

BOSQUE WATCH



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NM Invasive Species Strike Team

Invasive species have been crowding out native species since they were introduced in the 19th-century by settlers arriving in New Mexico. Many of these invasive, non-native species absorb water at a much higher rate than native New Mexican plants that are adapted to the desert environment and require much less water to thrive. In 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched the New Mexico Invasive Species Strike Team (ISST) to aggressively deal with the ever-increasing problem. In the Land of Enchantment, the Strike Team consists of three or four biologists who are responsible for all Fish and Wildlife Refuges in the state. Their mission, simply put, is to eradicate these non-native species through early detection and rapid response (EDRR), the key elements of the ISST's strategy to eradicate new infestations of invasive species before they outcompete native species. Once a species is eradicated, the Strike Team tackles control restoration and monitoring programs.

The Godzilla of invasive species is salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*), a tree native to Eurasia that can absorb 200 gallons of water a day. Non-native thistles (bull, musk, Canadian thistles and Russian knapweed) is another group of species that the Strike Team has been tasked to remove. To deal with these water demons, the Strike Team uses a variety of weapons of destruction, primarily chainsaws and loppers, but also herbicide in either a four-gallon backpack sprayer, a 15-gallon ATV-mounted sprayer or the big boy, a 60-gallon "boom sprayer." Trimble GPS units and GIS software (ArcMap) are used for data collection. This information records the amount of ground covered by the Strike Team, and is used later to monitor control efficacy or spread of infestations. Once an area is covered, a final year-end report is created with maps of the treated area and a summary of the work accomplished to include the pesticide

used, species treated, overall refuge conditions, and follow-up recommendations. At Bosque del Apache, pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) and salt cedar have been monitored and treated. In 2011 the Strike Team mapped 11,509 acres, treated a total of 1,888 acres and retreated 16 acres.

Elsewhere in the state, the Las Vegas NWR has begun working with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to remove invasive plants on state lands (McAlister Lake) adjacent to the Refuge in order to halt the expansion of invasive species onto the Refuge. To date, the ISST has monitored a majority of the canyons and 99% of the Las Vegas Refuge for invasive weeds such as musk (*Carduus nutans*), bull (*Cirsium vulgare*), and Canada (*Cirsium arvense*) thistle. At the Maxwell NWR the team has monitored and treated the entire Refuge for invasives such as Russian knapweed, musk, bull, and Canada thistle and also monitored for hoary cress (*Cardaria* spp.)

San Andres Refuge has developed a long-term partnership with White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and White Sands National Monument. Forming such partnerships is essential to invasive species control; these two agencies have provided staff and funding for FWS Strike Team to treat priority invasive plant species control sites on partner properties.

--Erica Rivera, Biological Science Technician, Bosque del Apache NWR



Erica Rivera takes a chainsaw to a saltcedar at WSMR. Photo by Mara Weisenberger USFWS



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Winter is usually a quiet time on the landscape but as you all know it is the high season at the Refuge. As thousands of birds wheel through the sky following their own daily routines and building energy for their return north, the Friends, too, are looking forward to the new year, setting goals and building our resources in support of Bosque del Apache NWR. In winter there are many Fish and Wildlife volunteers working at the Refuge, but their time is more than taken up with the flow of visitors and work out on the Refuge. Despite their efforts, and the untiring work of the staff, there are many things to be done at the Refuge, in winter and throughout the year that could benefit from a little extra volunteer work. To that end, you will find in this issue of *Bosque Watch* a new feature, a **HELP WANTED** ad. Yup, you read it right, a help wanted ad. You can check my figures, but by my estimate, between 70 and 80 percent of the Friends members live in New Mexico. Over a third of our total membership, about 385 people, live in the Albuquerque area. Imagine what we could do if we could get just 10 percent of those people to come to the Bosque to help out a few times a year. So, check it out. I think there is something for virtually everyone and since this is a virtual world, maybe in time we will have some 'virtual' volunteer work for those who live outside the Land of Enchantment.

We've had a few responses to our Photo Ops column and I hope you enjoy the pictures submitted this

time round. Next to the birds, the most plentiful thing at the Refuge this time of year is 'shutter bugs.' If they were a staple in the avian diet we probably wouldn't have to worry about the elk in the cornfields. Nevertheless, they proliferate rapidly on sunny days and they are crucial in their own way in supporting the Refuge. Hopefully we will receive more examples of their work as time goes on.

