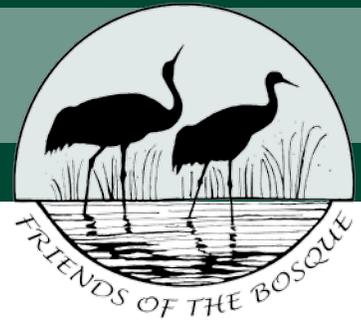


BOSQUE WATCH



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ECOLAB: EVERY CHILD OUTSIDE LEARNING ABOUT BOSQUE

ECOLAB is about creating a relationship with a natural place and understanding that new things can always be revealed and learned by taking the time to observe and enjoy. While students can be taught the definition of a habitat or a carnivore, giving a child the opportunity to discover on their own the true pleasure to be found in nature is an invaluable lesson.

For the past six months I've been bringing Mr. Dennis's 2nd and 3rd grade class at San Antonio Elementary to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. They come every other Thursday; as of March the kids will have been to the Refuge eight times. For most kids, going somewhere two times, let alone eight times can get boring, but the Refuge never ceases to provide entertainment. During one trip we saw a tarantula hawk eating a spider, then a snake, and some coyote scat. A bald eagle was the highlight of the next visit, landing in binocular view, followed by a group of javalina scurrying across the road. Even after the kids had watched a group of snow geese take flight multiple times, they invariably stopped in their tracks and said, WOOOOAAHH. This enduring sense of amazement and discovery is exactly what this environmental education opportunity is all about.

In addition to all these field trips I go to their classroom every other Tuesday to introduce them to basic environmental science concepts and prep them for the Thursday field trip. In all there are three units of instruction, each lasting 4 weeks, and covering a different theme. For example, we just wrapped up unit 2, which was all about birds. This is a joint effort, however, and in correlation with the



Matt Mitchell, Friends Vice President, shows the class one of his peregrine falcons, and discusses their amazing adaptations.

Friends' program Mr. Dennis assigns additional projects to his students to enrich their learning experience.

During the bird unit, each student chose a different bird to write a report on, and I have to tell you that watching their faces light up in delight when they saw their bird, in real life, on the Refuge was priceless.

The spring unit will highlight plants and trees. The students will be planting native plants on the Refuge, and for Earth Day we will be involved in a cleanup day at a San Antonio River Park with all of the students from San Antonio Elementary.

If it wasn't for the support of the Friends, this program would cease. In just three months, \$1,835 dollars were raised in the visitor center donation box (WOW!). Thanks to these generous contributions, the Friends purchased 30 pairs of quality binoculars for ECOLAB. The students are so excited to have a pair of "real" binoculars to use, and they remind me to bring them for each field trip. Your support is fundamental for the survival of programs like this, and we are very grateful to have members and visitors that care so much!

(Editor's note: Our thanks also to Smith's Grocery in Socorro and Manager Adam Marquez who recently donated 6 bright blue milk crates to ECOLAB for use in the field and classroom.)

--Andrea Harris, Environmental Educator for Friends of the Bosque



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

February 2011 brought the deep freeze, but this year it was the deep snow that made life interesting at the Refuge. Two intense storms in December brought a total of over 22 inches of snow to the region. The light goose hunts scheduled for December had to be rescheduled and the staff at the refuge worked over time making sure there was adequate food for the foraging birds. Though the extra moisture was welcome, the heavy snow and cold further damaged some of the plants in the cactus arboretum and additional clean up will begin soon. In contrast, rapid warming in January and early February prompted the cranes and geese to rethink their time table and by mid-February substantial numbers had already started north.

As the cranes departed, the 2012 Festival of the Cranes committee had their first meeting to discuss plans for the 25th Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache this coming November. In New Mexico's centennial year it seems more than fitting that the Friends of Bosque del Apache should be celebrating a quarter century of support to environmental education and research at Bosque del Apache NWR. Created by the executive order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1939, the Refuge has grown along with the state, becoming a 'jewel in the crown' of the National Wildlife Refuge System and an economic and educational asset for New Mexico. The tireless efforts of what is now a generation of Festival coordinators and Friends volunteers have provided the foundation

for what we hope will be the biggest and best Festival ever. Though the Festival is designed to showcase the Refuge, in this special year we plan to also highlight the work of the Friends of Bosque del Apache and the impact of your support as members of the Friends on the Refuge. You have something to be very proud of and we hope you will join us some time during the Festival at the Friends House to meet some of our staff and Board members and talk to them firsthand about our programs and outreach.

