to ask questions about plans for the Preserve, and to learn more about "adaptive management."

**** ** * PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ** ** ***

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Board is contemplating amending AWF's Bylaws to change the membership fee structure. The fee structure changes, which will increase dues rates and add membership categories, are intended to grow the AWF treasury. Currently, we have enough money for us to stay solvent. Our biggest expenditure to date has been for printing and mailing the newsletters. This expense has been reduced by e-mailing the newsletter. Thanks to those of you who have accepted this cost-saving change in delivery. We have no expenses on the horizon which would exceed our receipts. However, we will need resources to promote our organization for it to grow.

The Membership Enhancement Committee (MEC) composed of Richard Becker, Glenda Muirhead and Barbara Coulter has been grappling with ideas to grow our membership. The MEC is working on possibilities for 3 or 4 committees. We already have leaders in Projects and Programs, our meat and potatoes. Forming committees could provide valuable assistance, new ideas to increase participation, and attract new members. Issues affecting wildlife habitat and communications, both external and internal, are also areas where committee effort would be beneficial. The Valle Vidal Forest Plan and the recent legislative session (e.g., the Cougar and Game Park Bills) are examples of where committee work could help the AWF make informed, consolidated and stronger positions on important issues. Communication has to improve for information to flow in a timely manner. Maybe we need a web page.

We ask that you support the membership fee structure change, and also recommit to the AWF mission. As ideas come from the Board and MEC, we will need you to participate; join a committee.

Gene Tatum, president

FEBRUARY PROGRAM CANCELLED --- --APOLOGIES TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS

February's planned program, "Cedro Creek Restoration Project," was abruptly cancelled after AWF's Board members arrived for their 6 pm meeting, only to find that Bear Canyon Senior Center was closed for the week. Unfortunately, BCSC had failed to notify Richard Becker of this closure. After frantic, unsuccessful attempts to find a substitute venue for the evening's presentation, we chose to cancel. Most of the Board relocated to the Game & Fish Office for their meeting, while Richard stayed at the Center to explain the cancellation to arriving members and guests. Our speakers, Beverly deGruyter and Rebecca Salem, graciously agreed to reschedule at some future date...we'll keep you informed.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING IN BRIEF

In Attendance: Gene Tatum and Pat Hester, Glenda and Dennis Muirhead, Lois and Dale Jones, Luke Shelby, Dale Hall, Barbara Coulter, Randy Isler.

Much discussion related to the proposed AWF membership and dues changes being considered, in response to the NMWF bylaw changes approved by their membership in January. Additional membership categories and dues rates were agreed upon. Gene will inform the members about the changes and their impact on AWF in the March newsletter, in preparation for a vote at the April general meeting. AWF bylaws indicate that a bylaw change requires approval by 2/3 of the membership present at the meeting. Lois suggested that the renewal date for all memberships be the same, making all dues payable on the same date, perhaps at the Annual Meeting in December.

Additionally, Gene requested that all Board members review the AWF bylaws and suggest revisions. Copies of the by-laws were handed out to the Board. Possible changes will be discussed at the next Board meeting. This will be followed by notice in the April newsletter for specific by-law updates to be voted on in May.

Barbara, AWF's representative on NMWF's Board, gave an update on NMWF and handed out the agenda to their next meeting. She announced that NMWF Day at the Legislature was successful. The Board hired Gregory Green as their lobbyist. Letters are still needed to speak against drilling at Ville Vidal.

Luke reviewed several bills before the Legislature. Luke volunteered to write a letter on behalf of AWF congratulating Mark Watson on being named "Wildlife Professional of the Year" by New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society. [Watson spoke at AWF's meeting in April 2004, about habitat connectivity to reduce wildlife losses, and was instrumental in establishing the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition.]

TENTATIVE "TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE" PROJECTS FOR 2005

Bill Zeedyk is busy planning this season's project outings. As in the past, July brings a trip to the beautiful Valle Vidal to continue AWF's efforts there. Other anticipated locations include Cebolla Canyon (BLM), Valles Caldera, and Cedro Creek in Tijeras, though dates for these projects haven't been finalized. Stay tuned for details.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bill Zeedyk and Mary Maulsby

Our hard-working Team Up for Wildlife project coordinator and AWF vice-president, Bill Zeedyk, and Mary Maulsby were married in February!

MEET OUR MEMBERS

This month we begin a new feature in the newsletter, a column to introduce and profile AWF members as a way of learning more about each other. Profiles will appear periodically, perhaps quarterly, perhaps more frequently—it depends on input! For the inaugural installment, it seems appropriate to introduce AWF's current President.

GENE TATUM - AWF President 2005

Gene works for the Bureau of Land Management as Project Coordinator, Division of Operations. He was born (in 1947) and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, and is married to Patricia Hester, BLM Regional Paleontologist.

CHILDREN: Rachel, 26, a local actress/fitness instructor/college student; Leah, 23, first year medical student at UNM; Sara, 21, junior at UNM, sociology.

EDUCATION: Class of '65 Robert E. Lee High School, Montgomery, Alabama; 1972 AAS Orange Community College, Middletown, New York; 1977 BS Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.

OCCUPATION: Began working with the BLM January 1978, in Las Cruces, NM, on a range survey team; July 1980--transferred to BLM Albuquerque's Rio Puerco Resource Area as a Range Conservationist; November 1983--Technical Coordinator, Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan; 1987--Range Staff Chief, Rio Puerco Resource Area; 1993--El Malpais National Conservation Area Planning Team; 1995--Range Conservationist/Monitoring Specialist; and 2003 to present, Project Coordinator, Division of Operations. Retirement date is coming soon. The target date is late May to early June 2005.

PREVIOUS JOB? WHERE? Began summer work at about age 9 at my uncle's produce business. Had a paper route; bagged groceries in high school; aircraft electronics for four years in the Marine Corps; loom setup for a weaving company in Newburg, NY; worked in an electrical supply house while going to college in New York; pushed a lawnmower in Scottsdale; worked in a cabinet shop; worked at a plastics company making siphon tube for irrigation; worked at UPS while going to ASU.

HOW LONG IN NEW MEXICO? After finishing college I moved to Las Cruces in January 1978, to begin work for the BLM. Transferred to Albuquerque in July 1980.

FAVORITE PLACE IN NEW MEXICO: Lake Heron, San Pedro Parks, Cabezon Peak.

FAVORITE VACATION DESTINATION/ACTIVITY: Sea kayaking in Honduras, bird watching in Costa Rica, back packing in the Grand Canyon; sailing/camping on Elephant Butte in October after the water ski season.

GREATEST ADVENTURE: There are adventures and misadventures which all can be memorable. An experience that is particularly memorable was snorkeling with manatees at the Crystal River Refuge. Swimming with these large, powerful, graceful animals was ethereal and euphoric. These animals, most with prop scars on their bodies, come out of their refuge to greet people.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *House of Spirits*, Isabel Allende; *Dragon Riders of Pern*, Anne McCaffery; Kurt Vonnegut.

FAVORITE MAGAZINE: *National Geographic*.

HOBBIES: Home improvement, sailing, camping, fitness.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: President, Alvarado Neighborhood Association.

PERSONAL GOALS: Now that I have decided to retire from the BLM, I am excited about new opportunities. I plan to substitute teach at the high school level for a while. Take some technical classes at TVI. Travel within the US. I feel that I have been fortunate in my life, and would like to give something back through volunteer work.

AWF MEMBER SINCE: December 2003. I have been working with Bill Z. on AWF projects since 2001.

ORIGINS OF YOUR INTEREST IN WILDLIFE: In grammar school, I read every book I could find about mountain men. I then became interested in the outdoors. Almost serendipitously, my education and career paths have taken me along.

WHY DID YOU JOIN AWF? I got attracted by the habitat improvement projects. Then I found common bonds with the AWF people.

GOALS FOR AWF: Help revitalize the AWF by emphasizing habitat improvement projects, recruiting new members, and outreach to young people.



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Name _____
Address _____
city, state, zip _____
phone _____ email address _____

single membership \$20; includes one NMWF membership: _____
family membership \$25; includes one NMWF membership: _____
additional NMWF member; \$10/NMWF member: _____
contribution to AWF: _____
Total: _____

Thank you!

Name of NMWF member(s): _____

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AWF *April 2005* Newsletter

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**** **PROGRAM – Join Us for Two Outstanding Presentations** ****

Bill Zeedyk: It's Gobbling Time in New Mexico!!!

Bill Zeedyk, master turkey-calling impresario, will share the benefits of his many years in the field stalking this majestic bird...just in time for Spring turkey season which opens April 15. *Not just for hunters—think nature photography as well!*

Report on NM Legislative Session

Luke Shelby, Assistant Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, will give us a report on the status of bills impacting the NM Department of Game and Fish and the wildlife of New Mexico. The sixty-day session ended on March 19, 2005.

**** ** ** PRESIDENTS MESSAGE ** ** ****

There is much progress to report on this month. First is the Valle Vidal Forest Plan Open House sponsored by the Carson National Forest Service on Thursday, March 31, 2005. The Forest Service did a creditable job conducting the meeting. David Schultz, the Forest Planner, provided a general overview of the Planning process. He also gave a brief history lesson which covered the details of the title documents and the multiple use area guide which provided the guidance for Valle Vidal. AWF was represented by Larry Dwyer, Glenda Muirhead, Barbara Coulter, Pat Hester, and me.

The Forest Service honored the AWF by inviting us to be one of the six presenters at the Open House. The first speaker was Courtney White, Executive Director of the Quivira Coalition, who emphasized that a commitment to the land involves giving back, not just using. I spoke next, expressing that we want the Forest Plan to focus on the creeks, wetlands and meadows in the Valle Vidal as indicators of healthy watersheds. I also mentioned that roads, elk winter range, and conflicts for forage between cattle and elk need to be addressed in the Forest Plan. I concluded that the AWF did not see how minerals development such as coal bed methane could be compatible with providing for healthy creeks, wetlands and meadows. Next, Bruce Connery from El Paso Corporation presented his company's commitment to using state-of-the-art procedures to minimize environmental effects. He also stated that if his company had not made an "Expression of Interest" for leasing of coal bed methane, another company would have.

Then William Wiley, Republicans for Environmental Protection, spoke out against leasing of the Valle Vidal for minerals development. Mr. Bill Brown of the Valle Vidal Coalition delivered a well-researched Power Point presentation which documented the infinitesimal amount of energy which could be provided from the Valle Vidal. Last was Palemon Martinez of the Valle Vidal Grazing Association,

who spoke about the custom and culture of livestock grazing in northern New Mexico. Mr. Martinez also recounted his experience as a member of the International Stream Commission (ISC). The ISC and Bureau of Reclamation decided to spend several million dollars to build a dam on the Rio Costillo. Before they were finished, a geological event occurred and it cost them several million more to finish the project. I understood Mr. Martinez's story as a warning: due to the uncertain geology and ground water of the Valle Vidal, there could be unforeseen and long-term ecological costs associated with the development of energy resources such as coal bed methane. Is the risk worth what might be gained?

You will hear more about our four committees: Projects, Wildlife Issues, Programs and Internal/External Communications. Please consider participating in one of these groups. Functional Statements have been developed for each committee (see below) which should help you choose the committee where you can help the most.

Finally, AWF's Bylaws need to be amended to keep us in sync with the changes recently made by the NMWF. The Board is reviewing our Bylaws to identify other appropriate changes. We plan a general membership vote on the Bylaw amendments at our May meeting. In the May newsletter, we will send you the proposed changes for your consideration.

Gene Tatum, President

OK, AWF MEMBERS – HERE'S HOW TO HAVE AN IMPACT!

What are you good at doing? What interests you? Will you share your skills to help energize AWF? Enjoy an opportunity to collaborate with other members and contribute to AWF: **JOIN A COMMITTEE**. There'll be sign-up sheets at our meetings – contact Richard Becker at 255-7156 or crbecker@swcp.com – or we'll be calling you!

Do you like to manage logistics, coordinate a potluck supper, or get your hands dirty? ...the **Projects Committee** needs you! Do you thrive on controversy, like to mull over options and offer opinions? ...join the **Wildlife Issues Committee!** Can you develop topics, contact speakers, write a thank-you note? ...you'll be great on the **Program Committee!** Can you author an article, produce a press release, fashion a photo board, promote AWF? ...the **Communications Committee** is right for you!

Team Up for Wildlife Projects Committee will:

- determine location, date, and activities of AWF's restoration work projects.
- coordinate with other organizations and provide contact information.
- provide directions/maps to work sites and post signs along the route.
- arrange for materials needed, such as tools, spare gloves, water, extra camping supplies, basic "potluck" provisions, etc.
- welcome arrivals to campsite/worksites and make introductions among participants; present an orientation on tasks to be accomplished on the project; host "potluck" dinner.
- prepare background information to present to the work group, such as the biology, geology, cultural history, etc., of the project location.

