



**Volume 11  
Issue 5**

**September-  
October  
2004**

*Some see the Refuge  
and wonder why.*

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

**Inside this issue:**

<i>From the Manager</i>	2
<i>Joy Mckenna—Moves On</i>	2
<i>Volunteers, My Dears</i>	3
<b>A Salute to our Biology Interns and Volunteers!</b>	4
<i>Keeping it All Together</i>	5
<i>Coyote Morning—A Book Review by Barbara Dubois</i>	6
<i>Summertime ...and the Birds at Bosque</i>	7
<i>The Rio Grande Initiative Update</i>	8
<i>Beautiful Sights for Au- tumnal Nights</i>	9
<i>New Employee</i>	11
<i>Educational Events</i>	12
<i>Artist Reception</i>	12
<i>Thank You</i>	13
<i>There is no Dumb Question</i>	14
<i>Festival Update</i>	14
<i>Bosque Nature Store News</i>	15
<i>From the President</i>	16

## Bosque a Birding Hot Spot

By Norma J. Erickson

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife refuge, 600 miles from Greeley south on Interstate 25, is a joy to visit.

The surrounding area has an old Mexico flavor, adobe architecture, old mission churches, dry barren mountains, cacti and other exotic plants.

The huge Fremont cottonwoods named after the explorer dot the landscape and glow a golden yellow almost orange in the fall. Donna McLean, a Greeleyite who volunteers at Bosque in the summers, was my guide and host in June.

Bosque has been named one of the top 15 birding hot spots in Birder's World Magazine. Absent and missed by this writer were the sights and sounds of the sandhill cranes and the arctic geese that

spend the winter there.

But there were new things to observe and absorb, The feeder outside McLean's apartment was bombarded by dozens of black-chinned hummingbirds taking their turns at the sugar water.

While waiting their turn, they sat close by in a desert willow covered with delicate, ruffled, bell-shaped blossoms. All hummers moved over for the male and female Bullock's oriole that came in for their share and drank by hanging upside down.

At the door of the apartment which was housed in an adobe structure making it much cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, was the Sacred Datura vines (Angel

Trumpet) with large, white tube-shaped flowers made famous by the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe, who lived and painted in Santa Fe, N.M. A photographers delight.

Near the Visitor Center is a well-tended cactus garden donated by a gentleman in memory of his wife. It is open to the public to walk through and enjoy.

Quail Springs is close by, a man-made structure allowing the water to run down a huge rock, brought Gambel's Quail, Bewick's wrens and goldfinches in to drink.

The Phainopepla, a crested black bird with white wing patches sat on the high perches in the dead snags all

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Facts, Fiction and Frivolity

By Roxy Colomb

Many folks come to visit the Bosque del Apache during the winter months to see the sandhill cranes, snow geese, eagles and many other great birds. Volunteers love to work here at that time to also enjoy the show. However, these folks have no idea of what they miss in the summer season, whether it is for a visit or to volunteer we get to experience some rare things.

Since we have been here the sights have included watching Canada geese hatchlings grow from tiny balls of fur barely discernible in the grass too becoming the size of the adults. Baby coots with bright red heads change both their color and their dependency; schools of young catfish preformed a beautiful water ballet (synchronized swimming); and thousands of tiny

frogs were seen crossing the dry cracked land to and from the water. We have also had a few of the bigger birds such as blue, white and green herons, a white-faced ibis, and white egrets. A flock of pelicans visited for a while and some folks reported on a few rare sightings including the Allen's hummingbird.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## From the Manager's Desk

The 2004 Fiscal Year is rapidly drawing to a close. We are in the process of "zeroing in" to see if there is any "end of year" money left in the Region. This year our last day to purchase is September 24, which means we have to go almost a week without spending (to October 1). The staff is busy planning for

fuel and other supplies for that last week. Diesel fuel is a critical item, since we use almost 1000 gallons a week for our dozers and tractors in the summer.

In 2004, we were very successful in obtaining "soft monies" (grants and flexible funding) and extra invasive species funds (appropriated funds). These funds allowed us to hire extra seasonal maintenance people and biological interns to help accomplish several projects, such as biological monitoring and mowing and disking.

The irrigation water was also good most of the year and then in August the "Monsoon" showers picked up. Consequently, the moist soil units look pretty good. So it looks like the "table is set" for all of our wintering birds (once again). See you all in the Fall.

## Joy Mckenna – Moves On

By Jon Morrison

Joy Mckenna, the Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR Educational / Executive Director has moved on to work as the educational coordinator for the Grand Canyon Caverns, located on Historic Route 66 just 25 miles west of Seligman, Arizona and 60 miles east of Kingman, Arizona. It is located 123 miles north east of the south rim on Highway 64. Havasu Canyon is 65 miles northwest of us on Indian Highway 18. The caverns are the nearest facility to the turn off to the Hualapai Hilltop parking lot, the jumping off point for the hike into the Havasupai Indian Reservation and Havasu Canyon with its beautiful Havasu Creek and waterfalls.

The Grand Canyon Caverns are an educator's dream. It is an unbelievable natural wonder, 21-stories underground that were 35 million years in the making. With an interesting history, great geology and fabulous location the Grand Canyon Caverns makes for a great field trip. Many fossils were found in the caverns including the

skeletal remains of a Glossotherium Harlani, an extinct giant ground sloth. This animal lived and died during the Age of Mammals, when the Woolly Mammoth and the Saber-Tooth Tiger walked the earth. They've all been extinct for at least 11,000

years. There was enough of the skeleton found to determine height and weight of the model that stands near the area where the skeletal remains were found. "Gertie" as we call her, stands 15 feet, 4 inches and would have weighed at least 2,000 pounds. Her living relatives are the anteater, the modern-day tree sloth and the armadillo!

I will miss Joy, she brought a lot of ideas and energy to her job as educational director. The Friends will be seeking a volunteer to pick up the program, one that we feel is needed to bring excitement to learning.



