

# THE MESQUITE GRILL

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER · SUMMER 2010 · WILDMESQUITE.ORG

## Save the Date!

SWEC's annual gala fundraiser--**On the River, For the River**--will be held on Saturday, October 23 at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Mark your calendars!

## Las Cruces woman wins Prius!

See details page 3.



## Dear Secretary...

A letter calling on Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to protect Otero Mesa ran as a full page ad on Earth Day (April 22) in the Las Cruces Sun-News. It was signed by nearly 1500 people. To see the ad, visit [wildmesquite.org](http://wildmesquite.org).



## Fall 2010 Back by Noons

We are putting together a full schedule of Back by Noon Saturday morning natural history outings. We'll send out the schedule to our email list and post it on [wildmesquite.org](http://wildmesquite.org). Stay tuned!

## Five minute activist

Here are the "what you can do" items in this issue:

- Email or call NM Governor Richardson to thank him for his executive order temporarily banning trapping in the Mexican wolf recovery area--page 4.
- Email or call officials to make the ban permanent--page 4.
- Sign our online petition to protect Otero Mesa from oil and gas development--page 5.
- Become a member of the Southwest Environmental Center--page 7 or online.

## Governor Richardson Stands Up For Mexican Wolves...Again

In a bold move to protect endangered Mexican wolves, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson issued an executive order on July 28 that prohibits leghold and body-crushing traps within the Mexican wolf recovery area in New Mexico (i.e., the Gila National Forest).

The order bans commercial and recreational trapping in this area by private persons for a six-month period beginning on November 1, 2010; requires the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to undertake a study of which traps and trapping methods most threaten wolves; and directs the New Mexico Department of Tourism to undertake a study on potential economic benefits of lobo-related ecotourism.

Conservation groups and a Game Commissioner applauded Governor Richardson's action, which demonstrates strong leadership at a crucial moment for the Mexican wolf program. Experts agree the program is in crisis, largely due to illegal killings.

At least 14 Mexican gray wolves have been harmed by private traps set throughout the recovery area. Two of the wolves had their legs amputated as a result; 12 of the 14 wolves were trapped in New Mexico. The other two were

trapped in Arizona, which has banned public lands trapping since 1994.

Studies show that animals captured in body-gripping traps endure physiological trauma, dehydration, exposure, and predation. Animals that have been trapped and then re-

*(continued on page 4)*

## \$60,000 reward offered for wolf killers

The Southwest Environmental Center and other conservation groups are teaming up with federal and state agencies to offer a reward of up to \$60,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the illegal killing of an endangered Mexican wolf.

Illegal killing is the single biggest threat to Mexican wolves, accounting for 34 of 68 deaths since 1998, including three this year.

If you have any information, you can remain anonymous and call any of these numbers:

- (928) 339-4232 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service--Alpine, AZ)
- (505) 346-7828 (FWS--Albuquerque, NM)
- (800) 352-0700 (Arizona Department of Game and Fish)
- (800) 432-4263 (NM Dept. of Game & Fish)

## SWEC intervenes to save I-10 cottonwoods

In response to strong public outcry led by the Southwest Environmental Center, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NM-DOT) has agreed to stop cutting down mature cottonwood trees along Interstate 10 near the Rio Grande in Las Cruces.

The agency began cutting down the trees in May without public notice. It claimed it was exempt from a requirement under federal law (NEPA) to provide public notice because the action was considered routine maintenance that caused no significant impacts.

*(continued on next page)*



SWEC's 13th Annual Raft the Rio attracted a record number of participants and spectators for a day of fun along the Rio Grande near Las Cruces. Photo by Tom Conelly. See more photos on page 6.

# Cottonwoods

(continued from front page)



A few dead snags and piles of wood are all that remain of the 40 mature cottonwood trees cut down by NMDOT along I-10 in Las Cruces to deprive shelter for homeless people camped there.

Unfortunately, approximately 40 trees were cut down before SWEC blew the whistle, some of them an estimated 40 years in age or older. Approximately 10-20 trees remain.