Finally, as a Friends Board member, I have occasionally been asked what, exactly, the Board does. Well, as you know, we had an election this past October and now have a bunch of members who are new not only to the Board but to the Friends organization. As we get to know each other and plot a course for the coming year, I thought it might be useful to give you a report in each newsletter briefly highlighting what the Board is talking about and working on. So, in this issue you will see **BOARD TALK**. We're just getting started so this one will be brief, but let me know if you find this interesting, useful, amazing? I'm listening for you.

--Lise Spargo, Friends Board Member and Editor, Bosque Watch



photo courtesy Dave Rust

BOARD TALK

At the October annual meeting the new Board was elected and you can find their names and contact information at the back of this issue of the newsletter. We now have a full executive committee – President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer – and five at-large Board members.

At the October meeting the Treasurer and Executive Director presented the next annual budget which was voted on and approved. Here's a short take on the summary of last year's budget numbers. You can find more details on our web site, www.friendsofthebosque.org.

Gross Income: \$489,392

The primary sources are the Nature Store, membership fees and Festival.

Expenses: \$417,384

These are budgeted expenses. Programs such as the Nature Store, Festival and Refuge projects account for most of this. Refuge projects include things like support to the mountain lion project. The Friends have contributed funds to buy tracking collars for the cats.

Net: \$72,008

Our actual cash on hand is about twice this much at any given time as income and expenses flow in and out.

At the first regular meeting of the Board on 5 November, we had a brief business meeting and then spent our time reviewing the organization's structure and function. This was done simply to help new members understand how the Board operated in conjunction with the Refuge and our own executive staff. It was agreed that at the 21 January meeting we would spend

some time brainstorming about public relations and fund raising for 2012. As always, Friends members are welcome at all Board meetings and if you have any ideas on how we can change or improve our PR footprint, please feel free to make suggestions.

Manager's Report

The 24th Festival of the Cranes at Bosque this past November was a huge success! The weather was great, the fly outs were impressive, and the presentations and workshops were educational as always. Thank you to all those who came out for the Festival and supported their National Wildlife Refuge. An even bigger thank you goes out to all of the Friends of Bosque del Apache, Refuge volunteers, and staff who worked so hard to make this year's Festival such a success. The biggest thank you of all goes out to Robyn Harrison, the outgoing Friends Festival Coordinator, who after four successful years of planning and growing the Festival, is retiring her trademark tie-dyed sweatshirt and her position as Festival Coordinator. Robyn will be greatly missed in the position but as a local member of the community, I hope we haven't seen the last of her. Using the foundation that Robyn laid, planning for next year's milestone 25th Festival of the Cranes is already well underway and promises to be the best Festival yet.

The display of birds at Bosque del Apache for the Festival in November was magical and will continue to be throughout the winter months as thousands of sandhill cranes, snow geese and other migratory birds continue to glide up and down the Rio Grande Valley and into the Refuge. The giant cranes' "triumphant trumpet calls ... and

brassy music got into my soul," remarked roving journalist Charles Kuralt. The cranes can be seen at any time during the day from the Auto Tour Loop, but the best times to see large concentrations of cranes is still at the dawn and dusk fly-ins and fly-outs from the Flight Deck or the turn outs off of New Mexico Highway 1 on the north end of the Refuge.

The Refuge's web page (www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/bosque/), the Friends of Bosque del Apache's web page (www.friendsofthebosque.org/), and the Friends Twitter Page (<http://twitter.com/FriendsofBosque>) are all excellent sources for all sorts of Refuge information that are frequently used by visitors. Recently, Bosque-specific information has also been regularly posted on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southwest Region Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/#!/USFWSSouthwest).

Refuge websites are excellent sources of standard information such as refuge regulations and driving directions. Social media sites such as Facebook that are frequently updated, directly compliment standard websites by providing more current and changing information. In January Bosque del Apache will roll out its own Facebook and Twitter pages that will provide weekly highlights of Refuge happenings, important notices, photos, up-to-date wildlife sightings/numbers, and much more. Watch Bosque's website or the Southwest Region Facebook Page for the official Refuge Facebook and Twitter pages.

