

Vistas



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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

ECIA, 1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradosf.org

19th Annual Summer Fling To Support VGPL

Ice Cream Social and Two Auctions Fundraiser to benefit Vista Grande Public Library
Sunday, August 12, 2018, 1 to 4:30 pm, ECIA Community Center

This annual summer event will be packed with delicious food, entertainment, and family fun! Café Fina will be making gluten-free fruit crisps again. Gallons and gallons of Blue Bell ice cream will be on hand to top the crisps or to create sundaes with sprinkles and toppings and root beer floats; plus, fresh, sweet watermelon will also tempt event goers. The Silent Auction, another event highlight, will have a wide array of great items: beautiful baskets, gift certificates for services and dining, books, local jewelry, artwork, food, and wine. And for the first time, we will have a live auction with some very special items at the end of the day. Auction items will be ready to pick up immediately after the live auction this year!

This year **John Edwards**, DJ, will be playing all kinds of music for us and he will take requests, too. The kids' tents will have lots of fun activities including face painting, and crafts. The chess boards will also be available. The Flora and Fauna and Cactus Recovery garden groups will be on hand to inform and chat. Eldorado 285 Recycles will again be working with VGPL to help make this a zero-waste event. Best of all, everyone can enjoy the excellent company of neighbors and friends all while supporting our local non-profit library.



Admission wristbands will include unlimited ice cream and food and the chance to bid on items in the auctions, plus family entertainment and activities. The price for adult admission is \$8, and for children ages, 6 to 11, is \$5. Or purchase a family ticket, which includes two adults and your children (under 18), for only \$20. Children 5 and under are free. Entertainment/Auction Only tickets will also be available for \$5 if preferred. Wristbands are on sale at the library, on the library website (click the Donate Now! button) and will be sold at the event. Cash, local checks with identification, Visa/MasterCard, Discover and American Express will be accepted.

VGPL is an independent, non-profit organization; this means that while the library receives partial funding from Santa Fe County and grants, over 50% of the budget comes from direct community support. Fundraisers like this one pay for programming, new books and materials, staffing and other operations that make southeastern Santa Fe County's community library what it is. Summer Fling is a significant fundraiser supporting access to library resources for everyone in our area.

[Photo Credit Lorissa Longfellow]

~Tracey Mitchell, Vista Grande Public Library



ECIA Board Meeting, Community Center Railroad Bldg. Wednesday, August 30, 7 PM



Share your
comments
with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below



Editorial Policy

Vistas welcomes your ideas, stories, photos, and art. Please include full name and contact information. The newsletter will not publish material deemed inflammatory, biased, or inappropriate. Submissions will be selected and edited at the discretion of the editor. Community announcements are welcome as well, along with accompanying photos.

DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the **2nd Tuesday** of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the editor, Courteney Handy at her office at ECIA or emailed to chandy@hoamco.com. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message

Mission Statement

The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Message from the Board: Civility

Ours is a community of diverse individuals with wide-ranging needs and visions for how we want to live our lives here in Eldorado. It is the job of the ECIA Board of Directors and all committees to balance those needs and visions within the context of the Covenants and Guidelines. We encourage input from community members affected by our deliberations; however, it is vital that it be done civilly and respectfully.

Civil conduct includes:

- ▶ Treating others with dignity, courtesy, respect, politeness, and consideration.
- ▶ Speaking in tones of voice that are appropriate for the circumstances.
- ▶ Being respectful of others' right to express their views, even if you disagree.
- ▶ Managing conflict in a respectful way rather than a confrontational way.
- ▶ Addressing the subject at hand rather than personal issues with the presenter or other community members.

Differences of opinions or concerns related to specific issues are welcomed if presented in a mutually respectful manner that opens up dialogue and does not threaten any member of the community. Behavior or speech that disrupts the meet-

ing process or is disrespectful of the ECIA Board of Directors, committee members or fellow residents will not be tolerated.

Disruptive conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- ▶ Rude or disrespectful behavior.
- ▶ Unwarranted interruptions.
- ▶ Failure to comply with board or committee chair's directions.
- ▶ Vulgar or obscene language, slurs or other forms of intimidation.
- ▶ Physically or verbally abusive behavior including shouting.
- ▶ Humiliating, degrading, demeaning, belittling, insulting, frightening or intimidating another person.

While each member of the Eldorado community holds a number of rights, privileges, and responsibilities, including freedom of speech and expression, the ECIA Board of Directors and the committees expect a high standard of mutual respect and civility from all members of the community during their proceedings.

~David McDonald, President of the ECIA Board of Directors



Meet and Greet

Met our new Maintenance Supervisor, **Robert Hurtado**. Robert has been Facilities Supervisor and Supervisor of Development Training at one of the largest resorts in northern New Mexico for four years, and has worked at Hilton Worldwide as well as for the Pueblo of Pojoaque. Robert possesses the knowledge, skills, and experience that will significantly benefit ECIA. He is also CPO licensed and will be able to operate the pool. Please welcome Robert when you see him around the community.



