



REFUGE UPDATE

March 2020

Published bi-monthly by the Amigos de la Sevilleta

Calendar

Friday, March 6

Sevilleta by Horseback

9 am – 3 pm

Full
Join us for a guided horseback exploration of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge! Enjoy the breath-taking views from your saddle while learning some fascinating facts about the diverse landscape of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Load up your horse, saddle, water, and lunch. Dress for the weather. Space is limited so make your reservations now 505/864-4021! Directions to meeting place will be provided in a confirmation phone call a few days before the event.

Sunday, March 8

Full Moon Hike

5:15 pm – 9 pm

The desert comes alive at night! Join Amigos de la Sevilleta Volunteer Naturalist on this evening hike to take in the beauty of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge under the full moon. Approximately a 4-mile moderate to strenuous hike over uneven surface, in arroyos and up hills. No reservations required, meet at the Visitor Center.

Wednesday, March 18

5:00-7:30 pm

Amigos board of directors meeting

Pot Luck dinner at 5:00, followed by meeting.

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Saturday, March 28

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Once upon a Time: A Ranch – Lecture

Spanish colonizers brought livestock with them; thus began the first grazing on land that is now Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Ranching has left marks on this beautiful landscape – scattered wells, line shacks, fence posts, a rock cairn. Join us for a talk and slide program placing local livestock raising in the context of the western United States cattle industry up through the Campbell Family ranch that became Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge.

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Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

Trees, trees, beautiful trees! The refuge planted 3,000 trees along the Rio Grande in February with the help of many volunteers. This included members of the Amigos, refuge volunteers and staff from Bosque del Apache, New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, New Mexico Audubon Society, staff from the Interstate Stream Commission and Fish and Wildlife Staff from the Regional Office and from the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program. Many thanks to everyone!

This project is to restore habitat for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In this same general area, the refuge has planted over 10,000 native trees to date, and plans to plant an additional 5000 trees over the next 2-3 years (primarily Gooding's and coyote willow, and cottonwood). Over time (predicted 4-5 years), as vegetation matures, habitat will become suitable for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

We had a successful annual meeting on January 18, with about 110 people attending and a wonderful talk about the mountain lions of the Middle Rio Grande area. Thanks to the Amigos Board for a job well done and thanks to all of you who attended.

See photos on page 4

Amigos Board News

Ann Adams, Board President

Greetings Amigos!

Hope you were in attendance for our Annual Meeting on 1/18/2020: we had a great topic, a large crowd, and some tasty eats. The meeting kicked off with election of your 2020 Board: Executive Officers: Ann Adams, President, Sandy Barnett, Vice-President, Penny Lommen, Treasurer, Rex Myers, Secretary, and Board Members: Colin Barnett, Steve Randall, Susan Richards. We have openings for additional Board Members and will be actively recruiting this Spring. If you are interested in learning how the Board works and/or becoming a Member, feel free to join a meeting held the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5pm-7:30pm in the Sevilleta Visitor Center conference room.

2019 Amigos' financials, projects and accomplishments were reviewed following the election along with 2020 budget/goals. Refuge Manager Kathy Granillo thanked the Amigos membership for all we do and our ongoing support in 2020.

The big draw for this year's meeting was the presentation on lions. I had no idea there were so many cat lovers among us!! Whether you call them puma, cougar, or mountain lion, did you know that we actually have them living on the refuge? Hunter Prude took the audience through his experience researching lions on Sevilleta and shared the learning from following these big cats around. (UN)Fortunately, he was not able to bring a lion to the meeting! Nonetheless, the audience was fascinated and peppered Hunter with questions. Don't miss next year's presentation...you never know what interesting things you may learn about the refuge!!

We have a busy calendar of events and activities coming up over the next few months... many of you have been engaged already this year with tree planting. THANK YOU!!! Ahead are a horse/mule-back tour, a full moon hike, ranching lecture/tour, members only picnic and hike...and the list goes on. Please, join us in supporting and exploring this wonderful place.

The next Amigos board meeting is March 18th, Pot luck dinner at 5:00, meeting afterward.

All amigos members are welcome and are encouraged to attend

HOW YOU CAN HELP SEVILLETA

The Amigos de la Sevilleta provide valuable support to this unique refuge. There are several ways that you can help.

Consider increasing your membership contribution to the next level or higher.

Give an Amigos membership to a friend or family member.

Make an annual or semi-annual donation.

Include the Amigos de Sevilleta in your will.

Donate appreciated property or stock.

If you are 70½ or older you can donate a part of your required minimum IRA distribution and avoid paying taxes on it.

Your broker can handle all the paperwork for you. You will need the Amigos' tax ID number (06-1819138) and the mailing address (Amigos de la Sevilleta, Box 1248, Socorro, NM 87801.)

Since the Amigos are a 501c(3) organization, all donations are tax deductible. Your generosity will ensure that Sevilleta continues its mission to provide for the wildlife in this spectacular refuge.

