



May 2019

REFUGE UPDATE

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Calendar

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!

Saturday, May 18

World Migratory Bird day

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 replant. 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.

Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

Spring is here! Shrubs like honey mesquite and desert willow are popping out leaves, cactus are blooming, and birds are singing. Many of the migratory birds that breed here have arrived and are setting up territories. It's a great time to come visit the refuge – hike the trails, check out the hummingbirds at our feeders, and/or sign up for a tour.

While we are happy about spring's arrival, we are saddened by the recent death of one of our long-time local volunteers and Amigos Board Member, Mary Randall. There is more about her in the President's column; I just want to say that all of the staff at Sevilleta will miss her greatly and that our hearts go out to her family and friends.

Work continues along the Rio Grande in our wetland units. We are almost done with the dirt moving part of the project and will soon move on to seeding in native grasses and shrubs. The trees we planted back in February are leafing out and starting to grow. The refuge received funding for riparian restoration work in another part of the refuge just upstream from the San Acacia Dam. This project will include removing tamarisk and other non-native species from the area. There are native plants scattered amongst the tamarisk and they will spread into the areas we clear of tamarisk. This includes salt grass, four-wing saltbush, wolfberry and other native shrubs and grasses. The area contains quite a few screwbean mesquite. This species is declining throughout much of its range, but seems to be doing well in the middle Rio Grande. This project will allow us to increase its abundance.

We hope to see you soon on a visit to Sevilleta!

Amigos Board News

Ann Adams, Board President

Friends!!

Happy May! Lots of activities ahead this time of year, sponsored by the refuge or by the Amigos or both. Check them out at the Sevilleta NWS site (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta/>) or the Amigos' website (<https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/calendar>) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/amigossevilleta/>).

All these information options bring to mind the importance of keeping in touch, staying informed and working and playing together. One of the best things about the Amigos is our tight relationship with the Sevilleta Refuge staff. Our partnership helps us stay up to date on refuge plans and needs so that we can provide volunteers and resources to do work but also take advantage of the opportunities to explore and grow as we learn more about this special place.

On Saturday, April 27th, Amigos members participated in a tour of the West mesa area at the far southwestern boundary of the refuge. This is a place we rarely get to see. Kathy Granillo, the Refuge Manager, led the tour, driving the lead vehicle and calling out points of interest. (Check out our Facebook page for details and photos). We stopped numerous times for close up experience of a very early descanso, a beautiful, but tiny rivulet that's carved out a "water slide" from the rock, and a walk across a high, rough mesa that will someday soon become inaccessible due to erosion of the soft chalky rock (old volcanic ash) that forms it. We get to see these infrequently visited places because the staff has found them in the course of their work maintaining the refuge. Sometimes we, Amigos, even discover things that are new to the refuge staff...such as cactus that normally don't live on Sevilleta, which we found on this tour. Always an opportunity for something new. Aren't you glad to be a member of the Amigos?

Encourage your family and friends to join and be sure to register for upcoming events!! Or if you are interested in volunteering, we are looking for new Board members, specifically someone with a financial background, to join in guiding the organization.

On a related topic, we Amigos have just lost a good friend and Board member. Mary Randall passed away this past Friday. She had been on our Board for some time and contributed with humor, energy and clear insight when we would get tangled up in a discussion. Mary brought wit and feistiness to all our events. She will be sorely missed. For further information: <https://noblinfuneralservice.com/book-of-memories/3820287/Randall-Mary/index.php>

NEEDED - ENTHUSIASTIC BOARD MEMBER

Amigos is looking for someone committed to Sevilleta to help guide the Amigos organization. Time commitment is one meeting a month at the Refuge, plus committee work. Reply to: members@amigosdelasevilleta.org

Capital Campaign Update

In 2018 Sevilleta completed work on the addition of a new hiking trail. The Ladrones Vista Trail is a 1.9 mile trail that connects with the Mesa View and Nature Loop Trails. We now have four excellent trails for our visitors to enjoy.

At this time only one trail has an interpretive sign. An interpretive sign provides information to enhance a user's experience on the Refuge. It may talk about the variety of wildlife that can be seen while on the trail or give a historical perspective of the area. It is a message that is available to many visitors at one time.

In July of 2018 the Amigos launched a Capital Campaign to raise money for new trail head signs. We need 3 new signs and need to update the one that we already have. These signs must meet standards for durability in our desert conditions and are therefore expensive, usually costing between two and three thousand dollars each.

The word was sent out to our members via email and listed on our website. The response was fantastic! Then one member of our group offered to match any donation up to \$1250.00. Thanks to the generosity of our members our matching goal was met! We have collected \$3181.00 so far which will cover the cost of the first sign and have about 25% of the funds needed for the next one.

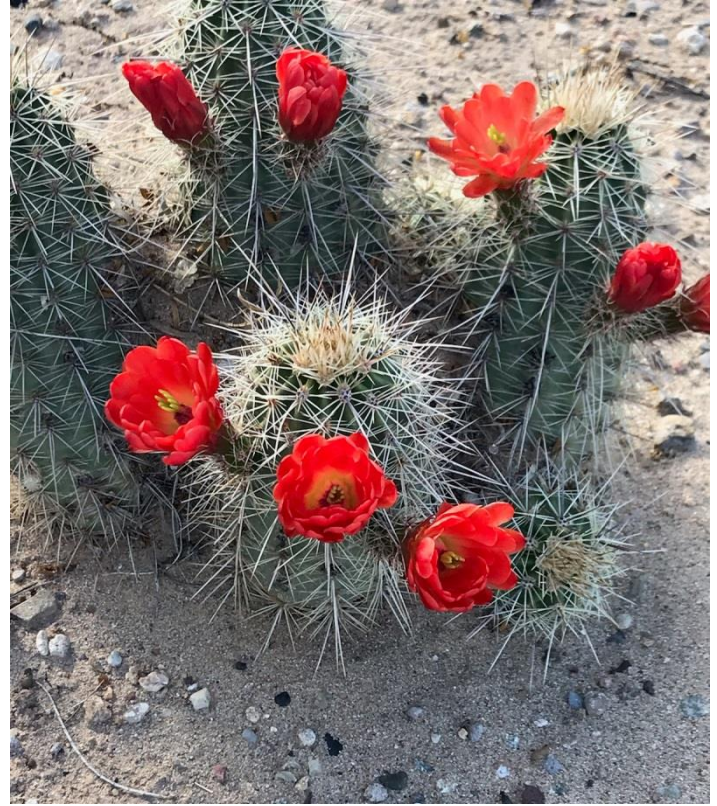
Grateful thanks go to the following members who were willing to improve our wonderful refuge.

- Ann Adams
- Mary Arndt
- Rich Besser
- Renee F. Brown
- Robert Combs
- Virginia Crossett
- David Dixon
- Frances Dupont
- Gilbert Garcia
- Kathryn Karnowsky
- William Koch
- Penny & Jim Lommen
- Gary Loos
- MaryAnn Mathews
- Paula Metzner
- Carol Myers
- Carol Pittman
- Sandra Quereshi
- Susan Richards & Rex Myers
- Larry Rogers
- Barbara Rosensimon
- Eric Sjoblom
- Some Serious Business

If you would like to make a contribution you can donate by phone, mail or online at our website. And remember, the Amigos are a 501(c) 3 organization so donations are tax deductible.



Round-tailed Horned Lizard on the Mesa View trail.



Caret cup cactus in the Refuge Cactus Garden.

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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