## 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 11, Number 4

**Jon Morrison—Editor**

[jonmorr@sdc.org](mailto:jonmorr@sdc.org)

Visitor Center

Open: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays

8:00 am to 4:30 pm weekends

(505) 835-1828

Web Page

<http://southwest.fws.gov/refuge/newmex/bosque.html>

<http://www.friendsofthebosque.org>

Email: [friends@sdc.org](mailto:friends@sdc.org)

Web Master—Wallace Newman

[wallynewman@mindspring.com](mailto:wallynewman@mindspring.com)

Distribution

Barbara DuBois and Volunteers

Board Members

**President** Betty Davis (505) 839-0465

**Vice President** Jon Morrison

(505) 838-0717 [jonmorr@sdc.org](mailto:jonmorr@sdc.org)

**Educational Director** -

**Corresponding Secretary**—Barbara DuBois

(505) 835-3437 [brdubois@sdc.org](mailto:brdubois@sdc.org)

**Treasurer** Percy Deal

**Recording Secretary**—Mary Ann Lucero

(505) 835-2260 [quelesco@zianet.com](mailto:quelesco@zianet.com)

**Special Events**—Steve Green

(505) 835-1828

Public Relations Committee

Park Borgeson [hborgeson8129@comcast.com](mailto:hborgeson8129@comcast.com)

Members at Large

Jerry Goffe

[jerry@goffevisual.com](mailto:jerry@goffevisual.com)

Robert Kruidenier (505) 835-1828

[robertk@sdc.org](mailto:robertk@sdc.org)

Mark Domzalski [mdomzalski@aol.com](mailto:mdomzalski@aol.com)

Dennis R. Burt [mdardenburt@comcast.com](mailto:mdardenburt@comcast.com)

Victoria B. Garcia—[Surlemonte53@earthlink.net](mailto:Surlemonte53@earthlink.net)

Merchandising Committee—Steve Greene

Education Committee—Mary Templeton

[maryt@passcal.nmt.edu](mailto:maryt@passcal.nmt.edu)

Store Manager—Rita Gorzalka

(505)8351828

Bookkeeper/Office Manager

Danette Mills—Partridge

*(Continued from page 1)*

over the Refuge.

The evenings before sundown driving the many miles of roads on the Refuge were magical. There are several female avians with thier young in the water and on the land. The dark feathered female American coot guided her young into the rushes to hide – the chicks still retaining the hatchling red tipped feathers.

Pheasants and Canada geese were parading their young. Fresh in from the tropics and Mexico the blue and black-headed grosbeaks, summer and Western tanagers, black phoebes and Vermillion flycatchers, all of whom nest on the refuge. Almost an overdose of avian color.

Along the water's edge in Phragmites (a reed) we found thousands of dragonflies. After dark, the bullfrogs sat on the road seeming to pose for their picture to be taken.

Other animals of interest that a visitor may be lucky to see are deer, elk, coyotes, bobcats, rabbits, porcupines, painted turtles, lizards and snakes.

November 16-21 will be the Cranes Festival at the Refuge, a well-orchestrated variety of activities that center on the plants and animals of the Refuge. The sandhill cranes are the main attraction.

Bosque is a place worth the time to visit.

## Volunteers, My Dears

By Barbara Dubois

What are all these people doing here?

Well, they really like to volunteer

Like to work to help support the birds

Whose beauty far surpasses human words

They like to take a busful on a tour

To see the wildlife that we all adore

They love to hand out information

To visitors from every nation

Very early on the autumn morn

How they love to bump the corn

They like to manage the moist soil

And every other kind of toil.

They like to go on cold owl walks

And watch the stars with Amy Estelle

And learn about plants from Nancy Daniel.

The other Daniel leads great hikes

Another activity that everyone likes

Maggie keeps us all facilitated

Motivated and recreated

All in all, an able, jolly bunch

Fun and delight to joln for lunch.

*(Continued from page 1)*

So the birds are here, but that is not all that is offered at this Refuge. The staff is great to work with, the volunteers all friendly and everyone is helpful. There are potlucks or celebrations of some kind for birthdays, anniversaries, or just for the sake of having a get-together. Then there are classes in art, tours, and seminars available.

I have truly enjoyed watching and learning a little about birds but being more of a historian than a birder I just recently came into a treasure trove. One of the Refuge staff pointed me in the direction of narrative reports from the time the Bosque del Apache was established and asked me to locate a story about a cow. The reports contain narratives, graphs, pictures, facts, figures and often some interesting tidbits on information. For example, I found out that US Army Co. 2810 W.P.A. group from Oklahoma and the C.C.C. did the original clearing of the land and built many of the buildings still being used today. I learned that the migratory bird population in 1939 was about 4100, but that most stayed just a day or two and moved on and that the tremendous flood of 1941 decreased the number of birds by almost 50% for two years and after that the number climbed each year and the birds stayed longer. Fishing was allowed almost from the beginning but only at "Point of Land." It was not until 1945 that all the waters of the Refuge were open to fishermen and that carp was one of the most abundant fish although most fisherman considered it non-edible.

One of the reports in 1945 states," the first atomic explosion blast which occurred just 20 miles east may not have reduced the coot population, but it gave our buildings a shakedown cruise for almost five minutes and came close to scarring away 90% of the Refuge personnel."

In a narrative report in 1943, it was noted that just two years after the flood the riverbed was so dry that a man rode his horse up the riverbed to Elephant Butte without any difficulty. In that same year, a small reference was made to the Rio Grande refuge. I took it to be just another term for the Bosque del Apache since the Bosque is on the Rio Grande. However, the very next file folder reported the following: "The Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge was created by construction of the Elephant Butte Dam across the Rio Grande river near Hot Spring. It lies in Sierra and Socorro Counties and extends north from the dam at Elephant Butte. The northern boundary is 4 miles north of Fort Craig and 1½ miles south of San Marcial. The east boundary is the Armendaris Grant and the west is the Taylor Grazing Lands." During the next three years, all reports talk about maintenance at the "Bosque" and at "Rio Grande." Some of the development at Rio Grande mentions building cabins along the lake. Them in 1947, it is reported that all monies and fees, rental cabins, and permits at the Rio Grande Refuge were

*(continued on page 11)*



Biological interns (from left to right) Robin Boyle, Luis Diaz, Larissa Bright, and Dustin Taylor relax at a popular lunch spot after a morning of surveys.

## A Salute to our Biology Interns and Volunteers! Biomonitoring in Bosque's Habitats

Managing our biological resources at Bosque del Apache has been a subject of previous Friends' Newsletter articles. However, how well are we doing? This question can only be answered by keeping close tabs on our flora and fauna. That's why in 1995 the Long-term Biological Monitoring Plan was developed. This plan presents a protocol for data collection on mostly non-game species with the goal of detecting changes in diversity and abundance through time in a variety of habitats on the refuge. In human health terms, this is equivalent to taking the temperature and other vital signs of a patient that a doctor is prescribing treatments to. For successful completion, this plan depends on the efforts of biological interns and volunteers who are skilled in wildlife identification and survey techniques.

