



November 2018

REFUGE UPDATE

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Calendar

Fall Family Fair

Saturday November 3rd

1-4 PM

Join staff, volunteers, and your friends for a fun day of family activities. Winners of the Drawn to Sevilleta competition will be honored. Kid friendly; flyer is attached.

Hike back in time

Saturday, November 10

10 am – 3 pm

Join Refuge staff and a Volunteer Naturalist in this hike back in time and take in some fascinating views! Learn some fascinating facts about the people who once inhabited the area and what they left behind. Hiking will be arduous and over uneven surfaces. Space is limited, reservations required! 505-864-4021

Geology of San Lorenzo Canyon

December 7th

9 AM-2 PM

Join Refuge staff and a volunteer naturalist for the geologic exploration of San Lorenzo Canyon. Learn about the forces that shaped this beautiful landscape. Short hikes, so bring your boots. Lunch, water, camera and poles are necessary. Space is limited, so call the Refuge to reserve your spot. 505-864-4021.

Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

Sevilleta Fall Family Fair fast approaches (or might have already happened depending on when you read this message). This event will be held Saturday, November 3, from 1-4 pm. The event includes archery, guided hikes, wildlife games, live animal demonstrations and other fun things for families to do. The day includes the award ceremony for the winners of the Drawn to Sevilleta poster contest. Two Amigos-supported Interns, Brian and Alicia, have been shepherding this event along and we got a great response from the schools as a result of their efforts with 542 posters submitted. All posters will be on display in the Visitor Center.

The Puerco Hunt Unit opened for dove hunting on September 1, and several hunters took advantage of hunting this new area. Response is positive to date, despite County Road 12 not being in the best shape due to the flood event of late July. One of the things that we have to continue to publicize is that all hunting at Sevilleta is with lead-free ammunition. Waterfowl hunting opened October 25 on the refuge and the 2 wetland units are ready. We have renovated and reconfigured Unit B and added 3 hunt blinds to this unit. One of them is accessible to mobility-impaired hunters. We think this will provide a high quality hunt and we look forward to hearing feedback from our hunters.

As always, we have several events planned for the coming months – be sure to check the lists of events in this newsletter and on our other forms of communication (web, social media). The 45th Birthday of the refuge is December 28, 2018 – stay tuned for more information as we finalize plans to celebrate!

Amigos Board News

Ann Adams, Board President

Hey, Amigos!

Sigh! Summer is really over. Most of the migrating songbirds have flown South. Hummingbirds are off to Central America. We could be sad BUT... Fall has brought us beautiful foliage, some unexpected rain, and cooler weather! Sandhill cranes can be heard daily flying downriver to our riparian areas and to Bosque del Apache NWR. We have a busy month ahead with Drawn to Sevilleta well underway, the Sevilleta Fall Family Fair scheduled for November 3, and participation in the Festival of the Cranes November 16.

The Drawn to Sevilleta contest is being managed by a couple of our interns who are visiting classrooms, talking to students and asking them to produce a drawing about something special they think about the refuge. Winning drawings will be announced and posted at the Fall Family Fair 11/3. There will be activities and talks of all sorts at the Fair, which runs from 1pm to 4pm. Come early and hike the trails beforehand.

The Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache NWR runs from November 14 through the 17th. Sevilleta and Vallé d'Oro representatives will be there to talk about our refuges along the Middle Rio Grande. I hope you will all be joining in for these events as participants or volunteers. This is your refuge and there is always something to see or do.

For those of you who have donated to our Capital Campaign...thank you! We are well on our way to funding our first new trailhead sign. Since we have not yet reached the magic match number offered by our challenge donors, we will be continuing the effort throughout the rest of 2018 and into 2019. Please, feel free to tell others about the campaign. We'll update you on our progress in the next newsletter!

We appreciate all members of the Amigos and look forward to seeing you on the refuge soonest!!
Adios!