Cottonwoods are native riparian trees that were once commonly found along the Rio Grande in New Mexico, covering an estimated 30-40 percent of the floodplain. They are an integral part of the bosque ecosystem, and they provide many benefits to people and wildlife.

Today they are relatively scarce due to clearing of native vegetation for farms, development and flood control. The I-10 cottonwoods comprised one of the largest remaining cottonwood stands along a 150-mile stretch of the Rio Grande from Las Cruces downstream.

In a August 5 meeting with SWEC and other community groups, NMDOT officials admitted they removed the trees and burned the underbrush solely to deprive shelter for 10-20 homeless people camped there. They agreed to spare the remaining cottonwood trees—including



One of the few surviving cottonwood trees.

ing stumps that have begun to resprout—and offered to plant 40 trees somewhere else, but refused to replace trees that had already been removed, citing vague safety concerns.

SWEC will continue working with NMDOT, the Governor's office and community leaders to replace the lost trees.

# La Mancha Wetland update

There is good news and bad news about the La Mancha Wetland, SWEC's current river restoration project.

On the bad side, the project fell victim to New Mexico's budget woes when the State took back \$90,000 in funding that had previously been appropriated for the project. This was money that we had counted on for constructing the project. We had not issued a contract for construction yet because we were waiting for the final design to be completed.

Unfortunately, we ran out of time. The money was pulled back to reduce the state's budget shortfall. Many capital projects around the state suffered the same fate.

Hopefully this is only a temporary setback. We will continue seeking funding. We have applied for a New Mexico River Ecological Restoration Initiative grant. If you would like to make a donation towards this project, please go to our website to make a secure online contribution.



The La Mancha Wetland project is aimed at restoring habitat for native fish species such as longnose gar.

On the positive side, the International Boundary and Water Commission—U.S. Section (USIBWC) has agreed to construct part of the project as part of its ongoing levee rehabilitation work. This will help a great deal with project logistics. We very much appreciate this assistance from the USIBWC.

Also on the positive side, project consultant Parametrix of Albuquerque completed its design for the project, including detailed construction drawings and cost estimates. The project is definitely "shovel ready."

For more information about the La Mancha Project, visit our website at [wildmesquite.org](http://wildmesquite.org).

# Take me to the river

by Paul Heiberger, SWEC Field Organizer/Outreach Coordinator

As part of SWEC's efforts to engage the community in Rio Grande restoration efforts, we have partnered with a number of Las Cruces-area educators and the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park to provide field trips for schools, community centers, and youth groups such as the Boys and Girls Club.

With funding from the Stocker Foundation, the National Association of Counties, Dona Ana County and the United Way of Southern New Mexico, we were able to bring more than 1000 students down to the river on 21 field



SWEC-sponsored field trips have brought more than 1000 Las Cruces-area students down to the Rio Grande.

trips over the past year.

The typical outing showed students two restoration projects on the Rio Grande. First, they visited our La Mancha restoration project, where construction has yet to begin. With tires and construction rubble littering the site, it is a challenge to envision this place becoming a hotspot for local biodiversity.

Just downstream is the next stop, the Picacho Wetlands. This was SWEC's first restoration project, now located at the heart of the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

In ten years, the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park has gone from a local party and off-roading area to a protected oasis for birds, fish, javelina, and other wildlife. It demonstrates what is possible through diligent restoration efforts. So in a single trip, students and teachers were able to see good examples of before and after projects.

Unfortunately, SWEC does not have continued funding for this sort of community outreach. If you would like to learn more and support our Rio Grande restoration program, please visit our website at [www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org).



## Las Cruces woman wins Prius in SWEC raffle

At 7:30 pm on June 22nd Martha Janssens of Las Cruces received the phone call of a lifetime, informing her she had won a new car.

A group of about 50 SWEC supporters enjoyed some light refreshments as the suspense grew in the final moments before the winning name was pulled from 400 entries.

While Martha was not present to win the car the crowd cheered for her once Kevin got her on speakerphone.

Thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket



Martha Janssens of Las Cruces accepts the keys to her new Toyota Prius from SWEC President Kate Mott, while Las Cruces Toyota owners Paul and Susan Vesco look on.

and helped us with one of our major fundraisers for the year.

Our thanks as well to Las Cruces Toyota for making this fundraiser possible.

And remember, even if you didn't get the car this year there is always next year. (This was Martha's second year of attempting to win SWEC's raffle!)

## Upcoming Events

Here are a few upcoming events at which SWEC will be participating:

- August 26: Green Infrastructure Conference (speaker)--Las Cruces
- August 28: NM Game Commission meeting (attendee)--Albuquerque
- September 16-19: Gila River Festival (speaker and sponsor)--Silver City
- September 18: 6th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta (speaker and booth)--El Paso
- September 18: Otero Mesa Economic Forum (attendee)--Alamogordo
- September & October: Celebrate Our Mountains (outings)--Las Cruces and El Paso

Call us at (575) 522-5552 for more information about these events.

## Meet SWEC's Board of Directors

SWEC is fortunate to have an active and committed board of directors.

Our president, Kate Mott, is a realtor and co-owner of RETHINK Real Estate in Las Cruces. She was born and raised in New England and has been a resident of New Mexico since 1981.

Meg Lammers is one of our Vice Presidents. She is a realtor and a co-owner of RETHINK Real Estate, now residing in Fort Collins, Colorado.

SWEC's other vice-president, Melissa Guynn, is a professor of Psychology at New Mexico State University.

SWEC's treasurer, Paul Mitchell, has lived in Las Cruces for 23 years. He is a CPA and a former partner with Beasley, Mitchell and Co.

Christopher Brown, SWEC's Secretary, is an Associate Professor of Geography at New Mexico State University, where he specializes in US-Mexico border environmental research.

Our newest board member is Cynthia Garrett. Her biography appears on this page.

Kim Hoffman is a Clinical Trials Research Nurse.

Jeremy Klass is a PhD student at NMSU, in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

Georgette Malooly is owner of Malooly's Flooring Company. She and her husband, Norman Todd, are both very active in the community.

Ella Nelson is a retired physical therapist and lives on a small farm in Mesilla.

Stefan Schaefer is a physician practicing Family Medicine, and was born and raised in the Mesilla Valley.

Andrea Schneider is owner of Andele Restaurant in Mesilla.

Lori Kae Schwab is currently pursuing her doctorate studies at NMSU, her focus being on restoration of Otero Mesa's fragile grasslands after human-caused disturbance.

You can read more about our board members at [wildmesquite.org](http://wildmesquite.org).



Cynthia Garrett enjoys a stroll along the Rio Grande with her husband Billy.

## Newest board member brings wealth of experience

Cynthia Garrett is the most recent addition to the Southwest Environmental Center's board of directors.

Now retired, her 30-year career with the National Park Service provided her with a great deal of experience in working to address environmental issues.

During much of her career, she worked with parks from all over the country helping to solve problems and plan for resource management/protection and visitor use. She worked with two non-profit foundations, including the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, an organization that has raised over \$550 million for the park.

This year, she began work to establish a new nonprofit -- Friends of the Taylor Family Monument -- and is currently serving as the Chair of the Board of Directors for this new organization.

Cynthia is particularly interested in helping the Southwest Environmental Center expand its messages, programs, and outreach to diverse populations in the borderlands. She believes this would strengthen support and understanding of the SWEC mission and the connection between people and the environment.

### **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](http://wildmesquite.org) or call us at (575) 522-5552.*

## Executive Order

*(continued from front page)*

leased may sustain tissue damage and other injuries that can reduce their survivability, or increase the likelihood of their preying on domestic livestock because they are easier prey than native wildlife.

### **What you can do:**

Governor Richardson has been a champion for wolves throughout his time in office, more so than any other western governor. Please take a moment to let him know that you appreciate his efforts.

