

THE MESQUITE GRILL

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER · FALL 2011 · WILDMESQUITE.ORG

Lucky Las Cruces woman wins Prius

See page 3.



SWEC's 2012 calendar photo contest

Have you voted?
See page 5.

La Mancha Wetland Project moving forward

See page 4.



Who's Knocking?

Meet SWEC's talented young door-to-door canvassers on page 6.

Mexican Wolf Awareness Month

Join us for these activities as we celebrate Mexican Wolf Awareness Month:

- *Lords of Nature* (free film)—Friday, November 4th, 7:30 pm at SWEC
- Mexican Wolf Identification Workshop—Saturday, Nov. 5th, 10 am at SWEC
- *Lobos at the Crossroads*—Wednesday, Nov. 9, at SWEC
- Mexican Wolf Day of Action—Saturday, Nov. 12

Mexican wolves still on the brink of extinction

More wolves needed in New Mexico--now!

With only 50-60 Mexican wolves in the wild, it is time to pick up the pace of wolf recovery in the Southwest.

The Southwest Environmental Center has joined with biologists and other groups in urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to jettison an obsolete and politically-motivated rule that prevents the direct release of captive-bred wolves into New Mexico, where the best unoccupied wolf habitat occurs.

The rule was a concession aimed at gaining New Mexico's cooperation before the Mexican wolf reintroduction program began in 1998. At the time, the state's Governor and Game Commission opposed the wolf reintroduction.

The rule stipulates that direct releases of wolves can only take place in the Arizona portion of the Mexican wolf recovery area, despite the fact that 75 percent of the recovery area is in New Mexico. Arizona wolves can subsequently be moved into New Mexico for management purposes, and they are allowed to move there on their own.

Wolf experts have long criticized this rule.



With only 50-60 lobos in the wild, and hundreds languishing in captivity, it's time to put wolves directly into the best remaining habitat—in New Mexico's Gila National Forest.

In 2001, a review team lead by the University of Calgary's Paul Paquet concluded that modifying the rule to allow direct releases into New Mexico "is by far the most important and simplest change" that could be made to improve the reintroduction effort. (See sidebar page 2.)

Wolf activist Jean Ossorio, a Las Cruces resident and former SWEC board member, agrees. "Much of the good lobo habitat in Arizona is already occupied by existing packs. In

(continued on next page)

We're turning 20!

SWEC prepares to celebrate two decades of success in 2012

by Kevin Bixby, Executive Director

Next year will mark the Southwest Environmental Center's 20th anniversary.

I have to admit, I had my doubts that SWEC would survive its first year back when we opened our doors nearly 20 years ago at a gritty storefront location on South Solano Avenue in Las Cruces.

We were all volunteers back then. The furniture and office equipment were secondhand and donated. And southern New Mexico was

(continued on page 4)

Wolves released in Mexico

See story next page.

Flight over Otero Mesa reveals threat of mining

See story page. 3.

Our Mission

Established in 1991, the Southwest Environmental Center works to protect and restore native wildlife and their habitats in the Southwestern borderlands.

Not a member? Please join us today!

A Native Returns!

On October 11, five Mexican grey wolves ("lobos") were released in the San Luis Mountains of northeastern Sonora, near the New Mexico border. It is the first reintroduction of lobos into Mexico since they disappeared from their historic range in that country more than 30 years ago. The release was coordinated by the federal SEMARNAT agency, and Naturalia, a non-governmental conservation organization.



The wolf release site in the San Luis Mountains--outlined in blue--is near the southern borders of Arizona and New Mexico.

Reintroducing wolves into their historic range in Mexico is an important and long-overdue step towards recovery of the highly endangered Mexican wolf. It is absolutely critical that wolves be allowed to move freely between the U.S. and Mexico to establish a genetic connection needed for healthy populations and long-term survival. SWEC is working to make sure the U.S. does not construct additional border fencing that prevents the movement of wildlife.