Members: Bill Zeedyk, Barbara Coulter, Dale Hall, Glenda Muirhead

Wildlife Issues Committee will:

- function like a clearing house, identifying proposed legislation affecting wildlife while focusing on the impacts.
- present draft position statements to the Board, who will establish official AWF positions.
- be involved in land use planning on New Mexico Public Lands, keeping track of plan development schedules, and planning issues affecting wildlife and habitat, such as the BLM Otero Mesa Plan.
- assess other wildlife initiatives, like that of the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition.

Members: Larry Dwyer, Pat Hester, Bill Zeedyk

Advisor: Luke Shelby

Program Committee will:

- arrange for guest speakers to make presentations at AWF's monthly general membership meetings and survey members to determine the topics of interest.
- submit a description of the next month's program to the Communications Committee Chair and to the editor of the AWF Newsletter two weeks before publication of the newsletter.
- ascertain audio-visual needs of speakers, desired room setup.
- send thank you letters to presenters.

Members: Richard Becker, Gene Tatum

Internal/External Communications Committee will:

- produce, publish, and distribute the monthly AWF Newsletter to members and other interested parties.
- develop display materials, promotional items, and AWF brochure(s).
- arrange for display tables at appropriate conferences, conventions and expositions to promote AWF.
- publicize monthly AWF meetings: send notices to newspapers, create and post flyers, email members.
- send press releases to newspapers about accomplishments, plans, projects, affiliations with other groups.

Members: Cliff Mendel, Glenda Muirhead, Richard Becker

MARCH BOARD MEETING IN BRIEF

Present: Gene Tatum, Bill Zeedyk, Richard Becker, Glenda Muirhead, Barbara Coulter, Larry Dwyer, Dale Hall, Jim Hubert, Dennis Muirhead, Luke Shelby. Guest: Jeremy Vesbach, Executive Director, NMWF.

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Vice President, Bill Zeedyk
Secretary, Richard Becker
Treasurer, Glenda Muirhead

Board Members

Chris Chadwick	Randy Isler
Barbara Coulter	Dale Jones
Larry Dwyer	Lois Jones
Dale Hall	Dennis Muirhead
Jim Hubert	Luke Shelby

Luke Shelby's Legislative Update: • The "cougar bill" was defeated on the House Floor. • HB 798 (Game and Fish Violation Penalties) provides for triple increase in fines for violations. • Senate Bill 337 (Game Park Size Increase to 15,000 acres) will be heard on Saturday (3-12-05) by House Committee (Gail Beam, Chair). Jeremy encouraged AWF members to show up at this committee hearing on March 12 to register opposition to this bill. • Jeremy and Luke noted concerns with HB 189 (Trespass Posting Requirements) and SB 437 (does not speak to confiscation of wildlife taken under trespass situation).

NMWF News: NMWF 2005 Annual Meeting will be held May 21-22 in Las Cruces. The conference theme is "Quality Habitat for Wildlife." It was suggested that the NMWF advise their members and affiliate chapters of resolutions to be presented at the National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting ahead of time so we can review and decide our positions.

Committee News: • Membership Enhancement Committee reviewed results from questionnaires returned by directors. While many were willing to set aside another night for the BOD meeting, the MEC instead recommended changes to streamline the conduct of business at our meetings. FUNCTIONAL STATEMENTS for four committees have been drafted. Board members are requested to select a committee to serve on. Dale volunteered for the Projects Committee, and Larry volunteered for the Wildlife Issues Committee. • Projects Committee: Bill Zeedyk reported on two projects with scheduled dates: Cebolla Canyon (BLM) June 17-19, and Valle Vidal July 15-17. Bill is working with Dennis Trujillo, Valles Caldera National Preserve, on possible projects in August. Also, there may be a second project this year on the Valle Vidal. The Cedro Creek Restoration Project (Tijeras) has received funding so plans are in the works for AWF involvement. Dale Hall mentioned the Wetlands Project being created behind the office of the NM Department of Game and Fish (Midway Place). Barbara announced two Wilderness Alliance projects: San Lorenzo Canyon at Sevilleta NWR on April 9, and Pecos Wilderness on National Trails Day, June 4. Bill will circulate project notices to other organizations to recruit more helpers.

NEWS FROM AWF "TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE" PARTNERS

Do you belong to other groups that may be interested in joining forces with AWF on day or weekend outings to work for wildlife and the outdoors? Contact a member of the Projects Committee to get the discussion going: Bill Zeedyk (281-9066 or bzcreekz@att.net) or Barbara Coulter (coulter@unm.edu). Here is news from the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, with details about two of their upcoming projects – and we're invited to join them.

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

Volunteer projects give you an opportunity to do something for the Land of Enchantment. From digging postholes for barriers to stop ATV abuse, to trail clean-up and maintenance, to helping with the logistics of set-up and food, there is something for all ages and abilities. Please RSVP so we can plan for food, car-pooling, and other details. Get directions and further project information by contacting NMWA's Michael Scialdone (843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org) or AWF's Glenda Muirhead (281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com).

April 9th, 2005 -- San Lorenzo Canyon Project to curb ATV abuse

San Lorenzo Canyon is located about 10 miles north of Socorro along the boundary of the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. With its unique geology, it is a great place for recreation and has many cultural values as well. Unfortunately, it has been overrun by ATVs and has the usual trash and scars we've come to expect. We will block and cover these scars to prevent further damage and let the healing begin as well as post signs and begin a monitoring program. We will camp out the night before, but the area is close enough to Albuquerque that you can drive out on Saturday. We will need 25-40 people. Also participating: Volunteers for the Outdoors.

Distance: 70 miles south of ABQ

Time: We will gather to talk about the project at 8:15am.

June 4th, 2005 -- Pecos Wilderness, north side

June 4th is NATIONAL TRAILS DAY and we will participate by working on a trail on the north side of the Pecos Wilderness that ATVs have been using illegally. Our main task will be to block access to motorized use while allowing others to continue. We will also do some trail clean-up and maintenance. Camp out Friday and Saturday, do the project on Saturday, and go for a hike on Sunday. We will need around 25 people.

Distance: about 2 hours north/northeast of ABQ

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – OTHER PLANNED PROJECTS:

April 16 – Yellow Mountain Spring – Fence enclosure, trash cleanup on BLM land. Lead Group: Mule Deer Foundation.

May 7 – Mt. Taylor/Zuni Mtns – Cold Springs & Zuni Springs rehab. Lead Group: NM Wilderness Alliance.

May 21 – Install turkey guzzler on private land. Lead Group: NM Wild Turkey Federation.

June 18 – Cebolla Canyon – Fence enclosure to protect spring. Lead Group: AWF.

July 15-17 – Valle Vidal – Mini-exclosures around willow & alder on Gold Creek. Lead Group: AWF.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

If you're receiving this newsletter by mail and will accept it via email instead (saving printing and mailing costs) **OR** if you're having problems with the emailed version, contact Glenda at 281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com.

Membership Application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

name _____
address _____
city, state, zip _____
phone _____ email address _____

single membership \$20 (includes one NMWF membership) _____

family membership \$25 (includes one NMWF membership) _____

*additional NMWF member (\$10/NMWF member) _____

contribution to AWF _____

Total _____

Thank you!

Designate family member to be NMWF Member(s*) _____

AWF *May 2005* Newsletter

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

Organized in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources

Associated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, MAY 12 at 7:30 PM

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 6

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro

left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

■■■■ PROGRAM ■■■■

TALKING TALONS

Involving Youth in Conservation, Community Service and Environmental Education

Our Guest Speaker will be Laurie Wearne from Talking Talons, an environmental education group in Tijeras. Learn how they connect youth to nature with in-school programs using animals such as birds of prey, reptiles, and bats which cannot be released into the wild. Talking Talons also receives Youth Conservation grants to hire young people aged 14-25 to collaborate with such professional groups as BLM and Bernalillo County Open Space, building job skills while providing assistance in habitat restoration and conservation projects, bird surveys and public presentations.

At the meeting, we may have some surprise MYSTERY GUESTS from our local mountains and deserts. **Bring your family, friends and especially your children and grandchildren!**

■■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■■

The AWF participated in our first collaborative fun project with the NM Wilderness Alliance on Saturday, April 9th. AWF was represented by 4 members and 4 guest volunteers. This project was slightly different for us. ATV use is rapidly becoming a problem on the Socorro BLM-administered San Lorenzo Canyon riparian area. BLMer Mike Bilbo informed us that ATV trails had just become noticeable in the canyon. To discourage continued use of these developing trails, we joined forces with the BLM, NM Volunteers for the Outdoors, as well as the Wilderness Alliance. Blocking the trail accesses with brush, cactus, and boulders was hard but gratifying work.



Dennis Muirhead and Gene Tatum, in foreground



Piled brush blocks ATV access

The NMWF is having its Annual Meeting in Las Cruces May 21 and 22. There is a very interesting array of topics to be presented. AWF representation is needed at the meeting. Check your calendar and see if you can fit the meeting into your schedule.

At the May meeting, Bylaws revisions vote will be conducted. Please review the proposed changes sent out last week and come to the meeting ready to discuss and vote on these proposed changes.

The Membership Enhancement Committee offered the following action items to the Board for review and approval at the April meeting. The Board approved the list. We hope you can offer ideas or help to accomplish these tasks:

1. Formalize the four Committees. I hope you do not mind if we contact you in the future to discuss these committees. Please consider participating in one of them.
2. Develop an information package to be sent to other groups encouraging collaboration; include brochure, information sheet, letter of introduction. Mail to likely groups such as Roots ‘n Shoots, Wild Friends, Scouts, Audubon Society, NM Trout, etc.
3. Volunteer Recognition: certificates of appreciation, thank-you notes, plaques, formal ceremony.
4. Gene will write a request to NMWF for \$500 to fund recognition and promotional items.

(The following items are on the to-do list but will in all likelihood be completed next year:)

5. Promotional items, such as caps, buttons, magnets, pens.
6. Participate in community events; develop a “Traveling Trunk” including a Power Point presentation.

— Gene Tatum, AWF President

■ ■ ■ ■ APRIL BOARD MEETING IN BRIEF ■ ■ ■ ■

AWF 2005 Board of Directors

Officers

President - Gene Tatum
 Vice President - Bill Zeedyk
 Secretary - Richard Becker
 Treasurer - Glenda Muirhead
 Past President - Dale Jones

Board Members

Chris Chadwick	Randy Isler
Barbara Coulter	Lois Jones
Larry Dwyer	Dennis Muirhead
Dale Hall	Luke Shelby
Jim Hubert	

Present: Dennis Muirhead, Glenda Muirhead, Randy Isler, Larry Dwyer, Jim Hubert, Lois Jones, Dale Jones, Dale Hall, Bill Zeedyk, Luke Shelby, Gene Tatum, Richard Becker. Guests: Jeremy Vesbach, NMWF; Ellery Worthen.

New Mexico Wildlife Federation Report: National Wildlife Federation is proposing to fund five staff positions among their affiliate organizations and NMWF is being considered. The position would include comprehensive wildlife strategies and youth outdoor coordinator. ▪ NMWF is attempting to form a coalition of anglers and sportsmen clubs. Election for NMWF officers and board members has been announced. Positions are uncontested. Ballots are to be mailed. ▪ Annual NMWF meeting is scheduled for May 21-22 in Las Cruces. Barbara Coulter is AWF Representative and plans to attend. An AWF Display Board is being developed for this meeting.

COMMITTEES -- Membership Enhancement: Gene Tatum reviewed the Action Items the MEC developed. Bill Zeedyk suggested we use our committees to involve our general members. Copies of the AWF Membership List will be given to each Board member. Jim Hubert noted we can divide up the list and make follow-up contacts with lapsed members, and he also signed up for the Program Committee. ▪ Dale Jones reiterated the need to involve youth in AWF, and suggested we connect with youth shooting organizations. Larry Dwyer mentioned "School to World" Day held every March at the Convention Center where AWF could have a display table.

Projects: Bill Zeedyk reported the Projects Committee had a very productive meeting on March 24 with Michael Scialdone from the NM Wilderness Alliance. Projects will be announced in their newsletters and on calendars of events. The lead organization for a project will put out special publicity as a project date approaches. There may be more than one project per month.

Revised By-Laws: Motion was approved to accept proposed Bylaws changes.

■ ■ ■ ■ **VOTE ON MAY 12** ■ ■ ■ ■
ATTEND THE AWF MEETING

At the general membership meeting on Thursday, May 12, there will be a voice vote among all eligible members in attendance regarding the **changes to AWF's By-Laws** recommended by the Board of Directors. All members of record have received, by mail or email, a copy of the bylaws with changes noted. Please review them before the meeting and be prepared to vote on these revisions.

Increases to AWF's dues rates are a second issue up for approval. These changes are described below.

NOTE: If your dues are delinquent, you cannot vote on these issues at this meeting. If you're not sure if your dues are paid to date, please contact Glenda Muirhead at 281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com.

