



# *REFUGE UPDATE*

**November 2021**

Published bi-monthly by the Amigos de la Sevilleta

## **Calendar**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there are no planned events on the Refuge. A special notification will be sent to members if things change before the next Refuge Update is published.

## **Refuge Manager Notes November 2021**

Greetings Amigos!

Hope this finds you all doing well.

Things here at Sevilleta NWR have been busy! Fall is in the air and also is change!

We have been busy relocating prairie dogs, trail work, performing road work, fixing fence and attending Bosque Conservation Days in Socorro! All with the help of our amazing friends and volunteers!

October 16 the Amigos hosted a nature store sale, with huge success- if you attended Thank you for your support. Please renew your membership to continue supporting the Amigos!

Next time you are out, please spend some time out-of-doors and enjoy the beauty of Sevilleta NWR!

Our Refuge Manager position is currently open so hopefully before too long the position should be filled!

Thank you for your support of Sevilleta NWR and we hope to see you soon!

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

## **Amigos Board News**

Ann Adams, Board President

Hola Amigos!

What a great time of year for communing with Nature! The leaves are changing, cranes are returning, and the days are still warm and lovely. We have incredible bursts of color to celebrate the end of the harvest season. Along the river, cottonwoods are now golden. Persephone is called to return to the underworld and soon we will be left with short days, cold temps and eventually a blanket of snow (we hope!).

But in the meantime, we have lots to celebrate here in New Mexico. The Day of the Dead or la Dia de los Muertos and All Saints' Day or La Toussaint remind us fondly of our ancestors and our history and that the onset of Autumn is a time of transition in Nature. Following all the intense colors of Fall, come the more subtle but equally beautiful shades of Winter. Browns, tans, and rust colors blanket the landscape as plants shift their focus to their roots where they have stored nutrients to sustain themselves through the cold ahead, the foundations for next years' growth. So many aspects in human society parallel Nature. Our ancestors who settled the Southwest have left us with a rich and varied culture to sustain us through challenging times. We have collected, as the creatures in our refuge, the resources on which to draw well into the future. At Sevilleta, you can see reminders of those who went before in petroglyphs, ruins of ranch line shacks, and environmental experiments from modern research

Though the visitors' center may not reopen until sometime in 2022, there are still reasons to visit the refuge. The trails invite us to come out to enjoy Nature's transition. The Nature Trail itself, is sporting new plant and trail markers that should add to our enjoyment and awareness as we hike along. We recently held a successful "parking lot" sale with offerings from the Amigos' Nature Store, Amigos memberships and information about the refuge on hand. Unfortunately, we cannot hold our annual Family Fair and Drawn to Sevilleta awards this year but we are considering another parking lot occasion. We would love to hear any ideas you, our members, have for events you would like that we can host outdoors on the refuge. Please, check out our Facebook news feed to get the latest photos and info from Sevilleta!

With so many people happy to get outdoors now, we hope that you will choose Sevilleta for your next foray into Nature!

Best,  
Ann

## November Volunteer

### Steve Randall

Submitted by Rex Myers

Few people have seen more Sevilleta back country than Steve. He and his late wife, Mary, rode mules checking remote fence lines, fixed drinkers, led tours, and hiked arroyos all over the refuge. Steve has been a volunteer since 2006 (15 years, Wow!), is now a member of the Amigos board, and also edits the newsletter. A retired manufacturing engineer, Steve, Mary, 3 mules and 2 horses came to New Mexico from California, where they had also volunteered. He loves the Los Pinos mountains and Test Well Road area, but finds much of the refuge breathtaking in its beauty. "We need to get more people out to see how wonderful Sevilleta is." Mattie, one of his current mules, enjoys a warm fall day with Steve, who still loves to ride.

Thanks, Steve. It's great to have you on the Amigos board.



# New Signs on Sevilleta's Nature Trail

Submitted by Susan Richards

New signs identify plants and features along the 1.1 mile Nature Trail just south of the Visitors' Center. Old signs had faded with harsh New Mexico weather and some originally identified plants died. Now there are 31 new signs and 35 arrows (to keep trail walkers on the right route). Most signs identify plants, like Snakeweed, Four-wing saltbush, Apache plume and One-seed juniper. Each sign also has the botanical name. In addition, there are now signs identifying physical features like Arroyo, Tumbleweed, Los Pinos Mountains, and the Rio Grande bosque. Amigos members worked with refuge staff on the project. Come walk the trail and see the signs. A "Thank You" is also in order to those members who supported the capital campaign to improve refuge signs.



Old Sign



Replacement



## Editor note

The sign replacement project was coordinated by Rex Meyers and Susan Richards. Thank You!

# Nature Store Sale

## Submitted by Penny Lommen

On Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> the Nature Store Sidewalk sale was a great success. We sold 105 items for a total before fees of \$1072.57! We received 2 new memberships and 1 renewal during that time.

Great job!!! Thanks to everyone who helped out and who purchased stuff.

### Editor's Note

Penny, in addition to being the Amigos treasurer, purchases, with Susan Richards, the inventory for, and manages the Nature Store. Hopefully this will be one of many sidewalk sales. Your efforts are appreciated.

The next Amigos board meeting is November 24 at 4:30 By Zoom

All Amigos members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Contact Ann [ann.d.adams@comcast.net](mailto:ann.d.adams@comcast.net), for access information if you would like to attend.

### Amigos 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>

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Visitor Services Manager

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Past editions of this Newsletter are available at the Amigos website: <https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/contacts>

**There are openings on the Amigos de la Sevilleta board of directors.**

**Contact Steve Randall at 505-861-1088**

### Editor's Note

Items for consideration in the Update are encouraged. Email your submission to [sdrandll72@gmail.com](mailto:sdrandll72@gmail.com) in .doc format.