How endangered are Mexican wolves?

Here's how the number of lobos in the wild compares with some other animals considered endangered or critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

Mexican wolf	~50
Ethiopian wolf	~210
Red wolf	~150
Javan rhino	50-70
Asiatic cheetah	60-100
Giant panda	~1600
Amur tiger	~500
Vaquita	<500

NM needs more wolves

(continued from front page)

the wake of the Wallow Fire, it's even harder to find good release sites. Meanwhile, the number of wolves that have already been in the wild in Arizona and are eligible for re-release into New Mexico is limited," she said.

Although FWS claims to support this rule



The best remaining unoccupied Mexican wolf habitat is in New Mexico's Gila National Forest.

change, it has yet to take the first step needed to make it happen; namely, publishing the proposed change in the federal register and preparing an environmental assessment.

What you can do

Please contact Senators Bingaman and Udall, as well as FWS Regional Director Benjamin Tuggle, and let them know that you want to see a rule change that would allow for the the release of Mexican wolves directly into New Mexico as soon as possible.

US SENATOR JEFF BINGAMAN (NM)
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(800) 443-8658
<http://bingaman.senate.gov> (email at site)

US SENATOR TOM UDALL (NM)
B40D Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6621
<http://udall.senate.gov> (email at site)

DR. BENJAMIN N. TUGGLE
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306
(505) 248-6911 RDTuggle@fws.gov

For more information about what you can do, visit www.wildmesquite.org or contact Jason Burke at (575) 522-5552 or jason@wildmesquite.org.



Current rules prohibit the direct release of wolves into New Mexico, even though 75% of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Area (outlined in red) is located in New Mexico.

What the scientists say

Here's what the team of wolf experts led by Dr. Paul Paquet recommended in 2001:

Immediately modify the final rule (Parsons 1998) and develop the authority to conduct initial releases into the Gila National Forest...

Over time, it will become harder for the Service to find suitable release sites in the primary recovery zone. The Service can best address this problem by obtaining the authority to conduct initial release in the secondary recovery zone, most notably the Gila National Forest...

Despite the Service's approval of the recommendation, they have taken no implementation action. This is by far the most important and simplest change the Service can make to the existing reintroduction project.

The Gila National Forest is approximately 75% of the 4.4 million acre Blue River Wolf Recovery Area. The Gila Forest includes about 700,000 acres that are roadless and free of livestock. Several high-quality release sites are available in the area. Using them is the best way for improving the cost-effectiveness and certainty of the reintroduction project.

Accordingly, we strongly recommend that the Service immediately take whatever action is necessary to conduct initial releases of captive-born (and wild-born if appropriate) Mexican wolves to the Gila National Forest.

[Paquet, P. C., Vucetich, J., Phillips, M. L., and L. Vucetich. 2001. Mexican wolf recovery: three year program review and assessment. Prepared by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.]

Otero Mesa From Above

Flight provides vision of what hardrock mining could do to Wind Mountain

by Jason Burke, Field Organizer

On September 16, I was lucky enough to fly in a small plane over Otero Mesa thanks to Ecoflight, a Colorado-based nonprofit

where similar mining has already occurred. As you can see from the photo on this page, the damage has been significant.

We then flew over Otero Mesa for a close-up view of Wind Mountain. So far, the exploratory drilling has had little impact visible from the air. The mountain appears largely unscathed.

For Las Cruces writer Jeff Berg, also on the flight, the contrast was stark. Jeff said, "it was an amazing and beautiful flight on one level, but also brought to light the envi-

ronmental degradation that could take place on Otero Mesa if this type of activity were to take place."

SWEC is continuing to monitor the situation on Otero Mesa. We are working with a filmmaker to document the historical and cultural importance of Otero Mesa to the Mescalero Apache, a potentially powerful ally in the effort to protect this extraordinary landscape.

that provides flying services for conservation groups. Our goal was to get an idea of the destruction that hard rock mining might cause to Otero Mesa's Wind Mountain.

