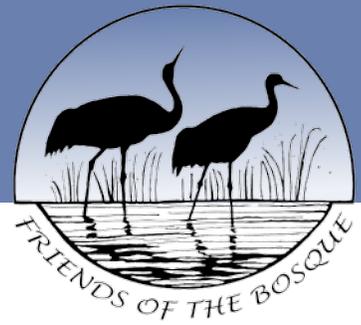


BOSQUE WATCH



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celebrating 20 years!

You are invited! Come celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Bosque. This year during the Festival of the Cranes the Friends are celebrating 20 years of dedicated service in partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Service Officers, staff and volunteers at Bosque del Apache NWR. On Saturday and Sunday of Festival, November 23 and 24, the Friends will host an open house in our classic old adobe headquarters at the refuge. From 10 AM to 3 PM, Friends members and staff will be on hand to greet you, share some “birthday” cake and provide information on all our programs and activities. Follow the signs from the EXPO tent and spend a few moments in celebration with us. Whether a Friends member or Festival supporter, we couldn’t have done it without you.

Twenty years ago, on 25 September 1993, the first official meeting of the Friends of the Bosque was held. Five people attended that meeting and when their membership dues were paid up, the all-volunteer organization started work with a budget of exactly \$35.00. Today we have a permanent staff of three officers and a Festival coordinator, total assets approaching half a million dollars and roughly a thousand members. We run an educational program in the local school, multiple workshops from January through September, and maintain a website. We twitter (and tweet?) and YouTube, manage the Nature Store, online and off, host international delegations and of course, organize the Festival of the Cranes each year.

If success were reflected in the numbers alone, we could all pat ourselves on the back and declare the job well done. But truly, the success of this partnership is best reflected in the faces. To understand what has been accomplished you have to see the face of a third grader who has just banded and released her first duck because of an educational program that gives children a hands on experience at the refuge. You have to see the intensity and dedication in the face of a young researcher who has, with Friends funding and refuge support, spent a long summer analyzing soils, collaring elk, mapping plant communities or monitoring mountain lions. You have to see the pride and camaraderie in the faces of the staff and volunteers who make the Festival happen each year. And you have to see the faces of members and volunteers about to hike to the top of Chupadera Peak, purchased as a result of a Friends fundraising campaign. What’s reflected in these faces-- the smiles, the delight, the intensity-- that’s the measure of our growth and success as an organization.

Celebrate!



Celebrate!



FROM THE EDITOR

....**And the rains came down.....** After a dry winter and spring, and record high temperatures in June, the heavens finally opened in July to give us one of the best monsoons we have had in a long time. The weather gurus have been publishing diagrams showing most of the state with rain totals upwards to 114% of 'average', and the monsoonal flow was active well into late September. According to some locals, Elephant Butte Lake has risen 20 feet, which is good news to farmers in the Rio Abajo. More important, reservoirs to our north have also filled and according to Refuge Manager, Kevin Cobble, it looks like we will have sufficient water to fill ponds for the wintering birds. As always, the old saying "be careful what you wish for" has been in full play and we have had some pretty substantial flooding along state and county roads in the Socorro area to include Highway 1 south of the Visitor Center. The weeds have grown high and Kevin says the cockleburrs are definitely going to be a challenge this year, but nevertheless, I have to think it is all good news for the refuge.

But then, just when you think things have settled in, Mother Nature sends you another surprise. You've probably heard by now that we had a very unusual visitor to the refuge in July. Borne along I think on one of our first monsoonal airflows, a rufous-necked wood rail arrived at the refuge and stayed a few weeks to do some sight seeing along the south loop Boardwalk and cattails. This colorful inhabitant of the mangrove swamps of Mexico, Central America and northern South America, made all the newspapers and brought hundreds of folks to the refuge from all over the country. We all scrambled for our cameras and bird guides and entered this one into the record book. July and August are always our slow months but this year the parking lot was full. The refuge and Friends staff and volunteers rose to the occasion and everyone seems to have gone home happy, including, we hope, the wood rail.

Looking ahead you will find in this issue the announcement for our annual Friends meeting in late October, and a current readout on what's in store for Festival. The new on-line registration system is working very well and the events are filling up more quickly than anyone can ever recall. If you are thinking of joining us for Festival, you best get busy and sign up before your favorite event is full. This year is also the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Bosque del Apache and on Saturday and Sunday, November 23 and 24, we will be having a formal 'Open Friends House' to celebrate our long and fruitful partnership with the refuge. Just follow the signs from the Expo Tent and you'll find us at the back of the cactus arboretum. I encourage you to stop by and meet our staff and Festival volunteers. You can bring along your pictures of the rufous-necked wood rail if you like. He (she?) was certainly one to strike a pose when the cameras came out.

