



# REFUGE UPDATE

**July 2020**

Published bi-monthly by the Amigos de la Sevilleta

## Calendar

Due to the current situation with the Corona virus pandemic all of the planed events have been canceled. There will be a special notification sent to all if things change before the September Refuge Update is published.

## Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

June 26, 2020

Refuge staff are resuming some operations at the office. We are still doing quite a bit of work from home, but can spend a day or two a week in the office and out in the field. The Refuge trails and San Lorenzo Canyon remain open for recreational use. We ask that when you visit, you practice physical distancing and limit your party size to 5 or less. Wetland areas are open to foot traffic. Gates are closed there as we had some vandalism. There is a Porta Potty in the parking lot of the Visitor Center. Speaking of the Visitor Center, it is still closed to the public. We anticipate being able to open the Visitor Center when the state moves into Phase 3 of re-opening the state. Hopefully that is sooner, rather than later.

Highlights from the past two months include two construction projects at the Visitor Center. We had one project to remove the solar panels from the roof and reinstall them as a shade structure at the south end of the parking lot. The other project was to install a new roof on the Visitor Center. The roof no longer leaks! Woo hoo! You have to find joy where you can, right?

More joyful news - the trees we planted last February (pre-COVID 19 – seems like forever ago) – are doing great. We planted over 4,000 trees and have high survival to date.

Jeannine, Nancy (the new refuge biologist) and I along with Kim (one of our fabulous local volunteers) recently found ourselves herding about 40 cows off the refuge on our way to fix the fence at the far western refuge boundary. The rancher moved another 40 cows off a few days later. If we don't keep our fences maintained, cows can be a significant problem. While we were fixing fence, a group of 5 desert bighorns appeared on the ridge above us to oversee the project. Another joyful day.

I hope you are all able to find joy where you can, and that you stay safe and that we see you soon!

*See Kathy's Pictures on Page 3*

## **Amigos Board News**

Ann Adams, Board President

Greetings, Amigos!

Hope you all are faring well as we begin to slowly venture out of our homes again. While it's been a trying time living under "house arrest", there have been a few bright moments brought to you by many of the national parks and refuges. Lots of webcams and videos have been capturing all the places we love to visit in person and reminding us of how gifted we are to live in such a phenomenal country. I've been rewatching Ken Burns' "The National Parks: America's Best Idea". It's inspiring to learn the stories of John Muir, Teddy Roosevelt, and others who built our network of refuges, parks, and monuments. Our own Sevilleta has quite an interesting story to tell as well. There are still traces of the previous occupants and ranching activities across the refuge. You will want to look for the rescheduled seminar and tour of the refuge as a ranch at some future date.

Speaking of future dates, it looks like the Sevilleta Visitor Center will be open again before long (see notes from the Refuge Manager, Kathy Granillo). In the meantime, you have plenty of opportunity for hiking about on the refuge trails...practicing your social distancing and limiting group size while getting your fresh air and exercise. Be sure to bring plenty of water with you as the heat can dry you out really fast. In fact, cool mornings offer an excellent time to be out for both humans and refuge critters. You might spot something special on an early morning walk.

Your Board has been meeting monthly by conference call and welcome you to join us at any point. Currently, meetings occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:30pm. Send me a note and I'll send you the conference number should you want to join in. We are, like most everyone else, in the throes of approaching all we do in different and creative ways to accommodate the new rules of life. We are always looking for input and ideas from our members. We look forward to hearing from you soonest...

Ann

### **The next Amigos board meeting is July 15th AT 4:30 By Teleconference**

All amigos members are welcome and are encouraged to attend, contact Ann for access # if you would like to participate (ann.d.adams@comcast.net)



## Pictures from page 1



## **2020 Financial Information**

### **Submitted by Penny Lommen, Treasurer**

Back in February BC (before Coronavirus) several of the Sevilleta Board members attended the annual meeting at Bosque del Apache. It was very enjoyable and informative. After the meeting we were standing together discussing Bosque's budget and wishing that we had a portion of what they have. The things we could do with that money! Several questions were asked as to how our finances were derived and spent as compared to Bosque. I thought I would explain it to everyone this month.

The Amigos' income comes from memberships, donations and income from the Nature Store. We now have four categories of membership and we have contributions from each category. Our donations come from the donor box in the Visitor Center and generous members and acquaintances. We have several members who send in a check and tell us to use it wherever it is needed. There are some who say that they want their donation to be used for something specific. Remember, the Amigos are a 501(c) 3 organization and your donations are tax deductible! The Nature store provides us with a pretty steady source of income throughout the year, some months of course are better than others!

