



**Volume 12
Issue 1**

**January -
February
2005**

**Some see the Refuge
and wonder why.**

**We see the Refuge and
wonder, why not!**

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ON THE TRAIL OF AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA

By John Bertrand

[There's a bird historian's treasure trove in Socorro that few people are aware of. You may be one of few!]

Q—When is a bird as big as two elephants? **A**—When it's a life-size drawing in the original Double-Elephant Folio edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*.

Time out for an explanation! A "double-elephant folio" in the printing trade is a book whose pages measure 40" high x 27" wide....the largest format ever attempted in the history of book publishing. John James Audubon's seminal *Birds of America* was printed in this format in London between 1827 and 1838.

On the 40" x 27" pages of Audubon's masterpiece, 435 North American birds are depicted in actual life-size in full color. To fit the life-size drawings even on

these mammoth pages, some tall birds, such as the flamingo and the great blue heron, were pictured with their long necks bent toward their feet. The illustrations in the original publication are actually reproduced from engravings produced by Robert Havel, Jr. in London from Audubon's life-size watercolors.

Owning one of the original Double-Elephant Folio editions would be akin to having an authentic Gutenberg Bible on your bookshelf. But almost as good, you can inspect a Baby Elephant Folio reproduction of the original, with pages scaled to three-eighths of the original size, right here in Socorro at New Mexico Tech's Joseph Skeen Library. The high-quality illustrations in this edition were made by photographing the 435 original color plates in the original owned by the National

Audubon Society.

And here's the kicker...the Skeen library also has in its archival collection the two-volume American Heritage edition published in 1966 of Audubon's *Birds of America*. The illustrations in this edition were produced by photographing Audubon's 435 original watercolors from which the engravings in the original edition were created.

For a history buff like me, it's fascinating to compare the reproductions from the corresponding engraved plates in the two editions. The birds in Audubon's watercolors were drawn in exacting detail, but often without backgrounds. In their engraved counterparts, leaves, flowers, and other details added by the engravers to the

(Continued on page 3)

Friends Annual Meeting—Mark your calendar!!

January 22 is the Friends annual meeting. It a time for you to take part in planning for the new year, making suggestions on how to do things differently, learn of skills that the Friends need. A time for you to make a difference.

The schedule is as follows:

8:00–10:00 AM Board Meeting

10:00–12:00 Committee Meetings—where you can make a difference!

12:00 1:30 PM Annual Meeting - Lunch will be

provided—Please RSVP to (505) 838-2120 to let us know you will be here for lunch.

1:45– 4:00—Trip to the El Camino Real International Heritage Center

Please come and take part in the planning for the coming year.



From the Manager's Desk

by Jim Savery

I would like to thank everyone for a very productive year. Both the Refuge and the Friends have accomplished many successful projects in fulfilling each of our missions.

I will highlight a few excellent on-going projects and then discuss some new areas of development for the Friends to work on this next year. The Newsletter, Habitat magazine, the lecture series, the Nature Store and the Festival of the Cranes are all very successful and well run. Most, if not all, of these projects are some of the best in the entire U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Festival of the Cranes has developed into one of the three top birding festivals in the Nation. Very impressive. However, there are two areas I would like the Friend's Group to focus on in greater detail and two new areas I would propose for the future.

1. Building Construction/Capital Campaign

We desperately need to add a new auditorium/multi-purpose room on to the present Visitor Center. This project has been in various stages of development for several years. The Friends undertook a capital campaign effort last year to raise money for the construction. We got off to a good start, but we need to re-vitalize this effort and develop a plan for future activities.

2. Office Manager/Business Manager

I propose that the Friends hire an Officer Manager or combine those duties with the Store Manager's duties. This position would help accomplish daily business activities and serve as a supervisory point of contact for Refuge staff.

3. Fund on the Ground Projects

In years past, the Friends funded many on-the-ground habitat management projects. Some of these projects ranged in size from \$25,000 - \$50,000. In the last two years, we have departed from that process. This type of funding from the Friends really helps the Refuge stretch our appropriated money further.

4. Teacher Training

This project is a new one that I would like the Friends to consider developing with our Refuge staff. I would like to develop a week long opportunity for teachers to come to Bosque and work with our biological staff on bird counts, moist soil management, water management and a project that the individual would like to pursue themselves. The Refuge would provide housing and a vehicle and the Friends would provide finances to the school for a substitute teacher and a subsistence allotment while at the refuge. This would provide teachers with on-the-ground experience in wildlife biology and professional renewal.

Friends of the Bosque del Apache Newsletter

is published bimonthly by the
**Friends of the Bosque del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.**

P.O. Box 340,
San Antonio, New Mexico 87832
Volume 12, Number 1

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8:00 am to 4:30 pm weekends

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background place the bird in its natural setting. Brandt's and pelagic cormorants sketched by Audubon against a neutral background as reproduced in the American Heritage edition appear in the corresponding engraved plates in the Double-Elephant Folio perched on a rocky ledge with a churning sea in the background. The webbed feet of Audubon's pair of swimming black scoters in the watercolor flail uselessly at the air; in the engraving, the feet have been immersed in water.

However, Audubon's handwritten notes which are legible on many of the plates in the American Heritage edition do not appear on the engravings reproduced in the Baby Elephant Folio. Plates in the Baby Elephant Folio are identified both with the scientific and currently accepted common name of the bird, followed by the accepted 19th Century name given the bird by Audubon, providing interesting clues to the development of bird classification and nomenclature.

There are marked differences in colors between the reproduction watercolors and the earlier engravings. Up to fifty artists and apprentices working under Havel hand-applied the colors to engravings, and the result did not always match Audubon's originals.