On December 5th the entire state of New Mexico was hit by a large winter storm that brought freezing temperatures and nearly a foot of snow to Bosque. In response to the dangerously cold temperatures

and unsafe driving conditions, the Visitor Center and Auto Tour Loop were closed to the public for two days. Refuge volunteers and maintenance staff worked hard to clear the Auto Tour Loop of snow and the Refuge was able to completely reopen by December 7th. The blanket of snow that covered the Refuge provided a beautiful photo opportunity!

I hope you find the time to enjoy America's great outdoors this winter season with family and loved ones. If you can't make it to Bosque for a loop around the Auto Tour Route, perhaps you can participate in a Christmas Bird Count near you, photograph a unique reflection in the snow, find a frozen lake to ice fish, or sled down a snow covered hill. If you're looking for a last minute holiday gift idea, Federal Duck Stamps make a great gift to friends or family. The stamp provides free entry to the refuges you love while supporting conservation throughout America. You can purchase them in the Bosque Visitor Center, at any Post Office, or on-line at www.fws.gov/duckstamps.

Happy New Year!

--Aaron Mize, Deputy Refuge Manager

Sandhill Crane Artwork Wanted

Festival of the Cranes 2013 is looking for artwork for the cover of the Festival brochure and associated merchandise. Please send electronic copies of artwork or photographs to either festival@sdc.org or friends@sdc.org. Artwork should be appropriate for an 8.5x11 cover also work well on t-shirts, mugs, pins and other merchandise. Deadline for entries is May 1, 2012. We like to have the artwork more than a year ahead of time to use for advertising purposes.

Tom Sizemore Honored with 2011 Martha Hatch Award

The Martha Hatch Award for 2011 was presented during the 24th annual Festival of the Cranes to Santa Fe entrepreneur and former Friends' Treasurer Thomas D. Sizemore. The award, which is named after the Friends' first newsletter editor Martha Hatch, is given each year "to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Friends and Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge." President Lise Spargo made the presentation at the Friends' annual dinner at New Mexico Tech in Socorro.

According to past president Jon Morrison who spoke during the presentation, Sizemore appeared in 2006 "as if out of the blue" to ask how he might help. "Well, I need someone to fill the vacant Treasurer's position," said Morrison. "Tom accepted, and the rest is history!" Tom was Treasurer of the Friends from 2006 through 2009. While serving as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairman, he initiated and oversaw development of a 100-page financial manual establishing policies and procedures to keep the Friends' bookkeeping and reporting in line with current "generally accepted accounting practices" and newly enacted legislation for non-profits. As such, the manual ensures that the Friends' accounting procedures will remain in compliance with requirements as annual revenues approach half a million. Tom's work did not end there. The letter nominating him for the Martha Hatch Award included his efforts to establish and chair a finance committee, his review of audit reports and other financial statements. He assisted in developing Refuge cost-sharing agreements for the Youth Hunt and the Rattlesnake Research/Water Management projects, and worked with Lannan Foundation to develop a two-year grant providing funding for the Friends' Executive Director position.

Tom Sizemore is the proprietor of Global Technology Applications, Ltd., a Santa Fe firm specializing in domestic and international management and consulting, which he established in 1999 after retiring as vice president of Eatelle, a private, non-profit research company in Columbus, OH. He is a 23-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps., from which he retired as a major.

--John Bertrand, Volunteer



Tom Sizemore accepts 2011 Martha Hatch award from President Lise Spargo during the 24th annual Festival of the Cranes. (photo courtesy Paul White)

Friends Mourn Passing of Former Board President



It is with sadness that we inform our readers of the tragic death on December 7 of Betty Davis, former president of the Friends of the Bosque del Apache and architect of the Friends' nine-year fund-raising effort which resulted in the addition of the Christina Ann Lannan Educational Annex to the visitor center in 2006.

Davis died when the vehicle in which she and her husband Dana were returning to their home in Albuquerque from a family visit in the Phoenix, AZ, area became disabled on a Forest Road off U.S. Highway 60 in southeastern Arizona. Davis collapsed and died as the couple walked from the stalled vehicle in a snowstorm to seek help.

Dana was rescued by an officer of the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation and taken to a hospital in Globe, AZ. As the *Watch* was being sent to the printer, family members had arrived in Globe and were preparing for Dana's return home and to make arrangements for Betty's funeral services.

The *Watch* will publish a full story of Davis's many contributions to the Friends and to wildlife and humanitarian causes in the next issue.