Geovic, a mining company based in Denver, received a state exploration permit in July, and in August started drilling ten exploratory holes at Wind Mountain, one of the area's most iconic peaks. As a "junior" company, Geovic doesn't have the resources to move forward with large-scale mining operations. They are modern day prospectors. If they find anything, they will most likely sell their claims to the highest bidder.

Our first destination was Sierra Blanca Mountain in Hudspeth County (Texas)



Wind Mountain on Otero Mesa, as it appears today--still relatively unscathed by the first stages of hardrock mining. Photo Ed Breeding.



Sierra Blanca in Hudspeth County, Texas. Mining for rare earth minerals has removed large chunks of the mountain. This could be the fate of Wind Mountain. Photo Ed Breeding.



A beaming Anne Marie Spiess accepts the keys to her new Prius from Las Cruces Toyota owner Paul Vescovo (r) and SWEC Board President Andre Moquin.

Las Cruces Woman Wins Prius in SWEC raffle

On September 13, 2011 around 7:30 PM, Anne Marie Spiess of Las Cruces got a very unusual phone call. Sitting in her hotel room in Washington, DC., she had just gotten off the phone with her husband and admits that she almost didn't answer the call from the unfamiliar number. Good thing she did!

Back at the Southwest Environmental Center, nearly 50 Prius ticket buyers anxiously awaited to tell her the great news - that she had won a brand new, 2011 Toyota Prius. As soon as Executive Director, Kevin Bixby, introduced himself, Anne Marie asked, "Are you calling to tell me I've won a car?" and the crowd erupted in a raucous cheer.

Anne Marie and her husband have purchased Prius tickets since the first year of the contest. They have been members of SWEC for the past two years. They say they joined because they are interested in the outdoors, and really appreciate SWEC's work on behalf of Mexican Gray Wolves and Otero Mesa. Anne Marie has a daily commute to eastern El Paso, and definitely looks forward to some savings on gas money.

Otero Mesa Photos on display at SWEC through November

Don't miss the *Last Desert Grassland* Photo Exhibition at SWEC's Cottonwood Gallery. This collection of more than 50 stunning photos of Otero Mesa taken by members of the Dona Ana Camera Club will be on display through November.

The show was conceived as a collaboration between SWEC and the Camera Club. Most of the photos were taken on two SWEC-led field trips, one in May, and the other in September.

SWEC's 20th

(continued from front page)

not exactly the best place to start a conservation advocacy organization, given the economics and politics of the area.

Not only did SWEC survive, it grew to become a leading voice for conservation in the region, with professional staff, a successful track record and a sizeable and growing membership.

SWEC began as an idea shared by myself and a handful of other Las Cruces conservation activists. We wanted to create a physical space that would serve as a focal point for grassroots efforts to protect the region's extraordinary wild landscapes and wildlife. We envisioned a place where activists could share office and meeting space, rub elbows and collaborate. Not only would such a place promote synergy, but it would encourage citizen activism by making it easier for existing groups to recruit new members, and importantly, make it easier for the media to find someone when an environmental perspective was needed for a story.

A board of directors was formed, and the Southwest Environmental Center was incorporated as a New Mexico nonprofit in 1991. After scraping together a couple thousand dollars at our first fundraiser at the Fountain Theater, we decided to take a chance on renting an office, and SWEC opened its doors for the first time in the fall of 1992.

As we prepare to enter our 20th year, I am pleased to report that SWEC is stronger than ever. We pursued our original goal of supporting citizen conservation, but something else happened over the years. SWEC emerged as a leader in its own right in the conservation community, developing its own distinctive agenda and approach.

I am proud of what SWEC has accomplished. We were one of the first conservation groups (along with Forest Guardians) in the West to successfully bid on and secure conservation leases on state trust lands.

