



September 2017

REFUGE UPDATE

Published Bi-Monthly by the Amigos de la Sevilleta

Calendar

Full Moon Hike. Tuesday, September 5th, 7 PM

Explore Sevilleta NWR under the light of a nearly full moon! Join a Volunteer Naturalist from Amigos de la Sevilleta on this 3.5 mile hike on the Mesa View Trail. Hiking will be moderate, over uneven surfaces, in arroyos and up hills. No reservations required, meet at the Visitor Center.

Amigos Board Meeting September 7th

Meeting is at the visitor center, pot luck dinner at 5:30 with meeting to follow. All are welcome.

Moth Count September 23rd Call Visitor center for details

Celebrate Sevilleta October 21st

Join us for a fun filled day of activities for kids, tours of the refuge, live animals, hands on activities, interesting presentations, the "Drawn to Sevilleta" poster contest awards and so much more. First Tour at 7:30AM. Exhibits at 10:00AM. Call for details.

Annual Meeting January 27th 2018

Dinner music and a guest speaker, open to all, details next issue

Managers Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

It has been a busy summer at the refuge. Jon Erz, Refuge Biologist, and the three prairie dog interns, along with several other volunteers and Prairie Dog Pals reintroduced several hundred more Gunnison's prairie dogs into their new grassland home. The p-dogs seem to be doing well, so far. We had another summer intern who developed and implemented a monitoring program for the riparian restoration project (Cooperative Recovery Initiative) along the Rio Grande. This is the project for which many of you helped us plant about 5,000 trees this past February. We have another 5,000 trees to plant this coming winter, so stay tuned for announcements about that effort. We implemented a 4,000 acre prescribed burn in March in the northern portion of the grasslands on the east side of the refuge, and that has greened up nicely with all of the monsoon rains. The pronghorn and mule deer are loving it!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Celebrate Sevilleta and other future refuge events!

2017 Interns

Ashley and Sierra were partially funded by the Amigos

Ashley Rosales *Graduated with a Master's degree in Zoology at Miami .University. This was my first time in New Mexico, so it was exciting to see prairie dogs, pronghorns, rattlesnakes, and other native wildlife for the first time. I have learned so many new skills. I was taught how to handle small mammals, PIT tag, and ear tag. I was also able to practice and further refine skills I have had experience with prior to this summer, such as monitoring. I feel these skills are especially beneficial for my desired future career as a wildlife biologist.*

This summer has been an incredible experience and I can now see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a potential career path.

Sierra Sico *Currently pursuing a Wildlife Biology degree at Unity College.*

This summer, I had the opportunity to work mainly on the Gunnison's prairie dog reintroduction project. Not only did I develop many new friendships and make great memories, but I also learned some great skills--like PIT-tagging and small mammal handling--and I had so much fun! I also helped on other projects involving mountain lions, gray vireos, and Mexican gray wolves. Wolves have been my favorite animal since I was a little girl. Getting to build den boxes and hold Mexican gray wolf puppies fulfilled a childhood dream.

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Message from the Amigos Board

This year the Amigos Board has five new members.

Colin and Sandy Barnett, from Albuquerque. Sandy retired from a zookeeper career specializing in reptiles and amphibians. Colin also is retired. He was an Assistant Professor of Biology at Illinois State University. He is also a passionate landscape photographer.

Steve and Mary Randall, from Veguita. Steve and Mary have been volunteers for the Sevilleta since 2006 in various capacities.

Penny Lommen is a retired educator/librarian and resides in Socorro with her husband Jim. Her hobbies include reading and birding.

Board Members continuing from 2016 are Bruce Harrison, Sarah McClain, Judy Kurtz, and Sue Small.

Past Board President Tamara Coombs ended her term in December, but she extended her efforts into this year to complete a new membership brochure and Rack Card to attract people to the Refuge. Brochures and Rack Cards are available at the Visitor Center. Tamara also graciously agreed to serve as the Amigos Coordinator for this year's Celebrate Sevilleta! event.

The Amigos partially funded the summer work of two interns, as you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year the Amigos switched to a membership renewal system that starts on Jan 1 regardless of the date you join. (If you join after June, you pay only half the normal membership fee.) This will allow renewal notices to be sent out one time. You will be getting the notice in December, but you can renew anytime. We are excited to have 103 members as of August.

The website been redesigned so it can be easily be viewed on cell phones as well as on desktops. It is:

<http://www.amigosdelasevilleta.com/>

The Amigos Board Needs You

We have openings for additional Board members, so please contact us if you would be willing to serve a one-year term.

Amigos Contacts

Amigos Web Site

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

Amigos on Facebook

Amigos de la Sevilleta

Refuge Web Site & Contact

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

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

505/864-4021 X 106

2017 Interns

Cristian Hernandez *Currently pursuing a Wildlife Ecology degree at New Mexico State University* This summer has been an amazing opportunity. I was able to obtain an extensive amount of experience in small mammal handling and observation oriented work, and came away with a greater knowledge of how the refuge system and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates. I can say with certainty that I consider myself to now be a qualified "prairie dog wrangler". It has been such a privilege to work alongside an amazing team the entire summer on such vast amount of projects. I have created memories and experiences that will last forever.

William Janousek *Currently pursuing a PhD in Wildlife Biology at University of Montana.* This summer I had the pleasure of working at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge as part of the Directorate Resource Fellowship Program. My primary duties involved developing a habitat monitoring program to measure the success of a riparian restoration project along the Rio Grande. Sevilleta NWR and its many partners have committed to this restoration project to provide new habitat for several threatened and endangered species including the Rio Grande silvery minnow, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and Western yellow-billed cuckoo. I've learned many valuable skills and forged rewarding friendships during my time at Sevilleta NWR and look forward to carrying those with me as I return to my graduate studies at the University of Montana.

Interns at Work

Sierra and Ashley tagging a prairie dog





Will



Ashley, Christian and Sierra

All of the Interns

POLLINATOR GARDEN THE AMIGOS SPONSORED at COTONWOOD VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL IN SOCORRO.