--John Bertrand, Volunteer



Profile: Hector F. Elias Justiniani

Each year the John Taylor Memorial Fund, provided by the Friends and administered by New Mexico State University (NMSU), awards an internship to a student to work during the summer at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. The 2011 recipient was Hector Elias, a senior studying at NMSU in Las Cruces from Sonora, Mexico. Majoring in Agriculture and Animal Range Science, Hector spent the summer working with Refuge staff monitoring the re-growth and diversity of native Chihuahuan desert plant communities in prescribed burn areas on the east side of the Rio Grande on the Refuge. Though walking transects in the hot sun and recording plant species may not be very exciting work for everyone, such detailed analysis is crucial. This monitoring effort helps managers understand the process of plant regeneration after wildfires, and the role of prescribed burns in removing invasive species, inhibiting woody encroachment onto grasslands, and restoring native species and habitats at the Refuge.

**--Ashley Inslee, Refuge Biologist,
Bosque del Apache NWR**

Inmate Work Crews at Bosque del Apache

For the past several years at Bosque del Apache we have been contracting with crews from the State Forestry Inmate work camp program. These crews have worked at many locations around the Refuge and have performed many different duties. The crews are comprised of 60 minimum security inmates whose first priority is to fight fires in the State of New Mexico. This summer alone, they responded to over 35 fires and most recently have been reseeding to prevent soil erosion in some of the most damaged areas of the state.

On the Refuge, the crew has helped with fuel reduction projects, cleared concrete irrigation ditches in our cooperative farm fields, and maintained buildings. They have been significant in restoring the historical buildings on the Refuge with plaster and stucco repair. Most recently, crews have worked with staff clearing and building our new fence east of the river along the north boundary and removing steel jetty jacks for recycling.

Last winter a new project was begun to create habitat for the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse which would require many man hours fit into a small window of time. Inmate crews removed mature stands of willow along the Riverside Canal to allow the growth of grasses, dogbane, common three square and the young willow which are preferred by the endangered jumping mouse.

All of these projects have been very beneficial to the Refuge, but arguably, the most noticeable has been the project to control invasive, non-native species of trees. Hand-cutting tamarisk and Russian olive

is extremely difficult and time consuming work, but in performing this task, the inmate crews have become invaluable to Bosque Del Apache, not just because of the environmental benefit, but because of the cost effective benefit to the Refuge budget.

--by Patrick Davenport, Tractor Operator, Bosque del Apache

Oh Say Can You See?

Please don't hold my upbringing against me, but use it as background and an introduction to who I am and the story I want to tell you about how I learned to see. I grew up in southern Colorado near the head of the Rio Grande River, where wildlife and beauty became for me a way of life. My Dad, the second of four children, was a teenager during the GREAT DEPRESSION when hunting and fishing was not just a tradition, but a means of survival. I learned much about game animals and their habits during my early years following my father in the mountains. After a stint in the army and a few life experiences, I headed north to Alaska. There I worked for a guide and outfitter, which let me see and live Alaska as no tourist will ever do. In 1995 I put down the gun and picked up the camera. It was a great trade, and I have no regrets about either.

Several years ago while on a bus tour with my family in Denali National Park I kept telling the bus driver to stop so I could point out different wildlife to my family and the people on the bus. After a few stops a woman spoke to me and said, "I'm so glad you are on this bus because we would not have seen all those bears, sheep and other animals you have pointed out. Thank



Elk at the Bosque. (photo courtesy Marvin DeJong)

you, but how do you see all these animals? You must have good eyesight.”

No, I explained, it’s not very good eyesight, it’s well-trained eyes and knowing what to look for. I wasn’t born with this gift but I learned. When I first met my wife and the love of my life, she saw only the animals that were right in front of her. I started pointing out the critters I saw, just as my father did for me. She was a quick study, a natural, noticing little things like movement, shape, color, or something that just looked odd in that setting – things that tell your eye to look closer or longer. As a younger man I was so involved in looking at large animals I never saw the small birds, so my wife has become the teacher and my own learning has continued.

Even if you don’t have very good eyesight, you can learn to see. Wildlife refuges, parks and river walks are great places to improve your seeing, but you need to go no further than your own back yard to get started. Our list of back yard

birds has grown every year and requires nothing more than a quiet moment, binoculars in hand, near the old cottonwood tree where the feeders hang.