We were the first group to really champion the cause of restoring the Rio Grande south of Albuquerque in a sustained way. We initiated the first major river restoration project along the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico--the Picacho Wetlands--and we led the effort to get the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park established.

Our latest habitat restoration project, La

Mancha Wetland, is well underway and when completed will provide critically important habitat for native fish and other aquatic creatures. We have submitted a proposal to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will provide a steady stream of income to do similar wetland projects throughout southern New Mexico and west Texas.

We have been at the forefront of efforts to mobilize public support for the repatriation of



SWEC has long been at the forefront of efforts to build public support for Mexican wolf recovery: (top to bottom) Las Cruces pro-wolf rally organized primarily by SWEC; addressing the Grant County Commission about the potential economic benefits of a Mexican Wolf Center; winners in SWEC's student art and essay contests; SWEC-organized workshop for outfitters and guides about wolf ecotourism.

Mexican wolves to their historic range in the Southwest. We have been a key player in the coalition that has successfully defended Otero Mesa against industrial oil and gas development, and now hardrock mining.

Through it all, we have strived through our many educational efforts such as Back by Noon outings, talks, films and workshops, to raise awareness and appreciation of our region's natural heritage, and motivate people to take action to protect it.

The fact that our membership is at an all time high, and continuing to grow, gives me great hope for the future. With your support, 2012 and beyond will bring many more successes.

La Mancha Wetland Project moving forward

After several years of planning and fundraising, SWEC finally broke ground on its La Mancha Wetland Project in July. Schaeffer Group Enterprises (SGE) was hired to do the first phase of construction of the pond on SWEC's property; namely, removing the many tons of surplus dirt and construction rubble that SWEC inherited when the property was donated to us in 2005.

The next two phases consist of constructing a flood control berm around the perimeter of the pond, and excavation of the pond itself, respectively. SGE will begin Phase Two as soon as we receive the necessary permits from Dona Ana County. Phase Three is awaiting approval from the NM Office of State Engineer (OSE) of the City of Las Cruces' application to change the place of use of up to 15 acre-feet of City-owned groundwater rights so they can be used for the project. Encouragingly, the OSE did not receive any protests of the City's application following publication of notice in the newspaper, so now we are just waiting on the OSE to review the proposal and approve it.

If all goes well, construction of the pond will be completed by the beginning of the 2012 irrigation season. As soon as the major dirt work is finished, we will be looking for volunteers to help us plant native wetland plants around the pond.



SWEC's Kevin Bixby discusses the La Mancha Wetland Project with neighbors and County Commissioner Billy Garrett.

The next major step will be for SWEC to apply to the OSE for a change in the point of diversion for our Rio Grande Project surface water rights, so that we can construct a connecting channel between the Rio Grande and the pond. It is a small channel, but a large precedent, so we expect to attract much scrutiny from other water users.

A Brief Guide to Modern Giving

By Arianna Parsons, Office Manager and Membership Coordinator

GoodSearch. Missionfish. Key Tags. Charitable text messages. Donated Facebook pages.

Here's the good news--if you don't know what half of those words are you are not alone.

The world of charitable giving is moving leaps and bounds beyond that of the "olden" days when folks wrote a check or passed the hat for the cause of their choice. The bad news--the field of play is only going to get more crowded and more complex.

To keep you abreast of the developments in our world, we thought we would share with you some of the more interesting ways we are now receiving funding from our members.

It is important to note that for many of these options, you are not actually spending any of your own money, just channeling it to us through larger corporations.

As a member of the nonprofit community, one of the many vying for your financial support, we see new technologies and giving methods as an opportunity to make giving more convenient and more tailored to the lifestyle of our valued member base.

Note: We always encourage our members to patronize independent and locally owned businesses, especially those that support SWEC. However, if you do choose to shop online or at Albertsons, you should know that you can do so in a way that benefits SWEC.