For Audubon buffs, the Skeen library has other interesting holdings. Not the least of these is *The Art of Audubon—the Complete Birds and Mammals*, which contains 500 bird illustrations and 150 mammal illustrations published by Audubon after he completed his magnum opus *Birds of America*.

I became interested in the history of Audubon's *Birds of America* three years ago when I discovered the Baby Elephant Folio edition in the reading room at the Skeen library. When I learned subsequently that the library also owned the American Heritage edition, I proposed adding a display of the Audubon editions to events of the Festival of the Cranes. The event was expanded to a lecture at the 2004 Festival. Perhaps Tom Harper will engage a real Audubon specialist to conduct next year's session.

I am presently creating a concordance for the library which will simplify comparing the differently numbered plates in the two editions.

Both the American Heritage and Baby Elephant Folio editions at the Skeen library are reserved for use in the library only. You'll have to ask at the desk for the American Heritage edition...it's kept in the locked archives. The Baby Elephant Folio (which weighs in at fifteen pounds.!) resides in the second floor reading room.

Note: The boxed Baby Elephant Folio edition of Audubon's *Birds of America* has been reprinted and you can purchase it at our Nature Store.

From the Arboretum The Genus Leucophyllum

By Percy Deal



Leucophyllum frutescens

Leucophyllum is a Chihuahuan desert native found in West Texas, Eddie and Lea Counties in New Mexico and south into Mexico. It is often given the common name of "Texas Ranger", however, Judy Mielken in Native Plants for Southwest Landscapes applies this term to *Leucophyllum frutescens* only.

Members of this genus are becoming increasingly popular in landscaping because of their heat tolerance and relatively cold tolerance. We have had Chihuahuan Sage (*Leucophyllum laevigatum*) for three and one-half years with only minor damage from cold. *L. frutescens* has been in the arboretum for two years without any damage.



Leucophyllum laevigatum



Leucophyllum minus

Leucophyllum compactum (*Leucophyllum minus* in some texts) was just planted this past April. As we are in the northernmost portion of the Chihuahuan Desert, it is prudent to plant these in a protected area such as on the south side of a building or wall. This creates a microclimate a little warmer than surrounding areas. It would not seem necessary to give this protection for example from Truth or Consequences south.

These shrubs are attractive for their white to gray to green foliage. Another attribute that has made these shrubs popular is the number of blossoms produced. The Chihuahuan sage in the arboretum produces a gorgeous display of bluish-purple flowers from early to mid-summer to the first hard freeze. Adequate water is necessary for the maximum floral display.

L. frutescens flowers are more lavender than *L. laevigatum*. It, too, requires ample water for maximum flower production. One particularly cold resistant species from higher elevations in Mexico (*Leucophyllum revolutum* Houdini) is not readily available. We have been on the lookout for this species and will obtain one at the first opportunity. It is said to have foliage similar to rosemary and is evergreen in the Phoenix area of Arizona.



Leucophyllum revolutum

ATOMIC CULTURE

Edited by Scott C. Zeman and Michael A. Amundson

University Press of Colorado \$22.95

A Book Review by Barbara DuBois

In eight chapters, *Atomic Culture*, edited by Scott C. Zeman and Michael A. Amundson, explains "How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb." Borrowing the subtitle from the Stanley Kubrick film *Dr. Strangelove*, the editors proceed to show how American culture has developed since Trinity Site.

The Introduction names four phases of the culture: Early Atomic Culture (1945-1948), High Atomic Culture (1949-1963), Late Atomic Culture (1964-1991), and Post Atomic Culture (1992-Present).

Chapter 1: "Atomic Comics: The Comic Book Industry Confronts the Nuclear Age" amazes the reader with the news that comics did much of the education of the public about the nuclear age. You may not be aware that Spiderman, still popular, was created by radioactivity! A later comment admits that comics are not as influential now.

Chapter 2: "Reinventing Los Alamos: Code Switching and Suburbia at America's Atomic City" gave me a surprise. Living there for 35 years, I never realized that the rest of the country was watching us to the extent that reporters carefully photographed happy children on groomed lawns in front of comfortable homes to show that our

surroundings had not frightened us.

Chapter 3: "Uranium on the Cranium: Uranium Mining and Popular Culture" reveals that there was a uranium rush like the gold rush, which eventually ended as well.

Chapter 4: "Confronting the 'Capitalist Bomb': The Neutron Bomb and American Culture" explains the misinformation and misunderstanding about the bomb that killed people but left buildings intact. It was called a "thing"—"a thing that loves things."

Chapter 5: "The Nuclear Past in the Landscape Present" displays stunning photographs in which the author rephotographed sites. He "provides ten comparative photographic pairs for visual analysis and reflection," with the original in the 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s, and the rephotograph in the 80s or 90s. He visited Trinity Site and Hanford Nuclear Reservation and was finally admitted to the Nevada Test Site after much negotiation.

Chapter 6: "The Mushroom Cloud as Kitsch" is my favorite chapter, "tracing the evolution of the mushroom cloud from its origins as an instrument of political kitsch to its current reincarnation as a bit of Cold War nostalgic kitsch." The author points out that the government manipulated the mushroom cloud as a symbol without allowing pictures of destruction or of the bomb itself. It became a symbol of United States "right and might."

(Continued on page 10)

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Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

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Festival of the Cranes Digital Photo Workshop -

by Mark Domzalski

On Saturday November 20, 2004, twenty-five people attended the Digital Photo Workshop. We initially set the class registration at



fifteen people, but due to the success of Jerry Goffe's "*Photographing Nature with Long Lenses*" on Tuesday and Wednesday the registration was increased to the twenty-five attendees.