Proposed Changes to AWF Membership & Dues Structure

In keeping with changes approved by the New Mexico Wildlife Federation (NMWF) membership to the cost of their dues, the AWF Board has proposed changes to AWF's dues structure. Individual membership would be raised from \$20 to **\$25**, Family from \$25 to **\$35**, and four categories would be added: Student (\$10), Sustaining (\$50-\$99), Patron (\$100), and Life (\$500 one-time payment). Additionally, for all categories except Student, you will be asked when you renew to choose between AWF membership only and AWF+NMWF membership. If you choose AWF membership only, you will not belong to NMWF, and your full dues payment will go to AWF. If you choose AWF+NMWF membership, you will be a voting member in both AWF and NMWF, and \$10 of your dues payment will go to NMWF. In a **Family** membership, if a second person desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment will be required.

Here's how this would look on our membership application:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION— ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION, PO BOX 1234, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

name(s) _____
address _____
city, state, zip _____
phone _____ email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

<input type="checkbox"/> Student [under 18]	\$10	← [AWF Membership Only]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25		Dues \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	*Additional NMWF member \$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$50-\$99		Contribution \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100		TOTAL \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Life.....	\$500	← [One-time Payment]	THANK YOU!

➔ **PLEASE SELECT ONE :**

AWF membership only [total dues go to AWF]

AWF + 1 New Mexico Wildlife Federation membership [\$10 go to NMWF for each voting member*, remainder to AWF] : Designate NMWF member(s*) _____

MEET OUR MEMBERS

This month we offer the second installment of our column to introduce and profile AWF members as a way of learning more about each other. Profile Forms are available at AWF meetings, if you'd like to share **your** information with fellow members.

JIM HUBERT – AWF Board Member

NAME: Jim Hubert.

BORN/GREW UP WHERE? Born on a dairy farm near Amery, WI.

AGE: 68.

MARITAL STATUS: Married to Margie, 45 years in August 2005. We met in college where we were roommates. (Margie usually says about that statement, "Quit saying that...someone will believe you!") Actually, she IS the greatest thing that has ever happened to me.

CHILDREN: Dan, age 40, and Amy, age 37; grandchildren Eliana, age 5, and Zachary, age 2.

EDUCATION: Both Margie and I graduated from South Dakota State University, 1958 and 1959 respectively. My major was Wildlife Management and Margie's was Home Economics and Science.

OCCUPATION: Presently retired, but spent 35 years in the wildlife management field, with the States of South Dakota and Nebraska, then on to the National Wildlife Refuge System as Refuge Manager and Supervisor. We have lived in South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Virginia, Texas, and since 1982 in New Mexico.

FAVORITE PLACE IN NM: Valle Vidal, San Juan River, Rio Santa Barbara, and 30 Calle Vallecitos (home).

FAVORITE DESTINATION/ACTIVITY: Fly fishing, camping, traveling far and wide. We both like camping very much and thus all of New Mexico and the nearby states are appreciated and enjoyed.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES: Camping, fishing, hunting, traveling in our little Scamp Camper.

GREATEST ADVENTURE: Our greatest adventure is hard to put a finger on: traveling Europe, Australia, Mexico, New Mexico---all giving us a renewed appreciation for the God-given earth and its natural resources.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Many novels, several books on Martin Luther, and *Sand County Almanac*, which I have read many times.

FAVORITE MAGAZINES: *Time Magazine*, *Fly Fishing Magazine* and *Money Magazine*.

HOBBIES: Include fishing-particularly fly fishing, fly tying, hunting, camping, travel, reading, enjoying our Grands, genealogy, woodworking, and gardening.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: The Wildlife Society, National Wildlife Refuge Association, and Blue Goose Alliance, in addition to AWF and NMWF.

PERSONAL GOALS: This is hard to verbalize—to be a good son, father, husband, Christian, citizen—to make a worthy achievement as a professional in the field of natural resource management.

AWF MEMBER SINCE: Joined AWF in about 1990 in an effort to take part in a local conservation organization.

ORIGIN OF MY INTEREST IN WILDLIFE: My interest in wildlife originated as a farm boy and was enhanced as I hunted and fished in Wisconsin, and became aware that there was actually a college major in Wildlife, which I pursued.

GOALS FOR AWF: To make a positive difference on behalf of wildlife and wildlands conservation in New Mexico.

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Whatever befalls the earth befalls all the sons and daughters of the earth. Man did not weave the web-of-life but is merely a strand in it. What he does to the web he does to himself."

Jim didn't have a digital photo of himself to offer for publication. He's in the preliminary stages of getting a digital camera, having, so he says, "broken all the lenses of our other cameras!"

(Sorry, Jim...had to share that with everyone.)

■ ■ ■ ■ TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS ■ ■ ■ ■
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- * **May 21** – Sierra Ladrones – Yellow Mountain Spring – Fence exclosure, trash cleanup on BLM land with Mule Deer Foundation.
- Late May/Early June** – Mt. Taylor/Zuni Mountains – Cold Springs and Zuni Springs rehab with NM Wilderness Alliance.
- May or June** – Horseride to Wild Turkey Federation property to inspect possible project site.
- * **June 4** – Pecos Wilderness – ATV exclusion activities with NM Wilderness Alliance.
- June or July** – Install turkey guzzler on private land with NM Wild Turkey Federation.
- * **June 18** – Cebolla Canyon– Fence exclosure to protect spring on BLM land.
- * **July 15-17** – Valle Vidal – **Mini-exclosures around willow and alder on Gold Creek (a new location!)**
- * **August 19** – Valles Caldera – Revegetation activities with NM Trout and Wild Turkey Federation.
- August** – Red River -- USFS Carson District with NM Wilderness Alliance and Amigos Bravos.
- * **September 24** – Cedro Creek in Tijeras – Restore wetlands with USFS Sandia District (Beverly deGruyter), NM Museum of Natural History (Rebecca Salem), Quivira Coalition.
- October 1 or 8** – Columbine/Hondo Wilderness – Trail work with NM Wilderness Alliance.
- October** – Bear Canyon Wetlands – Dept. of Game & Fish Office.

Other Possibilities: A second Valle Vidal outing, Quivira Coalition's Red Canyon Ranch, Corrales Bosque.

* = Definite Date Set, *so Mark your Calendars!*

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
PO BOX 1234
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

TO VOTE ON BY-LAW
REVISIONS AND DUES
CHANGES, YOU MUST
ATTEND THE AWF
MEETING ON MAY 12

AWF *June 2005* Newsletter

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

Organized in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources
Associated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

AWF meets the second Thursday of every month except July at BEAR CANYON SENIOR CENTER, 4645 Pitt NE, Room 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro, left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

■ ■ ■ COME CELEBRATE! ■ ■ ■

5:30 PM at the park just east of BCSC



In honor of **Dale and Lois Jones**, long-time AWF members and tireless supporters of state and national wildlife interests, a potluck supper will be hosted by AWF prior to their departure for their new home in Utah. Invitations have gone out to many of their personal and professional acquaintances to help us say goodbye. Please join us to celebrate the countless contributions that Dale and Lois have made over the years. We will meet at the park just to the east of Bear Canyon Senior Center, starting at 5:30 pm. AWF will provide plates, utensils, cups and beverages. Bring a dish to share and lawn chairs for your use. Also, an RSVP to Richard Becker would be most helpful (255-7156 or crbecker@swcp.com).

Following the celebration, the AWF June General Meeting will convene at its regular place and time, in Room 6 of BCSC at 7:30 pm.

GENERAL MEETING - 7:30 PM

■ ■ ■ PROGRAM ■ ■ ■

OIL and GAS LEASING and DEVELOPMENT on PUBLIC LANDS

Pat Hester, Bureau of Land Management Regional Paleontologist, will review the oil and gas leasing process used by federal land management agencies, what development of energy stores means to the surface resource, and how this process fits into planning and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Pat, a former Environmental Protections Specialist, has 20 years of experience with the BLM (eleven years spent permitting oil and gas activities on public and tribal lands). She received her Bachelors Degree from the University of Texas-Austin and Masters of Science Degree in Geology from UNM. AWF has arranged this presentation to precede our Valle Vidal project outing scheduled for July 15-17, 2005, to provide insight into the current controversy over coal-bed methane drilling at this New Mexican natural treasure.

■ ■ ■ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ■ ■ ■

Dale and Lois Jones are leaving for a new home in the Price, Utah, area, having sold their property in Belen. At times like this, we speak of having mixed feelings about the departure of such valued friends. Granted, I have not known Dale and Lois as long as many of you, but I have no uncertain feelings or doubts about this wonderful couple moving on...they have given more than could be expected from any two people to further the concerns of wildlife and sportsmen. Their voices have been heard not just in AWF and in our state but on the national level as well. We wish them safe passage. Please join us in

celebrating the Jones' good fortune at the park just east of the Bear Canyon Senior Center. The party begins at 5:30 pm, Thursday, June 9, as noted above. Bring your favorite potluck dish and stories.

Afterwards, we will have our regular program at 7:30 pm. Pat Hester will present her experiences with oil and gas leasing on public land. This information should be helpful for AWF in deciding our level of participation in the Valle Vidal Forest Plan development.

Thinking of the Valle Vidal, our annual project is set for July 15-17. AWF will be partnering with the NM Wilderness Alliance, Valle Vidal Coalition, and NMWF. We are four distinct organizations with varied missions and objectives; however, each is committed to the proper use, management and care of Valle Vidal's resources. This "Team Up for Wildlife" project provides the opportunity to highlight the Valle Vidal and its value to a wide variety of user groups. As a consequence, it is important that we, as event hosts, muster our best turnout. Of course, we'll have fun in the sun and around the campfire too.

Regarding projects, do not forget our June 17-19th project at Cebolla Creek (details on last page). We started this project four years ago with some wood-picket induced-meander structures. The creek has narrowed and the banks are well vegetated, completely hiding the pickets. Come admire AWF's work and contribute your own efforts.

At the May general membership meeting, the changes to AWF's ByLaws recommended by the Board were approved, as were the dues rate increases (to go into effect in January 2006). However, even though the Board had been working on the amendments since January, some wording still needs minor tweaking. We will work on these changes, and put them out in time to vote at our December meeting.

— Gene Tatum, President

■ ■ ■ MAY BOARD MEETING IN BRIEF ■ ■ ■

AWF 2005 Board of Directors

Officers

President - Gene Tatum
Vice President - Bill Zeedyk
Secretary - Richard Becker
Treasurer - Glenda Muirhead
Past President - Dale Jones

Board Members

Chris Chadwick	Randy Isler
Barbara Coulter	Lois Jones
Larry Dwyer	Dennis Muirhead
Dale Hall	Luke Shelby
Jim Hubert	

Present: Larry Dwyer, Jim Hubert, Lois Jones, Dale Jones, Bill Zeedyk, Dennis Muirhead, Glenda Muirhead, Luke Shelby, Gene Tatum, Richard Becker, Barbara Coulter.

Legislative Update: Luke Shelby advised the NM Dept of Game and Fish usually hears from the Governor's office in June about items for consideration in the next legislative session.

NM Wildlife Federation News: Jeremy Vesbach, Exec. Dir. of NMWF, advised they received a grant from the Rocky Mountain Energy Campaign to support Jeremy in the position of Media Coordinator for the Valle Vidal Coalition. ■ Former President of the NM Oil and Gas Association is against drilling in the Valle Vidal. The 30-day comment period on "pre-scoping" for the Valle Vidal is the first chance to stop the drilling. The second chance will

be during the assessment period. Bill Zeedyk advised that he had been interviewed about the Valle Vidal article by a reporter with the Baltimore Sun, but isn't sure when the article will be printed. ■ Jeremy reported that NM Governor Bill Richardson attended the National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Governor Richardson received an award from NWF.

Projects Committee Report: June 4 "Trails Day" is Pecos Wilderness Project in conjunction with NM Wilderness Alliance. June 18 is the Cebolla Canyon Project. Gene Tatum has arranged for several kids from Talking Talons to help out here. This is an overnight trip with camping available. Dale Jones has talked to Joe Redden, Pecos Ranger District, about the horseback riding trip on the NMWF Turkey Preserve Property. We may do the horseback trip in June 2005 to plan for the future fencing project.

Other Items: Gene Tatum inquired whether AWF should join the Valle Vidal Coalition. Discussion followed that this matter be reviewed by the AWF Wildlife Issues Committee. ■ Richard Becker asked about the effective date for increases in dues. Glenda suggested we keep dues as is through Dec 2005. New dues schedule would take effect for 2006. Payment for renewal of existing AWF members would be due at December Annual Meeting (with 60-day grace period) for following calendar year January-December. Discussion followed about how to implement fee increases and calendar-year payment. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

■ ■ ■ MEET OUR MEMBERS ■ ■ ■

RICHARD W. BECKER, PhD

Richard is currently Secretary of AWF, and has previously served as President and Vice President.

BORN/GREW UP WHERE? Native New Mexican, born in Albuquerque.

AGE: 61

MARITAL STATUS: Divorced, with two grown children.

“SIGNIFICANT OTHER”: Carol Chavez

EDUCATION: Graduated from Albuquerque’s Valley High School in 1961. Earned a BS in 1965 from UNM; Master of Social Work in 1967 from Arizona State University; PhD in 2001 from UNM.

