



March 2019

REFUGE UPDATE

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Calendar

Annual Members Meeting

Saturday, March 16

12:30 am – 4:00 pm

The meeting will include a report from the Amigos Board, and another on the refuge by the staff. Hors d'oeuvres, hot and cold drinks will be provided. Justin Stevenson will speak about bats and their importance in our ecology. We hope to see all our members from this past year and all those joining and renewing for 2019, (renew at the meeting). More information in the Amigos Board News section on pg.

.Amigos Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 21

5:30 am – 7:00 am

All members are encouraged to attend, potluck at 5:30, meeting to follow. Bring a dish to share, visitor center conference room

Native plants

Friday, April 5

8:45 am – 3 pm

Flower power! Join us on this exploration of native plants! Grab your hiking pole, lace up your boots and join us for this slow moving moderate hike while exploring the colorful wildflowers. Reservations required. Call 505-864-4021

Amigos Bring Your Own Picnic- West Mesa

Saturday, April 27

8:45 am – 3 pm

Amigos join us for outing on Sevilleta's West Mesa! Take in the views, enjoy the company! Bring your lunch and camera. Reservations required. Call 505-864-4021

Pino rim cactus hike

Tuesday, April 30

8:45 am – 3 pm

Explore Sevilleta on this strenuous hike along the rim of Los Pinos. Join staff and naturalist on a search for amazing blooms. Pack your lunch, grab your hiking stick and make your reservations as spots fill fast!

Call 505-864-4021

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Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

We survived the shutdown! Hopefully there will never be another one. Those 35 days of uncertainty certainly caused stress and anxiety for affected government employees as well as for the American public. Kudos to Deputy Refuge Manager Renee Robichaud for holding down the fort at the refuge during the shutdown. She was here Monday-Friday each week, as well as one of the weekends when we had a broken water pipes issue that drained all of the water at our headquarters, including for our RV volunteers. Normally, I would have been the person on site, but I had surgery on an ankle 2 days before the shutdown and was mostly sitting around at home recuperating. So Renee worked instead, still not getting paid like all of the rest of us on furlough. Sevilleta staff stepped up, of course, and got quickly back into the swing of things once we were allowed to work again. We scrambled to make our February tree planting happen and planted 2,355 trees. Picture on pg. 4. This included Gooding's willows, coyote willows, and cottonwoods. Heavy Equipment Operator Rich Calamusso prepared the site for tree planting, then temporary Maintenance Worker Doug Dibble drilled all of the holes for the trees. Refuge Biologist Jon Erz organized tree harvesting to get the poles for planting, and organized all of the tree planting itself. This included the time and efforts of many volunteers and several days of help from a crew from the American Conservation Experience program. We had volunteer help from several local volunteers, as well as from New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, Vale de Oro staff and local high school students, and employees from the Southwest Regional Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Thanks to the Amigos for providing snacks for the tree planters! We had to postpone the Amigos Annual Membership Meeting due to the shutdown, and it is now rescheduled for March 16. I look forward to seeing many of you at this annual event. Details are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. But let me just say that you don't want to miss the speaker, Justin Stevenson, and his live bats that will be at the event.

Amigos Board News
Ann Adams, Board President

Hola Amigos,

I have heard from reliable sources (not that Pennsylvania rodent), that Spring really is on the way. I personally am loving the warmth alternating with chill, and moisture alternating with wind. The skies have been gorgeous and constantly changing. In my garden a few, very small green things are starting to appear. I'm pretty sure that I saw the last of the cranes heading out in a huge flock just before our last snow. It will be another month before the hummers arrive but I'm sure there are plenty of other migrants heading North already.

We're kicking off Spring with the Amigos' Annual Members' Meeting on Saturday, March 16, from 12:30 to 4:30. If you haven't already done so, plan to renew your membership on your way in the door. The agenda will include a report to the members on a few of the 2018 accomplishments and even more on plans for 2019. We will be electing/confirming a new Board. As always, there will be plenty of drinks and snacks. Our speaker will be Justin Stevenson who will be talking about bats. He will even have several with him for us to meet.

Ok, since I'll be speaking at the meeting, I'm keeping this note brief. Looking forward to seeing you all March 16!

Best,

Ann

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.

Calendar from pg 1

60 Hikes within 60 Miles

Friday, May 3

10 am

Join author David Ryan for a book signing, lecture and hike at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge! No reservations required!

Wildflower Hike

Friday, May 10

9:30 am – 1 pm

Flower power! Join a volunteer naturalist on this wildflower hike! Grab your hiking pole, lace up your boots and join us for this slow moving moderate hike while exploring the colorful wildflowers. No reservations required!

World Migratory Bird day

Saturday, May 18

8 am – 2 pm

Help us celebrate World Migratory Bird Day! Join Refuge Manager Kathy Granillo for a hike in the riparian area in search for some of our wonderful winged migrants and residents. Grab your hiking boots, water, binoculars, and lunch. We also suggest mosquito repellent. Reservations required. Call 505-864-4021 For more information on World Migratory Bird Day, visit www.birdday.org

Hummingbird Banding

Saturday, June 15

8 – 10 am

Join Ann Adams for a morning of banding hummingbirds! Learn some fascinating facts about these tiny birds and observe hummingbird banding. No reservations required.

Amigos Contacts

Amigos Web site

<https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org>

Amigos on Facebook

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

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

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Tree Planting

Clarification

A January email sent to the Amigos membership stated that membership dues support the Refuge staff. Just to clarify this, the dues do not support the staff; they support, among other things, Refuge projects that are undertaken by the staff.