I was extremely fortunate to have world-class photographers Jerry Goffe and David Vore in the classroom to help with questions and perspective on composition and style. Rees Bevan, another accomplished photographer from the Enchanted Lens Camera Club, was in attendance and was an invaluable help with setting up and helping students with the digital equipment.

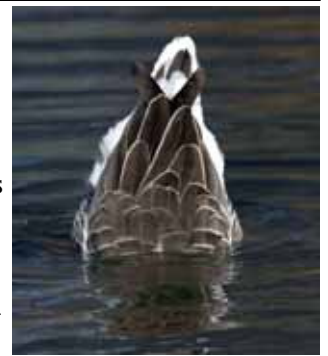
We had the benefit of having been loaned four Canon 10D digital camera bodies, an assortment of Canon lenses (including a 600mm telephoto lens, an image stabilized 400mm telephoto lens and a 35-350mm zoom telephoto lens), all from Canon USA. We also had four tripods and two Bogen quick grip heads loaned by B&H Photo in New York. We had two heavy duty tripod heads loaned by Wimberley. Lastly, Canon USA loaned us two i9900 printers with paper and ink cartridges to provide photo prints to students and for display. In total, we had about \$50,000 in loaned equipment available to our photo students at the Festival this year. The equipment from Canon was available only because our own Jerry Goffe is a member of Canon Professional Services. Without Jerry and his affiliation with Canon, Wimberley, B&H and Camera & Darkroom, we would not enjoy the success of these workshops.



We had about an hour and a half in a classroom and transitioned outside of Macey Center to the Duck Pond to allow the student access to the loaned equipment and to make pictures. After lunch, we moved to the Biology Annex at the refuge to project and

critique images. About 3:30pm the class reconvened at Farm Deck for some late afternoon/early evening use of the loaned equipment. We also regrouped Sunday morning at Flight Deck where the experience was somewhat diminished by the invasion of a non-festival photo class and its vocal instructor who did not seem to know any or choose to ignore photographic etiquette. Enthusiasm and feedback from the students was great.

All gained some new knowledge and



that could come back.

were appreciative of the experience and opportunity to use a variety of great equipment during the class. Due to scheduling and space constraints, we printed images on Sunday morning for students

All in all, a wonderful time was had by all. We can only hope to improve the level of success at next year's Digital Photography Workshop.

Land, Sea and Air

by Art Arenholz

That title just about covers the places where you might see birds. This popular Festival of Cranes event includes a three-hour ride on a 44-foot houseboat on Elephant Butte Lake, a delicious New Mexican lunch and a two-hour birding walk along the river, returning through desert scrub habitat.

On the lake, we saw hundreds of Western and Clark's Grebes, dozens of American White Pelicans (some were flying gracefully), one quite lost Brown Pelican, an Osprey, three Northern Harriers and several different waterfowl. The boat had an enclosed area for warmth and an open upper deck for a full view of the sky.

Along the wooded riverside, we saw Spotted Sandpiper, Ladderback Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler and other riparian birds.

On the walk back to the cars, we saw Pyrrhuloxia, Curve-billed Thrasher, three Wrens: Cactus, Bewicks and Rock, and other birds of the desert scrub.

Each tour was limited to fourteen people-- the event in 2004 was held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Captain Steve Green and guide Art Arenholz provided commentary about the birds, local geology, plants and history. Paula Green provided friendly conversation about local attractions, served with lots of hot coffee and tea, and an authentic New Mexican lunch.

Year-End Is The Time For Giving!

by Dennis Burt, CPA, CVA

GIVE CASH

A cash gift in any amount is a convenient and popular way to show your support for the Friends of the Bosque del Apache. The full amount of your gift qualifies for a 2004 charitable income tax deduction – up to 50% of your adjusted gross income.

Make certain your check is dated 2004 and received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2004 to receive a deduction this year

GIVE APPRECIATED PROPERTY

If you own investments that have increased in value (stocks, bonds, real estate, or mutual funds), you can donate them to the Bosque del Apache and take a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value and avoid declaring the capital gain of the assets as income. Many people consider this the equivalent of a “double deduction.”

SALE & GIFT		DIRECT GIFT	
Stock with Fair Market Value (Cost Basis \$200)	\$1,000	Stock with Fair Market Value (Cost Basis \$200)	\$1,000
Taxable Gain on Sale	\$800	Taxable Gain on Contribution	\$0
Capital Gain Tax @ 15%	\$120	Capital Gain Tax Due	\$0
Net Sale After Tax	\$880	Net Gift to Charity	\$1,000
Charitable Tax Deduction	\$880	Charitable Tax Deduction	\$1,000
Tax Savings @ 25%	\$220	Tax Savings @ 25%	\$250

Notice how the Direct Gift option can result in the charity receiving \$120 more while costing you \$30 less! To receive this special tax treatment, you must have owned the property for at least one year. Your gift can be deducted up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. Larger gifts may qualify for a carry-forward of amounts in excess of the 30%.

GIVE AND RETAIN INCOME FOR LIFE

Did you know you can give to a charity while retaining income from the gift for the rest of your life? A charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust enables you to receive income that is flexible or guaranteed. Plus, there are significant tax advantages.

Let's assume you are 70 years old and wish to give a \$10,000 gift to Bosque del Apache when you are gone, but need to receive income until then. You can make the gift this year and receive several attractive benefits. First, you could receive income that exceeds what you are currently earning on the \$10,000. At age 70 you would receive 6.7% of the \$10,000 each year through a gift annuity (\$670) –greater than most bonds or C.D.s. Next, a portion of the \$670 annual annuity may be tax-free over your life expectancy. This can increase the taxable equivalent yield to over 8%. Finally, you will receive a 2004 charitable income tax deduction for the remainder portion of your gift. This deduction can save you \$1,000 or more in federal income taxes. Making a life-income gift now offers all these advantages and also provides the satisfaction of knowing you have helped your charitable organization in a significant way.