--Lise Spargo



WELCOME!

On September 8th, the newest member of the Bosque family arrived. Blaine Edward Brophy, weighing 7 lbs 8 oz., greeted his dad Sean and mom, Andrea at 9:53 PM at the Dar A Luz Birthing Center in Albuquerque. Sean is a Fish and Wildlife Officer at the refuge and Andrea, as you know, is our Environmental Educator. This is their first child and Andrea's Mom and Grandma came to share this special time. As you can see from the pictures, everyone is doing fine.....though some are getting more sleep than others. But you know how that goes.

Looking back...

APPRECIATING THE LEGACY OF THE CCC

Perhaps this winter you'll find yourself standing near the north ponds at the Bosque del Apache watching sandhill cranes and snow geese at dawn. I would challenge you to listen carefully, and above the noise of the waking birds, perhaps you'll hear a trumpet sounding reveille, a faint echo of a time past, when this area was home to more than 200 men and boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The year was 1939 and the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge was in its infancy. It had two employees and more than 56,000 acres of raw land to survey, catalog, and begin shaping into the concept of "refuge." Infrastructure was needed: roads, ditches, ponds, housing. The CCC had the manpower to assist.

To join the CCC, a boy had to be between the ages of 18 and 25, unmarried, weigh at least 107 lbs—and be willing to work. As you look northwest of the ponds, all you see is desert dotted with four wing salt bush, a few small hills and arroyos, but once there was a city here—more than 17 buildings including frame bar-

racks, classrooms, a recreation hall, offices. There was a lily pond and a tennis court. After erecting their own village, they were put to work digging ditches, building dikes, making adobe bricks, building roads, building housing for refuge staff.

Many of those who came here had finished only the fifth grade. At night they took classes in carpentry, auto mechanics, gardening and animal husbandry. On Saturday nights they might go into San Antonio for a little social activity. They had their own camp newspaper called the Woodpecker. At times they were released from their duties at the camp to help with flood emergencies in Socorro; once for pea harvest. They were paid \$30 a month, of which \$21 was sent home to their families.

When I was researching the history of the refuge, I received permission to explore the site. Much of it has been picked over as it has not always been closed to the public. In the arroyo the CCC used as

their trash dump I found broken dishes, a mother-of-pearl button that separated when I picked it up, the sole and heel of one old shoe. There are a few concrete foundations scattered about, and the ring of the little lily pond remains. The buildings that were not dismantled when the camp closed in 1942 were used for a short time for equipment storage for the refuge, but eventually they, too, were knocked down. In the 1980s a flash flood roared down the arroyos from the west and covered the remains of the foundations with water and a thick layer of mud and debris.

Artifacts of the camp itself are no longer visible (nor open to the public), but as you enjoy the spectacle of the cranes and geese, remember the men and boys of the CCC who helped make the refuge what it is today.

--Robyn Harrison



Above - all that is left of the lily pond

Left - the barracks, mess, offices, and classrooms of the CCC. The photographer was standing on a hill looking southeast, toward what is today the north ponds.





Nature Store - Kim Royle, our new Nature Store Manager, has settled in and has created some great new displays in the store. All the festival items are on the shelves and available online and we think Festival goers will be pleased with the new store layout and merchandise. On September 30, the Nature Store will be closed for inventory and the Auditors will arrive October 1st to do their annual verification. Store sales, which got a big boost this summer with the appearance of the rufous-necked wood rail, continue to go well with an increase in online sales.

Visitors - Senator Heinrich came to the refuge shortly after the bird arrived and was given a tour by Refuge Manager Kevin Cobble. At the Boardwalk they bumped into Jeff Gordon, President of the American Birding Association, who made some very complimentary comments highlighting the national importance of the refuge, and singing the praises of the management and staff. While we are not shy about waving our own flag it was gratifying to have this unsolicited message delivered to the Senator from someone like Jeff.

Later in the summer we had a return visit from some staffers from Senator Udall's and Senator Heinrich's New Mexico and Washington offices, as well as a visit from Tom Harvey from the USFWS regional office. Executive Director Leigh Ann Vradenburg hosted a group of international visitors, professionals

in the conservation field from seven countries on September 10th. Another group from Russia visited on September 23rd. It's great to see that the refuge's reputation is growing nationally and internationally.

