celebrating 25 years of the festival
You know, it all started out as a pretty small affair. With the inspiration of then Refuge Manager Phil Norton, the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce and the staff at Bosque del Apache NWR organized a day of tours and demonstrations to highlight wildlife conservation and the activities of the Refuge. Of course it wasn’t called Festival of the Cranes then. It was billed as the “First Bosque Fall Festival”, November 12, 1988, 8 AM to 5 PM. Highlights included bird watching, tours of Historic Socorro, and Socorro Isopods. That last bit may sound like a little league baseball team but it referred to the fact that native to Sedillo warm springs near Socorro, are some little pill bug like critters that can trace their family tree back about 130 million years. There was also a ‘Hug-A-Tree’ demonstration which was not, as the name suggests, an attempt to get folks to love shrubbery, but rather to teach kids how to orient themselves if they were lost.

All in all, it was judged to be a success. More than 3,000 people attended and plans were made to expand the event to two days.

The ‘Second Bosque Fall Festival’ included a commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Refuge and the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1939-1989. Members of the original CCC workforce, the builders of the Bosque, attended the unveiling of a CCC exhibit in the Visitor Center. The bird count at Festival that year included 15,000 ducks, 22,330 snow geese, 7,610 sandhill cranes and…four whooping cranes.

Whooping cranes were getting a lot of attention at that time, locally and nationally, as scientists worked to establish a breeding population of this endangered species within the wintering sandhill crane community at Bosque del Apache. Though this attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, for the next few years a number of scientists associated with this effort appeared as guest speakers at Festival time. Virtually every bird enthusiast recognizes pictures of Kent Clegg in his ultralight leading a small flock of whooping cranes on an 800 mile migration route from Idaho to Bosque del Apache.

1991 brought a name change and a guest appearance by the super star of birding, Roger Tory Peterson. The Bosque Fall Festival became the Festival of the Cranes. Peterson signed books and talked about ecotourism, and the three day event expanded to include photo workshops, fly casting for kids and tours of the Quebradas, Ft. Craig and the Camino Real.

By 1994, the Festival ran for four days and increased public attendance fostered an expansion of Festival activity from original venues at the Garcia Opera House and Refuge to include presentations at Macey Center at New Mexico Tech. There was a first ever Photography Contest and the Refuge sported new decks, new ponds and marshlands. The local newspaper, El Defensor Chieftain, noted another change, the formation of a new volunteer group called the Friends...
of Bosque del Apache, a non-profit advocate for the Refuge. This new group, once again the brain child of Refuge Manager Phil Norton and his deputy, Terry Tadano, boasted a membership of 200 volunteers who were helping out in the information booth at Festival. A new chapter had begun.

In 1995, Sandy the Sandhill Crane (he's six feet tall – you can’t miss him) came to Festival to greet one and all as a symbol of the Festival’s namesake and the critical role of the Refuge in providing habitat for these marvelous creatures. Sandy has appeared at many Festivals and was a perennial favorite with kids and adults.

Then came the devastating San Marcial fire of 1996. The Festival catalog that year carried assurances that despite the loss of 2,000 acres of cottonwoods, the waterfowl areas were unaffected and the cranes, (Sandy included) would be there for Festival.

At the five day Festival in 1997, the Friends of Bosque del Apache were manning a booth selling ‘healthy snacks and juice’ and by 1998 were staffing booths and observation decks, guiding tours and working in the Nature Store; Friends volunteers had become an ‘essential element of the Refuge.’

The 12th Festival in 1999 celebrated Bosque del Apache’s 60th anniversary and was the last year of joint sponsorship between the Refuge and the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce. In 2000 the Friends of the Bosque became the proud presenters of the 13th Annual Festival of the Cranes. Thirteen proved to be a lucky number and with a membership of over 900, the Friends assumed responsibility for the Festival and the Nature Store in the Visitor Center.

