



REFUGE UPDATE

January 2020

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Calendar

Saturday January 18

Doors open at 12:30 Meeting 1-4 pm

Amigos Annual meeting see flyer on page 5

Friday, January 24

West Side Tour

8:45 am – 4 pm

Great tour for your first time on Sevilleta NWR! Join Refuge staff and naturalist on the exploration of the Cerritos de las minas area on Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Grab your hiking boots, hats, binoculars, and lunch for this journey. The hike will be approximately 5 miles over uneven surfaces, in arroyos, and up hills. This is a great opportunity to see parts of the refuge that you cannot otherwise see. Seating is limited, reservations are required 505/864-4021

Sunday, February 9

Full Moon Hike

5 – 9 pm

The desert comes alive at night! Join Amigos de la Sevilleta Volunteer Naturalist on this evening hike to take in the beauty of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge under the full moon. Approximately a 4-mile moderate to strenuous hike over uneven surface, in arroyos and up hills. No reservations required, meet at the Visitor Center.

Friday, February 14

Amigos Tree Planting

9 am

Share the love!

Join us on Valentines day (February 14, 2020) 9 am to restore the bosque along the Rio Grande where it runs through the Refuge. Early spring is the perfect time for pole planting. Pole planting is a restoration technique that uses small saplings that can be cut from other areas along the Rio Grande drainage. The freshly cut ends of young cottonwood and willow trees are then planted in deep holes that reach to the water table.

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Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

Welcome to 2020! Sevilleta NWR just had a birthday on December 28 and is now 46 years old. These types of events cause me to reflect on what we've collectively accomplished on the refuge and to think about plans for the future. I also realize that what we've accomplished is due in large part to a supportive friends group and wonderful volunteers. Thank you all!!

Which brings me to a reminder -please renew your membership and continue the support. As well as your financial and moral support, we could also use more physical support. We have many projects (short term and long) that could use another pair of hands or two. Some of these are get-your-hands dirty sort of projects, while others are more outreach and/or administrative in nature. For example, staffing an Amigos table at events, talking about the refuge to interested groups, or posting flyers for upcoming events.

Did I say upcoming events? Mark your calendars for January 18, from 1-4 pm for the Amigos Annual Meeting. This will include a fascinating presentation about mountain lions on Sevilleta and surrounding areas. You won't want to miss this! Doors open at 12:30.

Speaking of get-your-hands-dirty projects, we will once again be planting trees in February. We invite you to come help on Friday, February 14, and to see the restoration work that we are accomplishing on the refuge. Show some love for your refuge and create a lasting legacy. Please call the refuge to let us know if you'd like to join us that day.

Thanks again for all that you do!

Amigos Board News

Ann Adams, Board President

Hola, Amigos!

What an interesting year we've just completed! As always, Amigos have contributed both their precious time and money to facilitate a rich series of events, projects, and community engagement at Sevilleta NWR.

We had the opportunity as members to meet and learn about micro-bats in New Mexico at the 2019 Annual Meeting. We helped plant thousands of trees in the refuge's ongoing restoration effort. We hiked with staff leadership, performed chores as assigned by refuge staff, and enjoyed the marvels of the refuge from wildlife to geology, petroglyphs to plant life. We continued fund raising for much needed trail kiosks, operated the Nature Store, and enlisted new members. Outreach activities such as the Drawn to Sevilleta poster contest, Fish in the Classroom, and the Fall Family Fair provided learning opportunities for participating area elementary school children and their families. Amigos annually fund refuge interns who work with the kids learning about Sevilleta and producing posters for the contest. It's been a full year. Thank you for your 2019 membership and for all that you have done to support Amigos and Sevilleta!

In keeping with our ongoing efforts to bring you Amigos together with Sevilleta, 2020 looks like it will provide us all more volunteer opportunities to work with refuge staff, experience the refuge and contribute ongoing support. More possibilities for engagement are likely to pop up this coming year as Sevilleta's biologist has moved on to another New Mexico refuge. Total full-time staff count is down to four. We all know our refuge staff perform like super-heroes but even so, managing 360 square miles of territory can be a daunting task! We Amigos are here to support work as needed to keep the refuge running as smoothly as possible. We will be sure to keep you informed about areas needing volunteer participation throughout the year ahead through this newsletter, our web and Facebook sites, and the Sevilleta NWR site. Plan to spend some quality volunteer time on the refuge this year!

Membership renewal is coming up for most of us. The Annual Meeting will give you a chance to sign up in person!! I know you've seen the Amigos Annual Meeting flyer so I won't do more than leave you with a quick reminder to mark your calendars for January 18, 12:30. Come hear about lions on the refuge...who knew!