We like to think that learning to see is a generational thing. In Rocky Mountain Park a couple of summers ago we played a game with the grandkids, giving out a ‘GOOD EYE AWARD’ to anyone who saw some feature or wildlife the rest of us had overlooked. We saw a herd of elk and as we watched, the lead cow saw and chased a coyote that came too close to the newborn calves. Several other cow elk followed her example and also gave chase. I guess animals can also learn to see, not just to look. We all came away winners, except maybe the coyote.

Good seeing--

Stoney

(editor’s note: Mike “Stoney” Stone is a photographer, naturalist, and volunteer at Bosque del Apache NWR.)

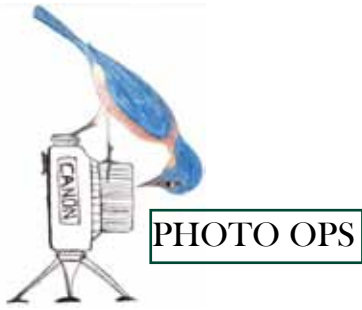
HELP WANTED:

The Friends of Bosque del Apache are now accepting applications for volunteers to work on selected projects in the coming year 2012. Applicants must exhibit an interest in Friends activities, be looking for a rewarding experience working on indoor and outdoor projects, love nature and be willing to spend some time with us at one of the premier wildlife refuges in the country. If this sounds like you read on.

Here’s a list of some of the Friends’ projects you might qualify for:

- » Mountain lion kill site data collection (some training will be required)
- » Desert Arboretum – maintenance and restoration of the cactus garden
- » Refuge tour guide for first time visitors
- » Landscaping – maintenance and enhancement of the Visitor Center area
- » Festival Deck volunteers
- » Friends House – TLC for this classic New Mexican adobe
- » Membership Database – monthly mailings and updates
- » Volunteer Activities Coordinator for Friends volunteers
- » Organization and Archiving of Publications and Historical Materials

If you are interested in these and other projects, send us a note with your name and contact information to friends@sdc.org or bosque-watch@sdc.org or drop a card to us at PO Box 340, San Antonio, NM, 87832. Tell us what you are interested in and when you might be available for work, and we will send you more details.



During the winter season, there are many obvious photo opportunities at the Refuge.

For sandhill cranes and geese, the most dramatic scenes are at sunset and sunrise, but during the day, you can get nice shots in the fields and ponds. From January 14th to February 20th, a northern loop extension which skirts many fields will be open to the public. Be sure to take advantage of this rare opportunity to be closer to feeding cranes and geese!

Don't forget there are plenty of other birds to see during the winter. Be on the lookout for raptors like bald eagles and hawks such as red-tails, Cooper's and northern harriers. Smaller birds also visit the Bosque in winter. You may see white-crowned sparrows, mountain and western bluebirds, and shrikes. Ducks of many varieties flock to the ponds. Search for buffle-headed ducks, teals and mergansers. If you're lucky, you may spot Wilson's snipes quietly foraging along the water's edge.



Mountain bluebird

Sandhill cranes at sunset

TIPS:

1. Catching the sparkle in a bird's eye enlivens a photo. Position yourself so that the sun is generally behind you, which will also reduce glare on the subject.
2. If your subject is behind vegetation, it's difficult to autofocus. Try switching to manual focus to capture a sharper photo. Thanks to Jerry Goffe for this tip.
3. Don't forget to adjust your ISO settings to a higher value and a fast shutter speed to get sharper pictures in low light, especially of birds in flight. Some people do like the artistic feel of blurry pictures of lots of geese flying together. Experiment with both the shutter speed and ISO until you get what you feel is nice. Remember, though, the cost of a higher ISO is likely to be a grainier image.

Bosque del Apache exists for the benefit of wildlife. We are privileged visitors, so please respect the signs for your safety and the birds' well-being while you seek that special photo.

Best wishes for a new year with exciting photo ops!

We'd love your feedback. Please send comments, questions and suggestions to Kumar and Ingrid at: bosquebirds@gmail.com.