A reading of Festival catalogs in subsequent years serves to highlight continuing change at the Refuge and in the organization and activities at Festival. The 16th Festival in 2003 included a Centennial celebration of the founding of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Folks coming to the Festival that year could watch the New Mexico State Championship Duck Calling contest for Junior and Master Callers. Each contestant had to produce 5 different duck calls. Couple that with the workshop offering a Field Guide to Duck Butts, and you’d have to agree that participants had the opportunity to cover the topic top to bottom. Not to be outdone by all this attention to the Bosque’s ducks, the Blue Goose, a six foot symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge system paid his cousin Sandy a visit to entertain and educate junior environmentalists.
In 2005 the Friends were pleased to welcome visitors to the newly completed Lannan Education Annex and Nature Store. With the completion of the Annex, a new fund raising initiative began to acquire the top of Chupadera Peak, and as recent Festival goers are aware, enthusiasts can sign up for a hike to that spot, which is now an officially recognized National Wilderness Area and a permanent part of the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge. The ‘Art Tent’ has flourished and grown with many local and regional artists displaying their talent. New activities are added each year but some things never change. The cranes will always be there, photo ops abound and, yes, you can still sign up for a field guide to duck bottoms. Sadly, there hasn’t been a championship duck calling contest in recent years but I for one would welcome it back.

--Lise Spargo

And speaking of the 25th Festival...On September 3rd we opened our improved online pre-registration for planning and sign-up for Festival events. So far the new system has performed extremely well and more than 80% of those who have registered to date have successfully done so online. Registration numbers are well ahead of last year’s numbers, and individual offerings are filling rapidly. There are dozens of new crane and raptor workshops and additional land, sea and air tours have been scheduled at Elephant Butte Lake to include a new photo tour.

But it’s not just about birds. We have new lectures on bats, prairie dogs and feral hogs, or you can sign up for the new one day photography class. If you are up for some art or exercise you can learn Origami, take a horseback ride, hike to Chupadera Peak or wander through the Art tent. There are lots of weekend happenings for the kids. Experience the free Wildlife Zone and test your skill at casting for trout, or archery. There’s a junior ranger challenge, live raptors, animal exhibits, and a chance to climb aboard some of the Refuges’ big equipment.

Join us on Thursday night for the Friends’ Dinner at the Bodega Restaurant and search for treasures at the silent auction. All are welcome to hear Keynote speaker John Vradenburg talk about the visions and people, past, present and future, which have created and managed the Refuge through the years.

Also at the Bodega Restaurant, this years’ Festival Social will be held on Friday night from 5 to 7 PM.
For just $10 you can enjoy a fajita bar and two live bands, and receive your collector's beer or wine glass.

On Saturday night, keynote speaker and former National Wildlife Refuge System Director Lynn Greenwalt will recount the history of Bosque del Apache from when “it all began 25 million years ago.” Mr. Greenwalt, now retired from a career in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including several years at Bosque, will share his stories about the jewels within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

But there’s one more change at Festival this year that you won’t want to miss. Visit our heated Expo Tent at the Refuge that will house the Friends Hospitality Booth. Grab a cup of hot coffee from the coffee vendor and browse the optic, photography and eco-travel companies offering their products and expertise.

So put Festival dates November 13-18 on your calendar and come celebrate 25 years of education, art, food and fun at Bosque del Apache, a special time in a special place.

--Michael Hanauer, Festival Coordinator

September and October are a transition time at the Refuge. The summer researchers are gone but if you take a look out back you will notice that the number of trailers nosed into the hooks ups is increasing. Some familiar ‘volunteer’ faces are reappearing in the Nature Store and environs and even more than the return of the cranes, they are the first sign that winter is coming. If you put your antennae up, you can feel the beginnings of that excitement that precedes the Festival and winter season.

After a summer of undivided attention to the work of the Refuge for the exclusive benefit of the wildlife, projects that pertain to the human animal are coming to the fore. The new floor in the Visitor Center has been completed and by mid-October the new exhibits should be pretty much in place. The Friends’ work around the plaza and cactus garden continues. Literally tons of dead brush and undergrowth have been hauled to the burn pile and as a result visitors this winter will be able to see a good deal more of the stone walls and landscaping created around the plaza by the Youth Conservation Corp in 1980. Renovations at the Friends’ house are in the final stages. We got side tracked a while back by a leaky roof, but the repairs are done and the final touches to the conference room should be in place in time for the Friends Annual Meeting on 20 October. There is still work to be done so if you haven’t responded to our fund raising drive, there’s still time to help out.