Call his office at (505) 476-2200 or send him an email (via his staff) at [fran.lucero@state.nm.us](mailto:fran.lucero@state.nm.us). Tell him:

- Thank you for issuing an executive order banning traps in the Mexican wolf recovery area to protect wolves from accidental trapping
- Thank you for being a champion for Mexican wolves throughout your time in office.

### **And tell the next governor...**

Unfortunately for wolves, Governor Richardson will be leaving office in six months. When you send an email, please cc the two candidates for Governor so they know how much people care about Mexican wolves:

- Diane Denish [info@dianedenish.com](mailto:info@dianedenish.com)
- Susanna Martinez [info@susana2010.com](mailto:info@susana2010.com)

# SWEC joins effort to end trapping in wolf recovery area

In June, the Southwest Environmental Center joined WildEarth Guardians, the Sierra Club, and Jean Ossorio (a former board member of SWEC) in filing a petition with the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to bring an end to the currently legal, but highly detrimental practices of trapping within the Mexican wolf recovery area.

In New Mexico, there is effectively no season for trapping or limit to the number of traps that can be placed on public lands. Moreover, New Mexican trappers are still allowed to use leghold traps which have been banned in 80 countries and several states. These traps capture anything that springs them. (In Arizona trapping in the recovery area is limited to scientific projects and relocation efforts.)

As a result, at least fourteen Mexican wolves have been caught in legally placed traps. Several of these trapped wolves were injured and two have lost a leg because of those injuries.

With so many threats to Mexican wolves' recovery we need to act now to make sure that these trappings stop. The Center is working with its partners to bring an immediate end to trapping in the recovery area for wolves, and you can help.

Our efforts received a boost when New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson imposed a temporary ban on traps in the Mexican wolf

recovery area through an executive order in July (see article on front page). We need to make that ban permanent.

### **What you can do:**

Contact the following officials and urge them to end trapping on public lands within the wolf recovery area. Tell them:

- You support the Governor's temporary ban and would like it to become permanent.
- With so many threats to wolves we cannot allow easily preventable injuries from trapping to continue.
- Traps on the public lands that make up the wolf recovery area represent a clear threat to wolves (at least 14 have been captured) as well as to all who enjoy recreating in these areas.

### **Contact these officials:**

- FWS Regional Director Dr. Benjamin Tuggle: [RDTuggle@fws.gov](mailto:RDTuggle@fws.gov) or 505-248-6282.
- Gila National Forest Supervisor Dick Markley: [dmarkley@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmarkley@fs.fed.us) or (505) 388-8301.
- NM Game Commission Chair Jim McClintic: (505) 271-4550

With your help we can make this change happen quickly and this threat can be removed permanently from the recovery area.

---

## Guest Opinion: Traps, Snares Threaten Wolves

*By Mary Katherine Ray*

We live near the Mexican wolf recovery area in New Mexico and were delighted to learn that a lone collared male wolf was exploring the nearby forest. It was winter, though, the time when fur trappers lay their hidden menaces.

Not long after, we noticed a helicopter flying low up and down the canyons. It did this for hours as if looking for something. It turned out that M1039 had indeed stepped into a trap set for something else and had managed to detach it from its anchor chain.

He was now free to escape the place where the trap had been hidden, but he could not escape the trap.

He had to be found, which required the helicopter, so he could be captured for medical

care. But the trap had been clenched on him for too long and the leg had to go.

M1039 was released back to the wild but went missing within a year and is now presumed dead. He had no pack mates to help him hunt. Having only three legs could have been so compromising he just couldn't survive alone.

The lobo population in New Mexico is down to only 15 animals--a reduction by nearly half from the prior year. No one knows why it fell so much, but with leghold traps and snares legally allowed where wolves can be, the threat is just one more of the human-caused reasons that keep our wolf population from thriving.

Wolves in the Southwest were exterminated decades ago by people thinking they were

making our wild lands safe for livestock. At last, we realize how important wolves are for the balance of nature and a functioning ecosystem and are restoring them to the Gila region where they belong.