Albertson's Community Partners Program

What it is: Albertson's has made Environmental Stewardship a primary focus in the communities in which they operate stores. Albertson's donates a percentage of each purchase to SWEC when you scan your Albertson's key



tag. (Don't have a key tag? Just let us know and we will send one out to you!)

How it Works: You keep a plastic tag on your key chain that has a bar code that references SWEC. Each time you shop, have the cashier scan the card and a percentage of your purchase will come back to us - at no cost to you!

iGive.com

What it is: iGive.com is a portal to more than 900 online stores, including many big names such as Best Buy, Apple and Target. For every online purchase made, iGive will make a donation to the cause you designate.

How it Works: Just register at iGive.com and select SWEC as your favorite cause. It is easy and free. Then shop as you normally would. The rest is automatic. The prices are no different than they would be otherwise, and SWEC benefits each time you shop online.

GoodSearch/GoodShop

What it is: "GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50 percent of its sponsored search revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine. Because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. The money GoodSearch donates to your cause comes from its advertisers - the users and the organizations do not spend a dime!" How to Use it: First, navigate to the "Become a Supporter" page of GoodSearch by visiting <http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/southwest-environmental-center-swec.aspx> (don't worry, we can send you a link). Once you've designated us as your organization of choice, you search GoodSearch.com like you would any other search engine (like Yahoo or Google). Each ad you see on the search pages brings GoodSearch money (virtual real estate), 50% of that revenue goes to us.

MissionFish (eBay's Giving Works Program)

What it is: It allows sellers to give proceeds from their sales to a favorite nonprofit, and helps nonprofits raise funds by selling on eBay too. Nonprofits can also receive donations from eBay users through the Donate Now feature, which lets anyone with a PayPal account donate to nonprofits right away -without buying or selling anything.

How it Works: If you buy or sell items on eBay, you can designate SWEC as a recipient of funds. If you frequently sell items, let us know and we will help you make SWEC a recipient of a percentage of your funds. You can also give directly during eBay checkout!

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact me at arianna@wildmesquite.org or (575) 522-5552.

Introducing SWEC's First Annual Calendar Contest!

This year, for the first time ever, SWEC is putting together a calendar featuring the best member-submitted photos of the Southwest's wild places and wildlife. This fundraising calendar is intended to celebrate our region, show off the talents of our members and serve as a daily reminder of what we all work so hard to protect and restore.

The public is invited to vote on their favorite images until November 1st, via our Facebook Page. Don't have a Facebook account? Don't worry, you can still vote. Just go to our website (wildmesquite.org) and follow the link on our homepage to the pdf file containing the photos. Pick your 12 favorites and send them to us by email to calendar@wildmesquite.org.



One of the many fine entries in SWEC's calendar photo contest, this one by Ron Wolfe of Deming.

We hope a wide variety of images are selected, as well as a nice representation of all of our seasons.

Regardless of which images are chosen, this calendar is sure to inspire. The calendar, in an 11x17 format, will include dates for SWEC's major events as well as some of our favorite nature-inspired quotes. It makes a great gift and will cost just \$12.99 plus tax.

A limited number of calendars will be available beginning in early November, and pre-orders are encouraged. We are also packaging our calendar with our *Day Hikes and Nature Walks* (hiking guide authored by Greg Magee) for just \$19.95 (a \$25.94 value), a perfect set for the nature lovers in your life.

We hope our calendar contest will become an annual tradition. We are very grateful to our members who have shared their work with us.

To pre-order, simply call our office at 575-522-5552 or e-mail Arianna@wildmesquite.org for more information.

Meet the people who knock on your door

SWEC's door-to-door canvass is a big reason why our membership is at an all-time high. The canvass has proved to be an effective way to reach people, talk to them about the issues, and raise funds to support SWEC's work.

Canvassing is not for everyone. Most people can't take that much rejection, and the average tenure is pretty short, which is why SWEC's current canvassing crew is so remarkable. As SWEC's ambassadors, they're out knocking on doors in Las Cruces and El Paso 4-5 nights a week and sometimes on Saturdays. They've been doing it for a long time, and they do a great job.