GIVE UNNEEDED LIFE INSURANCE

Do you own an old life insurance policy that is no longer needed? Perhaps the purpose for the policy no longer exists (your children are grown or your mortgage is paid off) or your financial situation has changed and mitigates the need for the insurance. Consider giving the policy to the Bosque del Apache and receive a charitable income tax deduction for the lesser of your cost basis or the replacement value. This is a great way to benefit a cause you support without reducing your checking account. If the value of the policy is more than you wish to donate, consider cashing in the policy and giving a lesser portion. Your gift may sufficiently reduce or eliminate any potential taxes due from the sale.

GIVE A MEMORIAL GIFT

As you think of those special persons (a teacher, pastor, relative or other loved one) who have touched your life, you may want to do something “just right” to demonstrate that they are remembered. A memorial tribute can be a satisfying way to salute those whose memories continue to enrich our lives.

GIVE AS WISE TAX PLANNING

Making extra gifts or accelerating future gifts into the 2004 tax year can enable an itemized income tax deduction. The standard deduction threshold for 2004 is \$9,700 for joint filers and \$4,800 for singles. If your total expenses are less than those amounts, you won't be able to deduct any charitable gifts. An extra year-end gift may add just enough to allow you to take advantage of your full itemized deduction. Many tax-wise donors accelerate contributions for the coming year to enable itemization at least every other year.

Etiquette –A Little Goes a Long Way in Making Everyone’s Visit Enjoyable!

by Jerry Goffe

Now that the 2004 “Festival of the Cranes” is over, I’d like to give this persons view on “etiquette,” and maybe some food for thought.

As a photographer at the Bosque del Apache NWR I’m very aware and appreciative of the clear skies and air we are so fortunate to have. It’s truly a joy to step out on the refuge drive and see clearly and “smell the roses” (or whatever native plants are producing an odor). As I proceed around the Marsh or Farm loop, I often get out of my vehicle to study a bird or two, or to set up a camera on a tripod. I’m normally laid-back and with a smile as these are the time I love... until some car or motorcoach passes me doing 40 mph.

Do these people realize the they are not going to see anything at that speed?

Do these people realize that the birds as well as four legged creatures at the Bosque need to breathe air, not dust?

Do these people realize that the people standing by or near the road are now going to be forced to breathe in dust?

Do these people realize how terribly bad that dust is for the photographers’ camera equipment.

If these folks would ever stop long enough to get out of their vehicles, then maybe they also would realize the importance of slowing down to see and appreciate (and maybe photograph) the beauty that surrounds us at Bosque del Apache NWR. Remember, you are not alone. You are with many others admiring the birds and the habitat of the Bosque. Please be considerate and understanding about where you are and what damage dust can do.

Speaking of being considerate let me again voice my opinion about some of the pushy and shall we say vociferous professional photographers who do classes (workshops) at the Bosque. I realize that their main concern is (or should be) their students, but they should also be aware of other photographers. These instructors have a tendency to take over a section of a viewing area. Sure they

may want to keep their group together, but it should not be at the expense of others. On one recent Sunday morning, I had a group of eleven students from a digital photo workshop on the side of the road leading to Flight Deck. To our south was another workshop about the same size of ours. The birds were not cooperating with that group so their leader brought his group down the road and stopped them behind our class. They were instructed to set-up between our students. This created an elbow to elbow situation that our students found hard to work within. To make matters worse, The well known photographer / instructor was speaking loudly enough to be heard a hundred yards away and was totally oblivious to the fact that we were conducting a workshop, directly in front of or next to his class. This disrupted our workshop because their instructor forgot about etiquette and being courteous.

Let us learn from both of these observations. If visitors to the Bosque practice courtesy, everyone will benefit.

Thanks and if you have any photo questions or issues, please contact me, Jerry Goffe, at jerry@naturephotoworks.com.

The 17th Annual Festival of the Cranes

by Tom Harper

The weather was kinder this year - no sixty mile an hour winds! The changes worked well: Sheltering most of the exhibitors in one large tent was an advantage to both exhibitors and attendees. There was no severe weather to fend off, but the heaters and bright lights provided comfort for all.

Offering events earlier in the week has thinned the crowds by spreading attendance more evenly. We will continue to do this.

The Beginning Birding program was very popular. That event will be expanded.

Offering a mix of birding and non-birding events drew favorable comment. The Festival is both a birding event and a community event.

The Breakfast With The Birds group enjoyed steak for breakfast. Sure beats cold coffee and a maple bar.

We will meet to critique Festival 2004 and begin planning Festival 2005 at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 8. This years meeting will be in the Biology Lab of the Bosque del Apache. The meeting is open to all but if you are a new attendee please drop me an email (crane@sdcc.org) so I know now many chairs we need.

Also, I am looking for new events. If there is an event you would like to present send me an email describing what you want to do or would like to have..

Tom Harper
Coordinator
Festival of the Cranes

November-December

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Thank you all for your support of the Friends. Here’s looking to a great new year.