With so few wolves, it is imperative that no threat be overlooked or deemed inconsequential. Traps and snares are a threat to them and I fervently hope the Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will respond favorably to petitions filed by WildEarth Guardians, the Sierra Club, the Southwest Environmental Center and others to prohibit these cruel devices where wolves should be roaming freely.

*[The author is Wildlife Chair, Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club.]*

# SWEC working to gain permanent protection for Otero Mesa

SWEC and other conservation groups are stepping up their efforts to gain permanent protection for New Mexico's Otero Mesa.

One goal is to gain interim protection by getting the Bureau of Land Management to designate nearly 600,000 acres as an Otero Mesa Grasslands Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), as proposed by SWEC and other groups back in 2008.

The BLM will announce its decision on this proposal when it releases its draft management plan for three counties in southern New Mexico (Dona Ana, Sierra, and Otero), probably this Fall.

We will contact our supporters to let you know how you can influence this decision, by submitting comments on the draft plan and by attending public meetings.

Since an ACEC designation is only an administrative decision that could be undone in



SWEC's Field Organizer Paul Heiberger talks to people at the Alamogordo Earth Day Fair about Otero Mesa.

the future, we are also pursuing permanent protection through federal legislation to create a National Conservation Area or similar designation, or by Presidential action to establish a National Monument. Both would do essentially the same thing: protect Otero Mesa from oil and gas development while allowing existing uses to continue under BLM management.



What we don't want to happen to Otero Mesa: intensive natural gas development on BLM managed land in Wyoming.

Otero Mesa was one of 14 areas identified as potential new national monuments in an Interior Department memo leaked earlier this year. This has created a stir in Otero County, where the County Commission considered a resolution in May opposing a national monu-



Otero Mesa is one of the largest remaining desert grasslands in North America. Photo by Joe Adair.

ment. After two hours of spirited discussion at a standing-room-only meeting, the Commission softened its opposition somewhat and approved a modified resolution opposing designation of a national monument unless it was approved by the County.

There is local support for protecting Otero Mesa. We encountered quite a few supporters at the Alamogordo Earth Day Fair. Nearly 200 people signed a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar urging protection for Otero Mesa, most of them local residents,

## What you can do:

If you haven't already done so, please go online to our website [www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org) and sign the Otero Mesa petition.

While you're there, please consider making a secure online donation to support our efforts to protect this extraordinary landscape.

## What is a National Mounument?

One of the options being discussed for Otero Mesa is designation as a national monument. But what does that mean?

Here are some facts based on recent national monument designations elsewhere in the West:

- Designation of national monuments involves local input. Most national monuments on BLM lands have involved numerous public meetings, as well as extended discussions with local governments and other interested parties.
- Most traditional uses continue in national monuments. Hunting and fishing is permitted. Horseback use and hiking are permitted. Motorized vehicles are generally restricted to designated roads. Grazing is generally permitted to continue, such as in the proclamations for the Canyon of the Ancients, Vermilion Cliffs and Carrizo Plain National Monuments.
- BLM national monuments are not national parks. There are no use fees and generally no major development on the designated lands. Visitor centers are often built in the communities closest to the Monument, directing visitors to nearby "gateway communities" that would benefit from increased tourism dollars.
- Each proclamation creating a national monument is different, in order to address specific issues relating to the individual place at issue.

[Thanks to The Wilderness Society's BLM Action Center for this information.]



SWEC now has a talented crew of door-to-door canvassers. These hard working activists may soon be knocking on your door to tell you about SWEC's work and ask for your support. Please don't be afraid to say yes. From L-R: Nick Giusti, Stephanie Moore, Camille Sultana, Christina Brillante, Ashley Martinez, Erica Linares, and Canvass Director Jason Burke.



# 13th Annual Raft the Rio draws record numbers

Hundreds of people gathered at La Llorona Park along the Rio Grande in Las Cruces on June 12th to watch the festivities, get wet and have some fun floating down the river at the Southwest Environmental Center's 13th annual Raft the Rio river race and festival.