All the best,

Ann

Calendar from page 1

Friday, February 14

Amigos Tree Planting

9 am

By keeping the saplings wet, they will be able to take root in their new location. Volunteer help is greatly needed. Pole planting does not require any special skills. The holes are pre-drilled with an auger by Refuge staff. Volunteers plant them in holes and fill in the dirt around the saplings. The most important qualification is a willingness to help. When the restoration is complete, the area along the Rio Grande will have a chance to become a healthy, New Mexico bosque once again. As the trees mature they will provide habitat for a variety of wildlife such as porcupines, hawks and all kinds of songbirds, including the endangered southwest willow flycatcher. The flycatcher already nests on the Refuge. This improved habitat will give them the opportunity to expand their nesting colony, increasing the chances for species recovery.

The work day will begin at 9AM at the Refuge Visitor Center. Bring a bag lunch and plenty to drink. Come dressed in work clothes, including a hat, gloves and boots that you don't mind getting muddy.

Hug a Tree!!

Valentines day Friends Tree Planting!

Help us restore native habitat on a National Wildlife
Refuge!

Where: **Sevilleta NWR**

When: **Saturday, February 14, 2019**
9 am

Why: Enhance riparian acres with native willows to benefit southwestern willow flycatchers and yellow-billed cuckoos.

You'll need: Outdoor clothing and footwear, gloves, sun protection, and a sack lunch. *Snacks and water will be provided.*

To sign up: Email Jeannine_Kimble@fws.gov



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Friday, March 6
Sevilleta by Horseback

9 am – 3 pm

Join us for a guided horseback exploration of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge! Enjoy the breath-taking views from your saddle while learning some fascinating facts about the diverse landscape of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Load up your horse, saddle, water, and lunch. Dress for the weather. Space is limited so make your reservations now 505/864-4021! Directions to meeting place will be provided in a confirmation phone call a few days before the event.

Saturday, March 28
1:00 – 2:00 pm
Once upon a Time: A Ranch – Lecture

Spanish colonizers brought livestock with them; thus began the first grazing on land that is now Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Ranching has left marks on this beautiful landscape – scattered wells, line shacks, fence posts, a rock cairn. Join us for a talk and slide program placing local livestock raising in the context of the western United States cattle industry up through the Campbell Family ranch that became Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge.

Saturday, April 4
Once upon a time: A Ranch- Field tour
9 am – 3 pm

This tour will highlight the Ranching history of Sevilleta. Bring a lunch and water Reservations are required, call 505/864-4021

SEVILLETA VISITOR CENTER

“Hi, Welcome to Sevilleta. How are you, where are you from, have you ever been here before?”

That’s what you’ll hear as you enter the Visitor’s Center. Our guests come from all over the United States and Canada as well as residents from the local area. Surprisingly, many of the locals say that this is their first time to stop here. It’s our feeling that the new signs on the Interstate have had a hand in attracting more people to the refuge. This summer we also had guests from Germany, France, Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Oman.

Visitors are told a little of the history of Sevilleta starting with the Spanish land grants and ending with the deeding of the Campbell Ranch to the Nature Conservancy and then to Fish and Wildlife. The Campbell family wanted the land to be returned to its natural state so they requested that the land be used for research. They are also told that Sevilleta NWR is 30 miles wide and 18 miles long and consists of 4 major biomes. These biomes are home to over 89 species of mammals, 251 species of birds, 58 species of reptiles, 15 species of amphibians and 1200 species of plants.

Visitors are given an overview of the Amigos and the purpose behind the organization. Local visitors are encouraged to join the Amigos and take advantage of the special activities and events on the refuge for our members.

I challenge you to spend a day at the Visitor Center welcoming people from all over the world and learning more about Sevilleta with each new visitor that comes in



Please join the Amigos de la Sevilleta at our Annual Meeting. Enjoy food, conversation, and a talk by Hunter Prude, a graduate student at New Mexico State University. Hunter will present an overview of mountain lion ecology in the southwest, including his research on the diversity found in lion diets in southwestern New Mexico and the influence of man-made water sources on lion behavior and predation.

January 18, 2020, 1-4 pm
Sevilleta National
Wildlife Refuge
(Exit 169 off of I-25)

Members and non-members are welcome

Volunteers

More than likely, a volunteer greets you when you walk through the front door of the Sevilleta Visitors Center. Volunteers are an essential part of the refuge's support staff. "RV Volunteers" bring their own RV, hook-up to water and electricity in an area of the refuge west of the shop, and spend three or more days a week staffing the Visitors Center desk, keeping the building and vehicles clean, and helping in myriad other ways. Generally, they stay for three months or more. December's volunteers include Mary and Mike, Sherry, Patty, and Izzy (Patty's furry assistant). Come in and say "Hello."