OCCUPATION: Clinical Social Worker in Oregon, California, Colorado, and New Mexico. Retired from VA Medical Center in 1996.

FAVORITE PLACE IN NM: Gila National Forest

FAVORITE VACATION DESTINATION: I enjoy all of New Mexico and Arizona.

FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES: Hiking, wildlife photography, hunting, fishing.

GREATEST ADVENTURE: Too many to count! I really enjoyed fly fishing for salmon in Alaska with Ron Madsen and Dennis Muirhead.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold; *Blue Latitudes* by Tony Horwitz.

FAVORITE MAGAZINE: *Western Horseman*

HOBBIES: Photography, AWF work projects.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS YOU BELONG TO: President, Albuquerque Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation; NM Riparian Council; NM Friends of the Forest; Environ. Educators Association of NM.

PERSONAL GOALS: To keep on learning. Promote the Leopold Education Project (as the NM State Coordinator).

AWF MEMBER SINCE: 1988

ORIGIN OF YOUR INTEREST IN WILDLIFE: Going fishing with my grandfather.

WHY DID YOU JOIN AWF? To learn more about wildlife in New Mexico.

GOALS FOR AWF: To educate the citizenry of New Mexico about the value of wildlife.



Richard with his first king salmon on the Kasilof River, AK - June 2004

AWF MEMBERSHIP REPORT - activity since January 2005

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Linda Barbour

Ken & Emily Brudos

Ted Bryant

Chuck Easton

Robert & Marge Gerber

Cecil & Sara Haas

Dale A. Hall

Jim Hines

Jim & Margie Hubert

Randy Isler

Richard Leonard

Cliff & Joyce Mendel

Larry & Mariane Miller

Dennis & Glenda Muirhead

Kurt Nolte & Bronwyn Wilson

Bob Nordstrum

Harold & Jean Olson

Jack Pardee

Marvin Price

Luke Shelby

Steve & Linda Slutz

Gene Tatum & Pat Hester

Philip & Aija Thacher

Bill Zeedyk

NEW MEMBERSHIP

John & Ann Harvell

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

■ ■ ■ TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS ■ ■ ■

June 4 – **PECOS WILDERNESS** – ATV exclusion activities with NM Wilderness Alliance.
June or July – Install turkey guzzler on private land with NM Wild Turkey Federation.
June 18 – **CEBOLLA CREEK** – Fence enclosure to protect spring on BLM land.
July 15-17 – **VALLE VIDAL** – Mini-exlosures around willow and alder on Gold Creek (new location).
August 19 – **VALLES CALDERA** – Revegetation activities with NM Trout & Wild Turkey Federation.
August – **RED RIVER** -- USFS Carson District with NM Wilderness Alliance and Amigos Bravos.
September 24 – **CEDRO CREEK** in Tijeras – Restore wetlands with USFS Sandia District (Beverly deGruyter), NM Museum of Natural History (Rebecca Salem), Quivira Coalition.
October 1 or 8 – **COLUMBINE/HONDO WILDERNESS** – Trail work with NM Wilderness Alliance.
October – **BEAR CANYON WETLANDS** – Dept. of Game & Fish Office.

To sign up for these projects, please contact Bill Zeedyk (281-9066 or bzcreekz@att.net) or Glenda Muirhead (281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com).

■ ■ ■ UPCOMING PROGRAMS ■ ■ ■

August 11 – Andy Iskra, Brett O'Haver, and Will Barnes on **Noxious Weeds**
September 8 – Gary Montoya, USFWS Refuge Manager for NM and Arizona
November 10 – Beverly deGruyter, **USFS "Cedro Creek Restoration Project"**
December 8 – AWF Annual Meeting/Potluck/Election of Officers and Directors
January 12, 2006 – Wildlife Services (Animal Damage Control) with Ken Podborny

Membership Renewal Application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

name(s) _____
address _____
city, state, zip _____
phone _____ email address _____

single membership \$20 (includes one NMWF membership) _____
family membership \$25 (includes one* NMWF membership) _____
*additional NMWF member (\$10/NMWF member) _____
contribution to AWF _____
Total _____

Thank you!

*Designate family member to be NMWF Member(s) _____

June's TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT ■ ■ ■ CEBOLLA CREEK ■ ■ ■

From Friday, June 17th through Sunday, June 19th, we will be performing our fourth year of work on Cebolla Creek on BLM land south of Grants. If you have not been here before, come check out this special area. In ten years this area had returned from a wet spot on the ground to wetlands sustaining at least a mile of perennial flow. Bring your gloves, sunhat, bug spray, sunscreen, lunch and water. For work around the creek rubber boots would handy (maybe "footy" would be more correct!). We will build some fence around Cebolla Spring and construct small rock structures and picket baffles/weirs, which are tools for induced meandering of streams. This is your chance to learn or get a refresher about these techniques from our own VP Bill Zeedyk, master of wet meadow restoration. We'll be partnering with a YCC group of young people from Talking Talons. Plan on a potluck supper Saturday night (Gene Tatum will grill burgers and brats), and pancakes for breakfast on Sunday! And later, take a hike to the cliffs across from the campsite to view a wall of rock art.

To get there: Travel west from Albuquerque on I-40 to mile marker 89; turn south onto State Highway 117 toward Quemado, travel about 25 miles (flanked by El Malpais on the west and sandstone bluffs on the east) to around mile marker 33, turn left across the cattle guard, follow AWF signs to the campsite approximately 5 miles on a semi-maintained dirt road. If you cannot make it Friday, try to arrive at the campsite by 9 am Saturday for departure to the work site. Please contact Bill Zeedyk (281-9066 or bzcreekz@att.net) or Glenda Muirhead (281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com) to sign up.

**There will be no AWF Board or General Membership Meeting for JULY.
Instead, please plan on participating in the Annual VALLE VIDAL
Project Outing, July 15-17. It's always lots of fun!!!**

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
PO BOX 1234
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103



AWF *July 2005* Newsletter

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

Organized in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources
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(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro, left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left.)

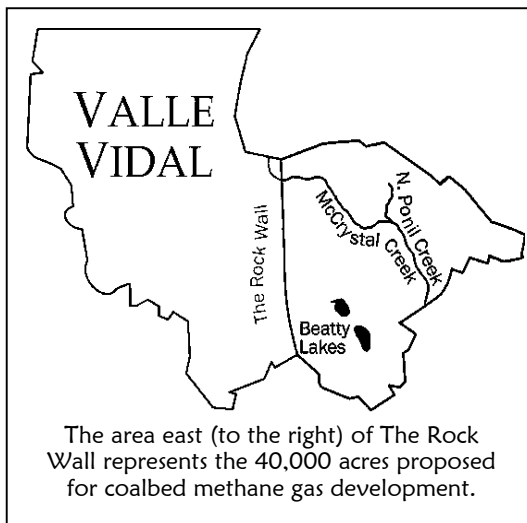
**There will be no AWF Board or General Membership Meeting for JULY.
Instead, please plan on participating in the Annual VALLE VIDAL
"TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE" Project Outing, July 15-17. Details on Page 2.**

■ ■ ■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■ ■ ■

In anticipation of AWF's July outing to Valle Vidal, here's some background information to ponder from the website of the Coalition for the Valle Vidal (vallevidal.com) about this incomparable place in New Mexico which is threatened by possible coalbed methane gas development:

In 1982, the Pennzoil Company donated 100,000 acres of Vermejo Park to the People of the United States through the Forest Service in the largest and most valuable donation of private land ever to the USFS. The area became known as the Valle Vidal Unit, named after what the Indians and Spanish referred to as "The Valley of Life." Managed by the Carson National Forest primarily for its wildlife, as well as for its outstanding scenic and recreational opportunities, Valle Vidal teems with abundant populations of mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, bald eagles, and native Rio Grande cutthroat trout. In addition, its vast alpine meadows provide critical habitat for the largest herd of elk in New Mexico. The Valle Vidal comprises the headwaters of numerous streams and tributaries of both the Rio Grande and Canadian Rivers. Both McCrystal Creek and North Ponil Creek have been recommended recently for Wild and Scenic Rivers protection.

To date, there is no comprehensive Forest Management Plan for the Valle Vidal. The Multiple Use Area Guide for the Valle Vidal, published in 1982, called for the creation of a Forest Management Plan for the Valle, but it was abandoned in the 1990's and never finished. So the Forest Service must prepare a Forest Plan "Amendment." As you already may know, the Forest Service has released its Notice of Intent, marking the beginning of the Environmental Impact Statement process to determine whether or not the Valle Vidal is made available for mineral leasing.



The Forest Service scoping process runs from June 15 through September 15, and for these 90 days the Forest Service will be taking public comment on the Notice of Intent. Write a letter to express your feelings. AWF's Board and interested members will be sitting down together to compile our concerns about wildlife habitat and those uses that affect habitat on the Valle Vidal. Please be thinking about what you would like AWF's official statement to express.

— Gene Tatum, President

"Team Up for Wildlife" Weekend at **VALLE VIDAL**

July 15, 16, & 17, 2005

Celebrate New Mexico's Natural Treasure!

Get ready for an exciting outdoor experience at the beautiful Valle Vidal in Carson National Forest. AWF has made an annual outing to this special place for the past 22 summers, working to restore wetlands and promote wildlife habitat. As part of a multi-agency project to conserve the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, we will install mini-exlosures in Comanche Creek to help reestablish riparian vegetation (willow-alder-cottonwood) along the streambanks to improve shading and reduce stream temperatures which are critically high for resident cutthroat. Led by nationally-known stream restoration specialist Bill Zeedyk, we will fasten woven wire to already-installed posts, and create instream structures to prevent erosion and reduce turbidity which harms the fish and their food supplies.

This year AWF partners with New Mexico Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, the Coalition for the Valle Vidal, and the US Forest Service – *but everyone is welcome!* Plan a family outing and fish in Shuree Pond or view the resident elk herd. Show your support for conservation of the Valle Vidal – appreciate the beauty and irreplaceable riches of this place – understand why so many citizens deplore the prospect of coal-bed methane drilling here.

This is a three-day event beginning on Friday, July 15, but you can arrive at your convenience. We'll camp outside of Shuree Lodge which has kitchen and dining facilities available for our use. The area can handle tents and small trailers.

In August, AWF will return to Valle Vidal for a second 2005 Project Outing. For this event, we'll camp at McCrystal Campground and work on the east side of the Valle where development is being proposed.

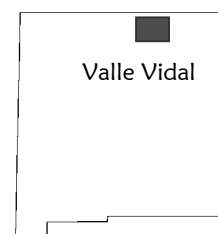
SAVE THESE DATES:
August 19, 20, & 21

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE COMING!!!
PLEASE HELP US PLAN – RSVP BY JULY 8th to Glenda at 281-2925 (gmuirhead1@msn.com) or Barbara at 332-8213 (coulter@unm.edu). Map and directions will be provided.

The project will take place primarily on Saturday, starting about 9:30 am. On Saturday evening, there will be a community dinner. AWF will grill hamburgers/veggie burgers and sausage/hot dogs, and will supply condiments and eating utensils. Bring along your favorite dish to share and join in the festivities! After dinner, learn about the history of this unique New Mexico wildland. On Sunday, enjoy a tour of the east side and see the splendor that could be lost to drilling.

.....
We welcome your help for the physically-demanding tasks, but we also encourage people to come and:

- take photographs
- distribute snacks and beverages
- set up the Saturday night meal
- meet members of other groups
- revel in all that the Valle Vidal has to offer!



RECENT "TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE" ACTIVITIES

PECOS WILDERNESS

June 4 – National Trails Day

Three AWF members joined a crew from the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance in the north section of the Pecos Wilderness to prevent illegal entry by ATVs on a trail leading to Serpent Lake. Barbara Coulter and Dennis and Glenda Muirhead helped Carson National Forest's Karen Cook, NMWA's Michael Scialdone and Nathan Newcomer, and a sizeable group of volunteers to install barriers blocking all but foot traffic from entering the path. Many holes were dug, concrete mixed and poured, large posts positioned, and guardrails bolted into place to complete the three solid structures. Meanwhile, some participants skillfully refurbished a rock-and-plank footbridge across a nearby creek, while others dragged and piled brush to further discourage ATVs from detouring around the barriers. Incidentally, NMWA provided all meals for this outing...how much easier can it get?!

