



The Friends of the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area is a group that supports the Conservation Area in promoting wildlife conservation and environmental education.

FALL 2011

FRIENDS OF WHITFIELD NEWSLETTER

The Friends of Whitfield Wildlife
Conservation Area

P.O. Box 170, Belen, NM 87002

email: friendsofwhitfield@live.com

<http://www.whitfieldwildlife.org>

Events Calendar

November 18, 19, 20th
Festival of the Cranes
at Bosque del Apache

December 3rd
Whitfield Second
Birthday Party
Whitfield Visitors' Center
10 AM to noon

December 14th
Sparrow Hawk Farm
Holiday Event
1 PM -5 PM
Sabinal

*Beth Crowder will donate 20% of
proceeds from sales that day to
Friends of Whitfield.
Call 505 864-0520 for directions*

1st Thursday of every month
6:30 PM Friends of Whitfield board
meeting. (all members welcome)

Check with us later for Winter
Workshop updates.

Whitfield to Celebrate its Second Birthday, December 3, 2011

Celebrate the second anniversary of the opening of the Whitfield Visitors' and Education Center with the Board of the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District and the Friends of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area. The party starts at 10 a.m. with introductions, a review of activities in the past year, a look at our future, recognition of people who have made outstanding contributions to the success of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, and the drawing for the winner of Joyce Johns' watercolor, "Whitfield Owl Tree."



2010 Happy Birthday Whitfield Wildlife. photo © Linda Heinze

Join us for birthday cake and other refreshments. Plan to spend some time spotting Sandhill Cranes and other avian winter visitors. Learn how you and your family can become involved in the activities at Whitfield. Browse through our library, a gift of the Dr.

Richard Becker estate. Network with others interested in conservation, the environment, birdwatching, herpetology,

botany, Whitfield's history and ecosystem, and discover the satisfaction of being involved in programs that benefit the individual, the family, and the community. We look forward to seeing you, so mark your calendar today.

Project Manager's Update

Fall has arrived at Whitfield. The sunflowers have been spectacular this year and the native grasses are especially pretty. Both are going to seed, which the sparrows, finches, and other birds can feed on. On September 17, Gail Garber, Executive Director of Hawks Aloft gave a presentation on Raptors of the Rio Grande Valley. In addition to a Power Point presentation on the falcons, hawks, eagles, vultures and owls of the area, she brought a live red-tailed hawk, a peregrine falcon, and a kestrel. These birds are all rescue birds and can't be released into the wild due to physical handicaps.

On September 7, I gave a tour of the moist soil units to the volunteer educators of the Friends. I explained the history, purpose, and management of the moist soil units to them. The units have produced an abundance of nutsedge, grasses, and Pennsylvania smart weed that is attracting migrating waterfowl including various species of ducks and Canada geese.

Planting of the trees and shrubs purchased with a grant from the state of New Mexico has been made easier thanks to Isleta Pueblo's volunteer and heavy duty auger. He augered holes September 22 and 23 and again on October 6 and 7. It has made it much faster for our maintenance workers to get the trees and shrubs planted. I would like to thank the Isleta Department of Natural Resources for working with us on this project.

Volunteer of the Quarter

Beth Crowder is our Volunteer of the Quarter this fall. Beth became interested in Whitfield

when she noticed someone planting trees at what later became Whitfield. It was Charlie Sanchez, one of the driving forces behind establishing a wildlife conservation area on the former dairy farm. She soon became excited to learn this area would be a place for families and nature lovers in the community and began to volunteer. One of her early activities utilized her UNM degree in Chemistry and Biology as she identified, listed and collected many of the plants on the property. It's a valuable collection for the future herbarium and plant studies at Whitfield. Eventually, she helped form the Friends and has been our very capable Treasurer and a board member ever since. Beth also collected and packaged native wildflower seed from her property for us to give out at Whitfield Friends' outreach events.

Always active, Beth gardens, raises bees, and lives at Sparrow Hawk Farm with her daughter, Emily. Beth creates and sells many products from the beehives. She can be found Fridays at the Belen Farmers' Market selling her unique specialties. She is a part-time music teacher at Cottonwood Valley Charter



*Volunteer Beth Crowder.
photo © Linda Heinze*

School in Socorro, plays guitar, sings and performs in Bosque and Socorro with her group, "The Sabinal Sisters." It is hard to say enough good things about such a fantastic volunteer, but we do appreciate you so much, Beth!

Our Thanks to Those Who Granted Some of Our Wishes

Nick and Chris Nicolaus: \$100 donation to Community Education Fund and donation of two plexiglass display cases for our hawks

Valencia Civitan: \$200 donation to Community Education Fund

Katherine Gallegos Elementary PTO: \$150 donation to Community Education Fund

Buckland's Pharmacy: 12 boxes of disposable gloves for students to use while dissecting owl pellets

Tierra Bonita: two computers, a computer desk, folding table, weed mower, and \$100.

Belen Middle School: five bird feeders to distribute to other schools

Albertson's, Los Lunas: bird feed for the above feeders.

Whitfield Wishlist

- Power Strip/Surge Protector
- Doormat
- Dolly
- Tool set
- Tractor

Volunteers Positions Available

- Ambassadors
- Educators
- Outdoor Helpers
- Fundraising/Special Events Committee

Photo Insights



Gerry Giel designed, built and donated the bike rack. photo © Linda Heinze



Tess Quarrell, of Country Herbs, gave a workshop on gourds. photo © Linda Heinze



School children arrive for "Birds of a Feather Explore Together" outdoor class. photo © Linda Heinze



The 2011 Desert Willow Festival was a huge success. photo © Linda Heinze



Chuck Brandt with "Clark Kent Kestrel" at Hawks Aloft talk. (9/17)
photo © Linda Heinze



CNMAS Thursday Birders scoped out fall birds. (9/22) photo © Linda Heinze



Isleta Pueblo lent an auger to make tree planting easier. (9/11)
photo © Linda Heinze

**Friends of Whitfield
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**Whitfield Wildlife Conservation
Area is located at:
2424 Hwy 47, Belen, NM**

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