Ann

Amigos Contacts

Amigos Web Site

<https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/>

Amigos On Face Book

<https://www.facebook.com/amigossevilleta/>

Refuge Web Site

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta/>

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

505/864-4021 X 106



Sevilleta Fall Family Fair

Saturday, November 3, 2018

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Schedule of Events:

1:10 – 1:40 Geology Hike

1:15 – 1:45 Wildlife Hike

2:00 – 3:00 Award Ceremony

3:00 – 4:00 Mesa View Hike

Artwork by:

Brawley from
Midway
Elementary

2013

Fun Family Activities going on all day

Nature Talks · Live Animals · Animal Masks
Archery · DIY Quail Call · Paint a
Petroglyph

Reservations
not required!

Refreshments
and live
music!

Participating Organizations:

Bosque Del Apache NWR

Valle de Oro NWR

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area

New Mexico Raptors

Prairie Dog Pals

Wonders on Wheels! Mobile Museum

Located on I -25
exit 169

Geology Hike:

Join a naturalist for a short hike on our wildflower loop to see some stunning views of the surrounding features and learn how they formed.

Wildlife Hike:

Explore the area surrounding the visitor center for signs of animal life. You might see birds, lizards, insects, or even a mammal or two!

Mesa View Hike:

Go on a longer hike to the top of the mesa for views of the Rio Grande, as well as Los Pinos and the Ladrones Mountains.

For more information go to:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta/>

Or Call:

505-864-4021



Underground life is cool

by Sandy Barnett (photos by Colin Barnett)

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge is home to a population of Desert Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina luteola*), one of two subspecies of the Ornate Box Turtle. More research has been done on this subspecies at the Refuge than has been carried out anywhere else in its range (which includes parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico).

One of the interesting results of these studies is the observation that Desert Box Turtles spend most of their time underground, in the burrows dug by the Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat, *Dipodomys spectabilis*. These multi-chambered burrows can extend a foot or more underground, offering turtles protection from rapid temperature flux and freezing temperatures during their long period of winter dormancy (brumation), and a retreat from the harsh heat and dryness of the summer.

In the warm to hot months of the year, Desert Box Turtles are mostly active above ground only during the early morning and late afternoon, and immediately after daytime rains. At these times, turtles may bask briefly in the sun to raise their body temperature, and then move around in search of mates, food, and if available, a drink of water from a puddle or ephemeral pool. (Desert Box Turtles do not live near permanent water bodies).

As opportunistic omnivores, these turtles forage for a variety of wildflowers and succulents. They also prey on insects and other invertebrates (such as spiders, millipedes, and centipedes), as well as on small reptiles (turtles, snakes, and lizards), amphibians, mammals, and birds. Some of these vertebrates are taken alive, but box turtles are also known to eat carrion.



Desert Box Turtles use the empty burrows of the Banner-Tailed Kangaroo Rat. Note turtle in foreground.



Desert Box Turtle

Cibola Canyon Hike Tour

On Friday, Oct 12th 20-plus intrepid hikers joined Dave Love, geologist, on a trek to Cibola Canyon. While the canyon was lovely, the rocks captured the group's interest. They found iron deposits which created perfect circles, brachiopods, crinoid stems, and microbial biscuits. A beehive in the canyon wall, water at the canyon spring and good company made for a perfect day



Article is from the Amigos de la Sevilleta Face Book page see the post for more pictures at https://www.facebook.com/pg/amigossevilleta/posts/?ref=page_internal

HOW YOU CAN HELP SEVILLETA

The Amigos de la Sevilleta provide valuable support to this unique refuge. There are several ways that you can help.

Consider increasing your membership contribution to the next level or higher.

Give an Amigos membership to a friend or family member.

Make an annual or semi-annual donation.

Include the Amigos de Sevilleta in your will.

Donate appreciated property or stock.

If you are 70½ or older you can donate a part of your required minimum IRA distribution and avoid paying taxes on it. Your broker can handle all the paperwork for you. You will need the Amigos' tax ID number (06-1819138) and the mailing address (Amigos de la Sevilleta, Box 1248, Socorro, NM 87801.)

Since the Amigos are a 501c(3) organization, all donations are tax deductible. Your generosity will ensure that Sevilleta continues its mission to provide for the wildlife in this spectacular refuge.