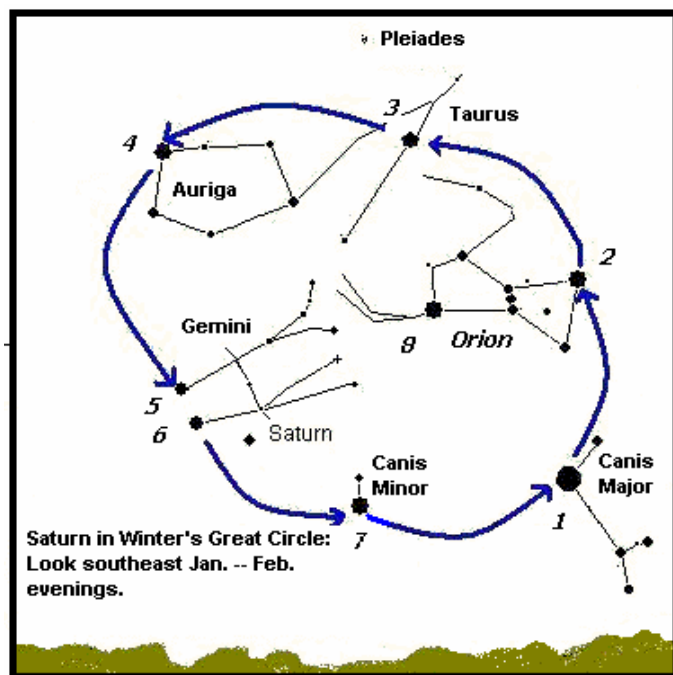
Betty Davis,

President

Touring Winter's Great Circle

by Amy Estelle

What if you could walk outside your home today and see eight of the twenty-five most spectacular bird species of the planet (You define spectacular.) Would you take a look? January and February are terrific months to view eight of the twenty-five brightest stars in Earth's night sky. Let's take a tour of the Great Circle of Winter where the stars are so bright even city-dwellers can see them.



The tour begins by facing southeast early evening in January or February. As the star map illustrates, seven bright stars form a giant circle. An eighth bright star is found just right of the circle's center.

We begin the tour at number 1 in the constellation *Canis Major*, the Greater Dog. Number 1 marks the brightest star visible from Earth at night: Sirius, the Dog Star. Sirius is bright because of its proximity to us. At a distance of only 9 light-years, Sirius is in the Sun's stellar backyard. The Dog Star is a spectral type A and produces a white light (see the Table below). One of Sirius's mythological names is the "Resting Place of the Soul of Isis," an Egyptian goddess.

Next stop is Rigel (Number 2). Rigel marks the left foot of *Orion*, the Hunter, one of the most ancient and most recognizable constellations. Rigel is spectral type B, a blue-white supergiant star. At an estimated distance of 900 light-years, Rigel is incredibly bright: equivalent to 58,000 Suns. If Rigel were as close to us as Sirius is, the

star would be as bright as the first quarter Moon!

Stop Number 3 is Aldebaran in the constellation *Taurus*, the Bull. Aldebaran is Arabic and means "the follower." The star rises after the Pleiades and follows it across the sky. Aldebaran represents the orange-red glinting eye of the Bull. Aldebaran is 65 light-years from here and a red giant, cooler than the Sun but with a diameter about 40X larger. Aldebaran looks like it is part of the "V" shaped Hyades cluster that makes up the Bull's face. This is simply a line of sight illusion. The Hyades Cluster is about twice as far away as Aldebaran.

Stop 4 is Capella in the constellation *Auriga*, the Charioteer. Capella is a Roman name meaning the she-goat. *Auriga* has a mixed history, but some mythologists believe it represents the legendary king of Athens, Erichthonius, who first harnessed four horses to a chariot. Capella, the sixth brightest star in the night sky, is 42 light-years distant and a spectral type G, like the Sun. Look for a yellow tint in the star's light.

Stops 5 and 6 mark the two brightest stars in *Gemini*, the Twins. Number 5 is Castor, a multiple star system made up of six components, 52 light-years away. Number 6 is Pollux, an orange giant 34 light-years distant. Castor and Pollux mark the heads of the twins and give them their names. Among the Greeks and Romans, *Gemini* was benevolent to sailors. Ships from Alexandria and Ostia (the port for Rome) often depicted the Twin stars on either side of the bow.

Number 7 is Procyon in *Canis Minor*, the Lesser Dog. Procyon is the eighth brightest star in the sky and only 11.3 light-years away. Procyon is Greek for "before the dog." The star rises before Sirius.

Inside the Winter Circle is Number 8, Betelgeuse. At 427 light-years, Betelgeuse is less than half the distance to Rigel, also in *Orion*. Betelgeuse marks the armpit (Arabic) or shoulder of the giant hunter. Betelgeuse has a spectral class M, making it one of the largest red giants visible from here and ripe for a supernova event.

There is an apparent visitor to the Great Circle. While orbiting the Sun, Saturn appears to "pass through" the Great Circle of stars. Saturn, only a few light minutes from Earth, seems to lie between Pollux (6) and Procyon (7) that are light-years away. Our fellow traveler in the solar system can be distinguished from the stars by its steady yellowish light. Saturn entered *Gemini* in June 2003 and will finally exit the constellation in July 2005. On average Saturn takes 24.5 months to travel through one sign of the Zodiac.

A 20X spotting scope will reveal Saturn's rings. If you want a closer view, go to the Internet (<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.cfm>). After a seven-year journey from Earth, the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft is photographing Saturn and its many moons right now!

(Continued on page 13)

The Future of Visitor Services at Bosque del Apache NWR

By Maggie O'Connell

As we begin the New Year, it's traditional to review the past and make plans for the future. Looking around the refuge, at our volunteers, and at our staff, we can point to a lot of accomplishments in recent years.

Bosque del Apache NWR has nationally and internationally recognized facilities for wildlife observation, photography, and other wildlife-oriented pursuits: twelve miles of tour loop, seven observation platforms, a wildlife observation blind, more than ten miles of hiking trails that traverse nearly every habitat, four pull-offs along Highway 1, and the lovely Laura Jean Deal Desert Arboretum.

The refuge has a curriculum-based education program that serves more than 120 school groups each year, most from November through February. Our volunteer guides provide these programs, as well as special tours on weekends and for adult and special groups throughout the year.