Met our new Assistant General Manager, **Julie Navarro**. Julie worked over 12 years in the hospitality industry as Regional Director of Revenue. Julie brings skills and experience that will significantly benefit the Association. Initially she was from California, but has been a Santa Fe resident since 2015. Julie and her family are avid horse riders and currently own two horses, Shadow and 97. Julie is excited to work with the Eldorado community.

~Isabel Ugarte, General Manager



Recent Board Actions

The Board of Directors of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association met on **Thursday, July 26, 2018**. Members present were President **David McDonald**, Treasurer **Joseph Gutierrez**, Secretary **Jody Price**, Director **Pam Henline**, and Director **Emily McCormick**. The following formal actions were reviewed and passed by the board:

- ▶ Motion to approve a variance to allow for a low coyote fence to encroach 15 feet into the 50 ft. side setback at 4 Baya Court.
- ▶ Motion to approve the proposal from the F&G Committee to establish a demonstration project for a pickleball court on the basketball courts.
- ▶ Motion to appoint Russell Winslow to the Environmental Advisory Ad-Hoc Committee.
- ▶ Motion to appoint Dr. Amy Price to the Information Committee.
- ▶ Motion to appoint Cheryl Shields to the Information Committee.
- ▶ Motion to appoint Jon D'Amore to the Information Committee.
- ▶ Motion to appoint Kanah Waltman to the Ad-Hoc Dog Park Committee.
- ▶ Motion to appoint Nolan Pzisman to the Finance Committee.

- ▶ Motion to appoint Mike Schneider to the F&G Committee.
- ▶ Motion to approve Charters for the Stable, Election, Road, and Environmental Advisory Committees was tabled to allow more time for Board Members to review them. An email vote will be conducted on Friday, August 3, 2018, to be ratified at the next Board Meeting.
- ▶ Motion to approve the formation of an Ad-Hoc Technology Committee.
- ▶ Motion to approve text messaging to communicate with the community using the same guidelines in place for emailing.

Committee reports were heard from all board liaisons. Five residents spoke on a variety of topics. The board addressed the issues briefly and plans for actions moving forward was discussed.

The next scheduled meeting of the ECIA Board of Directors will be a working session on **Monday, August 27, 2018, at 4 pm**, in the Community Center Classroom. On **Thursday, August 30, 2018, at 7 pm**, the board will conduct its regular meeting in the Railroad Room at the Community Center.

ECIA Board meetings are open to the public. Complete minutes and agendas are available at the ECIA office or on the website: www.eldoradosf.org.

ECIA OFFICE

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Director
Emily McCormick
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Director
Open

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architecture:
Katherine Mortimer
Conservation: John Reynolds
Election: Bette Knight
Facilities & Grounds:
Nolan Zisman
Finance: Sal Monaco
Information: Open
Roads: Russel Winslow
Stable: Amelia Adair

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library
466-READ
Fire and Rescue
466-1204
eldoradofireandrescue.org
County All Purpose
820-CNTY (2689)

A Resignation from the Board

It is with great regret that I must announce the resignation of **Claudia Ahlstrom** from the ECIA Board of Directors. Ms. Ahlstrom served as vice president of the Board and liaison to the F&G and Environmental Advisory Committees during her tenure. She is leaving to pursue other opportunities and will no longer have the time to commit to the board. Her presence and her warm sense of humor will be missed, and the board wishes her great success in her future endeavors.

Due to a second position opening up for appointment to the board, we have extended the deadline for applying to **August 31, 2018**, and will be holding interviews in the first part of September. The board will be voting on the appointments in early September with the two new members to be seated at the **September 27** board meeting. We would like to thank the current applicants for your patience as we adjust to this new situation.

If you are interested in applying to be appointed to the Board of Directors for either position, please submit a candidate statement, short bio, resume and photo to **David McDonald** at d.mcdonald@eldoradosf.org or **Jody Price** at j.price@eldorado.org, or drop them off at the ECIA offices by **August 31, 2018**.

~David McDonald, President

ECIA Board of Directors

d.mcdonald@eldoradosf.org

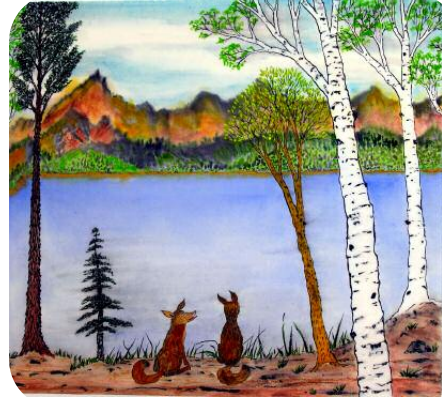




Studio Tour Report from the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association



On **May 19 and 20** the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association (EACA) presented the 27th Annual Eldorado Studio Tour, the largest Studio Tour in New Mexico. This year we featured work by 99 artists showing and selling their artwork throughout our community, in most cases in their studios.