CEBOLLA CANYON

June 17, 18, & 19

A large and energetic group of young people, plus several AWF members and family, gathered to continue AWF's efforts in this beautiful BLM area south of Grants. Gene Tatum and Talking Talons' Laurie Wearne brought along a YCC crew of about 20 to learn the skills of wet meadow restoration and fence construction. Led by Bill Zeedyk (assisted by his 9-year-old grandson Jason, Pat Hester, and Glenda Muirhead), several members of the group pounded cedar pickets into the streambed and interwove brush, creating a number of structures to capture sediment. AWF's Dale and Lyn Hall, along with their daughter and son, many YCC youth, and some BLM employees, helped extend the fence around Cebolla Spring. A tour of the area near the spring reveals the magical transformation that Bill has created with his expertise...wetland grasses are thriving where once there was desert. Come see for yourself next time!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 11 – Noxious Weeds Update by BLM's Andy Iskra, Brett O'Haver, and Will Barnes

[Meet at BLM Office, 435 Montano NE (BCSC will be closed for tile work)]

September 8 – Dr. Terry Riley of TRCA and The Wildlife Institute -- Congressional Update on Pending Federal Legislation Related to Wildlife & Conservation

October 13 -- Gary Montoya, USFWS Refuge Manager for NM and Arizona

November 10 – USFS Cedro Creek Restoration Project by Beverly deGruyter

December 8 – AWF Annual Meeting/Potluck Dinner/Election of Officers and Directors

January 12, 2006 – Wildlife Services: Animal Damage Control by Ken Podborny

February 9, 2006 – Mexican Wolf Recovery Program by John Mogart, Program Coordinator for USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

July 15-17 – VALLE VIDAL I – Mini-exlosures around willow and alder on Comanche Creek.

August 19-21 – VALLE VIDAL II – Project focus on East Side of Valle Vidal. Saturday: Wet meadow restoration, review of Pennzoil's donation. Sunday: Continue mini-exlosures on Comanche Creek.

September 24 – CEDRO CREEK in Tijeras – Restore wetlands with USFS Sandia District (Beverly deGruyter), NM Museum of Natural History (Rebecca Salem), Quivira Coalition.

October 1 – COLUMBINE/HONDO WILDERNESS – Trail work with NM Wilderness Alliance.

October – BEAR CANYON WETLANDS – Dept. of Game & Fish Office.

To sign up for these projects, please contact Bill Zeedyk (281-9066 or bzcreekz@att.net) or Glenda Muirhead (281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ~ Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

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

Dues \$ _____

*Additional NMWF member \$10 _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

➔ PLEASE SELECT ONE :

- AWF membership only [total dues go to AWF]
- AWF + 1 New Mexico Wildlife Federation membership [\$10 go to NMWF for each voting member*, remainder to AWF]

Designate NMWF member(s*) _____

**AWF 2005
Board of
Directors**

Officers

President - Gene Tatum
 Vice President - Bill Zeedyk
 Secretary - Richard Becker
 Treasurer - Glenda Muirhead

Board Members

Chris Chadwick	Randy Isler
Barbara Coulter	Lois Jones
Larry Dwyer	Dale Jones
Dale Hall	Dennis Muirhead
Jim Hubert	Luke Shelby

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
 PO BOX 1234
 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

AWF *August 2005* Newsletter

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

Organized in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

AWF meets the second Thursday of every month except July at Bear Canyon Senior Center, 4645 Pitt NE, Room 6

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2005, 7:30 P.M.
LOCATION: Bureau of Land Management Office
435 Montano NE, west of I-25
PROGRAM: Grassland Monitoring and Decision-Making

Will Barnes will discuss diversity in high-elevation vegetative communities. Will is currently responsible for the vegetative monitoring program on the Valles Caldera, authoring a number of reports on Riparian Vegetation Monitoring and Rangeland Monitoring for the Valles Caldera National Preserve. He moved to Santa Fe, NM, in 1989 to practice environmental law. A year later his father also moved to Santa Fe to join the law practice, and their first case involved a BLM grazing permit in Arizona. From this case, Will learned the importance of quantitative monitoring studies, and he has since established himself as a monitoring studies expert. **Meeting will be held at BLM Office, 435 Montano NE, as BCSC is closed.**

■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

Earlier this week, I read a recent article in which the New Mexico Game and Fish Department stated that, due to encounters with people, six bears had to be relocated and three had to be euthanized. The article explained that bears were foraging around people's homes to prepare for winter, because the drought has cut their food supply. AWF members Dennis and Glenda Muirhead observed bear on two different occasions this past July in their yard on the east side of the Manzanos.

Wildlife habitat is certainly being impacted by our development. Continued expansion appears to be inevitable. Some development is more intrusive to wildlife than others types. Rural subdivisions become human habitat instead of wildlife habitat. Wildlife, especially bear and mountain lion, must avoid people to exist in the human environment.

As a result, large areas of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat like the Valle Vidal are more important than ever. We hope that you will support the withdrawal of the Valle Vidal from mineral development which is the only sure way to prevent activities such as coal bed methane drilling. Governor Richardson and Senator Bingaman support protection of the Valle Vidal and Representative Udall is trying to introduce legislation to withdraw the area from minerals development. Write our Congressmen and express your concern for protection of the Valle Vidal.

Our July outing at Valle Vidal drew an impressive 37 people. Many of them were not formally affiliated with any group, but they chose to devote a weekend to habitat conservation and improvement efforts. AWF, NMWF, and its partners plan a BIG EVENT at Valle Vidal on August 19-20-21 – don't miss this one!

— Gene Tatum, President

DID YOU KNOW? ■■■

...The kinds and numbers of animals in the wild have changed constantly through the centuries. Without human interference, these changes occur slowly. When people become involved, the pace quickens. In the Sandias, some species, such as the grizzly bear and pronghorn antelope, were rapidly eliminated by human encroachment. Other animals disappeared and then reappeared, either by coming in from adjacent areas, or when they were reintroduced by human beings (black bear, Rocky Mountain bighorn, and mountain lion are examples of the latter).

Some animals in the Albuquerque area have not been adversely affected by disruption resulting from the growth and urbanization of the past half century. Our state bird the roadrunner, for example, lives successfully on the lizards, sparrows, and other small animals found in urban rubble, and can frequently be seen sunning itself on concrete pavements. Hummingbirds abound in the valley, mesas, and mountains during the warm months. Kestrels, flycatchers, and nighthawks are widely present and consume huge quantities of insects in the summer. These are all creatures that have effectively adapted when their natural habitats were disturbed and replaced by the built environment.

Other animals, such as the black hawk, have not fared as well when their nesting sites were eliminated from riparian areas by human efforts to control wetlands with salt cedars [tamarisks]. These tamarisks, originally imported to reclaim swampy regions, have now been recognized as an uncontrollable species, thereby becoming another example of the danger that accompanies the introduction of exotic (not indigenous) species into a new environment...

—Excerpted/Adapted from *Albuquerque's Environmental Story: Animals and Plants* by Larry Caudill et al.

August "Team Up for Wildlife" Celebrate VALLE VIDAL! August 19, 20, & 21



AWF and its partners return to beautiful Valle Vidal for the second time this summer, this time on the eastern side where the threat of mineral development looms. NMWF has invited political notables, regional officials, and press representatives to this event to focus attention on the issue of preserving and protecting the Valle Vidal from coal-bed methane drilling. Several distinguished guests, among them Governor Bill Richardson, will speak at community forums on Friday at 4 PM and Saturday at 5 PM at the Group Campsite near McCrystal Campground. Learn the history of Pennzoil's gift to the American people, hear the viewpoints of local leaders, influence the future of the "Valley of Life."

AWF's project activity on Saturday, led by Bill Zeedyk, master of riparian restoration, will involve building rock structures to stabilize wet meadows, at a location a few miles east of the campsite, along Forest Road 1950. On Sunday, those who wish to will return to the July project site on Comanche Creek, to continue installing exclosures as part of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout habitat improvement effort. In addition to AWF's conservation projects, NMWF has planned outdoor adventures such as day hikes, equestrian trail rides, and fishing for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. And don't forget the Vermejo Park Ranch tour on Monday. Join us for this exciting and action-packed weekend! – More information to follow.

PLEASE HELP US PLAN – RSVP BY August 12th to Glenda at 281-2925 (gmuirhead1@msn.com) or Barbara at 332-8213 (coulter@unm.edu). Further details, map and directions will be provided.

Show your support for conservation of the Valle Vidal – Appreciate the beauty and irreplaceable riches of this place – Understand why so many citizens deplore the prospect of coal-bed methane drilling here.

■ ■ ■ TOUR OF VERMEJO PARK RANCH ■ ■ ■ MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2005

Here's an exciting opportunity for members of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation and its "Team Up for Wildlife" partners: AWF member Jim Hubert has arranged for a comprehensive tour of Vermejo Park Ranch, owned by Ted Turner and located adjacent to Valle Vidal, on Monday, August 22.

AWF's second 2005 "Team Up for Wildlife" Weekend at Valle Vidal will be held August 19, 20 & 21. We're hoping that, by setting the tour in conjunction with this August outing and giving plenty of advance notice, everyone can make arrangements to participate in both the habitat projects and the tour and still get home by Monday evening.

The tour will be an on-the-ground review of the entire management program at the Ranch, including oil and gas, grasslands, forest, endangered species, recreation and more. It will involve an excursion of at least half a day, beginning at the gate just south of Costilla Reservoir and ending at the gate to Valle Vidal east of McCrystal Campground. We will need to provide our own transportation, leaving by caravan at 8:30 AM and returning in mid-afternoon. Lunch may be included, depending on the number of participants.

A head count is necessary! Please inform Jim or Margie Hubert of AWF by August 9th if you plan on taking this tour: email jmhubert@msn.com or phone 505-286-2122.



AWF 2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS: President-Gene Tatum ■ Vice President-Bill Zeedyk ■ Secretary-Richard Becker ■ Treasurer-Glenda Muirhead **BOARD MEMBERS:** Barbara Coulter ■ Larry Dwyer ■ Dale Hall ■ Jim Hubert ■ Randy Isler ■ Dale Jones ■ Lois Jones ■ Dennis Muirhead ■ Luke Shelby

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

August 19-21 – VALLE VIDAL II – Project focus on East Side of Valle Vidal. Saturday: Wet meadow restoration, review of Pennzoil's donation. Sunday: Continue exclosures on Comanche Creek.

September 24 – CEDRO CREEK in Tijeras – Restore wetlands with USFS Sandia District (Beverly deGruyter), NM Museum of Natural History (Rebecca Salem), Quivira Coalition.

October 1 – COLUMBINE/HONDO WILDERNESS – Trail work with NM Wilderness Alliance.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 11 – Discussion on Grassland Monitoring and Decision-Making by Will Barnes. **Meet at BLM Office, 435 Montano NE** (BCSC is closed for renovation)

September 8 – Dr. Terry Riley of TRCA and The Wildlife Institute – Congressional Update on Pending Federal Legislation Related to Wildlife & Conservation

October 13 – Gary Montoya, USFWS Refuge Manager for NM and Arizona

November 10 – USFS Cedro Creek Restoration Project by Beverly deGruyter

December 8 – AWF Annual Meeting/Potluck Dinner/Election of Officers and Directors

January 12, 2006 – Wildlife Services: Animal Damage Control by Ken Podborny

ALSO: Luke Shelby, Assistant Director, NM Department of Game and Fish
– Legislative Update for the Short Session of the NM Legislature

February 9, 2006 – Mexican Wolf Recovery Program by John Mogart, Program Coordinator for USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery

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 and your full dues payment goes to AWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes one voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

Student [under 18] \$10 ◀ [AWF Membership Only]

Individual \$25 Dues \$ _____

Family \$35 *Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Sustaining \$50-\$99 Contribution \$ _____

Patron \$100 **TOTAL \$** _____

Lifetime \$500 ◀ [One-time Payment]

THANK YOU!

➔ **PLEASE SELECT ONE :**

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
PO BOX 1234
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

AWF *September 2005* Newsletter

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

Organized in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

AWF meets the second Thursday of every month except July at BEAR CANYON SENIOR CENTER, 4645 Pitt NE, Room 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro, left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left.)

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, September 8, 2005, 7:30 P.M.

PROGRAM: - An Update on the Open Fields Bill
- State Comprehensive Conservation Plans

GUEST SPEAKER: Terry Z. Riley, PhD

Terry Riley is Director of Conservation Policy for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), whose policy initiatives include expanding public access for hunting and fishing through "Open Fields," conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, and increasing funding for fish and wildlife management.

The public's desire for hunting and other outdoor recreational opportunities increasingly exceeds the amount of land available for such activities. **Terry Riley will discuss the status of Open Fields Legislation,** which seeks to provide a voluntary, incentive-based program under which farmers, ranchers, and tribal members will be encouraged to make their land available for access by the public. The legislation calls for funding to bolster existing state access programs and encourages the establishment of new "walk-in" programs.



Terry will also detail how TRCP, led by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Nature Conservancy, and The Wildlife Society, will help coordinate efforts to make as many hunters and anglers as possible aware of the importance of **state comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies** to hunting and fishing, and the importance of adequate funding for full implementation of the state strategies.

A professional biologist for over 20 years, Terry earned a BS in Fish and Wildlife Biology from Kansas State University, an MS in Wildlife Science from NMSU, and an MS and PhD in Zoology from The Ohio State University. He worked as a wildlife biologist for the US Forest Service and as a wildlife research biologist for the state of Iowa, before going to work in 1994 for the Wildlife Management Institute in Washington, DC. He served as Director of Conservation for the WMI until January 2004, when he became TRCP's first Vice President of Policy. Terry and his wife Nancy, new members of AWF, now live in Tijeras.