This summer, Dustin Taylor and Robin Boyle, both students in the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences at New Mexico State University, conducted 585 point count surveys for birds, inventoried 9,000 meters of transects for plants, and monitored an arsenal of pitfall trap arrays for a total of 30 days to document our reptile and amphibian diversity. This was after a few hard weeks of clearing access trails through our most dense tracts of salt cedar and cottonwood forest habitats (Joshua Ulbricht, Andy Lopez, and other individuals of the refuge fire crew gave us much appreciated support in this area, too).

This hard work has resulted in an invaluable dataset that represents a "snapshot" of the wildlife species and relative abundances that are present and a quantified view of the vegetation structure.

This data will be compared to data collected at the same sites and in the same manner in previous surveys and future surveys to come. While surveys and data analysis are still underway, an example of some positive feedback that we've received is that our restored cottonwood sites (such as that found along the Rio Viejo Trail) are in fact benefiting native wildlife. This summer, Dustin and Robin recorded a 60% higher bird species richness in the restored cottonwood forest areas than that found in adjacent salt cedar habitats, and this bird community is most similar to that found in mature cottonwood habitats found along the Rio Grande. This is consistent with results from previous years' surveys.

The data is also providing useful, quantitative verification of a trend that has been widely noticed: Detection of white-winged doves increased from zero in 1995, to nine in 1997, to 224 in 2004 (these numbers reflect an index to abundance rather than an absolute abundance). While more years of data are needed in order to answer many questions we have, our interns are already providing us with information which is crucial to understanding our natural resources and its management.

Also helping us this summer was Stacy Sanchez, who conducted willow flycatcher and marsh bird surveys. Our most recent arrivals, Larissa Bright and Luis Diaz, have taken over the reptile and amphibian surveys now that Dustin and Robin have returned to the university and will conduct the first inventory of small mammals under the biomonitoring plan. We'd like to thank all our interns for their efforts!

- Colin Lee

# Keeping it all Together

By Maggie O'Connell

The dry desert environment, sandy soils, dust and gravel, and constant work by refuge staff and volunteers are hard on refuge equipment and facilities. The fleet of vehicles, heavy equipment, and implements, as well as buildings, decks, and other facilities are in constant need of repair, upgrading, or replacement. The maintenance crew of Lawrence Ayon, George Soder, Leroy Saavedra, Montie Coe, and Mike Browne keep the equipment humming and the facilities in good shape throughout the year. They've been helped this summer by a great seasonal crew that includes Brad Hammack, Larry Guerro, Doris Long, Galen Watson, and Bill McInain.

Lawrence and George keep vehicles and equipment operating and in good condition. With more than 25 vehicles (pickups, vans, SUVs, and a station wagon), several dozers, excavators, front end loaders, fork lifts, tractors, and ATVs to keep running, they're usually busy servicing,

troubleshooting, and repairing. Volunteer John Boltjes has been helping Lawrence and George in the shop since spring and has become part of the team.

Montie and Leroy are the "go-to" guys for most of the facility work on the refuge, including plumbing, electrical and carpentry work. Montie, who has experience as a general contractor, has spent the summer building the new "comfort station" outside the Visitor Center. After anxiously waiting for his arrival, volunteer Dave Kuyper arrived in time to help with electrical work, HVAC, and sheetrock. Leroy has installed hardwood floors in Quarters 3, replaced the adobe wall at Quarters 1, and is doing some great detail work on the new comfort stations.

Mike's long history with the refuge, contracting background, and purchasing authority means that he does most of the equipment and supply purchasing for the refuge. He does most of the large purchasing (more than \$2,500) for refuge staff - from furniture to carpet to fencing to expensive dozer repairs. Mike is so familiar with Service contracting rules

and regulations that he's often sought by other field stations, and even the Regional Office, for his expertise and experience.

This summer's field crew: Brad, Larry, Doris, Galen, and Bill (with help from Volunteer Larry Blackwell) have been mowing, disking, plowing, spraying and otherwise keeping moist soil units, roadsides, and the Visitor Center area in good shape. *(note: Larry Guerro was hired as the new Water Manager for the Biology program in mid-August and is now a full-time member of the refuge staff. Congratulations, Larry!)*

These folks are the backbone of the refuge staff and do their best to keep visitors, staff and volunteers safe, warm or cool, dry, and ensure that the systems on which we depend are always functioning. Please remember to thank them for their efforts next time you see them!

## Thanks to Our Sponsors

**The Cranes and Crows Shop**

400B San Felipe, NM (Old Town)  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

**BirdSong Gallery**

PO Box 433  
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557  
Www.BirdSongGallery.com

**Emergency Management &**

**Safety Solutions**

260 Whitney Street  
San Francisco, California 94112  
(415) 643-4300  
www.ems-solutionsinc.com

**Kowa Optimed, Inc.**

2001 S. Vermont Avenue  
Torrance, California 90502

**Merrill Lynch**

2125 Louisiana Boulevard, NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

**Lonnie Brock Photography**

10898 E. Dale Lane  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85262

**The Nature Workshops**

10898 E. Dale Lane  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85262

**Super 8 Motel**

1121 Frontage Road, NW  
Socorro, New Mexico 87801  
(505) 835-4726 ; (800) 800-8000

**Tripp's Inc.**

1406 Frontage Road; P.O. Box 1369  
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

**Wild Birds Unlimited of Santa Fe**

5188 Cordova Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

**Wild Birds Unlimited**

7200 Montgomery Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM(505) 883-0324

**Wild Birds Unlimited Westside**

9231 Coors Boulevard, NW, Suite R7  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114  
(505) 890-3668

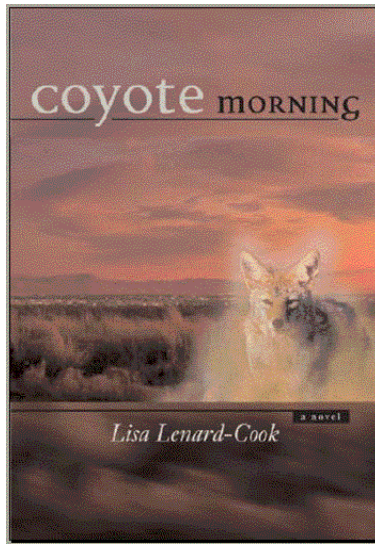
**Rio Abajo Antiques**

1783 Main  
San Antonio, NM 87832  
(505) 835-2872

**G.A.G. Charitable Corp.**

Mrs. Dorothy Salant, President  
500 Summit Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941-1082

## COYOTE MORNING



By Lisa Lenard-Cook

### A Book Review by Barbara Dubois

In the novel *Coyote Morning*, Corrales author Lisa Lenard-Cook uses an engrossing story to explore people's feelings about the coyote. One female character, a coyote champion, even heads a group called Coyote Intelligence. The other female character, Alison Lomez, is terrified of coyotes because a coyote approached her 7-year-old daughter at the school bus stop. It didn't threaten or attack, but merely sat by her and watched her.

