



REFUGE UPDATE

November 2019

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Calendar

Saturday November 2

1PM-4:00PM

Fall Family Fun Fair

Family activities including archery, live animals, guided hikes and more see flyer on page 4

Saturday, December 17 and 20

Christmas bird count

6:30 AM

Meet at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge visitor center

Saturday, January 18

Annual Members Meeting

Check in 12:30 pm

Meeting 1:30-4:00 pm

Nature Store and Membership table, join the Amigos or pay your 2020 dues
Business Meeting, Talk and Reception

Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

Our biggest news right now is about staffing changes at the refuge. Our Heavy Equipment Operator, Rich Calamusso, retired in May of this year after 26 years of Federal service. We brought in Joe Otero as the new Heavy Equipment Operator. He came to the Fish and Wildlife Service from the Bureau of Reclamation, Socorro Office. Joe is somewhat familiar with Sevilleta as he has been assisting with our wetland restoration project for the past several months. He is a welcome addition to our staff. The other staffing news is that our Refuge Biologist, Jon Erz, is moving to a new position at Rio Mora NWR, located in northern New Mexico near Las Vegas. He will be a Wildlife Refuge Specialist. Jon has been at Sevilleta for 11 years! We wish him the best at his new refuge.

Hard to believe it is fall already! Before we know it, it will be winter which means it will be time for Christmas Bird Counts. These counts happen throughout the Americas, and each year tens of thousands of volunteers take part in the effort. The counts are administered by the National Audubon Society and Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this long-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations, and to help guide conservation action. You, too, can help with this effort no matter your birding skills. Sevilleta hosts two Christmas Bird Counts; one called "Five Points" and one called "Sevilleta." These counts will be on December 17 and December 20. On the 17th we will census the east side of the refuge and on the 20th we will census the west side and the Rio Grande. Please consider joining us – we will pair unexperienced birders with more experienced birders and then send groups of people out to survey various portions of the count area. If interested, please call the refuge for more details at 505-864-4021. Our refuge tours are full for November and December, but remember that now is a great time of year to take a hike as the weather cools down. We have about 7 miles of trails that are open from sunrise to sunset, and San Lorenzo Canyon is always beautiful. Hope to see you soon at the Visitor Center or out on a trail.

Amigos Board News

Ann Adams, Board President

Hola Amigos!

Hope you've had a colorful Autumn ... as always it's passed too quickly! Between recent freezing temps and some harsh wind gusts, all the leaves bringing that gorgeous color to my garden are now on the ground! How fortunate we are that the winds here are cold, unlike those in California. When I hear the estimates of fire sizes there, I relate them to the size of our beloved Sevilleta and am grateful that we are not fighting something similar. That saga really makes you think about how connected things are... power lines starting wild fires? Who knew? Here in NM where it is so dry, how many little things can we do as individuals to raise awareness of our impact on places like Sevilleta. As Amigos our mission is to serve the needs of the refuge and that includes thinking about the things we do every day when we use power and water up stream!

On the topic of doing things, we have an active series of events at the refuge over the next couple of months. It may be nearing the end of the year but it's also the start of the holiday season... bet you've seen Christmas décor at all the hardware stores already! Not to be outdone, we're holding the Fall Family Fair on Nov. 2. We'll be holding guided hikes and games as well as celebrating the completion of our Drawn to Sevilleta poster contest. Come see the great artwork made by students in local elementary schools and enjoy an afternoon outdoors and in at Sevilleta.

Be sure to check our online calendars for additional events coming up soon, such as a geology tour of Cibola Canyon on 12/6, Christmas Bird Counts on 12/17 and 12/18, and stay tuned for info about the Amigos Annual Meeting in January. Our speaker will be talking about lions in our part of the world.

Adios,

Ann

Drawn to Sevilleta

Drawn to Sevilleta focuses on Elementary Schools in Belen and Socorro, is in its 7th year, with 303 entries this year! Please stop by the Visitor Center to see the amazing artwork!



Autobiography

(Madison one of the fall interns)

My name is Madison Pyles. I am from San Bernardino in Southern California. I received my Bachelors degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management, spring of 2018, from Humboldt State University in Northern California. In school I developed an Environmental Education volunteer program and I hoped to continue that effort and passion of bringing excitement for all things wild to the public. That luckily brought me to Sevilleta! Exploring this unique desert community has only added fuel to the fire that is my excitement for nature. Hopefully my time here will help me hone my career path that allows that continued exploration. I am excited to be facilitating the 'Drawn to Sevilleta' poster contest as well as learning as much as I can during my time here!





Sevilleta

Fall Family Fair

Saturday, November 2nd, 2019
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Geology Hike:

Join a naturalist for a short hike on our Wildflower Loop to see some stunning views of the surrounding features and learn how they formed.

Mesa View Hike:

Go on a longer hike for views of the Rio Grande, as well as Los Pinos and the Ladrones Mountains.

Located on
I - 25 exit 169

Reservations
not required

Guided Hikes:

1:10 – 2:40 Mesa View Hike

2:10 – 2:40 Geology Hike

Awards Ceremony: 3:00 – 3:30

for winners of 'Drawn to Sevilleta' contest!

Plus Fun Family Activities All Afternoon!

Archery, live animals, guided hikes, nature talks, crafts, snacks, and more!



Parris Averitt-Jaramillo
4th grade- Rio Grande

For more information call 505.864.4021, or find us on Facebook!

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

Amigos promoting the Refuge

The Amigos created and installed a display at the Cherry Hills Library in Albuquerque to let people know about the Refuge and the activities it offers. It ran from October 1-31



Good Job Sandy

ADOPT A PRAIRIE DOG

Submitted by Susan Richards



Add a Prairie Dog to your wildlife family. Sevilleta National Wildlife refuge has a program to humanely capture and relocate Gunnison's prairie dogs from the Albuquerque area to colonies on the east side of the refuge. Gunnison's prairie dogs were native to the Sevilleta area before ranchers exterminated most of them in the mid-1900's. When the wildlife refuge was created, one of the goals was to reintroduce native species, including prairie dogs.

You can support this multi-year project by "adopting" one of the little guys for just \$25. You'll get an adoption certificate, information on Gunnison's prairie dogs, a prairie dog print, and a Sevilleta bumper sticker. Most importantly, you'll get a good feeling knowing you are helping with this program that's been around since 2005. Funds go to help feed the dogs until they are established and to monitor their success in adapting to their new home.

Want to Adopt a Prairie Dog? Drop by the refuge (exit 169 off I-25), or give us a call: 505-864-4021.

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.

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 Jeannine Kimble at 505-864-5021

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

Anigos 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