



March 2018 REFUGE UPDATE

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Calendar

Amigos de la Sevilleta Board Meeting **Tuesday March 13, 2018**

5:30-7:00 pm

Next meeting will be held at the visitor center conference room, pot luck and meeting start at 5:30

Meet The Natives! **Wednesday, April 4**

9 am

Join a volunteer naturalist on this guided hike focusing on native plants! Hiking will be moderate and over uneven terrain. Lace up your boots, grab your hiking stick and camera and hit the trail with us.

No Reservations required

Pinos Rim Cactus Hike **Saturday, April 21** **9 am – 3 pm**

Explore Sevilleta on this strenuous hike along the rim of Los Pinos mountains. 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 the visitor center 505-864-4021 to make reservations.

Wildflower Hike **Saturday, April 28**

9 am

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

Feathered Friends Hike **Saturday, May 12** **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 of some of our wonderful winged migrant and resident birds. Grab your hiking boots, water, binoculars, and lunch. We also suggest mosquito repellent. For more information on World Migratory Bird Day, visit www.birdday.org Call the visitor center 505-864-4021 to make reservations.

Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

Riparian restoration efforts in Units A and B continue, with about 4500 willow and cottonwood poles planted this February. We could not have done it without all of the extra hands provided by New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, the New Mexico Tech Climbing Club, Defenders of Wildlife, an LDS Youth Group from Albuquerque, refuge volunteers, an American Conservation Experience crew, and several staff from the Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Regional office in Albuquerque.

Dirt moving in the riparian areas also continues as we reshape Unit B to accommodate waterfowl hunting and the creation of an area where the river can overbank in the spring to provide habitat for Rio Grande Silvery minnows. We anticipate having this area back open to the public by September of this year.

If you have visited the refuge lately you've most likely noticed that we have some construction going on. We are building a covered porch off the entire north wall of the Visitor Center, including a water collecting system and cistern to store the collected water. We will then use this rainwater to irrigate the plants around the Visitor Center. The porch will provide a large shady area for outdoor activities in warmer weather. One activity planned for the new porch area is hummingbird banding this summer. Stay tuned for more information!

Amigos Board News

Anna Adams, Board President

I am pleased to be representing you as the new Amigos President. I am excited to meet each of you and look forward to working with you this year as we provide support to the Sevilleta NWR. As you are well aware Sevilleta is a vast refuge managed by a small staff. That makes the Amigos a vital part of mission success for all the projects and programs undertaken by the refuge staff. You are truly appreciated!!

I would like to engage your assistance this year in growing our membership and I welcome suggestions, thoughts, and ideas you have for the ways we might achieve that goal. There is always something to be done in a place the size of Sevilleta. From tree-planting efforts to events like Celebrate Sevilleta, we have a busy year of volunteering ahead...clearly, more members can make that easier. Let me hear from you. Please watch this space and I promise to keep you up to date on plans and activities where your help is needed.

I think we have a great year ahead of us!

Help Needed

If you have social media skills consider becoming an administrator for the Amigos de la Sevilleta Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/amigossevilleta/>
Contact Jeannine Kimble

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.

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

505/864-4021 X 106

Annual Meeting Report

Judy Kurtz, Amigos Board

Did you know that not all bees make honey? And that not all bees are social? And that not all bees are yellow and black? And that there are more than 1000 bee species in New Mexico-- that's a quarter of all the species in North America? And that more than 280 of those species can be found on Sevilleta? And that bees are the only pollinators that actually deliberately gather pollen from the flowers they visit? And that Sevilleta is the site of a 16 year, ongoing study designed to look at population level fluctuations in bees over the season and on a long term basis, over years, and at the interconnections between bee populations and flowering plant communities? And that that study is the longest bee study in the world?

Dr. Olivia Carril shared those facts and many more with the attendees at the Amigos de la Sevilleta 2018 Annual Meeting, held January 27th at the Refuge Visitor Center. About 90 people were treated to her informative and interesting talk. After the meeting, she autographed copies of her book *The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees*, and answered further questions. (Copies of the book are available at the Nature Store at the Visitor Center.)

In addition to the interesting information, and some tasty treats, attendees had the opportunity to start or renew their memberships in the Amigos group and to hear about the accomplishments of the Amigos during 2017. Those included awarding stipends to 4 refuge interns to help them in their study of wildlife, prizes to elementary school children contest winners in the Drawn to Sevilleta poster contest which encourages their appreciation of nature, pollinator garden development both on the refuge and at Cottonwood Charter school, advertising for the refuge in local media, and a new refuge sign at the front gate.

Refuge manager Kathy Granillo shared plans for 2018 for the planting of several thousand more Goodings willows and cottonwood trees along the river, the development of an additional hiking trail along the west side of the visitor center area, and the placement of several more interpretive kiosks in the area. These projects offer plenty of opportunity for all of us who love Sevilleta to pitch in physically and/or financially to improve the refuge.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information on these projects and for other Amigos-sponsored events over the coming months. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Dr Carril



Amigos

Amigos de la Sevilleta Nature Store



New items: bookmarks, bug jars, guides for big and small



T-shirt sale: one for \$15, two for \$25 Do you have one...or two?