

Newsletter for December 2023

What's In This Newsletter

- Volunteer Field Work Schedule
- Changing Leadership
- New Opportunities for Members
- In-person Gathering, mid-February
- Updates from the Field (Jaren Peplinski)
- Earth Day 2024
- Priorities for 2024

Volunteer Field Work Schedule

Mondays: 8:00 - 11:00 AM

Fridays: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Jaren Peplinski at Ciudad SWCD may cancel for any given day if weather is bad.

< ciudad.peplinski@gmail.com >

Changing Leadership

Our Friends group is three years old. I've been leading it all that time, and we've become an established, recognized bunch of citizens who care about the CNP and who work to support it, both as a wildlife refuge and as a place that nurtures the human spirit.

Now it's coming up time for new leadership, for someone else's vision and skills to come into play at the helm.

Please think about it: What skills do we need in a leader over the next three years? Might they be yours?

New Opportunities for Members

From our quarterly leadership meeting on December 13, 2023.

We are growing. Nobody can do everything this Friends group is growing into; we need to share the joy.

- Katie Stone has taken over responsibility for monthly presentations by experts in fields relevant to rewilding the CNP.

- Faye Rafferty has volunteered to become a guide on our monthly public tours.

- Cheryl Zebrowski has taken on responsibility for Membership, on top of her curating our website.

I don't know all of you and your interests nearly as well as I'd like. *Please expect a phone call from me soon.*

In the meantime, please think about what you love to do and how it might align with the following sub-committees:

- Governance
- Community Outreach
- Interpretation
- Classroom-based and After-school Education
- Annual Meeting
- Social Events
- Fund-raising
- Finance Advisory

In-person Gathering, February

Meeting in person and getting to know each other a bit better is a long-anticipated event.

Let's do it.

Mid-February.

Can you take on responsibility for making this happen and organizing it?

Updates from the Field (Jaren Peplinski)

Jaren now sends weekly updates. Those since December 1, 2023 are summarized below.

If you would like to receive weekly updates directly from Jaren, please write to him.

< ciudad.peplinski@gmail.com >

Cameras are placed in the Preserve; a selection of resulting photographs are attached.

December 1

Grading and skidsteer work has been completed in Field 4A, and wood chips are staged in the East section of the field for easy access. Cottonwood Gulch will be back on-site tomorrow for a few hours to help move some of those wood chips around and engage in other stewardship and educational activities. Rio Grande Return employed a seed drill earlier this week to plant some on-hand native grasses in anticipation of the rain we're currently receiving.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Friday Thanksgiving tour - we had a great turnout with 18 people in attendance.

Last, but certainly not least, we will now be sharing photos from the wildlife cameras each week in these weekly updates. Huge shoutout to Niya for her diligent work on the cameras and for sharing these highlights with us.

December 6

Rio Grande Return seeded all of 4A with some leftover seed mix last week. The seed mix consisted of dry soil grassland plants, some of which are cold season. Others in the mix have hard seed coats that will benefit from wet winter conditions, helpful for spring growth. The seed

was raked in with the seed drill after hand broadcasting, and Rio Grande Return was able to seed all of 4A using these methods.

Monday and Friday volunteer events are still in full swing! Monday volunteer events will be held from 8-11am, and Friday volunteer events will take place from 10-noon. Adjustments may happen based on weather conditions, so please stay tuned for future updates. We have been fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers, so we encourage you to join us at your convenience during these days, even if you can't stick around for the entire time.

Last, a huge thank you to Niya for sharing more wildlife camera photos from the Preserve! Please find the most recent batch of photos attached.

Warm regards,
Jaren

December 15

Last week, [RiverXchange](#) students were on site at Candelaria Nature Preserve, where they planted over 120 plants in Field 4A. This Friday, volunteers were back on site removing Johnson grass. No wildlife photos to share this week - CABQ Open Space and Rio Grande Return staff are working on replacing faulty cameras.

Next Quarterly Leadership Meeting: Wednesday, March 13

Best regards to all,

Jeannie