Volunteers also help in other ways. At the recent Festival of the Cranes, Sevilleta had an information table staffed, in part, by two Amigos volunteers and board members – Sandy and Colin. They greeted folks who came by the table, shared the story of our wildlife refuge, and encouraged everyone to take Exit 169 for a visit.

Interested in Volunteering at Sevilleta? Stay tuned for a series of articles in upcoming Amigos Newsletters about what volunteers do. You can also call Jeannine at 505-864-4021.



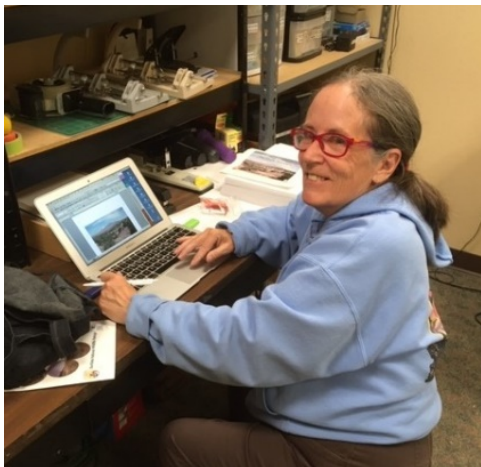
Colin & Sandy Barnett



Mike Arndt



Mary Arndt



Sherry Reynolds



Patty Hill and Izzy

ARCHAEOLOGY ON SEVILLETA
VOLUNTEERS GLEN FREIMUTH AND ETHEL CHIANG

Between March and May 2019 we continued archaeological research on the Refuge concentrating on the Refuge historic sites. The research was supported by, current and former Refuge staff and greatly enhanced by Dave Love (NMT), Mike Chavez, and Virginia McLemore (NMT).

Many historic Refuge sites are known but have not been recorded. Our goals were to locate, photograph, draw plan maps, record the sites, and date the sites by the observed artifacts or from USGS Quad maps or records.

We documented 52 sites: 43 historic and nine prehistoric. The historic sites were divided into functional types which included 6 ranch headquarters, 1 homestead, 7 wells and tanks, 11 structures, 2 historic cemeteries, 7 mines, 2 petroglyphs and carvings, 4 cairns, 1 road switchback, 3 bombing targets, and 1 beacon navigation light.

Among the most interesting are the 11 structures (line shacks) constructed of stacked rocks or adobe. Based upon the observed artifacts and Quad maps they date to ca. 1900 to 1930 and probably earlier. Some have initials and brands carved into the walls. One brand was assigned to Polinar Chavez of Mountainair, NM but we do not know the date. Typical artifacts observed around the structures included tobacco tins, sardine tins, spot soldered cans of condensed and evaporated milk, broken glass jars and bottles, ceramics, and tin cans of unknown contents but probably fruits and vegetables. Some of the glass bottles, tins and ceramics provided dates.

Several of the large (6' x 30') plastered tanks were constructed on site after the well was drilled in the early 1950's by G. S. Shupe, a contractor from Socorro. Other tanks were handmade and some were commercial metal. Most of the well tanks used Chicago Aero Motor wind mills and several still stand.

Ranch hands carved initials and brands into several remote outcrop locations.

Some of the mines were exploratory and some were working copper and silver mines for short periods of time beginning in the early 1900's. Beginning in the late 1940's and into the 1950's uranium exploration began in a few locations.

We have not recorded all of the Refuge historic sites and much work remains to better date and explain the sites from records research.



Dated Carving



Remote Line Shack (photo by Dave Love)



Remote outcrop with carvings. Glen and Ethel (Dave Love photo)

Festival of the Cranes



In November, Sevilleta NWR participated in the 32nd Bosque del Apache Festival of the Cranes. Visitor Services Manager Jeannine Kimble, interns Madison Pyles and Carol Madison, and Board members Sandy and Colin Barnett, set up and staffed our display tables during the all-day event. In addition to showcasing some of the iconic species of birds and mammals at the Refuge, the display highlighted some of the research projects carried out on refuge lands, the much-used solar powered water stations (“drinkers”) for wildlife, the Gunnison Prairie Dog reintroduction program, as well as the hiking and bird watching opportunities for the public at the refuge. The new Amigos brochure was available (and picked up by many!). Opportunities to make wildlife paw print in sand and toss beanbags into two beautifully painted corn hole boards proved very popular with both adults and children.



Thank you to member Dennis Prichard for his donation of a raised donation box!

New Arrivals at the Nature Store



New Naturalists Guides \$7.95 each



Finger puppets 7.00 each
All sorts of critters

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>

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

505-864-5021ex106

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

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