In this issue you’ve gotten an update on the Festival. It’s clear a lot of you like the new catalog, but as always we value any feedback you might have on our offerings and the layout. There are lots of new activities and events are filling up rapidly so don’t wait too long to sign up. Our annual meeting is on track and as usual the morning meeting will include updates on Refuge work and the state of the Friends. We will elect some new officers and hear a presentation on our education program over lunch. If you stick around, you’ll get a sneak preview of the Friends’ House renovations. We have lots of activities scheduled for adults and kids that afternoon so read on and rsvp for all or some of our day. If you have responded to our HELP WANTED ad, or are just now thinking about volunteering with the Friends, this will be an opportunity to talk to our staff and Board Members. There are lots of interesting activities to choose from, some inside, some outside, some that will benefit the Friends, some that would help out the Refuge. Schedules can be pretty flexible, weekdays and weekends. If there is something you would like to do that we haven’t thought of…well, speak up. We’re listening.

--Lise Spargo
Friends Board Member and Editor, Bosque Watch

BOARD TALK

OLD BUSINESS: The Board met in August and September 2012. In summary, all of the Festival merchandise (polo shirts, t-shirts, pins, caps, and mugs) has arrived and is on the shelves. This year there are some lovely new silver and inlay pins by a Zuni artist. Although year to date Nature Store sales remain below last year’s level, by July/August, sales were off by only 10%. As construction began in the Visitor Center exhibits area, visitor information remained available in the Nature Store with entry through the west door. While this may discourage some visitors, in general visitation over the summer has been
up and donations and memorials remain above normal. It also appears that we will meet our membership revenue goals this year. The Planned Giving brochures are done and we have 500 on hand. It was proposed that they be mailed to all members of the Friends once the Budget for 2012-2013 is finalized. Friends Executive Director Leigh Ann Vradenburg has been asked to participate as part of a team that will be developing the USFWS strategy for Friends, Volunteers, and Community Partners as a follow up to the Vision Conference last year. This speaks to the reputation the Friends’ organization has earned as a leader in these areas.

Environmental Educator Andrea Brophy and Leigh Ann have finalized the fall/winter audio tour which is now available for download online. CD’s will be available in the Nature Store after October 1. Andrea has started her 2012/2013 school year ECOLAB program (Every Child Outside Learning About Bosque) with the San Antonio Elementary School grades 2 and 3. Working with principal/teacher Mr. Dennis, they have revised some of the curriculum to accommodate students overlapping from the previous year and new units on the ecology of fire and geology have been added. Andrea is working with Refuge officer Chris Leeser on the Refuge’s environmental education and Junior Ranger programs. Local educator, Vannetta Perry, has agreed to volunteer her time for curriculum development and school tours.

Several grants will be closed out in the next few weeks to include the NFWF 2009 grant for educational materials, the NFWF 2011 grant for ECOLAB, and the NFWF 2011 grant for the SMART display in the Visitor Center. We are current on our expenditures/reimbursements for the USFWS challenge cost share grants. The rattlesnake and elk research projects have some remaining funds to be spent and in FY 2013 we will carry forward our obligations to the mountain lion project and the soil project.

The Sun Zia project that proposes to bring power lines across the Rio Grande near the Refuge is still on the table and the Friends have submitted written comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Refuge Report: The floor in the Visitor Center for the new exhibits has been completed and final proofs for the new displays are done. The drop ceiling in the display area has yet to be removed but the exhibits are due for installation in the first two weeks of October. While no date has yet been set for the reopening of the Visitor Center, this should be well in advance of the Festival and winter season.

Interviews for a new Refuge Manager are complete, but no announcement has yet been made.

The new electrical outlets on the plaza for the Festival Expo Tent are being paid for by the Friends and are near completion.

New Business:
The Board discussed new PR options to include purchasing space on the plasma screen displays at the Albuquerque Sun Port and in Albuquerque the Magazine. Both of these options will be reviewed after further discussions with these vendors.

Fund raising was discussed as a priority for the coming year. Possibilities include a fun run or bicycle race sponsored by the Friends and increased search time for grants and donations. Although the electronics recycling event in August was not a huge financial success, a possible second running of this event will be discussed after the first of the year. Funding options and initiatives will be discussed after the election of new officers.

WANTED…..
…… SOMEONE WHO KNOWS PHOTOSHOP AND QUARK to help write a publication for Bosque del Apache NWR New Mexico.

It all began with that short ad in a specialized publication for people known as “Workampers”, folks who travel around, usually in their own rigs, working for short periods in exchange for free hook ups and the opportunity to explore beautiful places.