More than 500 sailors in 162 boats participated in the three-mile float, the largest turnout yet. Participants came from as far away as Albuquerque, Lubbock and Denver. Most of the entries were homemade boats, many of them made of recycled materials, competing for prizes in two divisions (kids and open).

This year's winners were:

- First to finish: Gila Trout (kids) and Titanic (open)
- Least likely to finish (must be floating at start of race): Father Daughter Bottle Bobber (kids) and Free Tibet (open)
- Best use of recycled materials: Tie between Milk and It's Not Gar-Bage/Lady Gar-Gar (kids) and Twin Swords (open)
- Most spirited (most enthusiastic crew): Too Fast For You (kids) and Castaway (open)
- Best theme (most thorough application of a theme to vessel and crew): Rio Princess (kids) and Breakfast Club (open)
- Champion of the River (promotes appreciation for the Rio Grande): Patriot (kids) and La Llorona (open)

At the finish line, sailors and spectators alike enjoyed food, music and fun under the welcome shade provided by several large tents.

Everyone who floated received a free "I survived Raft the Rio" bumpersticker. SWEC members who participated—including members who joined at the event—were entered into a drawing for a white-water rafting trip donated by Far Flung Adventures, and won by Laura Loos.

We would like to thank this year's sponsors for helping to make the event a success: Malooly's Flooring, Far Flung Adventures, RETHINK Real Estate, Positive Energy, GeoInsight, Boldt Family Trust, Life in Balance Pilates Studio, Blue Moon Bar, Sunspot Solar Energy Systems, LLC, MottPotts, Operation Free, Boldt Family Trust, Stefan Schaefer, MD, La Posta de Mesilla, Schwalm, Martos & Co., Trigo and Trigo, Meg and Pete Lammers, ABR Construction and Designs by Michaelangelo, Aggie Recreational Equipment and Mountainview Regional Medical Center.

We also would like to thank our 40 or so volunteers—we couldn't have done it without you. We also appreciate the assistance provided by the Town of Mesilla Fire Department and Town Marshal, the Las Cruces Police Department, and the Doña Ana County Fire and Emergency Services.



Event coordinator Lauren McDowell remains in good spirits while keeping things under control. Photo credits clockwise from upper right: Ken Stinnett 1, 3, 6, 7, 8. Tom Connelly 2, 4, 5, 9.

# Thanks to our business supporters!

Able Sign Company  
 Adobe Patio Gallery  
 Aggie Recreational Equipment  
 Aguirre Auto Service  
 Albertsons on El Paseo  
 Albertsons on Lohman  
 Andele Restaurant  
 Antix, Inc.  
 APG  
 Aqua Reef Restaurant  
 Arbonne International  
 Ardovino's Desert Crossing (Sun-land Park)  
 ASA Architects  
 Bank of the Rio Grande  
 Barb's Flowerland  
 Beasley, Mitchell & Co.  
 Big Picture Studio  
 Big River Raft Trips  
 Black Gold from the Sun  
 Black Range Lodge (Kingston)  
 Blue Moon Bar  
 Boba Café  
 Boldt Family Trust  
 C. Dale Brown, DMD  
 Café Don Felix  
 Caliches  
 California Connections  
 Carmona's Salon and Day Spa  
 Carrot Seed Cards  
 Citizens Bank  
 Coas Bookstore  
 Color Your World LLC Guzman's Garden Center  
 Cruz Nopal Studio  
 Dancing Swan Jewels  
 Delgado Investigations  
 Dental Associates  
 Desert Dragon Design  
 Desert Meadow Stables  
 Desert Star-Silver Gems  
 Dive Quest Scuba  
 Doggie Dude Ranch and Cat Farm  
 Donohue Inc.  
 Dr. R. Jeffrey Bowers, Optometrist  
 Drawings by Maria Christina  
 Duncan Noble Rejuvenating Spa  
 Durango Bagel