SWEC's Canvass Director, Erica Linares, has been canvassing for SWEC for more than a year and says she enjoys educating the public on environmental issues. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Community Health in the Health Science Department at New Mexico State University. She has been living in Las Cruces for three years but hope to move to a bigger city once she obtains her degree.



Tricia Snyder has been canvassing for SWEC for more than eight months. She also works 20 hours a week in the office as SWEC's workstudy administrative assistant. She is a Geography major with Conservation Ecology minor at NMSU. Tricia says she has always had a love of nature and finds it rewarding to be able to work for SWEC.



El Paso resident Ashley Martinez is working on a double major in Ecology and Studio Art. She is also an intern in the installation department at the El Paso Museum of Art. She has been canvassing for SWEC for more than one year. She loves canvassing, having previously worked with Environment New Mexico, Sierra Club, and NM PIRG.



SWEC Gala Attracts Crowd on Chilly Evening at Bosque Park

Those of you who attended the 2011 On the River, For the River held on October 8th at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park seemed to be in agreement - the event was beautiful! The food from Andele's Restaurante was delicious, the music offered something for everyone, the setting was gorgeous and the silent auction featured numerous hand crafted and specialty items. We can't thank our sponsors and silent auction donors enough.



Event coordinator Kelly Covert shares a laugh with SWEC's Arianna Parsons.



Gala goers were greeted by a team of smiling volunteers.



Jerry and Ana Donahue enjoying the event.



The Fall weather was crisp and beautiful, and the setting was perfect.



The food from Andele's was delicious and bountiful.



Tom Ruiz and MexiKelly Blues helped to entertain the crowd. All photos by Lisa Mandelkern.

Our gratitude goes out to: (Sponsors) Las Cruces Toyota, Sleep Lab of Las Cruces, NMSU Recreational Sports Office, Good Samaritan of Las Cruces, Tom and Donna Tate, Positive Energy, Lilley Law Offices, Williams Design Co., Sun-Tech Services, Inc., Amonix, and El Paso Electric; (Musicians) Las Cruces High School Mariachis, MexiKelly Blues, CW Ayon, Rhythm Mystic; (Food & Beverage) Andele's, High Desert Brewing Company, Milagro Coffee y Espresso; (Contributors) Carrie Hamblen, Kelly Covert, Lisa Mandelkern, Dickerson's Catering, Flo Dougherty, and all of our silent auction donors and wonderful volunteers. And above all, we would like to thank everyone who attended the event. We hoped you enjoyed it!

Planning for next year's gala is about to get underway. If you would like to help out, please contact us at (575) 522-5552 or arianna@wildmesquite.org.

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 Kuhn Farm
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 La Posta de Mesilla
 Las Cosas Kitchen Shoppe
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 Las Cruces Roto Rooter
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 Mesilla Valley Mall
 Micander Construction, Inc.
 Milagro Coffee y Espresso
 MiraSol Women's Health Physical Therapy
 Moon Motions
 Mother CcCaul's
 Mountain View Market
 Mountainview Regional Medical Center
 Nambe
 Naturoscapes
 Nici Art
 NMSU Recreational Sports--Outdoor Center
 Operation Free
 Optimal Health, LLC
 Ouida Touchon-Cruz Nopal Studio
 Outdoor Adventures
 Pediatric Pulmonary Services
 Peter Piper Pizza
 Pi*Pilates
 Positive Energy Solar, Inc.
 PranaHouse Yoga and Tai Chi
 Premier Healthcare Management
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 Spirit Winds
 Stephen Stevers, Attorney at Law
 Steve Newby Architects
 Sun & Earth Inc.
 Sun Promotional Products
 Sun-Tech Services, Inc.
 Sunspot Solar Energy Systems, LLC
 Sun Valley Honey
 Tasty Roasters
 Tate Real Estate
 The Comfort Inn
 The Copier Guy
 The Frame and Art Center
 The Herbal Hand
 The Potteries
 The Sacred Journey, Inc.
 TJ Pauls
 Toucan Market
 Trigo and Trigo, DDS
 Trinity Tranquility
 Unitarian Universalist Church
 University Place Consulting
 Valva Realty Co. (Oakland, CA)
 Vintage Wines
 Vincent Ortega, LMT
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Who we are

Established in 1991, the Southwest Environmental Center works to protect and restore native wildlife and their habitats in the Southwestern borderlands.