I was nearing retirement and considering this lifestyle when I came across the ad with the rather strange requirements, requirements that fit me perfectly as I had recently left a job as a graphic artist at a newspaper in a small mountain town in California. Mostly out of idle curiosity, as I had no intention of making a move anytime soon and certainly not to New Mexico, I called the number and talked to Judy, the Volunteer Coordinator for the refuge.

“Wow,” she said, “frankly I never thought anyone would respond to this, but I’ll put you in touch with John Bertrand, he writes the HABITAT! for us and placed the ad.”

After numerous tries (John was working at a refuge in Alaska for the
summer), and a few pleasantries, he said, “I’m looking for some young blood to help me out with stories and photos. If you’re interested, come on down to New Mexico in August and we’ll see if it works.”

Well, driving from the cool, green mountains of California 900 miles to the hot dry desert of New Mexico and working for nothing didn’t appeal to me much, but being called “Young blood” at sixty did and so did this enthusiastic “older man.” So when August came, I headed out on I-40 and drove the 12 hours or so to the Bosque, as it was known, to visit for a few days. Judy had arranged for me to stay at some decent quarters but I could tell she was still looking at me rather warily wondering why I was there.

John and I hit it off immediately and the deal was set. I would come back in September and put in a few weeks as assistant editor. The HABITAT! was done and published on time and I was proud of the first publication with my name on the masthead. Meanwhile, the hot, dusty old desert was seeping into my brain. Year two I came back and stayed a bit longer meeting and enjoying people like Betty Davis, Deb Davies and John Taylor. By year three I was hooked and became a full time volunteer living in my rickety old motor home alone and reasonably happy. But New Mexico wasn’t done with me yet. Year four came along and while leading a bus tour during the Festival of the Cranes, I found myself answering non-stop questions from one of the guests – not that I objected mind you. She was cute, redhead (my favorite) and had a gorgeous smile. I pretended to know what I was talking about, but truth was I wasn’t much of a birder, just a good talker. Afterward I showed her some of my photographs of the Bosque (clever move on my part!) and she expressed an interest in maybe buying one or two. We exchanged phone numbers and the rest, as they say, is history. Soon we were a couple and still are. Sandra thought I was living a wonderful adventure. She was ready to retire from her nursing career and become a full time volunteer like me.

What began ten years ago with a little want ad has turned into a wonderful new life for us. Early on, acting on the recommendation from my friend and mentor John Bertrand, we followed the sandhill cranes north, first to the Platte river where 600,000 spend time preparing for their long journey, then on to Alaska where we spent the summer photographing and studying them at Islands and Oceans Maritime NWR. Since then we have volunteered all over working in places like the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon, doing things like canoe guiding birders on the Rio Grande, and leading sunset tours at the serenely beautiful White Sands National Monument to name just few. But we always look forward to coming back to the Bosque. I will all too soon be 70. I had a good life for 60 years, but a great life for the past 10 here in New Mexico. Whether it’s presenting our programs at the Festival, introducing visitors to New Mexico’s fabulous sunsets, or a quiet day of birding or hiking with good friends like Daniel Perry, this is home.

--Erv Nichols

Editor’s note: As you have already surmised, Erv Nichols, and his partner Sandra, are Friends, photographers, writers, wanderers...and frequent volunteers at Bosque del Apache NWR.

VOLUNTEERS DAY AT THE BOSQUE

This year, in conjunction with the Friends’ Annual Meeting, October 20, we are sponsoring a ‘Volunteers Day’ at the Bosque. Beginning at 1 PM, following the morning meeting and lunch (provided), there will be a variety of activities for adults and children in and around the Visitor Center, plaza and Friends’ House. Come help us prepare for Festival of the Cranes 25!...and beyond.

Here’s what we will be doing Saturday afternoon...

Just for the Kids:

$ Join our Environmental Educator, Andrea Brophy for a creative afternoon crafting signs and plant identification markers for the newly refurbished Cactus Arboretum.

$ Learn about our native plants and help FWS Ecologist Gina Dello Russo prepare pots for native grasses and shrubs in our soon to be nursery/greenhouse.

For Adults and Kids:

◊ Help build a willow fence on the west side of the Cactus Arboretum. It’s the ultimate in recycling!