East Lohman Veterinary Clinic  
 Edward Jones Investments (Wendy Baserra)  
 El Comedor  
 El Paso Electric Co.  
 Enchanted Gardens  
 Enchanted Glass Designs  
 Far Flung Adventures (Taos)  
 Floating Rock Enterprises  
 Fristoe and Co.  
 From the Ground Up  
 Full Circle Builders  
 G. Denton Studios  
 Gentle Care Dentistry  
 GeoInsight  
 Glenn Cutter Jewelers and Gallery  
 Gordon Berman, Attorney at Law  
 Hastings  
 High Desert Brewery  
 High-Lonesome Books  
 Holguin's Electric Co.  
 Horse n' Hound  
 Impressions de Mesilla  
 Indigo Stained Glass  
 Inn of the Arts  
 International Delights  
 Jack Key Motor Co  
 Jewels of Light Studios  
 JME Studios  
 Johnny's Septic Tank Co.  
 Jornada Veterinary Clinic  
 Jose Coronado, Attorney at Law  
 Joseph Holmes, Attorney at Law  
 Just Yucca  
 Katerina, Inc.  
 Kaya's Cottons and Things for the Desert  
 Ken Stinnett Photography  
 Kowgirl Kettlekorn  
 Kristi's Perfect Pet Beds  
 Kuhn Farm  
 La Paz Imports  
 La Posta de Mesilla  
 Las Cosas Kitchen Shoppe  
 Las Cruces Orthopedic Associates, P.C.  
 Las Cruces Roto Rooter  
 Las Cruces Toyota

Law Offices of Michael Stout  
 Liberty Process Service  
 Life in Balance Pilates Studio  
 Lilley Law Firm  
 Little Struttin' Ranch  
 Living Harvest Bakery  
 Lucas Pipe and Tobacco  
 LULU Elements for Living  
 Maher & Company  
 Malooly's Flooring Company  
 Mary Talamini Fine Art  
 Matteo  
 MBP Consulting  
 Mesilla Book Center  
 Mesilla Valley Honey  
 Mesilla Valley Land Title Co.  
 Mesilla Valley Mall  
 Micander Construction, Inc.  
 Milagro Coffee y Espresso  
 MottPotts  
 Mountain View Market  
 Mountainview Regional Medical Center  
 Nascent Center  
 Naturescapes  
 Nici Art  
 Nick's Office Furniture  
 NYN Imports  
 Operation Free  
 Optimal Health, LLC  
 Ouida Touchon-Cruz Nopal Studio  
 Outdoor Adventures  
 Peter Piper Pizza  
 Picture Frame Factory Outlet  
 Positive Energy, Inc.  
 Primetime Fitness  
 Prudential Silver City Properties  
 Purple Lizard  
 Raven Rouge, Inc.  
 REA Magnet Wire Company, Inc.  
 RETHINK Real Estate  
 Rising Sky Artworks  
 Robert Meyer, Attorney at Law  
 Russell Mott Ceramics  
 Saba Luces  
 Saenz and Torres Attorney at Law  
 Sanity Silversmithing  
 Schwalm, Martos & Co.

Signergy  
 Simply Posh  
 South Coast Audio (El Paso)  
 Spadefoot Clay  
 Spirit Winds  
 Stephen Stevers, Attorney at Law  
 Steve Newby Architects  
 Sun & Earth Inc.  
 Sun Lanes  
 Sun Promotional Products  
 Sun Tech Services, Inc.  
 Sunspot Solar Energy Systems, LLC  
 TAJ Construction  
 Taste of India  
 Tasty Roasters  
 Tate Real Estate  
 The Comfort Inn  
 The Copier Guy  
 The Frame and Art Center  
 The Herbal Hand  
 The Potteries  
 The Rib Cage  
 The Sacred Journey, Inc.  
 TJ Pauls  
 Toucan Market  
 Trigo and Trigo  
 Trinity Tranquility  
 University Place Consulting  
 Valva Realty Co. (Oakland, CA)  
 Vincent Ortega, LMT  
 Wal-Mart (on Lohman)  
 Warren Construction, Inc.  
 Wendell Hull & Associates  
 Wet-N-Wild (Anthony)  
 White Corn Healing Session  
 Wild Birds Unlimited  
 Williams Design Group  
 Zia Engineering

Please reward our supporters with your business. And be sure to let them know you appreciate their support for the Southwest Environmental Center! If your business would like to be added to this list, please call (575) 522-5552.