Festival of the Cranes in Retrospect

A few observations from this year's Festival:

- There was about a 15% decrease in the number of attendees, but still a strong showing at 5100.
- Online registration has a few kinks to work out, but overall, was a wonderful success.
- The surf scoter added a little excitement!
- Workshop rooms at Fidel Center were nice but the parking was horrendous.
- Watching young Boy Scouts band ducks was a highlight.
- The morning fly outs were MUCH warmer than last year.
- The volunteers were as awesome as ever.

Thank you to everyone who made this Big Year Festival an outstanding success. I appreciate all the time, effort and thoughtfulness presenters, volunteers, Bosque staff and Friends members have put in over the last four years to make my time with Festival so enjoyable. I'm looking forward to actually attending some of the workshops next year!

Thanks to all of you and happy birding...

--Robyn J.Harrison, Festival Coordinator

Workshop Series 2012

The first in the 2012 workshop series will be hosted by photographer and naturalist Jerry Goffe on Saturday, January 28. Jerry and his co-instructors will provide an overview of wildlife and nature photography followed by hands-on experience on the Refuge to include techniques and tips to use while photographing sandhill cranes, geese, other animals of the Refuge and the landscape. Canon will be supplying some photo gear for people to use and we will also have a Canon 13-x19-inch color printer so everyone can take home a print or two of their images created during the workshop. Bring your camera, instruction manual, media (memory) cards or film (what's film?), tripod, lunch, water and proper clothing (layers). Please call 575-835-1828 for reservations.

Light Goose Hunts Rescheduled on Bosque

Due to the recent frigid temperatures and unusually heavy snow, Bosque del Apache NWR will continue to provide grain for wintering populations of migratory birds, specifically the Rocky Mountain population of sandhill cranes. Initially, the Refuge had planned to suspend its usual provision of agricultural food on December 5th in preparation for the Refuge's light goose hunts which were to begin on December 18th. This annual practice ensures that light goose hunts on the Refuge follow federal baiting laws requiring a site clean of grain ten days prior to hunting. The decision to continue providing grain was done in response to current weather conditions in order to maintain feeding opportunities

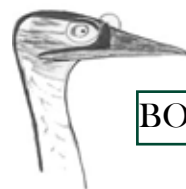
and reduce stress on birds, and to minimize the severity of any avian cholera outbreak. Mortality due to cholera at Bosque del Apache NWR has already been detected this year. While temperatures have been relatively warm until now, this recent cold front has rendered the birds more susceptible to cholera as foraging for food requires more energy and stress levels rise. Reduction or elimination of agricultural food resources on the Refuge would also promote off Refuge feeding and increase the incidence of crop depredation in the Middle Rio Grande Valley at this time.

Prior to this decision, a total of six hunt days had been scheduled for the 2011-2012 hunting season: a youth workshop and youth hunt on December 17 and 18, and general hunts scheduled December 20 and 22 and January 9, 11 and 13, 2012. However, given the need to continue to provide manipulated grain, in collaboration with New Mexico Game and Fish and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, the Refuge staff has cancelled the three December hunts to remain compliant with federal baiting laws.

The December hunt dates have been rescheduled during the spring light goose conservation order for the following dates: February 4 and 5 for the youth workshop and youth hunt and February 7 and 9 for the general hunts. The January hunts originally scheduled for 9, 11, and 13 have also been rescheduled for February 13, 15, and 17, respectively, during the spring light goose conservation order. This will give all hunters the same advantages (use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns), maintain a high quality opportunity for the rescheduled youth hunt, and allow

the Refuge to continue providing the best possible conditions for the birds throughout the coldest time of year. As the Refuge finalizes its CCP, the Refuge staff is considering alternatives to the current waterfowl hunting program to include permanently moving the light goose hunts to the February conservation order hunt and a Refuge duck hunt. This would provide a higher quality experience, both in the hunting days provided and the harvest opportunity, especially for youth hunters.

--Aaron Mize, Deputy Manager



BOOK REVIEWS

BOSQUE DEL APACHE, A BRIEF HISTORY, by Robyn J. Harrison, 2011.

This recently released book by Robyn J. Harrison fills a niche for both the newcomer and veteran visitor to the Refuge. It is an easy read that is pleasurable and informative. The author traces the pre-refuge history in five sections. The remainder of the booklet is devoted to the evolution of a refuge and the ever changing concepts of conservation. The research of dedicated volunteer John Bertrand and the NWR narratives serve as the primary sources of information. The endnotes offer additional resources for readers. One of the earliest known sketches of the Bosque graces the cover and is followed throughout the booklet by photographs that provide a balance of the familiar with the unusual.

In 1939 there were no "how to" manuals to guide the first two refuge staff. There were no plant or native bird lists. There were no

roads, dikes, or housing. Robyn continues the historical theme by introducing the Civilian Conservation Corps whose young men provided the labor needed to build a refuge framework: roads, dikes and buildings. By 1947 with the basics in place, the focus turns to conservation, and the reader is provided with a thoughtful overview of the shifting conservation perspectives: from selective species preservation to a celebration of all native species through preservation and research.

Kudos to Robyn for a reflective well-written booklet.

--Kale Batsell, naturalist, past Board member and long time Friend of Bosque del Apache

THE BOY WHO MADE DRAGONFLY, A ZUNI MYTH

retold by Tony Hillerman, University of New Mexico Press.

This is a great book for young and old alike, a story to keep one spellbound in its endeavor to relay the Zuni culture. This beautifully illustrated children's book would be a great addition to anyone's bookshelf and will bring endless enjoyment. The amazing realization is that an audience of any age will find much joy and enthusiasm simply by turning the pages, seeking the next adventure of the wise one and his dragonfly friend! This is a book that has lessons to be learned about sharing and looking after one's family/extended family during challenging times such as the drought that the Zuni faced, a natural challenge much the same as what we the people of the southwest face even today. Another awesome read by Tony Hillerman.

--Natalie Robison, Fire Administration Officer, Bosque del Apache NWR
(editor's note: Natalie assures me

that this book is 'kid tested.' Her grandchildren loved it.)

BIRDOLOGY, by Sy Montgomery. Free Press, a division of Simon and Schuster, 2010.

With a title like "Birdology" you might be expecting to learn something about 'the study of' (-ology) birds, but this book takes quite a different turn from the start. The purpose of this book is plainly stated in the introduction: "to restore both our awe and our connection to these winged aliens who live among us." As such, this book contains very little of a scientific nature but focuses on Sy's personal experiences with chickens, cassowaries, hummingbirds, hawks, pigeons, parrots, and crows, interpreted through her own beliefs and feelings. She chronicles her travels, and illustrates some of the amazing places she has visited, introducing the reader to many fascinating people whose relationships with birds range from hobbyist to conservationist. So, if you are looking for an objective, data rich read, this is not the book for you. But if you enjoy the vicarious experience of birding through the eyes of a knowledgeable traveler, this is something you might enjoy.

--Ashley Inslee, Refuge Biologist, Bosque del Apache NWR

PIE TOWN WOMAN, by Joan Myers, University of New Mexico Press.

Joan Myers passed through Pie Town, NM, and remembered some photographs taken of the folks here back in the 1940's by Russell and Jean Lee for the Farm Security Administration's Survey of American Life. Ms. Myers, a photographer herself, was intrigued by the history of this wide place in the road, and located one of the women featured

in the 1940s pictures. Her interviews with Doris Caudill give us a sensitive and heartening picture of homesteading life far from any town, and Lee's photos are scattered throughout the book, so we can see for ourselves. Ms. Myers found and photographed some of the sites as they are today, and spoke with others who remembered those times.

As a history buff, especially local small town history, I enjoyed this book. Hearing Doris speak about her life back then without any self-pity was a good balance to the deprivations we can see in the Lee pictures. What courage and strength they had. I also liked Ms. Myers's discussion of Lee's work, what his mission was and what he chose to photograph.

If you have ever driven by places like Pie Town (where you can still get pie!) and wondered what happened there to draw people and why they all left, you will like this book. If you are interested in documentary photography, this book will fill out the reality behind the pictures, and give you a good insight into the work done by the New Deal photographers.

--Daisy Welch, Volunteer
(editor's note: When not volunteering at Bosque del Apache or other parks and refuges, Daisy lives in Rapid City, South Dakota.)

Buy these books at the Bosque Nature Store at the Visitor Center or online at www.friendsofthebosque.org or call us at 575-835-1828.

The Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is a registered 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation incorporated in New Mexico. The Friends promotes appreciation and conservation of wildlife and habitat through environmental education and natural history experiences at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

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Government decisions determine the fate of the Bosque del Apache. You can help by letting key decision makers know how you feel about the Refuge and other natural resource issues.

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