



REFUGE UPDATE

JULY 2019

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Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

Summer is in full swing at the refuge. The UNM Field Station is full of researchers including this summer's crop of REU students. That stands for Research Experience for Undergraduates. This program is funded by the National Science Foundation and brings 12 undergraduate students from all over the country to the refuge for a summer to conduct their own research projects and see if graduate school and more research is in their future. UNM runs this program at Sevilleta, and does a great job of recruiting a great bunch of students each summer. This summer I am mentoring two of these students. They are conducting research on Scott's Orioles. They are finding nests and monitoring the success of these nests. They are also trying to determine what influences nest success. Their research centers on the juniper density around each nest and determining if this factor is correlated with nest success. Other REU research ranges from studying soil microbes to studies of bees and pollination. There are also two art REU students who do original art based on the natural environments at the refuge and on the research their fellow REU students conduct. I hope if you visit the refuge this summer that you have a chance to interact with these enthusiastic young researchers.

In early June, the refuge hosted the Principal Deputy Director the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Regional Director of the Southwest Region and several other members of the Southwest Regional Directorate. They participated in a capture at the captive wolf facility on the refuge. This capture event including catching two young 7-week old pups to give them their first vaccinations and health checks. While out on the refuge, the group also encountered several pronghorn, a coyote and two cooperative oryx and said they felt like they were on safari. The group also stopped by the Visitor Center and met staff and volunteers. These types of visits help ensure that Sevilleta is known and appreciated by the top leaders of our agency.

Calendar

Full moon morning hike!

Tuesday, July 16

5:30-8 am

Join us for this morning hike and watch the sun rise on the Refuge! Join Refuge staff on this 4 mile hike on the Ladrone Vista and Mesa View trails. Hiking will be moderate, over uneven surfaces, in arroyos and up hills. No reservations required, meet at the Visitor Center.

5th Annual Butterfly Count

Saturday, August 24

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Join us for a day in search of butterflies as part of the North American Butterfly Association count. Hiking boots recommended; bring your own lunch/snacks and plenty of water. Hiking will be over uneven terrain. Meet at the Visitor Center and we will divide participants into an uplands team and a riparian team. No experience necessary!

4th Annual Moth Night

Saturday, September 7th

7:00– 10:00pm

Join Us, Saturday, September 7th Evening from 7 pm to 10 pm for our annual FREE, Family Program to identify a variety of moth species.

Amigos Board News

Ann Adams, Board President

Amigos,

Hope you are planning an active summer that includes numerous trips to Sevilleta! We just had a hummingbird banding session this past month and there will be another one in August. All the juveniles and migrating birds like Rufous and Calliope will be coming through the refuge then. We also have a butterfly tagging event coming up later in the summer. It's really fun to drive through the refuge, jumping out to chase after butterflies when you see them.

Bring along your friends and neighbors when you come for a visit. We really want to grow our membership and you are key to that effort. There will be a new brochure and membership application coming out soon. So look for that. You don't have to live nearby to take advantage of things going on here...the newsletter and social media sites will keep you up to date on research, discoveries and events. But if you do come to the refuge, the trails are open for your hiking pleasure. You can also call and arrange a guided tour with a Volunteer Naturalist that will let you see hard-to-find parts of the refuge. The members' picnic to the West Mesa this Spring was an intro to a part of Sevilleta we normally don't see. Check the Facebook page for pictures of that hike.

If you are feeling up for some volunteer work, Sevilleta always has plenty of needs...mending fence, planting trees, among others. Check in at the Visitors' Center for more information on what you can do. Looking forward to meeting you at the refuge this summer!!

Ann



The Service Principal Deputy Director, Margaret Everson, and the Southwest Regional Director, Amy Lueders, with 7-week-old Mexican gray wolf pups at the Sevilleta Captive wolf facility.



Scott's Oriole

VOLUNTEERS

Submitted by Rex Myers

First person you met when you entered the Sevilleta Visitor's Center was probably a volunteer. Hiked a trail? A volunteer helped built and/or maintain it. Enjoyed a program? More than likely a volunteer was involved in making it successful. According to Jeannine Kimble, Visitors Services Manager, volunteers contributed 9,983 hours to the refuge last year – that's the equivalent of almost five full-time employees.

Volunteers come in many forms. RV volunteers live in their campers or recreational vehicles on the refuge and generally work in three-month periods. They staff the Visitors Center and Nature Store, fill bird and hummingbird feeders, put up the flag in the morning, keep the place clean, and perform myriad other tasks that help the refuge run smoothly. Naturalist volunteers contribute expertise in geology, flowers, birds, local history, and cacti. Community volunteers repair fences, maintain wildlife drinkers, clean up the I-25 interchange, paint crosswalks, help release prairie dogs, build trails, replace refuge signs, staff information tables, and do what's needed around Sevilleta. Groups such as Back Country Horsemen, scout troops, high school and NM Tech students work on special projects as needed. More than 90 different people volunteered last year.

It's fun, it's important, and it's easy to volunteer. Contact Jeannine Kimble: 505-864-4021.

NEW AT THE NATURE STORE



Pewter key chains and zipper pulls
Hand-made by local artist Gary Hutchinson

Kids and Adult t-shirts



Adults – Whiptail lizard (front & back design)



Kids – Prairie dog

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.

Amigos Contacts

Amigos Web Site

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

Amigos On Face Book

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

Refuge Web Site

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta/>

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

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