THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

Albuquerque WILDLIFE Federation
conservationists since 1914

February 2021

Remembering the Trailblazers

It's no secret that all of our lives have been notably altered since the start of 2020. Now, as we approach a full year of pandemic response, AWF takes a moment to remember two titans of the environment and conservation, ones whose work continues to influence our understanding of nature and the restoration actions we take year after year, and a third lifelong conservationist who was our own organization's past leaders.

In June of 2020, we lost Dr. Michael Soulé, who passed at 84 in a hospital in Grand Junction, CO. Deemed the "father of conservation biology," Soulé applied his research into population viability and genetics to the creation of a framework for species interaction, particularly the importance of carnivores on natural stability.

In his later career, Soulé's research evolved to documenting the importance of keystone species and the necessity of genetic robustness, which has greatly influenced understanding of endangered species protection in the latter half of the 20th Century. Since 1989, Soulé served as chair of the Environmental Studies Department at the University of California-Santa Cruz and worked to institute a novel interdisciplinary program of both natural and social sciences.

Throughout, Soulé promoted a vision integrating human interests into global conservation, both acknowledging the anthropogenic causes of environmental

destruction and the opportunities for better understanding of natural processes. In academia as well as advocacy with Society for Conservation Biology and Wildlands Network, Soulé advanced a conservation ethic with the mission of protecting not just landscapes and animals but the water, soil, genetics and other values essential to life.

In December, we received news of the death of Dr. Georgina Mace, who had passed a few months earlier in Oxford, England. She was 67. A biologist by training, Mace in the 1990s took on the enormous task of overhauling the Global Red List of Endangered Species, an accounting of at-risk animals and plants first developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 1964.

Working for the Zoological Society of London, Mace instituted—for the first time—rigorous criteria in listing endangered species to be acknowledged globally. Her vision, which has become standard in conservation, was to apply criteria both robust enough to withstand intensive scrutiny yet straightforward enough to be applicable across the breadth of species. Through Dr. Mace's work, the Red List currently includes over 120,000 species of animals, plants, and fungi.

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Inside this Issue:

FEBRUARY 11, 2021 MEETING: Protecting the Florida Mountains

Thursday, February 11, 2021, 7:30 pm
Location: Online

Directions to the Online Meeting

Join us for an online educational presentation!

We will be sending out a link to our newsletter email list the week of the presentation with instructions for how you can log on and join us.

Topic: Protecting the Florida Mountains of Southwestern New Mexico

The Florida Mountains are a spectacularly wild and rugged range in southwestern New Mexico, about 15 miles southeast of Deming and 20 miles north of the Mexican border. In March 2019, American Magnesium LLC applied to the Bureau of Land Management to begin mining for dolomite in the foothills of the Florida Mountains. In August of 2020, the BLM issued an environmental assessment favorable to the mine and prepared to allow mining operations to go forward. Environmental organizations including Friends of the Florida Mountains, Amigos Bravos, Gila Resources Information Project, WildEarth Guardians, and New Mexico Wild sued to stop the mine. Last month, the BLM announced that it would withdraw its decision permitting the mine. Attorney Logan Glasenapp from New Mexico Wild will update us on the latest developments in the fight to protect the Florida Mountains.

Speaker: Logan Glasenapp, Staff Attorney, New Mexico Wild

Logan has called New Mexico home since 2015, when he moved to Albuquerque to pursue his law degree at the University of New Mexico School of Law. Entering law school with a background in grassroots organizing, Logan set his academic and professional sights on environmental law and policy, securing a position on the editorial board of the Natural Resources Journal and internships with the New Mexico Environment Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, and several environmental and conservation organizations. Logan completed his law degree in May 2018 and spent a year clerking at the New Mexico Court of Appeals before joining New Mexico Wild as Staff Attorney.

SCHEDULE OF 2021 VOLUNTEER RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECTS

AWF's board is excited to announce our tentative 2021 schedule of ecological restoration volunteer service projects!