◊ Plant cottonwood trees and transplant bear grass as part of our rehabilitation efforts in the Arboretum.

The Friends’ House will be open for an ‘early bird’ Friends only view of the recent renovations and upgrades to our workspace. Staff and Board members will be on hand to talk to potential volunteers about the many long term opportunities available to support the Friends’ organization and programs at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. These include:
Friends’ Annual Meeting

This year the annual meeting of the Friends will be held on 20 October beginning at 10 AM. Due to the construction associated with the installation of the new exhibits next to the Lannan Annex conference rooms, the meeting will be held in the Refuge Lounge which is west of the Fire Station. Signs will be posted showing the way from the Visitor Center parking lot to the Lounge. The morning’s agenda will include an overview of Refuge activity presented by Chief Biologist John Vradenburg. There will also be a summary of Friends’ activities and finances for the past year and the election of new Board members. During lunch, Environmental Educator Andrea Brophy will talk about the Friends’ classroom education program.

Election of New Officers: In keeping with Friends bylaws, we will be holding elections to fill five positions on the Friends Board of Directors at our annual meeting. President Lise Spargo has agreed to stand for an additional two year term in that position. We will be saying good bye to Secretary Bob Moran and large member Jill Green. We thank them for their good services to the Friends over the years and hope we will see them again as volunteers at the Refuge. Sonja Mendoza from Socorro has been nominated for the position of Secretary vacated by Bob Moran and Cheryl Learn, Jerry Goffe and Ann Adams have been nominated to fill three at large Board Member positions.

Lise Spargo  retired from government service in 2007 and returned to New Mexico where she became an at large Board Member of the Friends of Bosque del Apache. She has been on the board for 3 years. Lise has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico and a master’s degree in Archaeology and Paleoclimatology from the University of Iowa. She is editor of the Bosque Watch and will be leading hikes for the Festival of the Cranes for the third year.

Sonja Mendoza has worked at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) for the past eleven years in Socorro. While currently employed as a System Administrator at NRAO, she has also been a Telescope Operator for both the Very Large Array (VLA) and the Very Large Baseline Array (VLBA) radio telescopes. Sonja has been an active birder in Socorro County during her time here. In addition to birding for fun, Sonja also spent seven years participating in the US Geological Survey’s New Mexico Breeding Bird Atlas program (2003-2011) as a volunteer collecting data on what birds are breeding in the state. Sonja is also currently a volunteer for the US Forest Service (2006-present), assisting the Cibola National Forest’s Neotropical Bird Specialist, Hart Schwarz, by collecting data along several established breeding bird survey routes. In 2009, Sonja became the organizer and collator for the annual North American Migratory Bird Survey for Socorro County. Sonja is also a regular participant in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. “I live in one of the best counties in the state of New Mexico in which to bird, and I have quick access to perhaps the most exciting and accessible wildlife refuge in the country, Bosque del Apache. I also like nothing better than to explore some of the more remote nearby mountain ranges, such as the San Mateo Mountains, the Datil Mountains and the Black Range, hoping to see something new and unique with regards to animal and plant life.”


Jerry’s appreciation for nature and his love of animals became a wonderful union with Bosque del Apache NWR in 1999 when he was invited to become a volunteer, then a guide, then a member of the Board of the Friends and finally a photo instructor.

During those years, he was a member of the public relations committee and liaison to the board as well as a member of the newsletter committee. He has climbed aboard many
tour buses and refuge vans to share his unique knowledge and perspective on the Refuge. He personally financed and produced the first audio tour of the Refuge. Jerry headed the Lannan Educational annex committee throughout the planning and was the construction liaison. Finally, he was able to make good use of his civil and structural engineering background.

Jerry takes great joy in sharing the beauty and splendor of Bosque del Apache and is often found bringing guests to the refuge and visitors center.

Cheryl Learn: My husband Emerson and I were charter members of the Friends of Bosque del Apache in 1993. Both of us were avid birders. Over the years, I have contributed to the Friends in several ways. Some of my contributions include working just about every Festival of the Cranes for 19 years as a speaker, nature walk leader, serving on the board twice, being secretary, work days, participating in educational events, leading tours, and gardening in the Desert Arboretum. In recent years after Emerson passed away in 2008, my main thrust has been raising money for the Emerson Learn Bus Scholarship Endowment. The Endowment has grown to about $28,000.00+ with much more to go. As a board member, I will contribute in whatever areas are needed.