■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

The August Valle Vidal outing was an exceptional event. AWF members Barbara Coulter, Pat Hester, Glenda and Dennis Muirhead, and Bill Zeedyk made major contributions to the success of the weekend. All who attended the event were impressed (or depressed) by the presentation by Bill Brown, President of the Valle Vidal Coalition, which used aerial photographic views of the area with coalbed methane facilities (roads and wells) projected onto the surface at various well spacings. Even with one well per 160 acres, the minimum spacing, the amount of surface disturbance seen on Mr. Brown's overview map boggled the imagination.

Thanks to Jim Hubert, AWF Board member, for arranging a guided tour of Ted Turner's Vermejo Park Ranch for those of us who could stick around until Monday. The tour provided an overview of their coalbed methane program, though we did not make a stop at the collection points where the spider web of gas lines come together. Still, the tour was interesting and thought-provoking.



PHOTO Gene Tatum

As we entered the area from the south, the roads were very obvious, with multiple side roads leading to well heads. We were informed that existing roads were used as much as possible, but new roads of .4 to .5 miles were required for each well location. Although the roads were ditched and crowned, there did not appear to be sufficient cross-drainage construction to keep the water from draining down the road. This was evident on the steeper grades over 6% where erosion patterns were clearly defined in the roadways. The tour guide mentioned that they were working on improving road locations and construction standards.

At our first stop, we were given a good technical summary of the coalbed methane extraction process from drilling to piping the product away. It became apparent that Mr. Turner's staff of three to four working on agreement modifications, compliance, and monitoring were top notch professionals. Extensive technical information was presented and many good questions were asked, which helped all of us have a better understanding of the operation on Vermejo Park Ranch.

A key point was that Mr. Turner was astute to the problems of split estate – the surface rights owned by one individual, and the subsurface minerals rights owned by another. As a consequence, Mr. Turner's purchase of Vermejo Park Ranch was contingent upon the development of a Minerals Extraction Agreement. The following is a list of some of the Agreement's provisions with a mention of how this compares to similar activities on public lands:

1. Approximately 60% of the 660,000-acre area would not be developed. A portion would not be developed due to geology, i.e., no coalbed methane presence, and sensitive areas and prime recreation (hunting and fishing) areas were not included. *This is different on Federal Public Lands, where recreational use such as hunting and fishing would not be adequate reason to prevent leasing.*
2. Well spacing would be restricted to 160 acres. *On Federal Public Lands, well spacing can be reduced to as low as 40-acre spacing to assure that methane is efficiently extracted.*
3. Bonding for reclamation is set at 120% of the estimated cost and is reevaluated each year. *Historical reclamation on Federal Public Lands has been a problem due to inadequate bonding requirements. Currently, millions of dollars in public funds are being considered as a means to reclaim abandoned well heads in the Carlsbad area.*
4. During the hunting season, drilling operations would be limited to the hours between 9 AM and 3 PM. *On Federal Public Lands, drilling normally runs continuously around the clock until completed.*
5. The number of wells is limited to 1600 at any time; no more than 1000 would be in operation at any time, leaving 600 for ongoing reclamation. This is similar to the unitization agreement proposed on the Otero Mesa lease parcels to minimize surface disturbance. Industry advocates have decried this as overly restrictive.



PHOTO Gene Tatum

We were informed that, in spite of all the stipulations and payments, Mr. Turner would rather not have the development on Vermejo Park Ranch.

The East Side of the Valle Vidal is 40,000 acres, less than 1.5% of the area of the Raton Basin, and as such would produce a relatively small amount of methane gas. Most of the gas production would in all likelihood be headed to high-priced, larger urban marketplaces and would provide little relief to New Mexicans. Major pipelines in the area go to Colorado and Texas. Is it worth the risk to impose this type of concentrated surface disturbance on such a small ecologically-sensitive area belonging to the people of the United States?

The Valle Vidal Great Outdoor Adventure — A BIG SUCCESS!

An estimated 100+ diverse people gathered under the big tent near Valle Vidal's Ring Place Meadow on Friday evening, August 19, for a Community Forum featuring speakers ranging from New Mexico's Governor to the Director of NM's Game & Fish Department to the former president of the NM Oil and Gas Association.

Governor Bill Richardson, whose helicopter touched down 300 yards east of the tent, greeted friends and citizens as he proceeded to the podium, where he vowed once again to oppose coalbed methane drilling on the eastern 40,000 acres of Valle Vidal. The forum's other speakers echoed the Governor's comments, extolling the irreplaceable beauty and singular qualities of the region. After the evening's presentations, AWF provided food and beverages for the crowd.

Overnight campers were ready for Saturday's activities which included hiking, fishing, or horseback-riding. A contingent of 35+ headed to Lookout Canyon to participate in AWF's project activities, assembling rock structures to control erosion in the stream beside the main road.



PHOTO Dennis Muirhead

Under the guidance of Bill Zeedyk and Craig Sponholtz, this group of energetic volunteers enjoyed a productive, rewarding, and *fun* day!

Saturday evening, about 50 people gathered to hear Valle Vidal history from Bill Zeedyk and Fred Galley, both US Forest Service retirees involved in laying the groundwork for the acquisition from Pennzoil. Speakers from the Forest Service and NM Department Game & Fish offered further insights as a bountiful potluck supper ensued. William Brown of the Coalition for the Valle Vidal capped off the evening with a computer-graphics presentation that created quite an impact, offering facts and photos to demonstrate visually the effects of coalbed methane drilling.

On Sunday, AWF returned to Comanche Creek with 16 volunteers, continuing the fencing project to improve habitat for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. And on Monday, 20 people toured Ted Turner's Vermejo Park Ranch. It was a great weekend!

Many loads of rock went into building this erosion-defying structure in Lookout Canyon on the east side of Valle Vidal.



PHOTO Dennis Muirhead

A huge thank-you to AWF's Gene Tatum, Pat Hester, Barbara Coulter, Dennis & Glenda Muirhead, and Bill Zeedyk, NMWF's Oscar Simpson and Jeremy Vesbach, and NWF's Marijke Unger for their innumerable efforts to make this event a success. Thanks also to the AWF members and their families who lent a hand, especially the Blairs, the Leonards, the Huberts, and the Mendels.

Gov. Richardson's Special Announcement!

Waters of the Valle Vidal nominated as Outstanding National Resource Water

A partnership between the NM Dept of Game & Fish, NM Environment Dept-Surface Water Quality Bureau, and NM Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Dept-State Forestry proposes "to nominate all waters of the Valle Vidal under authority of the Clean Water Act as Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). ONRWs are waters that possess outstanding ecological or recreational values...The headwater streams of the Valle Vidal flow into two major drainages, the Rio Grande and South Canadian...Nomination of the waters of the Valle Vidal as ONRW may help guide the approval process for future activities that would affect water quality. [Oil and gas development] has the potential to decrease water quality through sedimentation from road building and high use of forest roads,...depletion of groundwater levels, and discharge of water and pollutants."

The partners "believe that designation of the waters of the Valle Vidal as ONRW will help conserve the existing conditions and the special qualities of the Valle Vidal into the future."

Complete text may be obtained from the NMDG&F website www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Beaver at Cebolla Canyon? Sure...with some help!

About three weeks ago, a beaver set up residence in Cebolla Creek, relocated from the Corrales irrigation ditch system. Provided by Dale Hall, NM Department of Game & Fish and AWF Board member, the animal would have been shot as a nuisance beaver if not trapped and transferred. Andy Iskra, BLM Wildlife Biologist and AWF member, Chandra Monk, BLM Natural Resource Specialist at El Malpais National Conservation Area, and Gene Tatum, retired BLMer and AWF President, transported the beaver to Cebolla Canyon where many AWF members have participated in riparian and wetlands restoration projects over the past 5 years.

PHOTO Gene Tatum



Andy releases the beaver into a pool.
New life for the beaver will improve the creek.

This beaver relocation has been ten years in the making. In 1994, Cebolla Creek was just a dry, incised arroyo fed by a small spring. Through the acquisition of private

land and closure of the area to livestock, the BLM has enabled the small spring to become a cienega presently covering over 30 acres, and still expanding. The creek now has several perennial reaches, and riparian vegetation continues to increase as the water table along the creek continues to rise. As long as habitat is available, the BLM in cooperation with NMDG&F and AWF will continue to relocate beaver here until there is a self-sustaining population.



PHOTO Gene Tatum

The beaver pond will raise the water table, creating a wetlands area.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS – Only Two More Chances to Get Out Into the Field this Year!

September 24 – CEDRO CREEK in Tijeras – Restore wetlands with USFS Sandia District (Beverly deGruyter), NM Museum of Natural History (Rebecca Salem), Quivira Coalition.

October 1 – COLUMBINE/HONDO WILDERNESS – Trail work with NM Wilderness Alliance.

Contact Glenda at 281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com or Barbara at 332-8213 or coulter@unm.edu for information and to sign up.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 8 – Dr. Terry Riley of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: “An Update on the Open Fields Bill” and “State Comprehensive Conservation Plans”

October 13 – Gary Montoya, USFWS Refuge Supervisor of all National Wildlife Refuges in Arizona and New Mexico

November 10 – Beverly deGruyter presents the USFS Cedro Creek Restoration Project

December 8 – AWF Annual Meeting/Potluck Dinner/Election of Officers and Directors

January 12, 2006 – Wildlife Services: Animal Damage Control by Ken Podborny

PLUS: Luke Shelby, Assistant Director, NM Department of Game & Fish: Legislative Update for the Short Session of the NM Legislature

February 9, 2006 – Mexican Wolf Recovery Program by John Mogart, Program Coordinator for USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery



AWF 2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS: President-Gene Tatum ■ Vice President-Bill Zeedyk ■ Secretary-Richard Becker ■ Treasurer-Glenda Muirhead **BOARD MEMBERS:** Barbara Coulter ■ Larry Dwyer ■ Dale Hall ■ Jim Hubert ■ Randy Isler ■ Dennis Muirhead ■ Luke Shelby

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 and your full dues payment goes to AWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____
address _____
city, state, zip _____
phone _____ email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student [under 18] | \$10 | ◀ [AWF Membership Only] | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 | | Dues \$ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$35 | | *Second NMWF Member \$10 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$50-\$99 | | Contribution \$ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100 | | TOTAL \$ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime | \$500 | ◀ [One-time Payment] | | THANK YOU! |

➔ PLEASE SELECT ONE :

- AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY
- AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



Protecting New Mexico's wildlife
and natural resources since 1914

AWF Newsletter

OCTOBER 2005

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

AWF meets the second Thursday of every month except July at BEAR CANYON SENIOR CENTER, 4645 Pitt NE, Room 6 (North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro, left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left.)

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, October 13, 2005, 7:30 P.M.
PROGRAM: OUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
-- New Mexico Style!
GUEST SPEAKER: Gary Montoya, USFWS

Join us at AWF's October meeting to welcome Gary Montoya, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Supervisor for Arizona and New Mexico. Learn more about these special places dedicated to conservation and recovery of wildlife and wildlife habitat, with abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation and appreciation of the natural world. Hear how you can celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 10-16, with a backcountry tour October 15 at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, to explore geology and native plants.

Mr. Montoya's career with the USFWS has been varied, including positions at the Bosque del Apache NWR and San Andres NWR; Alaska Maritime NWR in Homer, Alaska; Ouray NWR in Utah; Kern NWR Complex in California; and the Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR in Texas. He has a B.S. Degree in Wildlife Science from NMSU. He enjoys hiking, hunting, fishing, reading fiction, gardening, carpentry, and photography.

■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

Reviewing the goals we established earlier this year for 2005 and beyond, I see progress in many areas while recognizing the need for persistence in others. Our efforts have increased AWF's name recognition among other conservation-oriented organizations locally and, particularly as a result of the highly-successful Valle Vidal events this summer, at the state level and higher—AWF has made a favorable impression on many at the National Wildlife Federation. We can continue to build membership through on-the-ground projects, environmental education, and the informative programs at our general meetings.

Achieved

- ◆ Four Committees were created: Projects, Wildlife Issues, Programs, and Communications. Additionally, the Membership Enhancement Committee has functioned as an oversight committee. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcome.
- ◆ AWF's Bylaws were successfully amended. A minor adjustment in the membership structure will be acted upon by vote at the Annual Meeting in December.
- ◆ NMWF responded to our request for financial assistance by providing \$300 for our July Valle Vidal project, and by funding the August Valle Vidal Event.
- ◆ The AWF Display Board was updated.

Still To Do

- ◆ We planned to develop an information package to send to other groups to encourage collaboration with AWF. This task got superseded by critical planning needs for this summer's project outings.
- ◆ We need to work on ways to recognize and reward our volunteers.
- ◆ We still want to put together a "traveling trunk" for community presentations, and develop AWF promotional items for sale or give-away.

Please give some serious thought to why you joined the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation. What do you want to GET from the group? What do you want to GIVE to the group? It takes many people to build a viable, effective organization. You can be one of them.

— Gene Tatum, President

DID YOU KNOW?...

Here are some interesting facts about **WETLANDS**:

- ◆ Wetlands are being destroyed at a rate of 35 acres an hour. Since the first European settlers colonized North America, we have lost well over 50 percent of our wetlands.
- ◆ Wetlands provide tasty foods for people, including cranberries, mint, wild rice, and of course, seafood, like oysters, shrimp and crabs. Even the pollen of cattails is edible.
- ◆ Over 60% of commercially harvested fish rely on wetlands for at least part of their lifestyle.
- ◆ About 43% of endangered and threatened animals and plants in the United States depend on wetlands in some way.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING IN BRIEF

Gene Tatum, President, called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm. Also present were Bill Zeedyk, Glenda Muirhead, Barbara Coulter, and Richard W. Becker. Guests included Jeremy Vesbach, NMWF, and Dr. Terry Z. Riley of TRCP, guest speaker. Also in attendance was Toby Rosenblatt, soon-to-be AWF member. Due to the lack of a quorum, AWF BOD convened as a "Committee of the whole."

The Committee focused on review and discussion of the Valle Vidal Scoping Concerns Letter for USFS. Committee members reviewed each item of concern as presented in the draft letter previously provided to AWF members. These suggested changes will be incorporated in the revised draft and distributed to AWF BOD and members for a final review. The final version will be mailed to meet the USFS' September 15 deadline.

There was discussion about presenting AWF's recommendations to New Mexico's Congressional Delegation along with a request for introduction of Federal legislation to designate the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest as a Special Management Unit with prohibition on coalbed methane drilling. Gene Tatum, Bill Zeedyk, and Richard Becker offered to represent AWF.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

A Little Fun

A crowd of cows is called a *herd*. Wolves run in *packs*; fish swim in *schools*; and bees fly in *swarms*. Did you know, though, that there are special names for different groups of birds?

Here's an example...a *murder* of crows.

Can you match the variety of bird with the appropriate term?

(Answers to quiz are on next page.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Crows (another term) | A. Parliament |
| 2. Geese | B. Rafter |
| 3. Starlings | C. Watch |
| 4. Pheasants | D. Peep |
| 5. Owls | E. Exaltation |
| 6. Flamingos | F. Gaggle |
| 7. Snipe | G. Charm |
| 8. Chickens | H. Siege |
| 9. Finches | I. Wisp |
| 10. Quail | J. Gulp |
| 11. Larks | K. Sord |
| 12. Cormorants | L. Congress |
| 13. Peacocks | M. Stand |
| 14. Ducks | N. Nye |
| 15. Mallards | O. Muster |
| 16. Nightingales | P. Covey |
| 17. Turkeys | Q. Murmuration |
| 18. Herons | R. Paddling |

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

With summer over, AWF's project season has come to a close. Our final project on Saturday, September 24, was led by Beverly deGruyter, USFS, at a meadow that is part of the Cedro Creek watershed in Tijeras. Despite the meager turnout, NMDG&F's Dale Hall, Bill Zeedyk, Dennis and Glenda Muirhead, and local resident Valerie Smith joined Beverly in strewing a substantial quantity of cut brush across the meadow and into drainage cuts to reduce erosion and encourage seed germination, producing feed vegetation for wildlife, notably deer and turkey. This project, a NM Habitat Stamp Program site, is close to home, so future visits to monitor the effectiveness of our efforts will be a simple undertaking.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

2006**2005**

November 10 – Beverly deGruyter presents the USFS Cedro Creek Restoration Project

December 8 – AWF Annual Meeting/Potluck Dinner/Election of Officers and Directors for 2006

January 12 – Wildlife Services: Animal Damage Control by Ken Podborny

PLUS: Luke Shelby, Assistant Director, NM Department of Game & Fish: Legislative Update for the Short Session of the NM Legislature

February 9 – Mexican Wolf Recovery Program by John Mogart, Program Coordinator for USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery

AWF MEMBERSHIP REPORT

activity since June 2005

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Richard W. Becker, PhD
Barbara Coulter
Jeffrey A. Davis
Beverly deGruyter
Dale & Lois Jones
Lawrence Smith

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Judy Chaddick
Terry & Nancy Riley
Toby Rosenblatt



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- Secretary-Richard Becker
- Treasurer-Glenda Muirhead

BOARD MEMBERS:

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- Larry Dwyer
- Dale Hall
- Jim Hubert
- Randy Isler
- Dennis Muirhead
- Luke Shelby

ANSWERS TO BIRD GROUP QUIZ ON PAGE 2

1-L	a congress of crows
2-F	a gaggle of geese
3-Q	a murmuration of starlings
4-N	a nye of pheasants
5-A	a parliament of owls
6-M	a stand of flamingos
7-I	a wisp of snipe
8-D	a peep of chickens
9-G	a charm of finches
10-P	a covey of quail
11-E	an exaltation of larks
12-J	a gulp of cormorants
13-O	a muster of peacocks
14-R	a paddling of ducks
15-K	a sord of mallards
16-C	a watch of nightingales
17-B	a rafter of turkeys
18-H	a siege of herons

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
P.O. BOX 1234
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103



Protecting New Mexico's wildlife
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AWF Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2005

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GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 10, 2005, 7:30 P.M.
PROGRAM: CEDRO CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT
GUEST SPEAKER: Beverly deGruyter, USFS

In past years, AWF volunteers have engaged in various riparian restoration projects on Cedro Creek, south of Tijeras along Hwy 337 (Old South 14). In part because of these efforts, directed by Bill Zeedyk, portions of the creek are now perennial and wet meadows are recovering. Beverly deGruyter, Wildlife Biologist with the US Forest Service and AWF member, will describe how Cedro Creek has been chosen as a riparian and wet meadow restoration demonstration area by the Quivira Coalition.

Funded by a grant from the NM Surface Water Quality Bureau through the EPA, this two-year project will involve school children and their teachers in an "outdoor classroom," along with other partners such as AWF, the New Mexico Riparian Council, and the NM Museum of Natural History. The focus of these efforts will be on continuing Cedro Creek restoration and on developing seminars around Bill's innovative, self-sustaining techniques to train a group of restoration specialists. AWF plans future one-day "Team Up for Wildlife" project outings to this nearby location...Learn how you can participate to help restore and monitor two miles of stream and create about 16 acres of wetlands and meadows.

This presentation was originally scheduled for our February 2005 meeting, but unfortunate circumstances (we arrived to find the Bear Canyon Center unexpectedly closed!) forced cancellation of that evening's program. Beverly has graciously agreed to a "return engagement" this month for the benefit of our members, friends, and families. Invite your neighbors, too!

■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

Recently, my daughter Sara and I had a wonderful opportunity to visit the area around Madison, Wisconsin, for the first time. We hit the road for Madison on October 7th, during Sara's fall break from UNM. Our purpose was to visit a friend and tour selected college campuses in the area. Sara finishes at UNM in the spring of 2006 and is interested in graduate school in the Great Lakes area.

Our friend is a PhD student in Psychology at UW in Madison and lives in a small apartment within walking distance from the campus along the shore of Lake Mendota. The campus and downtown Madison (the State Capital) are intermingled. As a consequence vehicle parking, especially during daylight hours, is next to impossible. Sara and I took this as our clue to get away from the campus/down town area as much as possible during the day.

What a beautiful place. We witnessed the broad leaf trees change colors while we were there. The glacial lakes, the rivers and the tall grass prairies provide beautiful and diverse landscapes. The dairy and farm products are excellent. The ice cream is rich and creamy...the taste is very close to Italian gelato.

Our first day trip was to the Ringling Brothers Circus Museum. This Museum was a great history lesson. The development of the circuses in the U.S. parallels the transformation of our country by the industrial revolution. The circus developed from hundreds of small, animal-pulled wagon outfits traveling to small areas into a single large national circus traveling by train. The passing of the circus parade and big top is well illustrated at the museum.

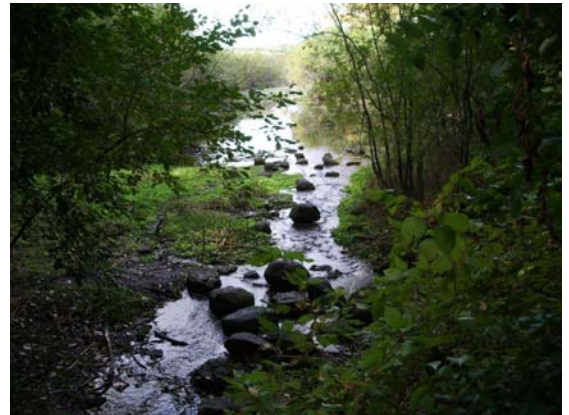


WHOOPING CRANES AT ICF

Our next stop was at the International Crane Foundation (ICF). The ICF was founded in 1973 to protect the world's 15 species of crane and their wetland and grassland homes. All 15 species are present in the ICF headquarters outside of Baraboo. Sara and I learned that the Whooping Crane program developed in Idaho which led birds to the Bosque del Apache by ultra-light was flawed and abandoned. The young whoopers were imprinted by Sand Hill Crane surrogate parents. As the whoopers thought they were Sand Hill Cranes, they tried to breed with the Sand Hills.

The ICF built on the Idaho program. They have developed an elaborate behavior imprinting program using humans dressed as whoopers to teach survival behavior. The result is young birds following the human-whooper flying an ultra-light to their winter home in Florida. For further information, visit the ICF website, www.savingcranes.org.

We also visited the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison. While looking through the Arboretum bookstore, I found and purchased a copy of "Aldo Leopold's Southwest" edited by David E. Brown and Neil B. Carmony and published by the University of New Mexico Press. The book, whose Foreword was written by Dale A. Jones, is comprised of a series of articles written from 1915 to 1948. The early articles are the roots of the development of Game Management, the predecessor of Wildlife Management. The following brief chronology is paraphrased from the Editor's Notes in the book:



BIG SPRING AT THE UW ARBORETUM, MADISON, WI

In 1924, Mr. Leopold left the southwest for the associate director job of the Forest Service's Forest Product's Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. In 1933, "Game Management", a book started in the southwest, was published. This book was the first comprehensive text for this new science. In the same year his book was published, Mr. Leopold was awarded a professorship in Game Management at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

The book discusses the organization of more than a dozen loosely affiliated sportsman clubs by Mr. Leopold in 1911 to form the American Game Preservation Association (AGPA). AGPA evolved into the National Wildlife Federation. I recommend the book to all AWF members who have not read it.

We returned home safely. Coming and going, we definitely were aware of the high price of gasoline, which is certainly making travel a luxury. Speaking of gas, we purchased a 90-octane methanol blend in Nebraska and Iowa which was advertised as burning cleaner than regular unleaded. Interestingly, the blend's price in Iowa was at least 10 cents per gallon cheaper than regular unleaded, while in Nebraska the price was the same for both types of fuel.

— Gene Tatum, President



Something to note: A reservation is required to view the LEOPOLD SHACK outside of Baraboo (at left). Unfortunately, I did not plan well enough for us to visit the shack on this trip...next time.

THE LEOPOLD SHACK, NEAR BARABOO, WI
PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD W. BECKER, PhD

AWF BY-LAW REVISIONS – NOTICE OF SCHEDULED VOTE

At AWF's May 12 general meeting, members approved changes to our By-Laws which had been recommended by the Board. Prior to the vote, discussion among members present raised questions requiring clarification: (1) What constitutes a "Student" membership? and (2) What constitutes a "Family" membership, and how many members in a family can vote? To address these questions, the AWF Board recommends the following changes to **Article III, Membership, sections 2 and 3**. A vote on these changes will be held at the Annual Meeting on December 8, 2005. Please review the following and attend to vote:

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Any person who supports the purpose of AWF shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. There shall be five types of membership: "Student" ~~{under age 18}~~, "Individual", "Family," "Sustaining," and "Patron." **▶ Student Membership is available to those individuals pursuing high-school and post-high-school education, e.g., technical certificates, undergraduate or graduate degrees. Family Membership includes no more than two adults plus dependents under age 18. ◀**

Sec. 3. All members 18 years old or over in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the meeting shall be Voting Members. ~~Nothing herein provided shall prevent a person under 18 years of age from purchasing a Voting Membership.~~

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- Vice President-Bill Zeedyk
- Secretary-Richard Becker
- Treasurer-Glenda Muirhead
- Past President-Dale Jones

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Barbara Coulter
- Larry Dwyer
- Dale Hall
- Jim Hubert
- Randy Isler
- Dennis Muirhead
- Luke Shelby

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 8

AWF Annual Meeting/Potluck Dinner/Election of Officers and Directors for 2006 !!!