Budget and Finances - The Friends budget for 2014 was approved at the September Board meeting. In general we have had a substantially better year than last. With only a few days left in this fiscal year expenses are very close to coming in on budget. Store sales are up, and the Friends investment portfolio is performing well. We have recently gained over fifty new members through Festival registration, and revenue from signups and the EXPO tent in September have already exceeded all previous levels.

Annual Meeting - The Friends Annual meeting will be held this year on Saturday, October 26, beginning at 10:00 am. We will meet in the Lannan room in the Visitor Center. This is a special year for the Friends, marking 20 years in partnership with Bosque del Apache NWR to promote education, conservation and research at the refuge. The morning meeting will include updates by refuge staff on the past year's research and environmental challenges and the outlook for this winter and the return of our hibernal visitors. There will be a summary of Friends activities and finances for the past year and the election of new Board officers.

We are planning a special noon hour presentation and hope you'll stay for lunch and the afternoon's activities. This year we have three concurrent activities to choose

from: landscaping and planting at the new Point of Lands display area near the south entrance of the refuge, marsh willow fence building in the cactus arboretum and a birding tour on the refuge. There will be a clipboard available when you arrive so you can sign up for whichever activity you like.

Board Elections - This year we say goodbye to our Treasurer Kitty Pokorny and long time Board member Kumar Golap. Vice President Matt Mitchell is staying on as a member-at-large, and Jerry Goffe, a current member-at-large, has been nominated for the VP position. Likewise, Jill Buckley, a current Board member is the nominee for Treasurer. Ann Hodges is staying on for a second term and Paul White, former President and President Emeritus is coming back as a member-at-large. With heartfelt thanks we say goodbye to Kumar and Kitty and look forward to seeing them back from time to time as members and volunteers with the Friends.

Nominee Bios:

Matthew Mitchell - Matthew is a native New Mexican holding a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of New Mexico. He has operated a small jewelry business for forty years. With a life long love of wildlife and wild places, Matthew is currently serving on the boards of the Save Our Bosque Task Force and the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust. These non-profit groups protect threatened land from development and implement important habitat restoration projects in the middle Rio Grande. Matthew also rehabilitates injured wildlife as a member

of Wildlife Rescue of New Mexico. He is a master falconer and serves as an officer for the New Mexico Falconer's Association.

Dr. Paul C. White - Paul is a retired physicist who worked in the national security arena for more than 30 years at Los Alamos National Laboratory. In addition to holding a number of senior management positions, Paul also served in Geneva, supporting arms control negotiations, and later led Laboratory programs for technical cooperation with Russia. Before his retirement in 2008, he was National Security Advisor to the Laboratory Director and continues to serve as a Guest Scientist. Paul currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Los Alamos – Sarov Sister Cities Program, and on a committee of the Los Alamos Historical Society.

Paul and his wife, Margaret, share an avid interest in birds and are Life Members of the Friends. Paul joined the Board in 2006, served as President for four years beginning in 2007, and has been President Emeritus since 2012. Paul's other interests include photography, hiking, reading and family history.

Ann Hodges - Ann is a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories, is a Certified Systems Engineering Professional and is President for the International Council of Systems Engineering Enchantment Chapter. She has over 25 years of experience in systems engineering (SE), software engineering, tailorable policy/practice definition, risk management and project management. As a member

of Sandia National Laboratories' Defense Systems and Assessments (DS&A) Strategic Management Unit's (SMU) Mission Assurance Department at Sandia National Laboratories, she's the DS&A SMU Mission Assurance SE lead, led the development of the SE-related part of the DS&A SMU Mission Assurance framework and is providing SE support to projects ranging from high- to low-rigor product realization. She has a master's degree in Computer Science and a BBA both from the University of New Mexico.

Jill Buckley – Jill has just completed a two-year term as a Board member-at-Large. She is a longtime Socorro resident, retired from a research career at New Mexico Tech, and she is an enthusiastic birder. Over the past two years she has helped maintain the Friends' membership database, volunteered at the Nature store, and organized volunteers to greet visitors on the observation decks during the Festival of the Cranes.

