



REFUGE UPDATE

November 2020

Published bi-monthly by the Amigos de la Sevilleta

Calendar

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all planned events have been canceled. There will be a special notification sent to all if things change before the January Refuge Update is published.

Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

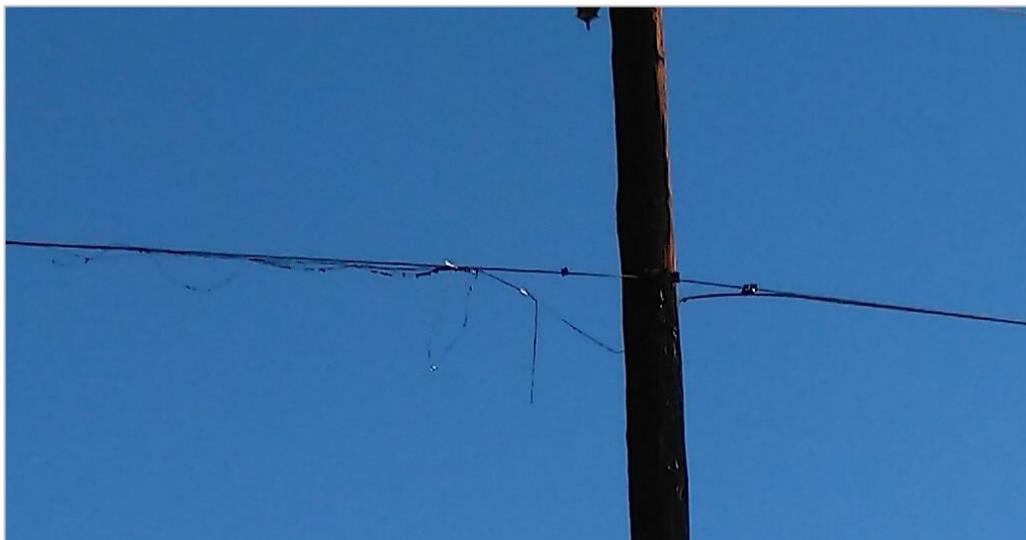
I'm excited to announce our new Heavy Equipment Operator started Tuesday, October 13. His name is Pete Miranda. He will be a good fit with the refuge with his mixture of heavy equipment experience and farming background. He will be out soon grading roads. More exciting news is that the Region added another maintenance position to the refuge! The selection process is underway and hopefully by the next newsletter we will have a person in place. This replaces a position that we lost about 8 years ago when there was a budget crunch.

Waterfowl season opened October 29 on the refuge for hunting in Units A and B. We began putting water in Unit B on October 23, and the ducks were in there the next day. We suspect it will be a popular place to hunt this season.

We released 370 prairie dogs on September 29 in partnership with Prairie Dog Pals. That brings our total for the year to over 700 Gunnison's prairie dogs released.

The Refuge was without internet or phones for about 10 days in October – there was a crash on I-25 and a semi went off the road into one of the power poles just north of San Acacia and burst into flames. The power pole also carries our internet cable, and it got shredded. If you tried to contact the refuge during that time, we apologize for not answering the phones.

Here is a photo of the shredded internet cable.



Amigos Board News

Ann Adams, Board President

Amigos, Hola!

Well, the snow storm this week was a real surprise in Albuquerque... always seems to circle around us and show up elsewhere. It was delightful, beautiful and welcome. Looks like we've had moisture almost everywhere across the state this week. That should improve our fire situation. Drought conditions in NM never seem to be far off and this year's minimal monsoon didn't help much. On the other hand, we could be facing the sort of fires occurring in CA or CO. You wonder where I'm going with this? Well, Sevilleta is my frame of reference when I hear about wildfires. Sevilleta is roughly a quarter million acres. Imagine what we would lose if it all burned. As of October 27, 2020, over 8,836 fires have burned 4,359,517 acres (1,764,234 ha), more than 4% of California's roughly 100 million acres of land. That's almost 20 Sevilletas. The Cal fires have impinged on a minimum of 3 national parks, too. In CO, the East Troublesome fire crossed into Rocky Mountain National Park last week. We hear counts of structures burned, and firefighters coming from far and wide to jump into the smoke. I think about the impact on the birds and animals... we can't count the losses there. But we can, as friends of refuges and parks, keep in mind what we have at Sevilleta. We can treasure the space, the views, the flora and fauna. We can do our best to preserve it by considering our activities while we are on the refuge. We can volunteer to work with refuge staff to maintain the current state of the refuge. We can contribute financially to the projects underway to improve access for visitors. All these things are valuable contributions members like you have been performing for years. Let's keep it up...that's what friends do!!

Best, Ann

The next Amigos board meeting is November 18th at 4:30 p.m. by teleconference

All amigos members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Contact Ann ann.d.adams@comcast.net, for access # if you would like to attend.

Amigos Contacts

Amigos web site

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

Amigos on Facebook

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

Refuge Web Site

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

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

505-864-5021ex106

Past editions of this Newsletter are available at the Amigos

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

***There are openings on the Amigos de la Sevilleta board of directors.
Contact Steve Randall at 505-861-1088***



**Virtual Fall Family Fair
November 7, 2020**

Join us for a celebration of our Drawn to Sevilleta poster contest, Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) virtual tours and celebration of Nature!

Unfortunately, we are unable to “see you” this year, so sit back and enjoy some fun facts and amazing views of Sevilleta NWR from the comfort of your home!

Visit us on November 7 @ <https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/>

We hope to see you before too long!

Volunteers

Submitted by Rex Myers

Mike Chavez

Sevilleta's Volunteer Naturalist extraordinaire when it comes to the area's history is Mike Chavez. Anyone lucky enough to have been on a tour or at a program with Mike knows he has wonderful insights into life along this stretch of the Rio Grande. He calls himself a "Home Grown" historian. His ancestor, Don Pedro Gomez Dorany Chaves, came up the Rio Grande in the early 1600's and the family has been in what is now New Mexico ever since. According to Mike, one family member shows up on the 1850 census, living in the area that is now Sevilleta. Mike's historical talents include building a fire with native materials. Amazing to watch. He also carves delightful figures from logs and wood he finds in the area. If you need a walking stick or a sand hill crane sculpture, see Mike – a volunteer who makes the refuge experience all the more wonderful



New Pollinator Garden Fence

Submitted by Colin Barnett

Amigos Board members recently replaced the Pollinator Garden enclosure outside of the Visitor Center. The existing enclosure had become somewhat dilapidated over time. Members removed the bricks and installed meta-capped posts and rabbit fencing around the garden. The fence has a 6-inch underground barrier to keep out digging rabbits and hares.

In the Spring, we will re-plant the garden with a variety of perennial and annual plants to attract native pollinators.

The fence was financed by private contributions from Amigos members. The Board would like to thank all who contributed their time and funds.



Pollinator Garden prior to new fence construction



Amigos members (left to right): Penny Lomen, Jim Lomen, Colin Barnett, Rex Meyers. Present but not pictured: Susan Richardson, Sandy Barnett, and Robin Osofsky.



New fence completed. The rabbit fencing is painted black to make it less visible. One of the fence panels can be easily removed to access the garden. The posts are treated with a copper preservative below ground and have a protective stain above ground.