Natalie Harold, the coyote champion, writes persuasive letters to the editor to the effect that we have to coexist with the coyote. With as much right to live as we do, he manages to subsist on rabbits rather than killing domestic pets if they are properly penned.

Another letter-writer complained bitterly that a coyote had killed a pet rooster. Natalie countered that pens must be roofed to be coyote-proof. Much of the book consists of letters to the newspaper, showing the various attitudes in the community. One man thinks the only good coyote is a dead coyote, of course.

Another unusual stylistic feature is the use of epigraphs before some chapters, from J. Frank Dobie, Hope Ryden, and Laurence Pringle, among others. Dobie wrote, "In some respects, a man is a good deal like a coyote." The quotations enhance the author's own persuasiveness.

An interesting complication enters with Natalie's visiting brother Sherman, who is so handsome and kind and sweet that Alison falls in love with him when she visits Natalie to ask about getting along with coyotes. Since Natalie knows her brother well, she worries that he will break Alison's heart as he has broken so many others.

She has guessed right that Sherman will pursue Alison. He fortunately finds her home from work because her daughter had a short illness. He visits, entrances Alison, and conquers 7-year-old Rachel.

As the story swings from one woman to the other, Natalie now abandons her brother to ride cross-county with Ralph Sandoval, the animal control officer, who has invited her along to see a trapped coyote. Having yearned to see a coyote up close, she eagerly joins him. Wonderful Ralph ignores his guidelines and sets trapped coyotes free!

Although the reader may have high hopes for a liaison between Natalie and Ralph, he seems to be happily married and just an extremely congenial friend, sharing Natalie's consideration of wildlife. He risks his job because his boss would rather kill a trapped coyote than set it free.

The clever author brings Alison's ex into the situation, discouraging Sherman, thank goodness, and then confronts Natalie on her walk with a growling coyote that frightens her! Alison, who has been almost persuaded by Natalie not to be afraid anymore, is frightened again by Rachel's attempt to follow "her" coyote. Relationships that the reader may have considered settled quickly become unsettled. The author apparently wants the reader to work on the problem without her providing easy answers. How do people relate to wild animals? What should a parent tell a child about this adorable doglike creature? Should we tempt coyotes with food to prevent their eating our small pets? The author certainly does not side with the letter-writers that want to kill all the coyotes, but she complicates the situation to make the reader understand that the solution will not be easy.

### July donors:

Marcia Hurn Boling

Girl Scouts of the Chaparral Council Troop 3001

Cheryl and Emerson Learn – New Lifetime members

Socorro Garden Club

D. R. and L. Smith

Thanks,

**Betty Davis**, President

Friends of the Bosque

## Summertime ....And The Birds at Bosque

By Fran Bartle

What? You've never been birding at Bosque del Apache in the summer? Are you ever in for a big surprise! Not long ago Gary Froehlich discovered what might be an Allen's Hummingbird at one of the feeders outside the Visitor Center. Word went out, and soon the sidewalk was filled with scopes, binoculars, and camera, all attached to excited birders. Careful analysis led the group to decide it was a hybrid: either an Allen's X Calliope or a Calliope X Rufous. One thing is for sure: it was a beautiful bird.

Some of us volunteers go birding after work several times a week, finding something new or different each time. Our list falls below 30 species, and.... But, wait, why not come along with me on a typical summer bird-watching trip?

Along the Marsh Loop, we stop often to watch tiny Gambel's Quail bobbing along after mama, who leads her brood into the brush. A few feet down the road, a covey of pheasant rush across, with some of the youngsters trying out their wings. At each opening through the cattails, we see various water birds, from great blue herons and great egrets to the small, elusive green heron. American white pelicans float lazily in the lagoon, with one of them going cross-eyed looking at a large butterfly riding on its bill.

At the Boardwalk we stop to enjoy the sights and sounds as we walk out over the water. Because of a drawdown, mudflats have become a Bosque Buffet for various waders and shorebirds, which scurry about. American avocets sweep their bills through the shallow water, while flocks of western sandpipers rush along the shore. Comical black-necked stilts wander about, their pink legs contrasting with the deep color of the greater yellowlegs. Farther out, a flock of white-faced ibis is joined by a juvenile white ibis at the inflow channel, where several adult and juvenile black-crowned night herons are standing guard.

Suddenly, a cacophony of birdcalls warns that a predator is near. We watch a coyote squish his way through the mud toward the juvenile heron, which flies to safety just in time. Giving up on other waders, the coyote finds a large carp nearly beached in the shallow water.

Farther down the Boardwalk, we see both adult and juvenile Least Bitterns fishing from the cattails, while a young green heron watches. A familiar call signals the arrival of a Virginia rail, followed by a couple of tiny black, fluffy chicks, which disappear into the reeds. Overhead, several black terns fly and scoop, finally landing on one of the dead trees out in the water.

Leaving the Boardwalk, we drive around the Marsh Loop, trying to identify the many ducks in eclipse plumage. We finally decide they are cinnamon and blue-winged teals, with probably a green-winged teal far to the back. At the Old Rookery, we pause to watch western kingbirds, blue grosbeaks, summer tanagers and – best of all – lazuli buntings. Neotropical cormorants, both cattle and snowy egrets, and a northern shoveler are also taking advantage of this Roost-N'-feed location.

Without the sandhill cranes and snow geese, the farm loop seems empty, but we are rewarded with many passerines and a few raptors. Brilliant vermilion flycatchers hunt the area near the Phil Norton Observation Blind, along with Bullock's orioles, ash-throated flycatchers, and Say's phoebes. High in the top of the dead trees, Swainson's hawks, and American kestrels survey their territory.

Rounding a curve, we stop to watch a bobcat, which crosses in front of us and disappears into the brush. Out in the field mule deer browse, ignoring the flocks of red-winged blackbirds and the occasional yellowheaded performing their aerial ballet.

Nearing the Flight Deck, we check out the area where we had earlier seen a yellow-crowned night heron, but to no avail. Nearing the end of the auto loop, we watch lark sparrows socialize along the road and in the trees nearby as Canada geese waddle across to their favorite watering hole.

Bosque del apache – a refuge for **all** seasons.

### New Dues Structure

The board has approved the first increase in the dues structure for the Friends in 10 years. They will become effective on December 1, 2005. An article detailing the changes will be in the November-December Newsletter.

# *The Rio Grande*

## Initiatives updates on the Active River 2004

By Gina Dello Russo

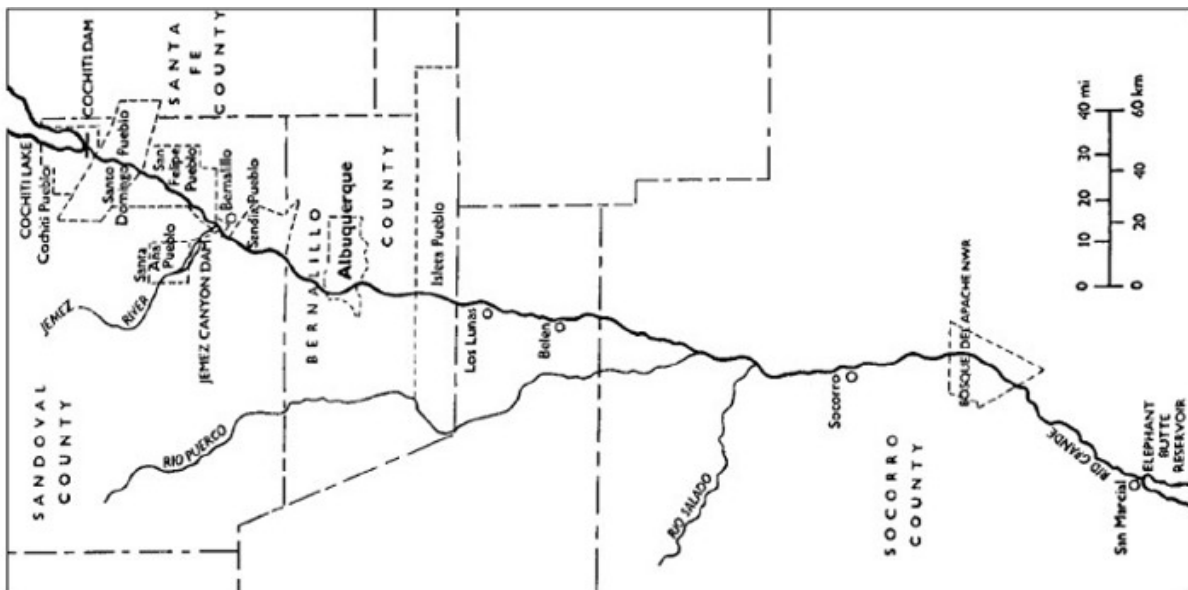
The Bosque del Apache NWR is working with a number of partners to prioritize projects and pursue funding for habitat restoration in the Socorro Valley.

On the Refuge, work is continuing this fall on the Active Floodplain of the Rio Grande. The construction phase of the Channel Widening project has been completed by the Bureau of Reclamation. The purpose of the project was to restore the dynamic characteristics to the river channel for 1.2 miles on the Refuge. Since the early and late spring flows of 2004, the channel has widened through the area and long term monitoring of the changes to the river channel and riparian vegetation is underway.

Two hundred acres of saltcedar will be removed using bull dozers with root rakes and plows. The Refuge's experts, Calvin Reaves and Carl Tafoya will be preparing the area for spring flows and the regeneration of native plants in this area. Refuge staff will be monitoring the site for habitat diversity, local hydrology and floodplain features such as backwater marshes and side channels. The Invasive Species Control Program, important to the FWS Refuge system, is funding this work.

Sand Bar Monitoring, begun in 2003 within the Refuge, continues with assistance from volunteer and temporary staff. Vegetation establishment on these bars can change the river hydrology, aquatic habitat diversity as well as affect the safe conveyance capacity through the Refuge. Monitoring will continue this fall with the help of volunteers Sally and Merrill Frank.

For the past five years, the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust, the Save Our Bosque Task Force along with the Refuge have gathered information and developed planning information (partially funded by the Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR) to assist implementation of large scale habitat restoration and land preservation in the area of the Refuge. Things are coming along. The first draft of the plan is complete and the possible project areas for fire prevention, the protection of endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher habitats, water savings potential, and protection of the old cottonwood canopy forests along the river are being identified. The Save Our Bosque Task Force is working with private landowners in the valley to determine the most suitable habitat restoration techniques and vegetation communities for their lands. Employees from the Bosque del Apache NWR, the NM State Forestry Division, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, the Corps of Engineers, and many others are offering their technical expertise to these landowners. The Save Our Bosque Task Force is planning a tour of the valley for Congressional Staffers, Federal and State Land Management Agencies, and local landowners in October of this year. The Refuge is a wonderful example of what is possible in terms of exotic species control and habitat restoration, so similar to the tour for landowners that was done last year, it is envisioned that this upcoming tour of the valley would begin here at the Refuge and move north on to private lands. We will keep you up to date on the progress of these projects through presentations and the newsletter.



Middle Rio Grande Valley

# Beautiful Sights for Autumnal Nights

By Amy Estelle

Every season has its beauty. To regard one as more magnificent than another would be like comparing a green-winged teal to a hooded merganser or a peregrine falcon to a golden eagle. Although we may have our preference, each season has unique and spectacular features. Autumnal nights are no exception. September and October signal the arrival of the Harvest and Hunter's Moons. First some background—the story begins with the autumnal equinox that occurs on September 22, 2004.

The autumnal equinox is the date when the Earth's North and South Poles are equidistant from the Sun. Consequently, around the planet the hours of daylight equal those of night. The word itself means "equal night" (from Latin *aequi*-[equal] and *nox* [night]). But there is one small detail—the Earth's atmosphere. As many early risers and *Farmers Almanac* readers know, the exact date of equal night and daylight for those of us in New Mexico will occur a few days after September 22: twelve hours of day and night will not occur for us until September 26. This four-day delay is created by the Earth's atmosphere which functions like a giant lens to refract (bend) the Sun's light. At sunrise we see an "image of the Sun" before the Sun physically rises over the horizon. Likewise at sunset we see an image of the Sun after the Sun has physically dropped below the horizon. The diameter of the Sun (a sphere) also plays a small role in creating the lag between the equinox and the date of equal night and day.

The autumnal equinox alerts temperate zone dwellers that the season is changing. Along with the Spring (Vernal) Equinox, this is one of the two days of the year when the Sun appears to rise due EAST and set due WEST. If you have moved recently and have not located the North Star yet, September 22 is the day to get outside early and mark the cardinal points, N, S, E, W the old-fashioned way: not with a compass, not with a GPS, but with the Star we orbit.

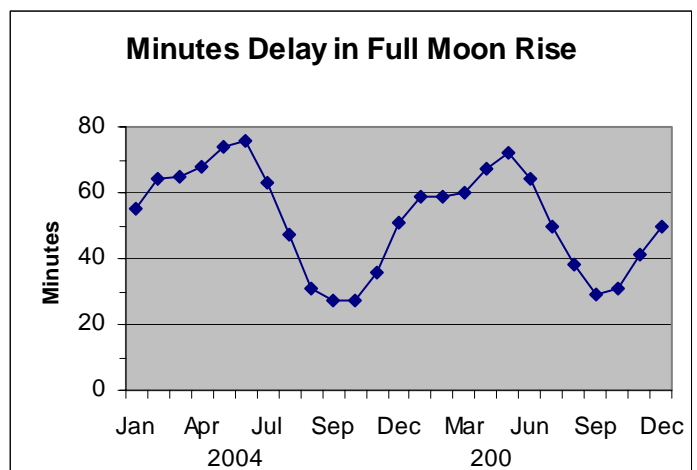
In the temperate areas of the northern hemisphere, September marks the end of harvest time. According to the *Farmers Almanac*, published since 1818, the Full Moon nearest to the Autumnal Equinox (before or after) is called the Harvest Moon. This year the Harvest Moon occurs on September 28 and rises at 6:48 p.m. MDT.

In October, the crops have been harvested and hunters now take to the fields and forests in search of game. The next Full Moon after the Harvest Moon is named the Hunter's Moon. In the Mountain Time Zone the Hunter's Moon occurs on October 27 and rises at 6:11 p.m. MST.

The Harvest and Hunter's Moons are special. They arrive early! On average the Moon rises 51 minutes later each 24-hour period. The Moon's movement in its orbit around the Earth creates this delay. But the Moon's orbit isn't circular; it is elliptical. And the Moon does not lie in the same plane as the Earth and Sun; it is tilted at 5 degrees. This means the number of minutes the Moon is delayed in rising each 24-hour period varies.

Instead of waiting 24 hours plus 51 minutes from the previous night's moonrise, the Harvest and Hunter's Moons wait only 24 hours and 26-28 minutes before creeping over the Earth's curved horizon. In addition, these Full Moons rise less than 10 minutes before the sunset, extending twilight for not only farmers and hunters, but also everyone who works or plays outside.

Based on data from the United States Naval Observatory, Graph 1 shows the exact delay (in minutes from the previous day) of the Full Moon rise over 24 months (2004-2005). The Full Moons of September and October (the lowest points on the graph) have the shortest time delay in rising from the previous night.



Graph 1. In both 2004 and 2005 the shortest delay in Full Moon rise is in

September and October (the lowest points on the curve).

For example, the Full Moon of June 2004 rose 76 minutes later

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

than on the previous night. The Full Moon of December 2004 will rise 51 minutes later than the previous night's Moon. The 2004 Harvest and Hunter's Moons arrive only 27 minutes later!

If all this weren't enough to get one outside these autumnal nights, the Hunter's Moon is extra-special this year. It will be totally eclipsed for viewers in the Western Hemisphere. Look now or wait under March 2007 to see another total lunar eclipse. See the box below for times.

So let's turn off the television; put down *Sibley's Guide to Birds*; and let the dirty dishes wait. The autumn spectacle is beginning and waiting for us to join in the celebration.

**Total Eclipse of the Moon, October 27, 2004**

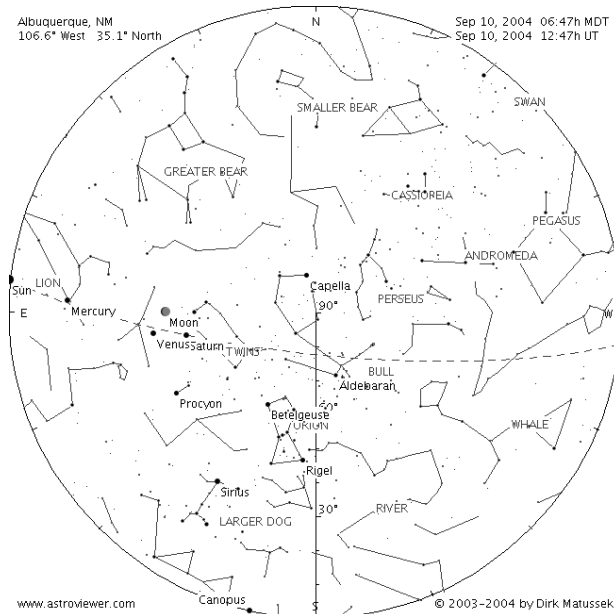
Socorro, New Mexico  
 W106 53, N34 03  
 Mountain Daylight Time

		h m	Moon's Azimuth o	Altitude o
<b>Hunter's Moonrise</b>	2004 Oct 27	6:11pm	74.6	----
Moon enters umbra	2004 Oct 27	7:14pm	82.7	11.9
Moon enters totality	2004 Oct 27	8:23pm	91.7	25.9
Middle of eclipse	2004 Oct 27	9:04pm	97.4	34.2
Moon leaves totality	2004 Oct 27	9:44pm	104.0	42.3
Moon leaves umbra	2004 Oct 27	10:53pm	119.2	55.6
Moon leaves penumbra	2004 Oct 28	12:02am	145.4	66.3
Moonset	2004 Oct 28	7:54am	289.1	----

(Outside New Mexico check local papers for time.)

**There's More for Early Risers Before Sunrise**

In September Venus continues its "starring" role in the eastern predawn sky as it moves eastward through Gemini and Cancer. The waning crescent Moon joins the Morning Star on September 10.

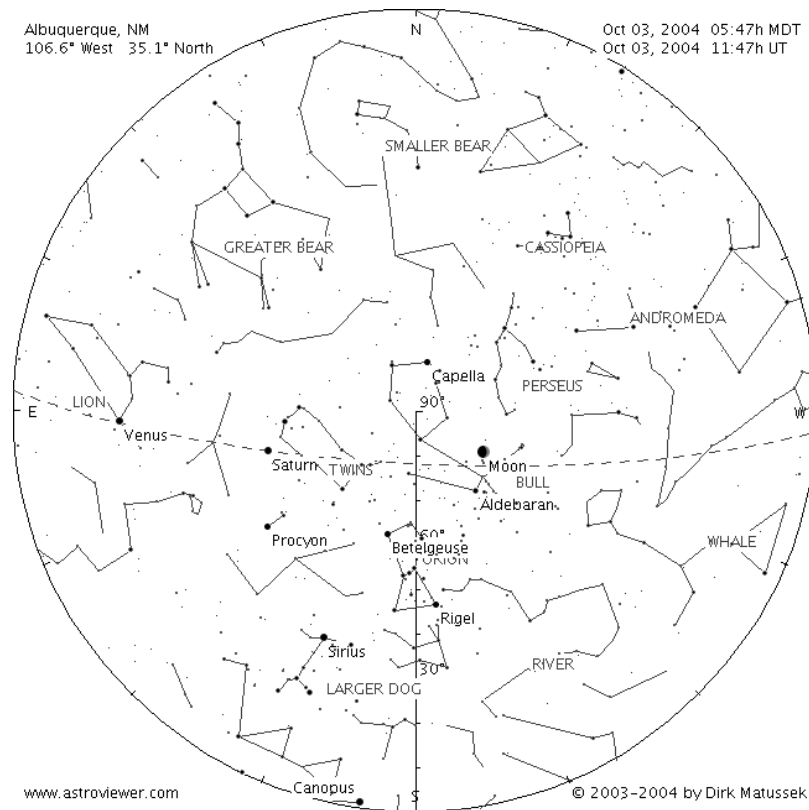


(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

On October 3, Venus passes close to Regulus, the brightest star in Leo, the Lion.

Toward the end of October watch as Jupiter emerges over the eastern horizon before dawn. Venus and Jupiter will rendezvous the first week of November about 20 degrees (2 hands with fingers spread wide, held at arm's length) above the horizon.



(continued from page 3)

being handled by the Bureau of Reclamation. No further mention of the Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge has been found in additional reports. Nowhere have I found reference of when or how this Refuge became a part of the National Wildlife System or what happened to it after 1947.

Before writing this article I didn't have time to read all of the reports or to read any of them completely. So far I still haven't found any specific reference or story about a cow, but I will keep looking and maybe a little later, or next year when I return I may find some more items of frivolity. I give you just two more interesting facts. The clerk typist employed by the Refuge in 1943 had a book about Butch Cassidy published that year and our own John Taylor and Leroy Saavedra both showed up working for the Refuge at almost the same time, almost 20 YEARS AGO.

## New Friends Employee

The Friends have hired a new bookkeeper/Office Manager. She's Danette Mills-Partridge from Socorro. She will start September 1, working in the Friend's House Monday—Tuesday, Thursday-Friday five to seven hours a day. She has over seventeen years experience as a full-charge bookkeeper. Lets all welcome Danette to the Friend's.

Jon Morrison

<b>2004-2005 Educational Events – A Refuge for All Seasons Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge</b>	
Sept 25 Saturday	9am-4pm Lounge
	<b>Plant Drawing Workshop</b> ( <i>Limited to 15 participants, reservations required</i> ) Botanist and plant illustrator Dorothy Hoard will introduce you to the classical monochrome drawing techniques perfectly suited to drawing plants. Bring your own Bristol board (90 pound hot pressed or equivalent), pencils (graphite HB or #2) and erasers (kneaded or plastic) or pens (felt tip waterproof – Micron 0.5 is good).
Oct 16 2004 Saturday	1-4pm Visitor Center
	<b>Artists' Reception</b> Meet those who record the Bosque's beauty. There will be an exhibit of their work, live music and hors d'oeuvres.
Nov 16-21 Tues. – Sun.	9am-12pm The Refuge and Other Venues
	<b>The 17th Annual Festival of the Cranes</b>
May 15 2005 Saturday	8-12am Visitor Center
	<b>Migratory Bird Day: Sounds of the Bosque</b> ( <i>reservations required</i> ) May is the height of the spring migration for neotropical migrants. Join refuge staff Daniel Perry for a 4-hour intensive tour looking and listening for these migrants. Bring binoculars, water and a snack. Older children accompanied by adults are welcome.
Oct 15 2005 Saturday	1-4pm Visitor Center
	<b>Artists' Reception</b> Meet those who record the Bosque's beauty. There will be an exhibit of their work, live music and hors d'oeuvres.  <i>Plus</i> workshops on Sandhill Cranes, Bosque Geology, Plant identification and more! See <a href="http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/">http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/</a> for developments.  For reservations, information, confirmation or updates please call:  <b>505-838-2120</b> <b>Friends of the Bosque del Apache Office</b> <b>505-835-1828</b> <b>Bosque del Apache NWR Visitor Center</b>

## Artist Reception – A Must Attend Event

As part of National Refuge Week events, the Friends of Bosque del Apache cordially invite you and your friends to our Artist Reception, October 16, 2004 from 1 to 4 PM. We start in the lounge at the Refuge at 1 PM for a presentation by or special guest, renowned photographer Karen Hollingsworth, followed by food and music in the Visitor Center where the work of our local featured artist, Jerry Goffe will be on display. The long range forecast is for great weather – Come Visit the Refuge!

# Thank You

By Steve Green

If you build it they will come and use it. Thanks to Jim Savery who found the money and Montie Coe and his crew, who provided the craftsmanship, Bosque will have new bathrooms. The Refuge experience just got better. They will be ready just in time for Festival.

After consulting with my committee, which in this case is myself, I felt that following was appropriate.: each newsletter will spotlight a board member since they as volunteers, step up to the plate, big time” and provide the fuel and drive along with all Friends volunteers to move the organization and allow it to perform and function. Sometimes board members work behind the scene so –names were put in a hat and this months random draw is (drum roll please) – Board Member Mary Templeton.

Daniel Perry introduced me to Mary five years ago and I instantly realized that “this is a keeper.” She offered

to volunteer and having a green thumb was asked to work in the garden weeding, watering, planting – and she did. We needed help in the Nature Store and started our docent program. We needed volunteers – and she did. Percy Deal needed someone to work with him in the Desert Arboretum – and she did. When asked if she would be interested in serving on the board, her reply was, as best as I can remember, “I am still finding out about the Friends so let me just think about it and see what happens.” A while later she was asked again to volunteer to be a board member – and she did. Mary along with her committee members and presenters produced an outstanding educational series the past two years.

Next newsletter we will look at those presenters whose time and talents make this series not only possible, but exciting and valuable. Montie, Mary and all those who volunteer –

## Thank You!!!

### Membership Application

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories:

(Please select one)

Senior (62+) or Student \$10

Individual \$15

Family \$20

Best Friend/Business \$100-\$499

Friend Indeed \$500-\$999

Lifetime Friend \$1000+

### What can you do?

*With your annual membership dues you will receive a bimonthly newsletter to keep you up-to-date on the research of the Refuge and Friends' activities. To be a more active member you can assist in various exciting projects, serve on a committee and attend our Annual Meeting. You'll meet and work with many wonderful people.*

*Come join us in our cooperative efforts with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to make the Refuge an even better place for wild-life and visitors.*

## There is No Dumb Question

By Jerry Goffe

I remember having engrained in my head from my youth, the expression: "*the only dumb question is one that's not asked!*" A few weeks ago I was on my way to something I had never photographed before: BATS. I asked people who I knew had seen the bats before, "so what should I expect." Most of the folks looked at me and thought what a silly question.

It was at that time I realized it's important to know whom to ask the question to. Up until that point, I had been asking individuals that couldn't understand what information I was looking for. Many of these people had no idea what an f/stop was. The only thing I discovered about these individuals was I was wrong in expecting any answers that would help me pre-select camera equipment. I simply asked the wrong folks.

Once that observation sunk into my gray matter, I became more selective in who I asked. Finally I got some answers that helped me decide what lens(es) to take, as well as weather or not to carry along a flash or tripod.

Let me tell you of the results. I used my favorite lens, a 100 – 400mm IS Canon zoom for the Bats & Swainson's Hawks (see photo that follows), a Canon 15mm fisheye to document the surroundings, and a 28 – 135mm IS Canon zoom for people pictures. That's it! No additional gear!

So what is story behind these words? When you come to our wonderful Bosque del Apache NWR, **ASK** what, when, & where. Go to the visitor's center and ask what there is to see and photograph. Our volunteers will find someone to answer your questions if they can't. Enjoy our Bosque, don't feel like you'll be lost or will have no idea where you should be. Just ask, Jerry Goffe! Just one of many volunteers that have answers.



Photo by Jerry Goffe

---

## Festival of the Cranes—What's New—What's Improved

By Tom Harper

Paul Tebble and Robert Kruidenier are teaming up to give an **Advanced Sandhill Crane Behavior** class. It will be presented on Tuesday and Wednesday at around fly-in time. Sandhill Crane Behavior is a prerequisite.

There will be 4 **Sandhill Crane Behavior** sessions this year. We will still keep the group size small.

I have scheduled 2 **Trinity Site** tours.

Tom O'Laughlin will present a lecture at Macey Center on the archeological work being done at Montoya Plaza. The lecture is followed by a field trip with lunch. This site is possibly Teypama - the first point of contact between American natives and colonizing Europeans (1598).

We will have a **Photography Contest** this year. Mark Domzalski has agreed to take over and make it a success.

I have just updated the **Art Tent** page. For those interested in exhibiting, the application information is correct.

Jerry Goffe (2004 Cover photographer) and David Vore (2003 Cover photographer) will team up to give a workshop on **Nature Photography** - wow! It will be a two day event on Tuesday (16th) and Wednesday (17th). They will take 18 students. The instructors will have 3 assistants so the class will be divided up into 3 groups of 6. Lecture and field work will all be on the Bosque del Apache.

Come be a part of one of the premiere birding festivals in the world.

## Bosque Nature Store News

The summer of 2004 is behind us, who knows where it went. Here in the store we are gearing up for the fall and winter season, looking at new products and stocking up on some of the wonderful and unique items that we carry.

Some items of interest may be the book that Jim Jamieson has published "*Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge 48 Hours of Flight*". In this book Mr. Jamieson has put the Bosque at your fingertips in pictures. A new title in our children's book section "*Winged Migration*" The Junior Edition. Companion to the award winning movie is designed for young readers. We are receiving new merchandise almost daily so stop in and check us out. I want to THANK Susie Mills, Pat Kuyper, Eva Stuart, Tom Colomb, Roxy Colomb, Frances Bartle, and Mary Ann Lucero. Because of their volunteer help these past couple months the Nature Store is running smoothly. Behind the scenes I want to THANK Dwayne & Marge Longenbaugh, Jon Morrison, Steve Green, and Skeeter Leard, they are always there to help me.

Thank You each and every one.

Rita

### Issue Contacts

#### The President

The White House  
Washington DC  
(202) 456-1111

E-mail: [President@WhiteHouse.gov](mailto:President@WhiteHouse.gov)

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

500 Gold Avenue SW  
Albuquerque NM 87102  
Regional Director  
(505-346-2545)

#### Hon. Gale Norton

Secretary of the Interior  
18th & C Streets NW Rm. 6151  
Washington DC 20240  
(202) 208-7351

#### Hon. Pete Domenici

U.S. Senate  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-6621  
(505) 766-3481

[senator\\_domenici@domenici.senate.gov](mailto:senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov)

#### Hon. Jeff Bingaman

U.S. Senate  
Washington DC 20510  
(202) 224-5521  
(505) 766-3636

[sentor\\_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov](mailto:sentor_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov)

#### Hon. Steve Pearce

House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
(202) 225-2365  
<http://www.house.gov/pearce/contact.shtml>

#### Hon. Tom Udall

House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
(202) 225-6190  
<http://www.tomudall.house.gov/>

#### Hon. Heather Wilson

House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
(202) 225-6316  
<http://wilson.house.gov/Contact.asp>



The Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR are people from all over the country who enjoy the seasons and cycles of the natural world. The sandhill cranes, snow geese, and many other migratory birds who winter at Bosque especially call to us. As Friends of the Bosque we help to safeguard and enhance the habitats necessary for wildlife to thrive.

We want to continue to have opportunities to observe and learn about plants, animals and birds. By supporting the Refuge, we can do our part to assure that future generations will also have the opportunity to be amazed with the wonder that is the Bosque del Apache.

Come Join Us.



**Non - Profit Organization**

**US Postage**

**Paid**

**Socorro, NM**

**Permit NO. 010**

**P.O. Box 340**

**San Antonio, NM 87832**

Mailing

Address

Goes

## **From the President**

Dear Friends,

Bosque del Apache is bustling. The new restrooms are coming along very nicely and hopefully they will be ready in time for the Festival of the Cranes. Plans are almost complete for the Festival and the new resident volunteers will be here soon. So all is looking up at Bosque del Apache.

For those of you who missed the Manager's Tour on August 21 you really missed an opportunity to learn what really makes the Bosque tick. We learned about the history, about the refuge and its importance to the Rocky Mountain Flyway, about the legislation that made it all happen. There is a lot more to managing Bosque del Apache than planting corn and flooding fields. It was a great tour and we are grateful to Jim Savery and his staff for making this opportunity possible.

See you at the Festival of the Cranes.

In friendship and love,

Betty Davis, President