We have two types of funds, restricted and unrestricted. The restricted funds can only be spent on certain things. Examples are the Prairie Dog funds, the Capital Campaign that we ran a couple of years ago and the Designated Gifts. We recently had a couple donate money in honor of one of our board members specifically to redo one of the drinkers to make it more accessible for lizards, turtles and other small animals! The unrestricted funds are used for our general operating expenses.

Our expenses are simple. Our funds go directly to programs and activities that the Amigos do on the refuge. We are lucky that we do not have to pay any salaries. With the exception of the 5 member Fish and Wildlife crew (who are paid by the Government), people who work at the refuge are volunteers!

Our largest expense is for the Interns who come in the fall. They receive housing from the refuge and a stipend from the Amigos. One of their major responsibilities is the Drawn to Sevilleta educational program which is another thing that the Amigos pay for. It was interesting to learn that our second highest expenditure was the money that is spent on Administrative costs. This is the money that it takes to keep the Amigos in business. This covers things such as insurance, the website, PayPal and credit card fees. There are several smaller expenses each year that the Amigos are asked to pay for because they can't be paid for with Fish and Wildlife funds. It all adds up!

As you know, the Visitor Center is closed for the duration of this horrible pandemic. We are not receiving our usual donations and the Nature Store is closed. That affects two sources of our funding. Also, our membership renewals are down this spring. The economic downturn has hit everybody but just like restaurants and shops, Amigos is a small business. We need your help to continue what we do. Thank you for supporting Amigos de la Sevilleta.

*This article was left out of the last issue, the following chart was included*



## The Impact Of Friends Groups Nationwide

# FRIENDS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE



National  
Wildlife Refuge  
Association



This is only a small snapshot of what Friends Groups have accomplished within the last year.  
This represents just **30%** of all Friends nationwide.

## WHAT HAVE FRIENDS GROUPS ACCOMPLISHED?



There are more than 230 Friends Groups that support wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries.

With looming threats to conservation in the U.S. - Friends are needed now more than ever.



**15,008**  
MEMBERS



**\$5 MILLION**  
IN CONSERVATION  
FUNDS RAISED



**256**  
HABITAT  
RESTORATION  
PROJECTS



**955**  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS



**1,037**  
OUTREACH &  
SPECIAL  
EVENTS



**82,685**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION  
PARTICIPANTS



**SEE**

the difference Friends can make!

## Volunteers

Submitted by Rex Myers

Volunteers are working at Sevilleta. The Visitors Center may be closed but trails are open and there is still work to be done across the expanse of the refuge's 360 square miles. Joining Sevilleta this spring (going through the necessary two-week quarantine and wearing masks inside buildings) Larry Jarc and Larry Johnson are working mostly on outdoor projects. Jeannine says in all her years of working with volunteers she has never had one named "Larry," and now she has two. Larry Jarc is with Sevilleta until September. He comes from Arizona and this is the first time he's volunteered at a national wildlife refuge. Larry Johnson left the ocean of Rhode Island to come to Sevilleta's very different terrain. He's volunteered in his home state for 8 years, but this is his first stint west of the Mississippi and he'll stay until October. Both "Larry's" are really enjoying this corner of New Mexico. Patty Hill, the third volunteer, is an old hand at Sevilleta, and is working primarily at the Visitors Center. She's staying through April. Hummingbirds and quail are happy, as is her dog Izzy, who misses public attention.



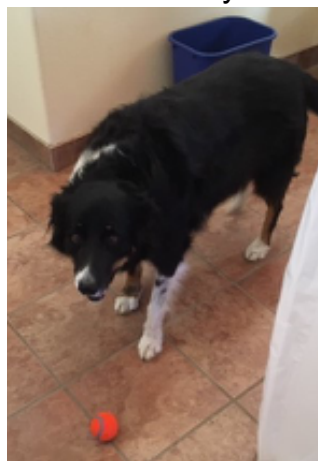
Larry



Larry



Patty



Izzy



## Nature Store News

Submitted By Susan Richards

Wolf Eye t-shirts are back. A new supply arrived days before the virus lockdown closed the Visitor Center's doors. Right now you can just covet them, but when the Center reopens, they are available in Cornstalk Yellow or Irish Green. Like our popular lizard shirts (we have a few left) they are only \$21.95. Stay tuned for the opening date and stay healthy until then.



## Visitor Center Happenings

These three duck mounts have been donated by Deb Willimas, Bosque del Apache Refuge Manager. Thank You Deb. Look for them in the Visitor Center soon.



Widgeon



Common Merganser



Bufflehead

### **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>

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

505-864-5021ex106

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

### **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**