Folks seem to like the Photo Ops column and Board Talk so read on for seasonal updates. We have had a few responses to our Help Wanted add and as you might guess, particularly in this special Festival year, volunteers will be much needed. Please let us know if you can help. Also in this issue we are inaugurating a 'Mini' fundraising campaign. As attendance at the Festival has grown, the demands on our computer and communications system have grown and we will be doing some upgrades this spring which we hope will improve our online Festival registration and streamline our management of the Nature Store and other Friends' projects. The Friends House is also due for some TLC in preparation for the Festival and as always this costs extra money that we would rather not have to take from our operating budget. The last time we had a fund raiser, we bought a mountain!...and now Chupadera Peak is an official part

of the Refuge. We therefore hope you will be equally generous as we prepare for Festival 2012.

Let me hear from you.

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



Based on a discussion held among the newly elected Board members in December, the Board has been meeting every month so far in 2012 to address some new issues related to the development of the organization's infrastructure, and generally to agree on what our priorities are for the coming year. These topics are highlighted below but as always, members can find more detailed information about budget and finances on our web site.

In **January** we departed from the norm somewhat and following a brief business meeting, spent the time in a brainstorming session about Public Relations and Fundraising. A number of Friends members and past Board members attended this session and by the end of the day we had isolated four topics that would be the focus of the Board's attention in 2012. Though many topics were discussed – and all ideas were recorded for future planning and work, *Planned Giving*,



Western wood pewee
Courtesy Jerry Blinn

Recruitment of Volunteers, updates to our *Website* and the expansion of our *Workshop Series* won the most support for first action. One immediate manifestation of that decision was the publication of the Help Wanted adds in your last *Bosque Watch*. Subsequently, Kumar Golap is creating a volunteer database that should better enable us to contact and engage members and other volunteers who want to work at the Bosque on Friends' projects. Kumar and Treasurer Kitty Pokorny are currently maintaining the Friends' membership database, and Board Vice President Matt Mitchell has started work to complete this year's Workshop Series. Jill Buckley is creating a web map and Executive Director Leigh Ann Vradenburg is doing the day-to-day maintenance and upgrades of the website. She is also spearheading the work to create a brochure on planned giving.

In **February** we had another brief business meeting and spent the bulk of our time reviewing our Information Technology (IT) system. This includes all the computers, applications, networks and uses of our current IT system. Ann Hodges facilitated this session and has since provided us with a spreadsheet that captures all the pros, cons and problems of our current set up. There was considerable discussion of what were the critical 'fixes' we needed as we move toward Festival 2012 and if we could/should hire an outside IT expert to help us revamp the system. For those of us on the Board who are not particularly computer savvy, this was a true revelation. Fortunately we have members who are indeed 21st century computer users and they made all the difference.

The **March** meeting brought some unexpected news and a re-

thinking of the IT issue for calendar year 2012. In essence our winter sales at the Nature Store have been slow and added to the other infrastructure needs for Festival 2012, it became clear that the Friends' budget could not fund a full-blown professional IT review at this time. But there is a Plan B. The Board agreed to sponsor a 'Mini' fund-raising drive, the proceeds of which would be used to upgrade our existing IT structure, e.g. establishing a second Hughes Net account for the Nature Store, and moving to next generation applications of some of the programs used for Festival. As available, funds would also be allocated for work on the Friends' House.

Our next meeting will be in May and we welcome your comments and assistance with any of this ongoing work.

Nominations Committee Seeking Candidates

The Nominations Committee is seeking candidates to fill vacancies on the Friends Board of Directors in the annual election next October. For more information, contact Friends Executive Director Leigh Ann Vradenburg at 575-838-2120, or by email at friends@sdc.org.

HELP WANTED:

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

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

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

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

2012 *Habitat!* – The Tradition Continues

With the publication in November of its 2013 issue, *Habitat!* will be 20 years old! The first issue was published in 1993 by the newly-founded Friends of the Bosque del Apache. As the Friends' first service project, *Habitat!* was conceived to be the Refuge's primary outreach to visitors and the general public. Then, as now, visitors were handed *Habitat!* at the visitor center and the entrance fee booth. Over the years *Habitat!* has evolved with changes in format, size and the addition of four-color reproductions; by 2004 it had morphed into its present format, a full-color magazine, featuring scenic Bosque cover photographs. To paraphrase a well-known jingle: "You've come a long way, baby!"

Newer readers may find interest in *Habitat!*'s colorful past. *Habitat!* began its life in 1993 as a 12-page tabloid-format newspaper printed in black and one color ink, composed with the assistance of Keith Green, then-editor of Socorro's hometown *El Defensor Chieftain* newspaper. Production was funded with the meager proceeds remitted by the bookstore's operator before the Friends took over its management in 1997. From inception, *Habitat!* has combined and pursued two objectives: to serve as an easy reference for people visiting the Refuge and to provide insights into how the Refuge fulfills its missions to protect wildlife, and manage wildlife habitat while providing recreational and educational opportunities for visitors. It was also distributed as a paid insert in selected local newspapers and mailed to all Friends' members, local civic and state elected officials, and the Washington, D.C. congressional delegation.

The current issue now available to visitors is a professionally designed publication whose appearance invites readership. Between the multi-image front cover and the improved, easy-to-use map at the back highlighting visitor sites on the Refuge, is an informative array of handsomely illustrated articles of historical interest and current relevance to visitors. These include clear explanations of the safety and wildlife issues that have led to changes in viewing access along Highway 1 south of the north boundary, the expanded routes and restrictions on bicycles, plus clearly stated guidelines for pets and people visiting the Refuge. Editors Shawn Gillette, Supervising Outdoor Recreation Planner, Friends Executive Director Leigh Ann Vradenburg, and graphics designer Robyn Harrison, merit a round of applause.



The original bannerhead as it appeared on the first edition in Autumn, 1993.

In its 19 years of publication, *Habitat!* has covered many milestones, among them:

- 1996 wildfire which burned 4,000 acres of bosque habitat and initiated an ongoing restoration program.
- Introduction of a moist soil management program to the Refuge by Senior Biologist John Taylor to enhance production of natural foods for wildlife.
- Arrival at the Refuge on October 25, 1998, of a flight of three whooping cranes and six sandhill cranes led on an 800-mile journey from Gray's Lake, Idaho, by an ultralight aircraft flown by Kent Clegg.
- The saltcedar removal and habitat restoration projects begun in 1998 under John Taylor's direction which have restored 1,900 acres to productive natural habitat.
- Award of Outstanding Manager of the Year in 1996 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the National Wildlife Association to Bosque Manager Phil Norton.
- Groundbreaking in 2006 for the new Christina Ann Lannan Educational Annex, culmination of a half-million dollar, nine-year fund-raising campaign by the Friends.
- Festival of the Cranes 20th Anniversary in 2007.
- Purchase of Chupadera Peak by the Friends in 2007 for addition to the Refuge's Chupadera Wilderness.

(Editor's note: John Bertrand, author of this article, was the founder and editor of HABITAT! through 2008. He tells me that the original name of the publication was 'Bosque del Apache Habitat!'...a name he would like to see restored to the bannerhead.)



In Friendship and Love, Betty Davis

“In Friendship and Love--Betty Davis”: that’s the sign-off familiar to Friends members who received thousands of letters between 2002 and 2005. Betty Davis used that closing during her tenure as President when signing the printed letters soliciting donations to rebuild the visitor center. And she did insist upon hand-signing every one of those letters, often adding a handwritten personal note.

Due almost exclusively to Betty’s love for the Bosque and to her unstoppable drive to complete the campaign begun in 1997 to replace the visitor center, the Christina Ann Lannan Educational Annex, opened with a ribbon-cutting on May 5, 2006.

Betty’s tragic death in December, when the automobile in which she and her husband Dana were traveling became disabled in a snow-storm in the Gila region, was reported in the January Watch.

As described by founding member and early Vice President Bob Jones, Betty and Dana became associated with Bosque del Apache and the Friends in 1999 when they volunteered to help at the Festival

of the Cranes. At the Annual Meeting the following year, Betty was elected as an At-Large member of the Board and chair of the Building Committee, spearheading a renewed effort to address the visitor center issue. Betty was elected President succeeding Emerson Learn in January 2002.

With an architect’s rendering and floor plan supplied by Board member Mary Ellen Broderick’s Albuquerque architectural firm in hand, Betty called on New Mexico’s U.S. Senator Pete Domenici and Representative Joseph Skeen in Washington, D.C., seeking their support for a requested \$5.5 million appropriation to build a new visitor center. The appropriation request failed, but Betty returned with a consolation prize, an earmark by Sen. Domenici to purchase a Caterpillar D-7 tractor and bulldozer for the refuge.

Undaunted, Betty resumed her efforts in 2003 to raise money from private sources with a series of direct mail solicitations to Friends members bearing her trade-marked close. Concurrently, and in conjunction with observance of the National Wildlife Refuge System’s centennial in 2003, local artist Skeeter Leard was commissioned to create a decorative centennial plate to sell, with proceeds going to the building fund.

In the autumn of 2004, Betty and Vice President Jon Morrison traveled to Florida to consult with Board members of the Friends of the J.N. “Ding” Darling NWR about their successful fund-raising program. Betty also enrolled in a grant writing course offered by the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Betty’s final direct mailing of letters to the Friends members in

the spring of 2005 fell on fertile ground, catching the attention of Friends member, Patrick Lannan, President of Lannan Foundation Board. The Lannan family members agreed that a new wing to the visitor center at Bosque would be a fitting memorial to Patrick Lannan’s daughter Christina Ann, from whose untimely death the family was recovering.

After conferring with Betty, the Foundation committed nearly half a million dollars to fund the project. According to Lannan Board member Marian P. Day, “It was Betty’s personal letter and Mr. Lannan’s heartfelt response” which resulted in Lannan Foundation’s becoming the principal donor. “Betty broke into tears when we told her the Foundation would fund the project,” Ms. Day added.

By the spring of 2005, Betty’s earlier fund-raising efforts, together with proceeds from the sale of memorial bricks begun in 1997, had accumulated in excess of \$80,000 in the visitor center expansion fund, a sum large enough to leverage grants from other foundations. Following the Lannan commitment, four foundations...Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation, Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation, Thaw Charitable Trust, and Kerr Foundation...responded positively to grant proposals for additional funding. The combined total from these funding sources paid for the entire rebuilding project, with a little left over for amenities.

Betty stepped aside as President in June of 2005, leaving Vice President Jon Morrison and then-present members of the Building Committee to work out contractual details, approve a design and complete construction of the educational wing and extensive remodeling

of the original visitor center structure. Betty remained an At-Large member of the Board until her term ended in January 2006.

Betty's philanthropy extended far beyond the boundaries of Bosque del Apache. Her trademarked "In Friendship and Love" was the close to pleas for help to many other worthy projects to which she gave her time and talent, among them Habitat for Humanity building projects and social programs for her church.

Betty was an inveterate world traveler and wildlife observer with Dana. They journeyed to the community of Churchill on the Hudson's Bay in Canada to observe the polar bears' 'pupping'. Following a visit to Ghana in Africa's southwest, Betty and Dana raised money to bring a young African here for surgery to restore his eyesight, and opened their home to him during convalescence.

The Friends, the refuge, wildlife and people everywhere were blessed by the presence of Betty Davis in their world. No doubt, Betty Davis in Heaven is busy at this moment raising funds to make improvements there!

--John Bertrand

Fundraising Drive for the 25th Annual Festival of the Cranes

Beginning in April 2012, the Friends are sponsoring a 'Mini Fundraising Drive' to help us prepare for the 25th Annual Festival of the Cranes. We have already obtained three donations totaling \$1400 dollars in matching funds and with your help hope to double or triple that amount in the next few months. If you are wondering what all the fuss is about, you'll find the details below.

This Ol' Friends House – and other funding needs

Sometime in the late 1930's (the files are incomplete) a number of buildings on the Refuge, including the present Friends House were

constructed under WPA project OP 165-3-85-132. The thick walls of the two bedroom residence which now houses the Friends' offices were constructed of adobe; the original ceiling of pine vigas brought from the Magdalena Mts. and the tongue and groove oak flooring have remained marvelously intact. In 1998 the Refuge agreed to allow the Friends organization to set up shop in this New Mexico classic and some renovations were completed in 2008. As you can see from the pictures the original landscaping has 'matured' around the House and other buildings, and on the east and south our quarters are now surrounded by the cactus arboretum created by Percy Deal over a decade ago. As stewards of this wonderful work space, we need to continue to care for this timeless structure. Renovations to the two existing bathrooms are long overdue, the



(Above) The Friends house from the northeast, 1942

(Left) The east side of the Friends house soon after it was built as a residence for Refuge personnel.



ceiling lights need upgrades, floors need attention and some of the aging office furniture needs to be replaced. With your help, we intend to complete the interior work this summer, creating a conference room for Friends meetings in the center of the building and providing a more functional and efficient space for the three staff and handful of volunteers who work here.

Ironically, the same sturdy construction that ensured the survival of the House has created problems for our computer system. The WIFI signal does not penetrate the adobe walls and we have had to hard wire the laptops used for Festival and the membership database. Wireless communication between the Nature Store and the main antenna on the Friends House is also sketchy at times, compromising our ability to

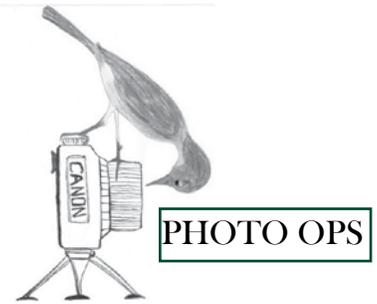
run credit card sales and do online purchasing; to remedy this we need to set up a separate wireless internet account for the Nature Store. We also need to upgrade our computer applications for Festival registration.

With your contributions we can achieve these modest upgrades to our infrastructure, benefiting both the Festival of Cranes and our long term support to environmental education and research at the Refuge. If each Friends member could give just five dollars, we could easily complete the work in time for the 25th Festival of the Cranes.

If you would like to support these efforts, please send your check to Friends of the Bosque, P.O. Box 340, San Antonio, NM 87832; call 575-838-2120 with a credit card; or donate online at <http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/store/basket/membership.html>



The east side of the Friends House today. The porch was enclosed and is now the Environmental Education Office. The Desert Arboretum is a beautiful landscaping addition.



TRANSITIONS

In February, while humans were still bundled up by the fireside, the northern migration of water fowl was already in high gear. But, as the cranes and snow geese departed for their northern breeding grounds, Spring at Bosque del Apache NWR brought new opportunities to photograph migrating birds and the arriving summer residents. Over the next months, American white pelicans, cinnamon and green teal, shorebirds, warblers, and western tanagers will stop at the Bosque on their way north.

Most people aren't aware of how rich in wildlife the Bosque is during the warmer months: you just need to search a bit harder. Hummingbirds, Swainson's hawks, kingbirds, orioles, swallows, avocets, black-necked stilts, summer tanagers, so-ras, and egrets are taking up summer residence and many will start nesting. Look for beautifully-woven oriole and verdin nests. Observe the swallows dipping their beaks into mudflats to carry the materials for their amazing nest structures. Be on the lookout for unusual sightings. In years past, people have spotted yellow-crowned night herons, white ibis, little blue herons, and scissor-tailed flycatchers, and other rarities during warmer weather.

The Bosque is home to a number of mammal species. While mule deer are the most visible, bobcats, elk, raccoons, and javalina are year-round residents that you may see on your drive around the Refuge.



Photo courtesy Nancy Meyer

PHOTO TIPS:

1) If your camera offers a manual option, practice manual focusing before you visit. During spring and summer there are lots of opportunities to photograph shy birds at the Bosque (e.g., green herons, bitterns, Virginia rails and soras). Learn how to quickly switch to manual mode when your subject is partially blocked by vegetation, focusing in on your subject's head and eye.

2) Photography for bird identification: apart from striving for perfect pin-sharp images, don't forget that a camera image is a very useful memory tool. Even a not-so-sharp image of a hawk can help

confirm your guess when you have the right guidebook next to you.

Please be observant while driving in and around the Bosque during Spring: baby quail, Canada geese and deer tend to cross the roads suddenly, and killdeer sometimes lay eggs on the roadways. Also remember to keep your distance from



nests or babies; parents get stressed and aggressive when their babies appear to them to be in danger.

Do you have any questions, interesting sightings, tips or photos you'd like to share? Please contact Kumar Golap and Ingrid Biel at bosquebirds@gmail.com.

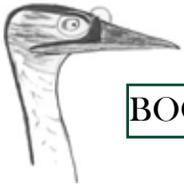


SocorroLive:
See What's
Happening!



Want to keep up-to-date with Friends of the Bosque events? Check out **SocorroLive.com** and **SocorroLive on Facebook**. The Friends will be passing event information to these two websites, run by the Socorro County Tourism Council: you'll be able to see not only what is happening at the Bosque, but what's happening in town as well (after the birds go to bed!). "Like" the Facebook page and every time something is posted there it will be sent directly to your personal Facebook page so you don't have to visit Facebook/SocorroLive. The blog at SocorroLive.com will have a monthly calendar with information about each event and every time something is posted there, there will be a link to it posted on the Facebook/SocorroLive page. It may sound complicated, but one "Like" and you'll be continually updated on Friends events.

The Refuge staff maintains a Facebook page as well—just type Bosque Del Apache into the search bar at the top of any Facebook page to find it. Then "Like" it and you'll get their updates as well!



BOOK REVIEWS

RIO GRANDE, Edited with a text by Jan Reid, 337 pages, University of Texas Press (2004)

When I was a young man living in Houston, Texas, I crossed the Rio Grande at Laredo any number of times on my way to Mexico City. On those occasions I didn't give the river much thought. Over the years I did learn bits and pieces about the 1,885 mile long river, but exploring Jan Reid's **Rio Grande** has provided me the opportunity to learn more about a river that has affected and continues to affect the lives of people in the United States and Mexico.

Jan Reid, a masterful writer, has created a prologue which sheds much light on the "great river:"

The Rio Grande's narrative is like the silt of the bottomlands and delta—a complex layering of many locales and traditions. The river belongs to two countries, and as a consequence it is protected and managed by neither. It is a broken river now, overused and abused and in peril. Yet it still glows, emerald like, in a collective imagination.

Each of the six sections of the book begins with an essay by Reid who reminds us that the "great river," called the Rio Bravo, "angry river" by Mexicans, has its source high in the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado. From here it wends its way south through New Mexico, Texas, the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo

Leon, and Tamaulipas, to empty into the Gulf of Mexico at Matamoros, Mexico.

In each of the sections there are selections of various types of writing by journalists, novelists, historians, and poets, all of whom present different perspectives and imaginings about the river. Many of the selections Reid chose emphasize the critical importance of the Rio Grande to farmers and ranchers in the United States and Mexico.

One selection is taken from Paul Horgan's Pulitzer Prize winner for History, **Great River**. Another selection is from the novel, **The Milagro Beanfield War** by John Nichols. Within the remaining five parts are portions of works by such writers as Charles Bowden, John Graves, Woody Guthrie, Molly Ivans, Larry McMurtry, and the Mexican journalist and novelist, Elena Poniatowska. It should also be noted there are many revelatory photographs by such notables as Ansel Adams, Laura Gilpin and Robert Runyon.

--Barry Guerrero

(Editor's note: Mr. Guerrero is a retired educator who taught for many years in Hawaii and Arizona. He resides in Tucson.)

LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS: SAVING OUR CHILDREN FROM NATURE-DEFICIT DISORDER, by Richard Louv, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, (2008).

As an educator I have been concerned with the growing number of children diagnosed with ADHD. Also of concern to me is the current emphasis on test results. All work and no play have made Johnny a very disinterested and over active student. SOMETHING IS WRONG!

Richard Louv in his book, **Last Child in the Woods**, has hit on some valid possibilities that might explain these results. He calls it Nature-Deficit Disorder. Children are lacking 'nature' experiences. All their senses are not being stimulated. Nature experiences encourage and internalize creative thinking and learning, and provide time for quietness and peacefulness for connection with self.

I like that Louv supports this thesis with research giving possible solutions to ADHD without medication and for raising test scores. He cites the successes he has had working with children in what he terms 'wilderness' areas in rural and urban locations, and provides 100 ideas for providing nature experiences for children as well as a guide book for reading groups.

I highly recommend this book for parents, grandparents, educators, city council members, school board members and wildlife managers/scientists. Louv provides many sources for ideas and support for anyone interested in getting back to nature, for fun and for the good it can do.

--Virginia Cuellar

(Editor's note: Virginia is a FWS summer volunteer at Bosque del Apache NWR.)

These books can be purchased at the Nature Store at the Visitor Center, or by calling 575-835-1828.

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

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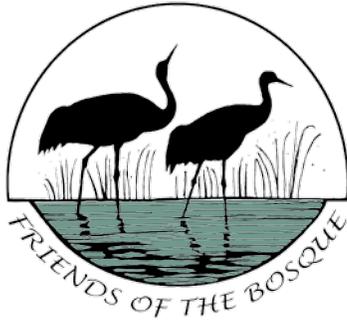
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Government decisions determine the fate of the Bosque del Apache. You can help by letting key decision makers know how you feel about the Refuge and other natural resource issues.

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The White House, Washington D.C.
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US Fish & Wildlife Regional Director

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