There are openings on the Amigos de la Sevilleta board of directors.

Contact Steve Randall at 505-861-1088

Full

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Saturday April 4

Once upon a time: A Ranch- Field tour

9 am – 3 pm

This tour will highlight the Ranching history of Sevilleta. Bring a lunch and water Reservations are required, call 505/864-4021 Program is FULL

Saturday April 25

Pino Cactus Hike

8:45 am - 3 pm.

This is a great tour for those who have not yet experienced the beautiful Pinos Mountains. Join staff and Amigos de la Sevilleta volunteer naturalists on a search for some amazing blooms and views. Hike will be a strenuous 4 miles over uneven, rocky, steep terrain. Yes, steep. Pack your lunch, water and hiking sticks and make your reservation by calling the refuge at 505-864-4021.

Saturday May 30

Amigos Members Only Picnic

9 AM - 3PM

Amigos join us for outing on Sevilleta's West Mesa! Take in the views, enjoy the company! Bring your lunch and camera. Reservations required. 505-464-402

Volunteers

Submitted by Rex Myers

Greeting friends and visitors at Sevilleta's Visitors Center are two new faces: Tish and Bill. They are new to Sevilleta but seasoned RV volunteers with over 15 years of service and work at more than a half dozen other wildlife refuges. They call South Dakota home, but jumped quickly into life in New Mexico, spending their free days helping with tree planting, wolf captures, and other activities. Welcome aboard.

Another friendly volunteer face is more appreciated by animals on the refuge than visitors at the front desk. Kim helps maintain more than a dozen "drinkers" scattered across the arid landscape. Pumps need to be fixed, solar panels cleaned, debris removed, and trail cameras maintained. If you see animal pictures on the Amigos Facebook page, or in some other format, Kim has probably had a hand in making that possible. She puts in long hours and drives many miles.

A final "hats off" to volunteers who have helped plant more than 3,000 Goodling's willows and cottonwood trees in Sevilleta's Wetlands over several days in mid-February. Several Amigos members assisted staff members in the process, but many more volunteers came from Bosque del Apache, Audubon, the Wolf Recovery Program, and elsewhere to help re-establish vegetation along new levees and river banks.



Tish and Bill



Kim



Tree planting Volunteers

Tree Planting in progress



Photos By Kathy Granillo

Visitor Center Happenings

Submitted by Penny Lommen

Have you been to the Visitor Center lately? If not, we have some exciting new things to tell you about.

First of all we have a new fish tank around the corner in the exhibits room. This 60 gallon tank is now home to 6 species of fish that are native to New Mexico. They are the Flathead Chub, Mosquito Fish, Red Shiner, Longnose Dace, Fathead Minnow and the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow. These are the same species that we use in our 'Fish in the Classroom' program. The backdrop for our aquarium was drawn by last summer's interns Carol and Madison.

In case you're not aware, our sources of income are memberships, revenue from the Nature Store and donations. Our donation box has been a part of the center for many years but it has had a recent addition. The box was originally crafted in 2014 by Dennis Prichard, a former Sevilleta employee. It wasn't very visible in its previous location so Nancy Barnes, one of our RV Volunteers, contacted Dennis to see what he could do to remedy this. He created a magnificent stand for the box to perch on. Dennis also crafted the overhead sign for our Nature Store.

Dennis worked at Sevilleta from 2002 to 2011 serving as Deputy Refuge Manager and occasionally as Acting Refuge Manager. He is a gifted artist who creates wooden objects in a style called Intarsia. Basically it is cutting different wood species into pieces that are shaped and then fitted together to make a scene or object. Check out his website at dennisprichardworksinwood.com.

Our newest addition is the mounted elk head in the front room. Our Refuge Manager, Kathy Granillo, received a call from Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement asking if Sevilleta would like to exhibit an elk head that had recently come into their possession. An outfitter from New Mexico had taken a client on a hunt for a Pronghorn Antelope. While on the hunt the client saw an elk and decided to shoot that as well. The only problem was that he did not have a valid permit for the elk. The outfitter (who was already being watched for other violations) made the mistake of posting pictures on social media which of course were seen by Fish & Wildlife investigators. The hunter and outfitter were both fined. The elk had already been taken to the taxidermist and was then confiscated for use in the investigation. He now watches over the Visitor Center in all his magnificent glory from the west wall. Make plans to stop in and see all of these new things that represent our refuge.



New Mugs at the Nature Store
Choose bird or mammal, predator or prey
\$12 each

These new mugs have Sevilleta NWR within the design
Submitted by Susan Richards



Amigos Contacts

Amigos web site

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

Amigos on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/amigossevilleta>

Refuge Web Site

[Http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta)

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

505-864-5021ex106

Past editions of this Newsletter are available at the Amigos website: <https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/contacts>