JANUARY 12

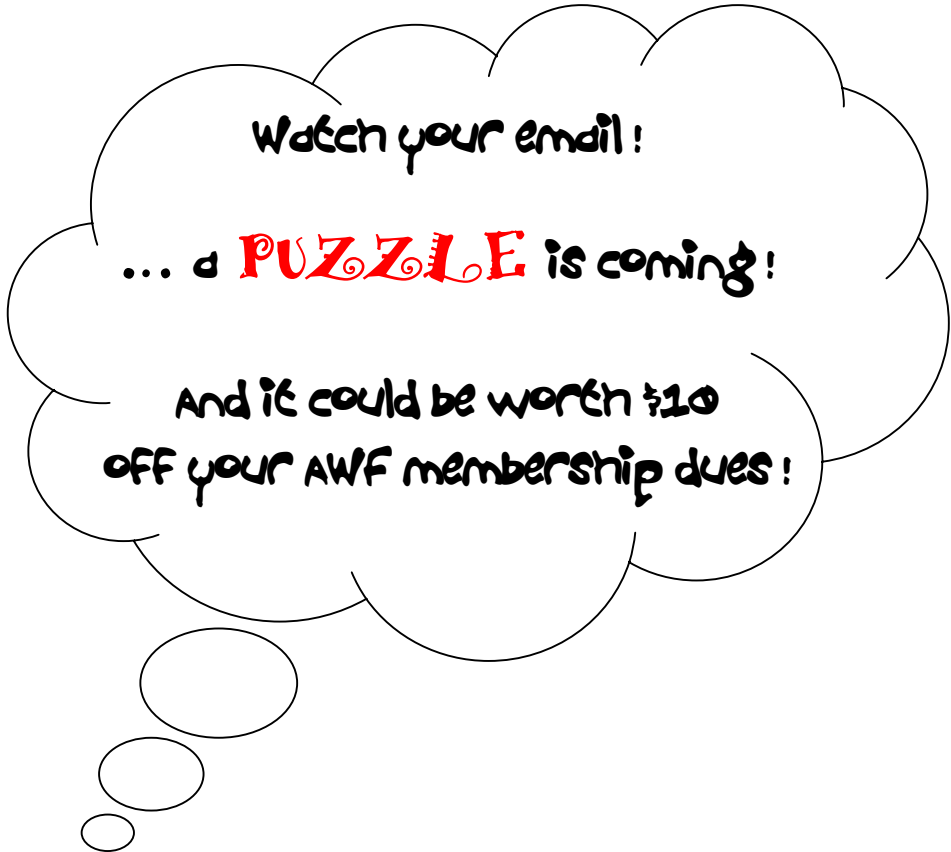
Animal Damage Control by Ken Podborny, Wildlife Services ***PLUS: Legislative Update*** for the Short Session of the NM Legislature by Luke Shelby, Assistant Director, NM Department of Game & Fish

FEBRUARY 9

Mexican Wolf Recovery Program by John Mogart, Program Coordinator for USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery

MARCH 9

Otero Mesa DVD presentation by Nathan Newcomer, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance



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- Student\$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 \$ _____

THANK YOU!

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Protecting New Mexico's wildlife and natural resources since 1914

AWF Newsletter

DECEMBER 2005

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
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DON'T MISS IT !!!

The AWF Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner **Thursday, December 8, 6:30 pm** **Bear Canyon Center, Room 5**

Each year, AWF members and friends gather to enjoy great food, elect the new Board of Directors and Officers, celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, and contemplate the outlook for the coming year. Please bring your family, a dish to share, and photos from the year's projects to show. Past guest speakers and project partners have been invited to join us as well. Come be part of the festivities with fellow members and special AWF friends!

DON'T FORGET! — *Your 2006 membership dues* are payable at the AWF Annual Meeting, with a 60-day grace period. As this is a new policy, calculations by our Treasurer have been made to bring all memberships to a December 31st end date. You may contact Glenda (281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com) prior to the meeting, or wait until December 8th, to obtain the dollar amount owed.

We'll provide plates, cups, napkins, utensils, coffee and fixings, assorted drinks, and ice. Here's the plan:

6:30-7:00	Arrival / Social Time / Serving table setup
7:00-7:45	Dinner
7:45-8:00	Election
8:00-8:40	Celebration / Discussion
8:40-9:00	Social Time / Cleanup

Please RSVP if you plan to attend: Send a "Reply" to the email transmitting this newsletter, or call Gene at 255-1960 or Glenda at 281-2925. Thank you!

■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

Please plan on attending our annual Pot Luck Dinner and General Meeting (details above). At the General Meeting, we will be addressing a few issues: • **Vote** on the proposed By-Law changes • **Elect** our Board of Directors and Officers for 2006 • **Discuss** options for a new meeting location (suggestions welcome) • and **Celebrate** our successes in 2005.

Our Board had significant change in faces last year with four new members, plus the departure of Dale and Lois Jones for Utah. The AWF Board and General Membership needs to be commended for stepping up this last year. Several AWF members made important statements at the 2005 Legislative Session, helping to defeat the Expanded Game Ranch Bill. AWF has been and continues to be an active participant in the Forest Service proceedings to amend the Carson Forest Plan to include the Valle Vidal Unit: In March we had representation at the Sweeney Center Open House in Santa Fe. AWF was a major sponsor for the August Valle Vidal forum at the Ring Place Meadow which was attended by many dignitaries including Governor Richardson. We provided food for over 125 people on Friday



GOVERNOR RICHARDSON at Valle Vidal, August 2005

night, 65 on Saturday night, and a nice group of 15 on Sunday night. Jim Hubert also arranged a well-attended tour of Ted Turner's Vermejo Park Ranch on Monday. (The President's Message in the September AWF Newsletter provides an overview of the Vermejo Park tour.) We had representation at the Forest Service September Valle Vidal Public Scoping in Albuquerque, and we also collaborated to submit well-formulated and germane comments to the Forest Service for consideration in the Forest Plan Amendment.

This coming year, I expect that issues affecting wildlife and habitat on public land will continue and become more complex. Specifically, oil and gas leasing at the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge and reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act are national issues which have local significance. If we are to be true to the AWF mission, we must take positions on these types of issues and support reasonable resolutions to the best of our abilities. Therefore, as an organization we must become informed. The benefit to being in an organization is that we can function as a collective to gather information, discuss issues and make educated decisions. I believe that viability and growth of our organization are dependent on AWF developing positions and taking stands. I hope that you all will join us again this coming year in the continued application of the Leopold Legacy.

— Gene Tatum, President



"Thanks" from a VALLE VIDAL Team Up for Wildlife Partner!

Hi Folks, I hope you are all having a great fall season. I just wanted to write and thank everyone for the great help on the Valle Vidal this past summer. Without your help and dedication, the rate of recovery of Comanche Creek and other riparian areas on the Valle Vidal would be much slower.

...The AWF (in coordination with other partners organized by AWF) contributed 443 hours of effort to reconstruct riparian elk/cattle exclosures in Comanche Creek and construct numerous erosion control structures on both the east and west sides of the Valle Vidal. This "sweat equity" has been valued at approximately \$6,640...

Over the course of the summer the final tally of all the groups that volunteered in the Valle Vidal, including AWF, amounted to 1,028 hours (from 210 people [person days - some participants are repeat volunteers]) which were valued at approx. \$15,400 and accomplished in a period of 9 days (scattered through the summer). Thanks for the "Sweat Equity" in your public lands. It is making a difference, and thank you for your dedicated interest in your public lands. The Forest Service truly values the long-standing partnership that we have with AWF and hope it will continue.

See you next summer.

George Long, USFS Carson National Forest

■ AWF Member Jim Hubert announces a new journal, *Wildlife Refuge Magazine*, from the National Wildlife Refuge Association, which is offering a free introductory membership for one year. For a free membership and your copy of this journal, go to the website www.refugenet.org and click on the "free membership" button.



UPCOMING 2006 PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars!

JANUARY 12

Animal Damage Control by Ken Podborny, Wildlife Services ■ ***PLUS: Legislative Update*** for the Short Session of the NM Legislature by Luke Shelby, Assistant Director, NM Department of Game & Fish

FEBRUARY 9

Mexican Wolf Recovery Program
by John Morgart, Program Coordinator
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Election of AWF Board of Directors and Officers for 2006

Officer Candidates:

President - Gene Tatum
 Vice President - Barbara Coulter
 Secretary - Richard Becker
 Treasurer - Glenda Muirhead

Director Candidates:

Larry Dwyer
 Jim Hubert
 Dennis Muirhead
 Luke Shelby
 Bill Zeedyk

AWF announces the slate of candidates for AWF Board of Directors and Officers, assembled by Nominating Committee Chairman Dale Hall. AWF Members will vote for the 2006 Board at the **December 8th Annual Meeting** and Potluck Dinner. Please remember that nominations from the floor will also be accepted... you can even nominate yourself!

REMINDER VOTE SCHEDULED ON AWF BY-LAW REVISIONS

As announced in the November Newsletter, the AWF Board recommends the following changes to **Article III, Membership, sections 2 and 3** of the By-Laws. A vote on these changes will be held at the Annual Meeting on December 8, 2005. Please review these changes and attend to vote.

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HANDS OFF...That's what state's lawmakers should say to oil, gas industries

By V.B. Price

[Excerpted from *The Albuquerque Tribune*
 Saturday, November 12, 2005]

It was a fine moment last month when President Bush signed a bill creating the *Ojito Wilderness*, the 11,000-acre badlands south of San Ysidro in Sandoval County. New Mexico's congressional delegation supported the bill. We should be so lucky when it comes to the 100,000 acres of the pristine *Valle Vidal* and the grasslands and freshwater reserves of the 332,000 acres of *Otero Mesa* south of Alamogordo. The delegation is split on oil and natural gas exploration of these sites....

El Paso Corp., a natural gas company that wants to develop 191 wells in the area, points to its gas drilling in the nearby Vermejo Ranch, owned by Ted Turner. With pumps camouflaged and drilling said to co-exist with hunting and bird-watching, El Paso Corp. says drilling is compatible with the *Valle Vidal's* magnificent scenery.

The tourist industry of Colfax County takes a different view, arguing drilling would compromise the virgin landscape and ruin the tourist economy. Anyone living in oil and gas country knows you can't hide pumps and processing equipment. Southern California did everything possible to camouflage oil equipment but achieved only laughable, if nicely painted, eyesores.

At stake in *Otero Mesa* is a freshwater aquifer large enough to take care of southern New Mexico and El Paso-Juarez for 50 to 100 years and a unique grasslands environment that can be ruined by any contamination.

And don't believe anyone who says oil and gas drilling can be done without polluting water, soil, air and wildlife habitat. It's simply a lie. An article on oil and gas drilling in the Oct. 31 issue of *High Country News* describes a harsh reality plaguing the entire Rocky Mountain West that would wreck *Otero Mesa*, too. The region has "become the energy industry's favorite target," author Ray Ring writes, "and that means pollution from tens of thousands of engines on drilling rigs, compressors and water pumps." Along with the unlined oil and chemical pits that often accompany oil drilling, he writes, "thousands of storage tanks in gas fields vent chemical and natural gas fumes, and nobody knows how many leaks there are in the thousands of miles of gas pipes."

There is more to New Mexico's economy than oil and gas revenue. We need a congressional consensus that says so loud and clear.

Price is an Albuquerque freelance writer and commentator.

Learn more about the Otero Mesa debate at AWF's program on March 9, 2006, with guest speaker Nathan Newcomer of the NM Wilderness Alliance.

A Quote to Ponder

"...Americans love their national forests, parks and grasslands. [We] inherit a birthright that is the envy of the world: hundreds of millions of acres scattered across all regions of the country. The public estate includes famous places, such as Yellowstone National Park, and obscure places that make up picnic spots, fishing holes and weekend getaways.

It has been that way for 100 years, thanks to the conservation legacy sparked by President Theodore Roosevelt: 'The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.'"

Michael Dombeck, former Chief of the US Forest Service

Watch your email!
...another **PUZZLE**
is coming!

Happenings at the Rio Grande Nature Center

All events take place at the Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria NW. For those requiring advance registration or for more information, call 344-7240. The term "free" refers to the cost of the event; non-members of the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center pay \$3 parking fee.

Free weekend walks led by volunteer naturalists:

Saturday and Sunday bird walks at 9 a.m. December-February, and 8:30 am in March. **Sunday nature walks** at 1 p.m. Dec.-March.

Ranger Rob's Field Guide to Duck Butts. Interpretive ranger Rob Yaksich explores waterfowl from the bottom up. Dec. 10 at 9 am and Jan. 14 at the Winter Bird and Bat Festival (see next listing), time to be announced. Free.

Winter Bird and Bat Festival. Speakers, including a talk on the threat of bird flu to migrating birds; a photo workshop; guided walks; crafts for children; live birds and bats. Jan. 14, 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Twilight Hike on a Full Moon Night. Join a park ranger for a listening walk around the pond and through the bosque. Dates and time: Dec. 15, Jan. 14, and Feb. 12, all at 6 pm. Free, registration required.

Educator Program, Bosque Education Guide.

Educators review all aspects of the Middle Rio Grande Valley ecosystem. Jan. 7, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Training session and all materials free, registration required.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION-- Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103 *An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation*

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