I believe that I bring to the board a sense of our history as well as a zeal for the refuge and nature. When the Friends started, few Fish and Wildlife refuges had Friends groups. The Friends of Bosque del Apache were a shining star to other beginning friends or natural history groups. Many times we were invited to offer support, give direction, and encouragement to beginning Friends groups in several states from Maine to Florida.

Being involved with Bosque del Apache has enriched my life immeasurably. I plan to continue giving back to the refuge.

Ann Davidson Adams has been a “hum-nut” forever. Growing up in the South, she was aware only of ruby-throated hummingbirds until visiting the Southwest many years ago. The discovery of so many more interesting types of birds to study set the stage for a life-long pursuit of knowledge about “hummers.” Gardening for them in the East turned out to be a start but hardly enough to satisfy Ann’s interest. Thinking that banding them might be the next step, she contacted one of the premier hummingbird experts and banders who advised her to seek experience with small birds first. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory is a passerine banding station on the edge of Lake Ontario in upstate NY, right in Ann’s (at that time) backyard and though there was no hummingbird banding at the station, they were willing to teach her how to handle kinglets, brown creepers and wrens. Ultimately, Ann completed bander training for hummers and began a program for others at Braddock Bay. She is a permitted hummingbird bander both here in New Mexico and in New York where she returns each spring to band the migrant ruby-throat. Ann is also on the staff at Sandia National Labs where she utilizes her many years of industry experience in marketing and strategy to transition technologies developed in the Labs into the products of industry partners. Ann looks forward to applying her energy and experience on behalf of the Friends of the Bosque.

Welcome to fall and winter, the busiest time at the Bosque, for both avian and human visitors!

We got a request about what to look for when buying a camera that can take good low-light photos of cranes and geese. Experts among you who own top-of-the-line equipment don’t need advice from a couple of amateurs, so we will target our response for casual photographers who are buying affordable equipment including compact or smaller DSLR cameras. To begin with, unless you want to concentrate on wildlife photography, look for a camera that meets your everyday needs. Most cameras will do the job for larger groups of cranes, ducks or geese.

There are 3 elements to look for when buying camera and lens:

1) Maximum sensor sensitivity (or ISO number). Higher ISO settings allow for picture taking in lower light. Be aware, though, that images become grainier at higher ISO settings

2) The f-stop number. Settings with lower f-stop numbers allow more light in, thus helping in periods of low brightness. The caveat here is that the depth of field is reduced, decreasing the amount of photograph in focus. Camera or lenses with lower f-stops tend to be more expensive.
The Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is a registered 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation incorporated in New Mexico. The Friends promotes appreciation and conservation of wildlife and habitat through environmental education and natural history experiences at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

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3) Lens magnification related to focal length. Magnification for a camera zoom lens is expressed, for example as 1x to 20x or 70mm to 300mm. The larger numbers indicate a higher amount of magnification. If a camera advertises that all or part of the zoom is digital, image quality can be poor when digital zoom is used. Look for optical magnification only.

And finally, a camera or lens stabilization feature enables sharper images in lower light; if your equipment doesn’t have stabilization, consider using a tripod.

Cranes and geese will start arriving in small numbers this month, peaking in December or January. Duck populations will also increase and following them will be birds-of-prey, bald and golden eagles, northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, and other hawks and falcons. But as you move about the Refuge, remember that mosquitoes are active well into winter and the sun is always a factor at this altitude, so protect yourself. Keep alert to pedestrians and other vehicles. And as always, remember that the wildlife come first!

Questions and suggestions are welcome, please e-mail bosquebirds@gmail.com

--Ingrid & Kumar
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Kara Spitler
Sandy Watson & Brent McAfee
Friends of the Bosque del Apache
Membership Application

Name

Family Members (for Family Membership)

Street       City       State       Zip

Phone

Email

Please mail your check to:
Friends of the Bosque del Apache
PO Box 340
San Antonio, NM 87832

Membership Level:
- Individual $20
- Family $25
- Student $15
- Senior $15
- Special Friend $60 or more
- Best Friend $100 or more
- Lifetime $1000 or more
- Business Sponsor $200
- Check to receive Newsletter electronically
- Check to receive notifications of Friends events electronically

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  House of Representatives
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  website: heinrich.house.gov

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