We speak for wildlife and wild places. We work to protect and restore vital habitats, like Otero Mesa, and endangered species, like the Mexican Grey Wolf. We're the group whose work on the Rio Grande resulted in the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

There is an extinction crisis and we are working hard to prevent plants and animals from disappearing here in the Southwest.

We've had 19 years of success and we cannot do it without our members.

Not a member? Please join us today!

Meet Chuck Elerick, SWEC Volunteer

Chuck was born in Albuquerque where his parents attended and met at UNM. He grew up "frolicking" in the Southwest, learning horsemanship, rafting, fishing, hiking. He became a keen observer and explorer of the natural landscapes of West Texas, the Rio Grande Valley and the Sacramento mountains of New Mexico.



Chuck checks the specs on SWEC's rooftop solar array.

Chuck says that his life-long love, appreciation and interconnectedness with mother nature began in earnest at the age of five when his father posed the question, "Have you thanked a green plant today?"

Today, Chuck is a super volunteer at SWEC. He advocates the use of clean, sustainable energy for home/business/industrial/transportation needs.

He currently has his eye on an all-electric motorcycle from brammo.com which will be recharged with clean, solar energy.

Chuck says, "I invite everyone to volunteer their time, money, resources and souls to SWEC to help make a better today and tomorrow. Visit us! We have a 6KW solar array producing clean electricity everyday!"

We appreciate Chuck and the energy, enthusiasm, humor and kindness he brings to his work here in the SWEC office.



SWEC volunteers making bat houses for the La Mancha Wetland Project last August.

Want to Volunteer?

Volunteers are the lifeblood of SWEC, vital to our success. Here are some current volunteer opportunities at SWEC:

- Bulk mailings (fun!)
- Data entry (more fun!)
- Tabling at various locations
- Phone banking
- River restoration
- Mexican Wolf action team
- Distribute SWEC hiking guide
- Cottonwood Art Gallery Director
- Rio Grande Aquarium manager (maintain, obtain specimens, etc.)
- Hold a house party
- Event planning committees (Raft the Rio, On the River, 20th Anniversary, etc.)
- Internships

In addition to ongoing opportunities, there is usually a SWEC volunteer event on the second Saturday of each month. Call (575) 522-5552 for more information. See additional volunteer opportunities on our website at wildmesquite.org.

Upcoming Events

Fall 2011 Back by Noon Outings

- 10/29--Baylor Canyon Arthropod Hunt, David Richman
- 11/5--Birds of the Mesilla Valley, Ken Stinnett
- 11/12--Fire Recovery in the Organ Mountains, Pat Mathis
- 11/19--Pictographs of Hueco Tanks, Deborah Flowers

First Friday Film Series (7:30 pm)

- 11/4--Lords of Nature: Life in a Land of Great Predators
- 12/2--The Lorax; White Fang

Talks and Programs at SWEC:

- 11/5--Mexican Wolf identification workshop, Nancy Kaminski (10 am)
- 11/9--Lobos at the Crossroads, presentation by Kevin Bixby
- 11/12--Mexican Wolf Day of Action
- 12/13--The Hybrid House: Top Ten energy Saving Building Strategies, presentation by Catherine Wanek

Don't miss out

Do we have your email address? The best way to stay informed about SWEC events and issues is to sign up for our weekly eNewsletter. You can do it at wildmesquite.org or call us at (575) 522-5552.

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