Our volunteer program is legendary and these fine people contribute more than 35,000 hours annually to the refuge (equivalent to seventeen full time employees). Winter volunteer training now lasts two weeks and includes first aid/CPR, team building, orientation to refuge programs, and tours. We continue the education throughout the season with field trips, special presentations, and additional training.

The Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR, with more than 800 members, provides financial support for refuge projects, advocacy for refuge issues and funding needs, outstanding outreach materials (the *Habitat!* and newsletter), and the expanded Educational Series, which organized fourteen workshops and programs last year.

In seventeen years, the Festival of the Cranes has expanded from a one-day event with a few refuge tours to a six-day extravaganza with tours, field trips, lectures, art tent, exhibits and an economic impact of more than \$1 million to the local community.

So where do we go from here? A few of the priorities for the visitor services program in the coming years are:

Ensure quality programs and facilities for existing refuge visitors.

Many refuge facilities have existed for ten to twenty years and the desert environment has been harsh. We will ensure that decks and other structures are universally accessible and in good, safe condition. We will replace outdated, worn, and missing interpretive panels on decks and trailheads. We will continue to maintain our

many trails, roads, and other infrastructure. We have submitted a project for the Friends to help fund design and production of new interpretive signs for decks and trailheads.

We will continue to work with the Friends on the capital campaign to construct the much-needed educational wing for the Visitor Center. This addition will provide space for school groups, programs, professional meetings, and other gatherings. With the addition, the store will move into a larger and more secure area in the existing auditorium and will then free up Visitor Center space for interpretive exhibits. This is the top priority for the Visitor Services program and is the area in which the Friends can help the most.

As the biology and maintenance crews are completing work on the new south end habitat areas, we are evaluating options to expand the tour route and increase wildlife watching opportunities in that area. The tour route extension will allow us increased flexibility to manage people and waterfowl in that very sensitive area.

Increase wildlife-oriented opportunities for families

Bosque del Apache NWR offers outstanding opportunities for families to enjoy the outdoors together – from strolling the boardwalk in spring to see young coots, to hiking the Canyon Trail in fall when wildflowers are abundant, to watching the spectacle of cranes and geese in the winter. Wildlife is abundant and easily observed during most seasons. We will work with the Friends Education Committee to increase the percentage of programs offered for families, while maintaining high-quality adult workshops.

Increase our commitment to working with our communities and neighbors

We work with the City of Socorro, Friends of the Bosque del Apache, local organizations, conservation groups and others to implement the annual Festival of the Cranes and on other projects throughout the year. We will continue to evaluate the Festival and make adjustments and improvements as visitors needs and interests change. We're looking forward to the opening of the El Camino Real International Heritage Center and the opportunities to share the stories of the Middle Rio Grande Valley – from the perspective of humans and wildlife.

The coming years will be exciting ones for the Visitor Services program as we strive to balance the many different needs of wildlife and people on the refuge. As always, our priority is to provide for the needs of wildlife while offering opportunities for people to learn, explore, discover, and enjoy the refuge.

Festival of the Cranes two day photo workshop

What great fun it was for seventeen students and four instructors. The “Photographic Workshop for Long Lenses” was a success according to the students, as well as the instructors. Canon has a history of helping to make our photo workshops a great success by supplying the equipment for our students to use. This year, Canon again came through with four state-of-the-art digital SLR camera bodies, four high power flash units, normal zoom lenses, wide angle lenses, macro lenses, and telephoto lenses up to and including 600 mm, most of which were image stabilized.

David Vore, our guest photography instructor, presented half of the classroom information and I presented the remainder. Assistants Mark Domzalski and David Powell help the individual students throughout both days the workshop.

Cloudy conditions prevailed through most of the workshop, however the fog on the morning of the second day, presented an unusual photographic condition the rarely happens at Bosque del Apache. Imagine the fun or students were having when photographing a tree with birds in the foreground and nothing in the background except fog. It was nice that everyone was able to use the Canon digital bodies and big lenses, either in the afternoon, at sunset, during sunrise or at the farm area. Thanks Canon!

Another unique activity of our workshop was that we printed out color prints of each students images. These were produced on Canons latest 13” X 19” photographic quality printer. Not all students were able to stay long enough to have their prints made, but those that did really enjoyed it.

Would we do it again? “In a heart beat” was the response with either students or instructors when we were asked that question. I guess we had a successful workshop.

Thank you Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge! Thank you Friends of the Bosque! Thanks you Canon, B&H Photo-Video, and Wimberley! Thank you David, Mark and David.

Respectfully Submitted by one happy photographer & volunteer, Jerry Goffe

(Atomic Culture continued from page 4)

The author shows how silly the use of the symbol became, but how its use revived during the Cold War. He wonders what will happen now, whether the government will use it again in the War on Terror, or whether protestors will take it up again as their symbol.

Chapter 7: “Is This the Sum of Our Fears?” takes its title from the film The Sum of All Fears. Movies have returned to treating the nuclear threat seriously. The author reviews several films among the “500 or so post-Cold War features that reference nuclear themes.” Like the author of the previous chapter, he wonders what effect the 9/11 attacks and the War on Terror will have.

Chapter 8: “American Monument: The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant” reports that WIPP, the depository for nuclear waste in southeastern New Mexico, will have been filled by 2035 and then be marked by a monument. The marker, the author says, is not to commemorate, but to warn people to stay away from the danger. He shows two designs that have been suggested, both of which are huge and present thornlike protuberances to indicate danger. The monument “must only allow the past to be present in the form of a threat to life.”

What an appropriate time to read this book, when the Festival of the Cranes included a tour of Trinity Site. The Site and the book will inspire much thought and reflection.