Please note that all of these project dates and locations are subject to change or cancellation based on public health restrictions and the needs of our partner groups. We are optimistic that, as covid-19 vaccines roll out and conditions hopefully improve in the coming months, we will be able to return to larger group sizes and some of our favorite pre-pandemic traditions, like Saturday evening potlucks. However, until that time, all of AWF's covid-safety protocols will remain in effect at our projects.

As you know if you've joined us in the past, AWF's volunteer restoration projects are terrific opportunities to discover remarkable places and team up with other enthusiastic conservationists to restore them. We always have lots of fun, and it is inspiring to see how our work can transform the landscape.

We are very pleased to be planning these projects in collaboration with a wide array of partners, including Amigos Bravos, Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, and Rio Grande Return, among others, as well as the agencies that manage our public lands, including the the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

We are also continuing our effort this year to diversify the options and activities available for volunteers by seeking dedicated volunteers to assist with camp and kitchen duties (washing dishes, assisting with food prep, and looking after the group camp during the work day) and documenting the work (taking photos and recording data about all the structures that were completed during the project). So if you'd like to come out on a project but aren't up for moving rocks, we hope you'll consider taking on one of these roles.

We'll be announcing the details of each upcoming project as usual in these monthly newsletters, along with information on how to RSVP to attend. Looking forward to the year ahead!

2021 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

April 16-18.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
April 23-25.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
May 14-16.....Ft. Union Ranch
June 4-6.....Valles Caldera
June 25-27..... Polvadera Creek, Jemez Mountains
July 16-18.....Valle Vidal
August 13-15.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
September 10-12.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
September 24-26.....Rio en Medio, near Santa Fe, NM
October 23.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2021

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In addition to her efforts in shaping our understanding of endangered lifeforms, Mace also championed conservation biology through projects such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which quantifies the value of a healthy ecosystem for economies. At various times, she served as President of the Society for Conservation Biology and the British Ecological Society, and she was recognized as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Mace continued to work steadily until the end, co-authoring an article in the journal Nature published in September 2020. In it, she expressed optimism about the possibility remaining to "bend the curve" of species loss and restore nature's balance.

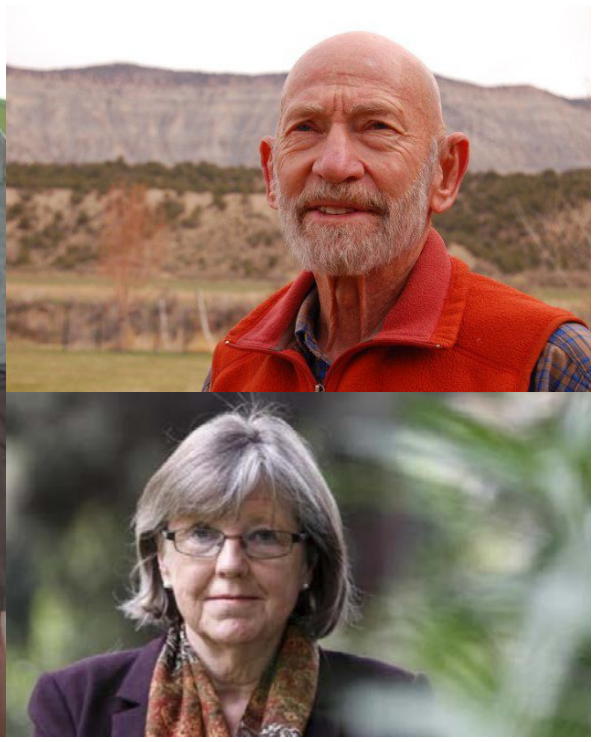
Finally, late last month we learned of the passing of Dale Jones at age 95. Both Dale and his late wife Lois served as past presidents of AWF, and they were active in the organization on and off from the late 1960s through the early 2000s. Dale organized and led many of AWF's habitat improvement projects during the 1970's.

Dale was Wildlife and Fisheries Staff Director for the Albuquerque Regional Office of the Forest Service until 1977, when he was promoted to National Director of Wildlife, Fisheries and Endangered Species for the Forest Service in Washington, DC. In that role, he completed many riparian analysis to determine the condition of watersheds, and he was an early proponent inside the agency of using fire to manage forests.

While in Washington, Dale also served as President of The Wildlife Society, the national organization of professional wildlife biologists. He was well loved and respected nationwide. During World War II, Dale served in the Marines on the Island of Guam at age 18. Dale was an avid sportsman and horseman, as was Lois. They made many horsepack trips into New Mexico's Wilderness Areas, such as the Gila and the Pecos. AWF Emeritus board member Bill Zeedyk writes that Dale was a dear friend whom he shall sorely miss.

Phil Carter
AWF Vice-President

Dale Jones, with Bob Nordstrum and Joyce and Cliff Mendel at AWF's centennial celebration in 2014.



Top: Dr. Michael Soulé, 1936-2020
Bottom: Dr. Georgina Mace, 1953-2020

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

WRITING CONTEST

"Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a good shovel."

– ALDO LEOPOLD –
"Pines Above the Snow"
A Sand County Almanac

As the novel coronavirus spread in 2020, we needed to stay home. We had to turn back to familiar landscapes, reacquaint ourselves with our yards and neighborhoods, and look more closely at our own skies and landscapes.

The Leopold Writing Program invites New Mexico students in grades 6-12

to submit original essays in response to this question:

"Using Leopold's land ethic as a guidepost, think about lessons we can learn from staying home. What acts of creation – be that as poet or as planter – did you unexpectedly find yourself taking up, and how did your creations build on some of New Mexico's senses of dwelling with the Earth, such as querencia, kinship, acequias, and aridity?"

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning essayists in each of three grade categories: 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12. Submissions are accepted through **Feb 16, 2021**.

For complete instructions and entry form, please visit **www.leopoldwritingprogram.org** and follow Writing Contest links.

THE LEOPOLD WRITING PROGRAM

The Aldo and Estella Leopold Residency

The application deadline for this year's Aldo and Estella Leopold Residency is March 1, 2021

The Leopold Writing Program (LWP) is a New Mexico-based nonprofit dedicated to cultivating the next generation of writers and artists committed to the natural world. Since 2009, through a special partnership with the United States Forest Service, the LWP has sponsored 19 resident scholars to spend a month at Mi Casita, Leopold's historic cabin in the Carson National Forest.

The LWP Board of Directors encourages graduate students, faculty, and other professionals writing on environmental issues to consider applying for a 2021 summer residency. Special consideration will be given to those applicants who integrate Leopold's ideas into their proposal. A residency experience at Mi Casita is intended to create a dynamic community of thinkers akin to how Leopold described his famous land ethic. "I have purposely presented it," wrote Leopold, "as a product of social evolution because nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written'…It evolves in the minds of a thinking community."

The application and for additional information about the residency is available at:
https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/uploads/6/7/7/6/6776981/2021_residency_application.pdf

The Leopold Writing Program's Winter Newsletter highlights the 2020 Leopold residents:
http://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/uploads/6/7/7/6/6776981/lwp_elpinon_is1.pdf

JOIN US!
Become a Member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is an all-volunteer organization founded by Aldo Leopold and dedicated to protecting and restoring New Mexico's wildlife and habitat resources.

Our work is only possible thanks to the generous support of our members.

If you like the work we do, we hope you will help keep this legacy going by becoming a member or renewing your membership.

AWF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation | P.O. Box 20225 | Albuquerque, NM 87154

❒ Yes, I'd like to join AWF! ❒ This is a gift membership from: _____

name(s): _____

address: _____

city, state, zip: _____

phone: _____ email: _____

❒ Student _____ $10
❒ Individual _____ $25
❒ Family _____ $35
❒ Sustaining _____ $50-99
❒ Patron _____ $100
❒ Lifetime _____ $500 (*one-time payment*)

Dues: $_____
Extra Contribution: $_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_____