Jerry Goffe - Nature and wildlife photography are Jerry Goffe's passion and his photographs have appeared in numerous publications to include Sunset Magazine, Architectural Forum and Smithsonian Magazine. He became a volunteer at Bosque del Apache NWR in 1999 and started giving tours in 2000. Currently a member-at-large, Jerry has served on the Board several times before, heading a number of projects for the Friends to include leadership of the design team and liaison during construction of the Lannan educational annex and new entry to the Visitor Center and Nature store. Jerry is a recipient of the honored Martha

Hatch Award and a Life Member of the Friends. Jerry takes great joy in sharing the beauty and splendor of Bosque del Apache.

TEACHERS

In order to promote educating youth on nature this quarter (October 1 thru December 31), all teachers will receive a 15% discount on all educational items sold in the store. Additionally, with every \$20.00 spent, a poster of the Birds of the Bosque del Apache will be included with the purchase free of charge. Any gifts, décor or clothing is exempt from the discount.



26th Annual Festival of the Cranes

Our 26th Festival of the Cranes is coming! An improved easier online pre-registration has been unveiled for planning and signing-up for Festival events. For the first time, our Friends of the Bosque members received registration priority for two days as a membership benefit. Becoming a member has never been easier just visit our website www.friendsofthebosque.org and click the green and blue Join Us button.

This is our “Year of Photography”, and we will be featuring 5 professional photographers in a wealth of workshops ranging from 30 minute vignettes to 2-day sessions. Russ Burden, Maxis Gamez, Robert O’Toole, Deborah Sandidge, and Kathryn Dow will bring their expertise to Festival to help you with everything from the basics to equipment, specialty shots to fully utilizing your camera’s potential. Once you know how to get that perfect shot, you will be able to browse and even borrow some of the latest equipment from industry leaders such as Canon and Sigma in our Expo Tent Wednesday through Sunday. Our Expo Tent has expanded into a larger tent this year on the Bosque plaza with 20 camera, optic and eco-travel exhibitors.

We have an exciting Festival arranged with 138 event sessions (60 new) that bring interactive exhilaration; 41 photography and 55 birding workshops, tour and lectures, plus a host of cultural, regional, and wildlife-themed activities. Are you interested in discovering what activities are available at the Festival of the Cranes? Visit us at www.festivalofthecranes.com for the full session listing and festival information. Registration is all online and secure. If you need additional information or assistance, please call our Festival Registrar Lizz Taylor at 575-835-2077 or email festival@sdcc.org.



Join the Friends on a trip of adventure to the Galapagos

Join the Friends of the Bosque as we sail and walk in the path of Charles Darwin to the Galapagos Islands. Come face to face with the iconic wildlife of the Galápagos, including blue-footed boobies, marine iguanas, Darwin’s finches, and the Galápagos penguin. Discover fascinating geological history while trekking volcanoes and lava fields. See rare and endangered tortoises at the Tortoise Breeding Center on Isabela Island. Hike to the summit on Bartolomé Island for spectacular views of Pinnacle Rock, the most photographed place in the Galápagos Islands. Snorkel with sea lions and other marine life. Watch sea lion colonies playing on the dark red beaches of Rabida Island. Explore Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve. Visit Guayaquil’s crown jewel, the Malécon 2000.

Besides having a great trip, part of cost of the trip gives you a tax deduction as a gift to the Friends. These funds go to support the refuge.

The trip is scheduled to depart June 27, 2014, and return July 7. For more information go to www.holbrooktravel.com/dated-departure/fobgalapagos

--Jon Morrison

Do you want to find out about Friends of the Bosque? Visit the Friends booth in the Expo Tent and come to our Friends Dinner on Thursday evening. Want a great Friday evening? Don’t miss New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series: Robert Mirabal in Blue Corn - The Journey after coming to the Festival Social Bodega Style that starts at 5:00 PM. Want to see some of the finest artists in the southwest? The Festival of the Cranes Fine Art Show is located at the NM Tech campus West Gym. It has expanded to include fine art beyond wildlife themes.

So place Festival dates November 19-24th on your calendars and let the fun begin!

The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is a jewel within the national refuge system and the Festival of the Cranes is a wonder for the senses. Come visit us for an experience of nature.