**YES! I WANT TO HELP THE SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER PROTECT WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES!**

\$500  
 \$250  
 \$100  
 \$50  
 \$30 (BASIC MEMBERSHIP)  
 OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUSTAINING (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ PER MONTH)

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **SWEC**  
 275 N. DOWNTOWN MALL  
 LAS CRUCES, NM 88001

THANK YOU!  
 DONATIONS ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
 SUM2010

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD INFO (CIRCLE): VISA MASTERCARD AMEX  
 CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 CVS NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU PREFER, YOU CAN MAKE A SECURE ONLINE DONATION AT OUR WEBSITE: [WILDMESQUITE.ORG](http://WILDMESQUITE.ORG)

## 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!

# Faces of the Southwest Environmental Center

*Our members and volunteers are vital to our work protecting wildlife and wild places. Here are some of the people responsible for our success.*

## Member Spotlight: Fred Yellon and Judy Lazarus-Yellon

Fred Yellon and Judy Lazarus-Yellon moved to Las Cruces from Cleveland, Ohio in May 2007. Although they had a good life in Ohio, it was time to get away from the Midwest winters. They continue to be grateful for this bold decision. They have immersed themselves in the culture, history, nature and events of the city.

It did not take long to learn about SWEC's marvelous Back by Noon program, which has created opportunities to go places where they would not go on their own, such as to the Robledo Trackways, local sites to find Burrowing Owls and to an El Paso park adjacent to a long section of the border fence between the USA and Mexico. Part of their seasonal rhythm anticipates the news of these wonderful Spring and Autumn series.

As they realized the importance of the work that SWEC does, they decided to become members. Getting on the email list has given them the availability of current issues in the area so that they can take action when needed. They have been glad to be educated



about the importance of the Mexican gray wolves and go frequently to the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

SWEC is a treasure, and they are glad to live in a place that gives us access to all this organization offers. They are avid fans and participants!

## Volunteer Spotlight: Cathie Leslie

SWEC volunteer Cathie Leslie has always been interested in the environment and ecology. (She attended the first Earth Day celebrations!) She is a teacher of Computer Technology at East Picacho Elementary where she instructs kids on how to use computers using nature, geography and



the environment as the theme topics, weekly wallpaper on my Smartboard and as part of her weekly message.

She supports the Southwest Environmental Center because she likes how it focuses on what people (kids included) can do locally to help their environment. The polar bears are indeed worth saving but so are our locally endangered plants and animals, such as whooping cranes, Mexican wolves, Gila trout, and the Rio Grande silvery minnow.

## Volunteer Opportunities at the Center

We are currently looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- Cottonwood Art Gallery Director
- Office help (on a regular basis-- answering phones, greeting visitors, etc.)
- Office help (for mailings, special events, etc.)
- Tabling at various locations
- Phone banking
- River restoration and clean-up
- Distribute SWEC hiking guide
- Planning committee for On the River, For the River annual fundraiser.

Call (575) 522-5552 for more information. See additional volunteer opportunities on our website at [wildmesquite.org](http://wildmesquite.org).

## Do you shop at Albertsons?

If you do, you can raise money for SWEC simply by showing your Community Partners card each time you shop. Call us at (575) 522-5552 to get your card.

## Tired of junk mail?

Visit [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org) and learn how to stop catalogs and remove your name from mailing lists of your choice. It's free and simple.

 S O U T H W E S T  
E N V I R O N M E N T A L  
   C E N T E R  
275 North Downtown Mall ▶ Las Cruces, NM 88001

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1008  
LAS CRUCES, NM  
88001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED