These tracks are coming into the Gila River where it meets Brushy Canyon. They are made by repeated illegal off road vehicle use. A few years ago Brushy Canyon was posted as off limits to ORVs and access from the road blocked by large boulders placed by the Forest Service, but erosion has since moved the boulders out of the way. UGWA will soon be blocking off the canyon, since the Forest Service budget has not allowed them to do the work. (see pg 3)

The Forest Service will soon be releasing its Travel Management Proposed Action. Besides possible routes in or near wetlands, if there are too many roads open, will the Forest Service be able to monitor and maintain protected areas like this one? (see pg 2)

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Of Roads and Rivers
from Donna Stevens, Executive Director

Travel Management, the process in which the Gila National Forest will decide which roads will be open to motorized vehicles and which will be closed, is nearing the end of the planning phase and getting closer to the implementation phase. The Gila should be releasing its draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) this summer. At that time, the public will have 30 – 45 days to comment on the proposed alternatives. UGWA’s GIS contractor will analyze the alternatives, and UGWA staff and conservation partners will draft and submit comments in response to the DEIS.

When the Gila released its Travel Management Proposed Action last fall, UGWA had concerns about a few issues: The designation of a “road” in the San Francisco River, from the confluence with Big Dry Creek down to Mule Creek. The Frisco has been closed to motorized vehicles from Mule Creek downstream into Arizona since the late 1980s. There is no (eco)logical reason to allow vehicular access upstream of this closure. In some stretches of the proposed route, there is no place to get the road out of the river, which would result in vehicles directly in the river.

Roads in riparian areas. While the San Francisco River is the most egregious example of a lack of respect for our scarce waterways, there are many other roads that negatively impact streams and riparian vegetation. Motorized Big Game Retrieval: The Gila National Forest proposed to let hunters drive up to one mile off any open road to retrieve their downed deer or elk. This would allow off-road vehicles and trucks to drive on more than 90% of the forest.

We are hopeful that the Forest Service will present a range of alternatives, at least one of which will protect the forest’s precious soils, streams, native plants and wildlife, and that will simultaneously restore the peace and quiet that most forest users seek.

Where do you come into the picture? We can use your help in two ways:

Emails and letter writing. We will need UGWA members and other concerned citizens to send emails and letters to the Forest Service, informing them of which alternative we support and what changes, if any, we would like to see. UGWA staff will create talk-
The members of the UGWA recognize a vital and necessary connection between our individual and collective rights and responsibilities as land owners and community members and the long-term stewardship of the Upper Gila River Valley and Watershed.

The members of the UGWA share a love and concern for our community which is an integral part of our lives and, therefore, seek to harmonize our presence and activities within the watershed for the health and integrity of the entire “community,” which includes the soil, the air, the water, the people, the plants, and animals.

The members of the UGWA share the conviction that men and women work best together in a spirit of cooperation, conflict resolution, and consensual agreement that builds upon a common ground that benefits from the views and concerns of each individual acting as uncoerced free agents.

To realize our vision for the common benefit of the entire community served by the Upper Gila Watershed, and for the sake of future generations, the UGWA seeks ways and means to bring people and organizations together in constructive dialogue and activities aimed at clear communication, education, land restoration, research, and local economic health.

Brushy Canyon Road Closure
by Robin Kibler, Administrative Assistant

It all started with two photographs sent in by UGWA member Dennis Weller. To most people, these photos of a riparian area along the banks of the Gila River would not be in any way notable. They featured ATV tire tracks and associated smashed willows and rutted grasses. The place in the photographs was accessed by a Forest Service road down Brushy Canyon, off Turkey Creek Road (FS 155), that was closed in 2003 at UGWA’s request. If the Forest Service implements Travel Management in 2011 as planned, this “closed” road in Brushy will be the only vehicular access to approximately eight miles of the Gila River. These photographs made Donna and I want to do something about it. Luckily, we work for UGWA, where this type of behavior is encouraged. Upon visiting the site, I found that the boulders that formed the closure in 2003 had been undercut by an eroding bank and had fallen into Brushy Creek, opening the way for vehicles. In addition to the damage to the vegetation, the eroding road was showing signs of capturing Brushy Creek, which would lead to headcuts, loss of sinuosity and overall degradation of Brushy Creek, and increased sediment load to the Gila River. A nearby hot spring was also, eh, assessed (the sacrifices I make…).

After receiving Forest Service approval to repair the road closure, we went looking for the closure by Robin Kibler, Administrative Assistant

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money needed for the heavy equipment necessary to move the boulders. A grant was submitted to the National Forest Foundation and was selected for funding. On July 1, your entire UGWA staff (yep, both of us), UGWA board member Tris Germain and Van Clothier, owner of watershed restoration company Stream Dynamics, Inc., visited the site to develop a closure plan. We are currently gearing up for implementation.

Without your donations and membership dues to provide the required matching funds, we could not have received the grant that makes this project possible. Now we need your hands, backs and brains. The eroding road segment is not accessible by heavy equipment, and it's going to take a lot of careful rock stacking, brush hauling and sweat to begin the healing process and prevent further damage to Brushy Creek. This work will be directed by experienced watershed restorationists, and will be a valuable hands-on way to help the river while learning erosion control techniques you can use at home. Look for the upcoming email about the volunteer work weekend if you would like to be a part of this important project.
River Otters? We’re Waiting...
by Nena MacDonald

In January we were thinking the process of getting permission for river otter reintroduction was almost finished. The biological assessment for which UGWA obtained an anonymous donation had all the necessary revisions and was in the hands of NM Dept. of Game and Fish. The next step was for the BA to go to US Fish and Wildlife Service for consultation, since they would need to consider the issue of threatened and endangered fish that might be affected. We felt the BA had addressed all the issues Fish and Wildlife would be concerned about and expected them to make their decision fairly quickly. However, it does seem that the wheels of government move slowly.

The BA reached Fish and Wildlife Services the end of May in actuality. They require 135 days to go through their process. However, we discovered the clock only starts ticking on the 135 days when they notify Game and Fish that they have everything from them related to otter reintroduction. That means that the clock actually started July 14th.

So, although we had originally hoped that we might get otters late last winter, we are now hoping it will happen this next winter. The delay is not for the lack of trying on our part. Dutch Salmon, Game and Fish commissioner from Silver City, was a big help in facilitating communication with the agencies. Thank you, Dutch!

Jon Klingel has also helped keep communication open. Steve MacDonald’s brother, Mike MacDonald, a biologist for Washington state, was quite helpful in explaining to us the complicated system of consultation between state and federal agencies. Thank you, Mike.

We are definitely ready (and anxious!) to receive otters and help make them at home in the Gila. We want to again thank the folks who put so much time into making the holding boxes last January. And there are quite a number of local folks ready to be trained to recognize tracks and scat to monitor their movements once river otters do arrive.

Upper Rio Grande is prepared to receive a few more otters this fall. We will be next in line, once we get the green light from the agencies.
It’s been an exciting spring along the Gila River. The snow pack in the Mogollon and Black Range mountains eased its way towards the Colorado River without the drama of a big rain inspired run-off event. Walking around the flood plain downstream of the Box Canyon Campground this April, I got wet legs, crossing overflow channels that caught water from the river and led it over to the base of the mesa. Near one small overflow channel, my foot caved in through soft soil to reveal water sheeting across the mud, underneath the ground where my other foot stood. These are the kind of interactions, floods, overflow channels, and groundwater movement that The Nature Conservancy is trying to better understand.

Starting in 2008, and now with funding from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), the Conservancy initiated a long-term study to explore surface and groundwater interactions in the Cliff-Gila Valley. First, I’d like to provide some context.

Rivers need to flow in natural ways in order to be healthy; a natural flow regime can be thought of as the heartbeat of the whole river ecosystem. A natural flow pattern, such as typical early spring high flows, early summer low flows, and monsoonal pulses, is the mechanism that creates and supports the amazing diversity of life along the Gila. Diversity includes the cottonwood-willow-sycamore gallery forests, the hundreds of migratory birds that nest in riparian forests, the best complement of native fish found in the Southwest, and the people who live in the Valley, using water for domestic and agricultural uses. The Gila River supports all of this in complex ways people can appreciate but scientists have difficulty describing with any level of detail.

Large floods scour out areas on the flood plain, areas that will remain moist because groundwater will seep into the bottom of them, enabling cottonwoods and willows to get established. In some cases, wetlands form in these areas. Wetlands also form in old abandoned river channels, such as the one east of the Conservancy’s Gila River Farm. Wetlands release groundwater. During hot and dry times of the year, standing in a wetland you might feel cool water on your feet as it seeps out of the ground. Wetlands, abandoned river channels, and old ditches also absorb floods. Like I experienced this spring downstream of the Campground, water is spread horizontally across the flood plain, providing a path for water to percolate vertically into the shallow groundwater aquifer. Groundwater can be replenished by floods. It can be quite difficult to quantify this recharge, but this is one component of what we hope to learn from our study.

The Conservancy participates in the Arizona Water Settlement Act (AWSA) Stakeholder process. As a science-based organization, we are interested in providing information about how projects could potentially impact ecosystems and communities. We want everyone to better understand the trade-offs before proceeding with management decisions. Given our mission “to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive,” we are also interested in preserving river flows at levels sufficient to maintain plants and animals. What are “sufficient levels”? We can guess, looking at other well-studied Southwest
rivers like the Verde or San Pedro Rivers in Arizona. But we need more site-specific information for the Gila. A critical piece of the extraordinarily complex puzzle is the flow regime, accompanying groundwater dynamics, and habitat relationships.

The NMDGF-funded study enables the Conservancy, with significant technical expertise provided by Ellen Soles, to survey twelve cross-sections in the Cliff-Gila Valley. Cross-sections describe the topographic changes in the flood plain, as you walk from one far side of the flood plain to the other far side. In this way, we survey the depth of the river channel, old ditches, overflow channels, wetlands, and the height of dry terraces. By repeatedly measuring these permanently located cross-sections, we can get an idea of how much the flood plain changes over time, and by looking at the USGS gauge data, also get a sense of the magnitude of flows that cause these changes.

The companion piece to this study is installing groundwater monitoring wells that enable us to track how groundwater fluctuates over time and how it correlates with flows in the river. For example, do monitoring wells that are farther from the river reflect the changes in the level of the river? Or if a well is located near an overflow channel, does it closely track flows in the river? Do wells at the top of the Cliff-Gila Valley show the same relationship to surface flows as monitoring wells farther down the Valley? With long-term low flows, groundwater levels may drop. Over time and with analysis of the data, we hope to better understand these relationships. We also hope that these data will be a framework for other needed research. One idea is that a research partner could study the age structure and species composition of riparian vegetation along these transects. We hope that our data will eventually lead to a greater understanding of the relationships between habitat and the river’s natural flow regime.

Information compiled from this long-term monitoring project has numerous applications. For example, Dr. Dave Propst (NMDGF) is particularly interested in understanding how fish habitat changes. Measurements along the cross-sections include the substrate: the river bed may be comprised of cobble, gravel, or sand. In addition, depth and location of pools, runs, and riffles will change over time. With corresponding annual fish surveys, relationships between populations and habitat can be explored.

The project with NMDGF got underway this spring, and soon afterwards the Interstate Stream Commission, with direction from the Stakeholder group, initiated a very similar surface-groundwater evaluation. Because of the significant overlap...
in our studies, it made sense to work together. Wells installed by consultants and contractors paid by the ISC with state funding were placed on Nature Conservancy, McCauley, and Gila National Forest land. Four wells at the Gila River Farm are placed perpendicular to the river on the west side, allowing us to understand how distance to the river affects groundwater levels. One well is a deeper well and one metal casing has instrumentation that leads to a gauge in the river where data on surface water are collected. A report prepared by the consultants describing the data collected this spring and a companion surface groundwater model is available on the AWSA Stakeholder website: www.awsaplanning.com.

The Conservancy will submit its first report to NMDGF at the end of this September. If you’re interested in learning more about this study in future editions of Carapace, please let UGWA staff know. Or if UGWA members are interested in a presentation this fall describing this project, please contact me (mschumann@tnc.org). If you’re interested in getting involved, we also have the need for an alert, committed and occasional volunteer to assist with our cross-section surveys.

But even better than reading reports on-line or printing them out and falling asleep with them on your lap is to get out for a walk and explore the amazing floodplain of the Gila. Small cottonwoods and willows are looking exuberant after our long wet spring, brilliant birds like Vermilion flycatchers, Summer tanagers, Wilson’s warblers, and Bullock’s orioles are apparent in the canopies of trees to even novice birders, and you might just find yourself slipping into a muddy overflow channel and finding the tracks of javelina, skunks, or muskrats.

6th Annual Gila River Festival

September 16 - 19, 2010

by Donna Stevens

The UN has declared 2010 to be the Year of Biodiversity. Here in sleepy, remote southwest New Mexico, we were a few months into the year before we realized that we’re on the same wavelength as the UN: our theme for this fall’s Gila River Festival is Celebrating the Gila’s Web of Life. In other words, we plan to take a close look at our local biological diversity, learn about and observe some interesting species, and discuss how climate change may affect our historic community of species.

Following are some of the Gila River Festival’s highlights:

Our keynote speaker, writer and earth activist Mary Sojourner, will speak on “Connections: The Marvelous Complexity of Place” and read from her two new books. Sojourner is the author of Bonelight: Ruin and Grace in the New Southwest, the short story collection, Delicate, a new novel, Going Through Ghosts, and two memoirs, Solace: Rituals of Loss and Desire and She Bets Her Life.

We’ve lined up some excellent field trips, including:

The Ribbon of Green: linking the Gila River’s hydrology to biological diversity, with Gila’s own Dr. Kathy Whiteman.

Two trips on monitoring river health, led by NM Environment Department’s Dave Menzie and Matt Schultz.

Creepy-Crawlies: get to know some Gila River reptiles and amphibians with ecologist and

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lizard lover Trevor Hare of Sky Island Alliance.

Beavers: Busybodies of the Gila, with Gila Cliff Dwellings ranger Becky Latanich.

Birds of Mangas Valley with Dr. Roland Shook.
The Gila’s Native and Non-native Fish: A Dilemma of Biodiversity, led by writer/NM Game Commissioner Dutch Salmon and fisheries biologist Paul Turner.

Gila River Plant Diversity with Dr. William Norris.

Otterlicious: a visit to the river otter release site on the Gila River, with Melissa Savage, self-described otter nut and member of the NM Friends of River Otters.

Two evening field trips:

Bats: set up a mist net to catch different bat species, with BLM’s Marikay Ramsey.


For those of you who miss college classes (but not the tests!), we have put together a lecture series on:
Mountain Lions, with Kevin Hansen, author of *Cougar: the American Lion*.

Jaguars in the Gila, Diana Hadley of Northern Jaguar Project.

Effects of projected climate change in southwest New Mexico, by Dr. David Gutzler.

The Gila River as a meeting place of biotic communities, by Dr. David Brown.

Conservation of biological diversity in a world of profound change, by Gila’s Dr. Guy McPherson (there are a lot of smart folks living in the valley!).

What We’re Losing, How We Can Save It All, by Kieran Suckling, founder of the Center for Biological Diversity, which started right here in southwest New Mexico.

For the first time ever, the Gila River Festival will host the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, the largest environmental film festival in the country. Don’t miss these beautifully filmed, moving, educational, and inspiring movies.

We also have workshops scheduled, on topics such as backyard habitat restoration (Tricia Hurley & Charles Holmes), wildlife photography (John Wachholz), animal tracking (Cynthia Wolf), writing from place (Mary Sojourner) and beginning birding (Dana Vackar Strang and Becky Latanich). There is one kayak trip planned, and a backroom tour of Mimbres pottery at the WNMU Museum.

Most Festival events require registration and fees to help cover festival expenses. If your living-lightly lifestyle would require a choice between food and festival, contact us for a fee waiver.

For more information or for a Festival schedule, please visit: www.gilaconservation.org.

If you want a hard copy of the schedule, we’ll be happy to send you a brochure: Call Allyson Siwik at 575.538.8078 or email info@gilaconservation.org to be added to our mailing list.
UGWA’s 3rd Annual Fundraiser A Big Success!
by April Crosby

UGWA’s 3rd Annual Banquet and Fundraising Auction was held April 18 and the evening lived up to the fast-growing reputation of this fun event. Tickets for dinner and the evening ($25/person) were sold out earlier than last year and we squeezed in 10 more folks, for a total of 60 attendees in 2010. Thank you all for coming and we hope you had a good time!

Festivities started at 5:00 pm at the Gila home of Merritt Helfferich and April Crosby, with hors d’oeuvres and liquid refreshment. There was an hour for socializing and reviewing the many attractive items – paintings, fiber arts, useful services, plants – available through the Silent Auction. Some people entered a generous bid on the bidders’ sheet only to have it raised by the friend standing next to them. At 6:00, a sit-down dinner of home-made meat, veggie or gluten-free lasagna, salads of fresh greens from local gardens (thank you, all you gardeners!), and homemade bread was served by UGWA board members and their all-important visiting family assistants. The menu is already almost traditional for this event, but will change to something new and equally hearty and delicious next year. Dinner concludes each year with a very special dessert; this year featured Wild Alaskan Berry Cobbler. An exotic and tasty dessert for the 2011 banquet has yet to be thought up.

The Silent Auction ended with the end of dinner and it was announced whose high bid had won each item – just in time for the “Outcry Auction.” Auctioneers Merritt Helfferich and Howard Smith kept the evening moving as diners bid on a room sized Persian rug, one-of-a-kind woven wearable art, a used mountain bike, large and lovely pottery pieces featuring local sandhill cranes, and other funny, beautiful and/or valuable auction items. One new item this year may become a UGWA auction regular: Bread-of-the-Month membership, wherein the successful high bidder gets a loaf of homemade bread delivered to him/her each month, from one of three famous, Gila Valley bakers.

At the end of the day, UGWA had raised over $5,000 to put toward our very important conservation work. This annual party raises critical “unrestricted” funds that UGWA may use wherever they are most needed, so the success of this fundraiser is certainly critical to the success of UGWA. The UGWA board and staff are delighted that this event has caught your imaginations and earned your support. We have people already donating art and other items for the 2011 auction – we welcome and need these, so thank you!

The evening is a very large undertaking and we could not do it without the cooks and servers (Monica Rude, Marilyn Wright-Germain, Nena MacDonald and Deborah LaFrance, Donna DiGregorio and Sienna Wright), gardener-salad-donators (Barrett Brewer, Tom Krohley, Nena MacDonald, Sheila McPherson, Esperanza Quintero, Sandy Riva, Sharman Russell, Corinne Smith, Susan Van Auken) and all of you who donated things to sell, helped with tents, setup or cleanup, loaned your dishes and linens, brought chairs and tables, and on and on. Thank you all for helping with this important fundraiser for UGWA’s mission.

Finally, thanks to all of you who came, ate, enjoyed and bought something! You are UGWA’s friends and we look forward to seeing you next year for the 4th Annual UGWA Banquet and Fundraising Auction. Watch for us next April!
The Nature Conservancy was recently awarded a River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (RERI) grant from the New Mexico Environment Department. This funding will allow them to actively restore four properties that comprise the Gila Riparian Preserve: TNC’s Gila River Farm and the Shelley, Agnew and Iron Bridge tracts.

Of the 14-mile long Cliff-Gila Valley, TNC currently manages about five miles of river-front properties, including those mentioned above. Although riparian areas have a remarkable ability to heal themselves once the stressors are removed, active restoration techniques speed up the process.

Work on the Shelley tract and the Gila River Farm will include planting willows and restoring floodplain grasslands. At the Agnew and Iron Bridge tracts, exotic tree species – Russian Olive, Tree of Heaven, Siberian Elm and Tamarisk (Saltcedar) – will be removed, and replaced with native willows and cottonwoods. If funding permits, other native riparian trees and shrubs will be planted as well.

What’s UGWA’s role in this restoration? Martha Schumann Cooper, TNC’s Southwest New Mexico Field Representative, has written UGWA into the RERI budget as a junior partner. Our job will be to remove the non-native tree species at Agnew and Iron Bridge using non-toxic means. We will also be recruiting, training and supervising volunteers to prepare and plant willow and cottonwood poles. Be on the lookout for an email announcing volunteer opportunities.

As always, big thanks to The Nature Conservancy for protecting over 1500 acres of land in the valley.
River Otter T-Shirts $15

Perfect for ANY and all Gila Valley occasions. Goes great with jeans and is machine washable for formal events.

Brown ink on:
Carolina Blue, Yellow Haze, Natural, or Light Olive. 100% cotton

Unisex sizes: S, M, L, XL
Add $3 for shipping
Visit www.ugwa.org
or call 575.590.5698

REPORT OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE VIOLATIONS ON NEW HOTLINE

The next time you see an ATV, dirt bike or other off-highway vehicle in violation of state OHV laws, take the time to gather some information and call the state's new toll-free OHV Violations Hotline, (800) 366-4868.

Hotline callers will be asked to provide:
- Date and time of violation.
- Location and county.
- Type of vehicle involved -- ATV, dirt bike, snowmobile, side-by-side.
- Details of violation.
- Suspect information, vehicle description and license plate.
- Your name and phone number if you wish to be contacted.

Any information about off-highway vehicle violations is helpful as the Department and other law enforcement agencies increase efforts to enforce the New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Act. People who witness violations are encouraged to report them, but are discouraged from confronting violators on the trails.

For more information about state OHV laws and the Department's Off-Highway Vehicle Program, please call (505) 476-8140 or visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us or www.b4uride.com.
Do Alianzas: Restoration on the San Francisco River
By Donna Stevens and Van Clothier

On Endangered Species Day, May 21, 2010, nine people gathered on the San Francisco River, downstream of Reserve. Their mission was to plant hundreds of willow poles on the river in the Gila National Forest to stabilize the stream banks.

UGWA's Donna Stevens and Sarah Williams of Sky Island Alliance were the representatives of the groups that comprise Dos Alianzas. (We usually have one more alianza – New Mexico Wilderness Alliance – but they couldn't attend this year.) Van Clothier of Stream Dynamics, Inc. once again volunteered his time to plan a restoration project and to instruct and oversee the volunteers.

This project was an extension of a 16 year long river restoration project involving local landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and, starting in 1998, the U.S. Forest Service. John Pierson and Justin Schofer of the Reserve Ranger district were instrumental in expediting the NEPA process to allow this work to be done on Forest Service land.

The planting was designed to stabilize both banks of the river at the downstream end of a newly building point bar. This is a meander crossover, angled to the left of the valley axis. By planting both banks, we intend to keep the river in its banks here. The low bank of the point bar was intensively planted with about 6 rows of willows on 3 foot centers. This was done so that the roots will hold this bank, and the many shoots of the growing willows will slow floodwaters down when they are raking across the point bar, causing sediment to deposit and build the bar, which the willows will rapidly colonize. Several hundred feet upstream from this point, there is an eroding bank on the opposite side of the river. This was not treated, allowing the river to continue to erode this bank, increasing the amplitude of the meander pattern. This will increase the sinuosity, or "wiggle factor" of this bend, which will slightly increase the stream length, decrease the slope, and decrease the velocity of the flow. The willows will increase the roughness of the floodway, especially during large runoff events, causing the flood pulse to slow down, spread out, and soak into the river banks and floodplain. This will decrease downstream flooding and improve base flow as the water slowly seeps out of the river banks after the flood. Eventually, cottonwoods will become established on this surface, and a multi-layered riparian forest will emerge – potential habitat for southwestern willow flycatchers, wolves and maybe even jaguars!

Friday night we sat around the campfire, sharing food, beer and stories. On Saturday we got to work. First we cut hundreds of Bluestem willow poles from a river terrace. We stripped the leaves from the poles and made diagonal cut on the end which would be planted to make it sharp. It is necessary to strip all the leaves from the poles because they have no roots to support leaves. After we transported the bundles of poles to the work site, the hard work began. Using digging bars, we made holes as deep as possible in the sand and cobble next to the river. Before the holes could collapse, we jammed in two or three willow poles in each hole, down into the water table. On Sunday morning, we spent a couple more hours planting willows. When we were finished, we had a stick forest of 550 willow poles. On July 2, five weeks after our planting project, Van and I returned to the San Francisco River to check on our work. More than 95% of the poles had leafed out! As long as we don't get any huge floods for the next year or two, these willows will have a chance to get

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The Third Natural History of the Gila Symposium

will be held on Oct. 14-15 2010 in the WNMU Besse-Forward Global Resource Center on the Western New Mexico University campus in Silver City, New Mexico. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra of the University of California at Riverside, Dr. Benjamin Tuggle of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Corbin Newman of the U.S. Forest Service. At least twenty talks are currently scheduled, by experts including Josh Baldwin (geography), Jim Brooks (fish), Van Clothier (stream restoration), Mary Dowse (geology), Richard Felger (ethnobotany), Ed Gilbert (vascular plant database), Randy Jennings (narrow-headed garter snake), George Farmer (stream restoration), Gene Jercinovic (flora of the Floridas), Kelly Kindscher (ethnobotany), Mary Dowse (geology), Richard Felger (ethnobotany), Ed Gilbert (vascular plant database), Randy Jennings (narrow-headed garter snake), George Farmer (stream restoration), Gene Jercinovic (flora of the Floridas), Kelly Kindscher (ethnobotany), Russ Kleinman (ferns of the Gila region), Dave Menzie (watershed restoration), Jim O’Hara (tachinid flies). Dave Propst (fish), Roland Shook (southwestern willow flycatcher), Matt Schultz (watershed restoration), Bob Sivinski (rare plants), and Rebecca Summer (geomorphology). This event is geared towards a broad audience including the general public, students, scientists, and natural resource managers. For more information, please visit our website (http://www.gilasympoium.org).

Carapace Goes Electronic (Mostly)

by Robin Kibler

If you are one of our many members who chose to receive updates from us by email than this issue of Carapace went to your email box instead of your US mail box. We are doing this for the usual reasons, less paper and less expense. Why spend it at the print shop when we can spend it on the river? If we don’t hear from you, we will assume that you love your emailed Carapace and appreciate that the pictures in the electronic version are in beautiful full color. At the same time we want you to be happy, so if the electronic version really, really isn’t working for you email (I know, I know) admin@ugwa.org or call me at (505)330-5087.
The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is pleased to offer a limited edition of the first Conservation Wolf Stamp sold in the United States. The 2011 stamp pictured here is not a postage stamp, and is the first in a series of annual wolf stamps offered to collectors.

The Mexican wolf is the most endangered wolf in the world, with a total population of 42 in the wild in 2009.

The Mexican Wolf Stamp is a conservation project created by the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. The concept is similar to the Duck Stamp sold by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, except no hunting will be related to the sale of the Mexican Wolf Stamp.

Instead a Wolf Conservation Fund, administered by the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, will raise money for the conservation of the Mexican wolf by funding projects in the U.S. and Mexico for Mexican Wolf Recovery. All net proceeds will be used for these projects.

The cost is $20 (+$2 for S/H) for a 3x5 inch stamp, designed by New Mexico artist, Virginia Maria Romero. Stamps can be ordered online by going to www.nmwild.org. For further information: contact Trisha London at [505] 843-8696 or trisha@nmwild.org.

**Wolf Stamp Available - Order Today!**

I have not really, not yet, talked with otter about his life.

He has so many teeth, he has trouble with vowels.

Wherefore our understanding is all body expression ---

he swims like the sleekest fish, he dives and exhales and lifts a trail of bubbles. Little by little he trusts my eyes and my curious body sitting on the shore.

Sometimes he comes close. I admire his whiskers and his dark fur which I would rather die than wear.

He has no words, still what he tells about his life is clear.

He does not own a computer. He imagines the river will last forever.

He does not envy the dry house I live in.

He does not wonder who or what it is that I worship.

He wonders, morning after morning, that the river is so cold and fresh and alive, and still I don't jump in.

- Contributed by Naomi Laffinghans
Recycle in the Valley

Our very own Gila transfer station accepts more for recycling than you might think. Here’s the list:

- Cardboard
- Phone books
- Paperboard (cereal, snack, and beverage boxes)
- Aluminum cans, foil and clean baking tins
- Newspaper
- Junk mail and magazines
- Envelopes (with plastic window is OK)
- White, colored and computer paper
- Brown paper bags
- Some plastic, anything with a handle or spout (soda bottles, laundry soap bottles, milk and water jugs)
- Scrap metal (fridge and freezer doors have to come off, also wire can’t go in the scrap metal bin because it damages the processing machines)

In addition to the usual cans and cardboard, they accept some substances that can, will and do pollute watersheds if not properly disposed of:

- Automotive and ATV batteries
- Used motor oil (it’s a lot more poisonous than you think it is)
- Paint (yep, liquid paint is toxic)
- Antifreeze
- Tires (there is no charge, but they must be counted, let Pene know when you put them in the bin)

Thanks to Pene at the transfer station for this list.

UGWA’s Wish List

An office
We are losing our sweet deal on our Silver City office. We need a rodent-free space with AC (on-grid) electricity or enough solar capacity for computers and printers, some sort of heating system, and a dedicated land line for internet service, or ability to get one installed. We would prefer a place that is not within a private home. As you know, we are a small, local non-profit and can only afford up to $150 a month (including utilities) for the space. If you would like to do a partial donation of a higher priced space, we are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, and this donation would be tax deductible.

OR, an office-mate
for our office in Silver City. Your share of the rent would be $150/month (including utilities), plus $20 for internet. Available September 1.

Office chairs
Eight hours in a metal folding chair is about six too many.

A bookcase

GPS units

Digital cameras

Books about accounting and Mac computers

If you can help us out with these things contact Robin at admin@ugwa.org or (505)330-5087. Can’t fit the desk in the Corolla? No problem, I have a truck and would be happy to pick things up. Because we are a 501(c)(3), your donations are tax deductible.
Thank you to UGWA’s spring and summer 2010 donors:

Travel Management Program:
Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Brushy Canyon Project:
National Forest Foundation

River Otter Introduction:
Anonymous

Equipment:
Norcross Wildlife Foundation

General Operating Support:
McCune Foundation
Jonathan and Kathleen Altman Foundation
CoYoTe PhoeNix

Graphics Work:
Patricia Taber

Upper Gila Watershed Alliance Annual Membership Form
Your membership sustains UGWA and is critical to the organization’s ongoing health. Share in the protection and conservation of our watershed and become an UGWA member today.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Annual Membership Fee</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Low income/student</td>
<td>10 (will consider barter)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Make your tax-deductible checks payable to UGWA and send to:
P.O. Box 383
Gila, NM 88038
New Members

Elizabeth Bakshi, Ginny & Tom Beal, Katy Belt, Randy Harkins & Sue Ann Childers, Peter & Sandy Riva & JoAnn Collins, Marjorie & Jeffrey Crosby, Steve Crosby, Curious Kumquat, Timothy & Jennifer Frey, Joseph & Marilyn Gendron, Bruce Lee & Jeralyn Hath, Susan Hill, Becky Hutchinson, Mark Cantrell & Tricia Hurley, Harry Brown & Chris Jepson, Rinda Metz, Troy Silva, Sally Smith, Eli & Mike Sorenson, Patricia Tabor, Joe Truett, Lucy & Pat Tully, Cynthia Wolf

Returning Members


UGWA Meeting Schedule

Monthly Board Meetings are usually the second Monday of the month, from 9-11 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Please email: director@ugwa.org, or call (575)590-5698 for the most current location.