Artist Spotlight

Patti McLain: In her own words

I was born in Fort Riley, Kansas, October of 1935. I am the mother of four wonderful children; Deborah, Dolores, Robert, & Theresa. I lost my first husband Robert Quick to cancer after 34 years of marriage. I married Phil in 1991 and now I have three more wonderful step-children; Jim, Kelly & Walter. We have 16 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Phil and I became Rockhounds after we retired from New Mexico Tech in 1992. I am mostly a self-taught artist and as we traveled all over the US hunting for beautiful specimens of rocks, I also did a lot of sketching, mostly of birds, but some landscape. I wanted to incorporate my love of art into my love of rocks, hence pen & ink Rock Art. I use all kinds of rock slabs for my art; agates, marble, white plume, petrified wood, etc. I like Brazilian agate the most because it has such a beautiful range of transparent colors and I can blend my drawings into the rock using my Rapidograph pen and India ink. We have three rock saws and Phil cuts the smaller slabs for me. He also cuts Mexican Geodes in half and I draw on them. When we buy geodes we have to specify that we want solids. The vendors are used to selling hollows for their beautiful crystal interiors. They are real happy to see us because we want the solid ones!



My other crafts include:

- ◇ Jewelry-
 - ★ Gold-fill & Silver wire wrap pendants & earrings.
 - ★ Necklaces & earrings using semi-precious gemstones such as garnet, amethyst, lapis, freshwater pearls, etc.

- ◇ Notecards- I love to work with origami paper. I make silhouettes of animals and birds, and "iris fold" cards (a type of paper folding).

- ◇ Scrollsaw- We make wood magnets; cranes - animals - hummingbirds. Using hardwoods - maple, walnut, cherry, etc.- I make the patterns and Phil & I cut the wood.

The Rock Art is, of course, my first love. I look forward to cutting the rock and deciding what I am going to draw on it I especially love to draw the cranes. They are such elegant birds. I could watch them all day.

(Store Manager's Note- We carry several beautiful pieces of Patti's rock and geode art. These pieces are one-of-a-kind and are spectacular in a window or in front of a light source.)



PHOTO OPS

Autumn has arrived and soon our famous winter residents will make their appearance. As large birds, these cranes and geese provide wonderful photo opportunities even for enthusiasts with the tiniest compact cameras.

During the fall migration period, Swainson's hawks, which nest at the Bosque, are heading south, many all the way to Argentina. Accompanying them are turkey vultures. On some days dozens of them can be seen pausing for a rest at the refuge. Other raptors start arriving from the north, following the geese and ducks, while smaller hawks like Cooper's and sharp-shinned remain during the winter.



Because of this year's late summer rains, sunflowers and other seed-producing plants are now tall and plentiful. They attract lesser goldfinches, lark sparrows and other seed-eating birds.



Other familiar year-round birds that are visible during typical fall and winter days at the Bosque include Gambel's quails and roadrunners. They can make for fantastic photos. And last but not least: a reminder that the Bosque del Apache is world-renowned for playing host to rare avian visitors, such as this summer's rufous-necked wood rail and the sungrebe that appeared during the 2008 Festival of the Cranes.

To see all of these beautiful photographs in color, go to www.friendsofthebosque.com and click on newsletters.



Into the month of October you may see flocks of American white pelicans passing through to the Gulf of Mexico. As morning temperatures rise, watch them catch thermals that help speed them southward.



Smaller birds that remain during the winter include the bug eating Say's and black phoebes, both flycatchers.

Occasionally, we have also observed spectacular male vermillion flycatchers during the winter. Their brilliant red bodies and black masks contrast against the yellowing leaves.

The wet areas also create habitat for mosquitoes that can swarm near water even during cold weather. Take a can of repellent or towelettes that contain DEET along with you.

--Ingrid and Kumar (bosquebirds@gmail.com)



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.

Thank you!

Over the past year, photographer Robert Dunn, who had several winning photos in last year's Festival of the Cranes photo contest, has allowed us to use several of his spectacular Bosque del Apache images--including on our new business cards! Thanks, Robert!

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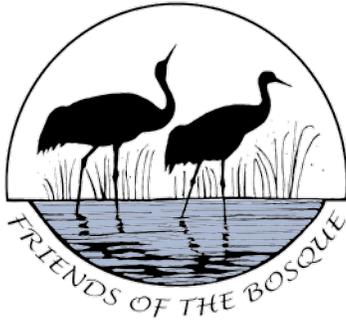
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SPEAK UP!

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.
202/456-1111 President@WhiteHouse.gov

US Fish & Wildlife Regional Director

500 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505/346-2545

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Washington D.C. 20240 202/208-7351

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202/224-5521
website: heinrich.senate.gov

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Hon. Steve Pearce

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- Help with Friends activities
 - Help with the Festival
 - Serve on a Friends Committee

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