Festival of the Cranes Photography Contest –

by Mark Domzalski

At the Friends Banquet Thursday evening, we announced the winners of this year’s Photography Contest.

Photography Contest Judges Rees Bevan from Enchanted Lens Camera Club, Ethan Firestone from Camera & Darkroom, and Jerry Goffe, with staging and administrative help from yours truly and special assistant Elizabeth Domzalski, evaluated and scored 103 photographs from professional and amateur photographers in three categories including color prints, black & white prints and manipulated image prints. There were no Youth entries this year.

I think it is important to note that if each entry was the result of a photographer culling approximately 100 images, this year’s entry field would represent a photographic pool of around 10,000 images. The effort of the entrants has to be applauded.

This year’s Best of Show was awarded to amateur photographer Mark Parsons from Santa Fe for a fabulous image of two White Pelicans. Judges Choice was awarded to professional photographer Darrell McCombs of Albuquerque for a wonderful image of a Great Blue Heron.



Best in Show—Mark Parsons

First Place Awards went to professional photographer Jim Gale for his color image titled “Fall Reflections” and a black & white image titled “Distant Sunsplash”. Jim also picked up two Second Place Awards for a color image titled “Web of Color” and a black & white image titled “Moonset”. Professional photographer Patrick O’Brien of Albuquerque earned a Third Place Award for his image titled “Black-Necked Stilt”.



Judges Choice— Darrell McCombs

Amateur awards were: First Place (color) – Elise Varnedoe for an image of light geese; Second Place (color) – Remke van Dam for a sunset image; Third Place (color) – Sandy Seth for an image of a coyote. First Place (B&W) – Valerie Graves for an untitled image of a bird in the water; Second Place (B&W) – Sandy Seth for an image of a tree. First Place (manipulated image) – Sandy Seth for an image of Canada Geese; Second Place (manipulated image) – Sandy Seth for an image of three Ibis; Third Place (manipulated image) – Sandy Seth for an image of Sandhill Cranes.

In addition to the aforementioned awards, twenty-seven+ honorable mentions were awarded.

The prize for Best of Show was a backpack camera bag from LowePro valued at \$250. Judges Choice prize was a heavy duty Manfrotto tripod and head from B&H Photo valued at \$250. First Prize winners received \$50 gift certificates from B&H. Second Prize winners received a USB powered LED lap-top computer light from Panasonic valued at \$30 plus a \$15 gift certificate from Camera & Darkroom. Third Prize winners received a “Plamp” photo accessory from Wimberley valued at \$37.

All of the winners and honorable mention photographs were displayed on the mezzanine at Macey Center from Thursday evening until Sunday.



First Place Amateur—Elise Varnedoe



Feedback from the entrants was very positive. We can improve the contest next year by ensuring that information is included in the Festival booklet and is out early to schools, camera stores and processing facilities. Next year we intend to get to high-schools and colleges participation to ensure that we have a robust contingent of youth entries. Certainly that will generate more work for the folks that work on the photo contest, but the opportunity to delight winners, participants and viewers with so many great images of Bosque del Apache will be a great reward.

Jerry Goffe Wins the Martha Hatch Award

by Betty Davis

The Martha Hatch Award was named after Martha Hatch, the first newsletter editor and is given annually to the volunteer who epitomizes all the traits one associates with that of an ideal volunteer. This year the award was given to Jerry Goffe for his outstanding volunteer work over the many years that he has been associated with the Friends and the Refuge.. It was presented Nov. 20th at the Key-note Speaker Program during Festival of the Cranes.

Jerry was asked to join our Board a while back and Jerry turned us down. He wanted to “look us over for a year.” The next year he was asked again and luckily for the Friends he accepted. If someone needs product information about cameras, binoculars, or computers, Jerry will supply you with more than you will ever need! For Career Day Jerry was able to get donated 170 lunches for the participating students .

Jerry gives tours on weekends, private tours if requested, photographic workshops, and Jerry takes pictures continuously. He donates many of his images to the Friends for our Nature Store.

Want to hear a funny story? After a Board Meeting one day, Jerry and his friend, Mark (another Board Member) went out to look for birds. Mark yells, “Stop! There’s a badger.” They stopped. Jerry wears his camera like you and I would wear a glove, so they jumped out of their vehicle and walked toward the badger, taking pictures every step of the way. Suddenly the badger hissed at Jerry. Mark quietly said, “I think you are close enough, Jerry.” Jerry is the only photographer we know with a picture of a badger having a hissy fit!

Jerry is the epitome of what every organization hopes to have in a volunteer, and the Friends proudly presented to Jerry Goffe the Martha Hatch Award for 2004.



Betty Davis and Jon Morrison with Jerry Goffe the 2004 winner of the Martha Hatch Award



Jerry Goffe with Rainbow Gate Raven Vase

Thanks,

by Steve Green

Question: How many people does it take to produce a birding festival?

Answer: So many that I lost count.

Thanks to all the Volunteers, Refuge Staff and Presenters who once again put in mega hours as this team, under the direction of Tom Harper, was responsible in making the 17th annual Festival of the Canes so successful. Without the above mentioned and support from the City of Socorro, New Mexico Tourism Department, New Mexico Tech and Eagle Optics there could not You get the point. To all thank you!

To be recognized by your peers as being the best at what you do is indeed, in my opinion, the best award of all. This year's Martha Hatch Award, Volunteer of the Year recipient is Jerry Goffe. Thank you for caring about the Friends, thanks you for caring about the Refuge, thank you for just being who you are. It is a well deserved honor.

I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season and will talk next year.

Say goodbye Steven

-Goodbye Steven

Friends Board Nominations

The following are nominated for two year terms.

Victoria Garcia

Dennis Burt

Jerry Goffe

Stephanie Mitchell as Merchandising Committee Chair

Barbara DuBois is retiring as the Friends Corresponding Secretary.

The Friends are looking for someone to fill her shoes.

Job Description:

Keeping membership data current.

Writing thank you notes.

Printing membership labels as needed for mailings.

Help send out membership benefits

If you're interested in the position please contact :

Jon Morrison-jonmorr@sdc.org (505) 838-0717

or Betty Davis (505) 839-0465

(Touring Winter's Great Circle continued from page 8)

While the stars mentioned here and Saturn have been blazing in Earth's sky for millions and some even billions of years, there is a newcomer to our sky that will pass by the Great Circle in January. In August of 2004, Don Machholz used a 6-inch reflecting telescope (smaller than the scopes we use regularly for Bosque star programs) to discover his tenth comet. Although the brightness of comets is hard to predict, Comet Machholz should be easy to see with binoculars the first two weeks of January as it passes through *Taurus*. On the night of January 7-8, it is predicted to be 2 degrees (2 little-finger widths) to the west (right) of the Pleiades. In late January and into February the comet will move through *Perseus* and *Cassiopeia*. Check the Sky and Telescope Magazine website (www.skypub.com) for the latest information.

The mythologies of the stars and planets are ancient. They have been handed down, revised, and retold by people around the planet for millennia. The Space Age scientific discoveries of the celestial sphere are just beginning. Watch for updates as we tour the Universe. A special thank you goes to readers Patti and Loren Haskins in Northfield, Minnesota. Feedback on these articles is always welcomed.

Spectral Class

The spectral class of a star is defined by its color and temperature as determined through study of it's light or spectrum and absorption lines. The Kelvin Scale is used for temperatures. As a reference, 1000°Fahrenheit is equal to 810°Kelvin.

Class	Temperature Range (Kelvin scale)	Color	Examples
O	28,000 - 100,000°	Blue	Alnitak & Mintaka (end stars of Orion's belt)
B	10,000 - 28,000°	Blue-White	Rigel, Pleiades, Alnilam (middle star of Orion's belt)
A	7,500 - 10,000°	White	Sirius, Castor
F	6,000 - 7,500°	Yellowish	Procyon
G	5,000 - 6,000°	Yellow	Capella, The Sun
K	3,500 - 5,000°	Orange	Aldebaran, Pollux
M	2,500 - 3,500°	Red	Betelgeuse

Bosque Nature Store News

by Rita Gorzalka

We are into the busy season here in the Nature Store. I do believe that all have survived the Festival of the Cranes. Although visitation was down in the store we still had a good Festival. With this time of year we have a new group of volunteers along with the local reliable folks, they all make it run smoothly. A big **THANK YOU** to each and every one of you. We still have a limited number of the Festival design t-shirts – give us a call and we can get one in the mail to you.

Frolicking Deer Lavender Farms is a new vendor for us here in the store, with a wonderful product. Their lavender is grown in Silver City and processed in Datil. We are also fortunate to have some artwork by Chas McGrath and Mike Groves now hanging for your viewing pleasure and purchasing pleasure also. Please stop by and check us the store. There is always a smiling face to greet you with valuable information about the Refuge and there is always a hot cup of coffee to warm you.

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THE CENTIPEDE

The centipede sounds metric
but he's not;
The system has no feet;
he has a lot.

FILM FLAM

Twelve snowy egrets
on twelve black bulls
and me with only color film.

Barbara DuBois

Membership Application

Today's Date: _____

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

If family membership:

Second Name: _____

Corporate Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State or Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Work or cell phone: _____

Home Telephone := _____

Email: _____

Circle all that apply:

Would you like to have the newsletter e-mailed:

Yes No

E-Mailed edition is a PDF file in full color.

Would you be willing to volunteer for any of the following:

Festival: At the Bosque In Socorro

Special Events:

Could you work on any of the following committees:

Education	Special Events	Finance
Merchandising	Fund Raising	Public Relations

Would you like to serve on the board? Yes No



Circle Type of Membership

Senior (62 +) or Student ----- \$15

Individual----- \$20

Family ----- \$25

Individual or Immediate Family--Covey of Quail-----\$60

Check all that apply

Special Interest:

Education _____

Birding _____

Photography _____

Public Relations _____

Publications _____

Skills:

Photography -----

Art -----

Writing -----

Computer Networks ----

Software -----

Web Design -----

Publication -----

Fund Raising -----

Public Speaking -----

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Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays. The Festival of the Cranes is over and it was a real success. I've heard nothing but nice comments about the planning and execution of the various events. I personally had a quiet time as I had laryngitis ,but that did not stop me. (Was my laryngitis in answer to someone else's prayer??? Hmmm!)

So many of you stopped by to say Hi. Those of you who did not attend this year missed seeing some wonderful birds. New ones for me were the Harlan's Hawk and the Crissal Thrasher. The weather was not windy which was a plus. The Art Tent was spectacular this year and Skeeter Leard did her usual wonderful job. The tent was larger this year so the exhibits were less crowded. The Board wants to thank Tom Harper for his dedication in organizing the Festival again this year. His helper, Nancy Hurley, did a fabulous job registering everyone. The Board was so blessed to have Nancy as a volunteer this year.

The Friends are beginning another fundraising phase for our Education Wing this month. You will be hearing from us again. Our first attempt brought in about \$15,000. I have taken a Grant Writing Course hoping to assist getting funding for various Bosque projects. Your Board is working diligently to make Bosque del Apache NWR even better, if that is possible.

Hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on January 22, 2005. Bring your ideas, your comments, and your presence. We look forward to seeing you. Happy New Year!

In friendship and love,

Betty Davis, President