The Tour was a great success, generating sales of artwork estimated at \$140,000. Each artist contributes a portion of sales proceeds to be donated to community service organizations, this year totaling over \$4,700. This is being distributed to the Eldorado Community School art program, El Dorado Fire and Rescue Association, Friends of the Adams Senior Center, Vista Grande Public Library, and Santa Fe Search and Rescue.

As in past years, our neighbors in Eldorado were great supporters of the tour and the artists.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you who visited the studios, purchased art, attended the Preview Gallery at the Max Coll Center, and put up with all the signs and banners.

Later this year the EACA plans at least two more art show and sale events. The first is the traditional Fall Art Show, to be held on **October 19 and 20** at St. John's Methodist Church on Old Pecos Trail in Santa Fe. Then the weekend of **December 1 and 2** we will hold our first winter art show/sale and community holiday event here in Eldorado. We'll be using the Community Center as well as other available Eldorado venues, and hope to get local groups and businesses involved in the festivities as well. Mark your calendars!

[Artwork by: Karen Fitzsimmons and Jeanne Hyland]
~Vince Faust, Studio Tour Chair and Evie Gauthier, EACA President

Library News and Events

August 11, 7 pm: Family Movie Night. Free admission and popcorn. Call for title and rating.

Fridays at 11 am Story Time for pre-K and toddlers with their caregivers. Drop-ins welcome!

Fridays at 3 pm: All Ages Chess Club. From age 8 to 98. All skill levels welcome.

Thursday, August 2, 7 pm: Local author Mary Donat will present on her latest book *Tiny Baby Girl Found in Woods*.

August 15, 7 pm: Stanley Crawford, author of *The Village*, will read from and discuss his forthcoming work: *The Garlic Papers*.

Saturday, August 18, 1 pm: In conjunction with Pecos National Park, Stan Ford will present a program of photos of the park and his experience as a Pecos artist-in-residence.

Thursday, August 23, 5:30 pm: Leona Hillary will be here from the Children's Museum to demonstrate some of the exciting things available when you attend their programs.

Saturday, August 25, 1 pm: Katrina Stacy of the O'Keefe Museum will tell us about all the exciting things going on there and why it's a great place to visit.

Tuesday, August 28, 6 pm: Manuela Well-Off-Man from the IAIA Museum will be at VGPL to tell us why to visit this great museum that doesn't get enough attention.

~Tracey Mitchell, Vista Grande Public Library

Eldorado Community Service Center

Good news - the Eldorado Community Service Center Complex is going solar! The solar array will produce a large portion of the building's electricity from renewables, save tax-payer dollars, and demonstrate our community's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Solar installations contribute to cleaner air, healthier residents, and less water use. The panels will be ground-mounted and protected by a fence in the open field between the library and senior driveway/parking area and Avenida Torreon (see map). Want your own solar installation? Santa Fe County also offers property owners free consultation regarding solar projects. Please feel free to reach out to **Ashley Zappe** at **505.992.9862** or **azappe@santafecountynm.gov** if you have any questions about solar at the County buildings, home solar installations, or any other solar projects in Santa Fe County.



ECIA Drone Policy Open Forum

There will be an open forum to discuss the ECIA drone policy on **August 18**, in the Railroad building at the Eldorado Community Improvement Association from **10-noon**.

August Haiku

Aspen, maple leaves,
bright and clear in their
old age:

You are beautiful.

Manure and the Gardener—A Match Made in Heaven

Eldorado Stables “Manure and the Gardener- A Match Made in Heaven” program is in full swing. Especially during the summer months, adding composted horse manure to your trees, gardens and landscaped beds is a free and easy way to save water, fertilize your plants and improve soil tilth. Eldorado Stables is proud to share this fantastic all-natural, renewable resource with our neighbors. Several gardeners are already partnering with barn owners to obtain horse manure for their compost bins, but we have room for many more. Join us! Please contact **Amelia Adair**, chair of the Eldorado Stable Committee, at ameliaadair@msn.com, to be put in touch with barn owners and to learn more about the “Manure and the Gardener- A Match made in Heaven” program. Never composted? It’s easy. Check out the online resources at NMcomposters.org, or join a free public composting class offered by the Bernalillo County Extension Master Composter Program. Or ask a barn owner. Your trees will be glad you did! [Photo Credit Martin Adair]

~Amelia Adair



Eldorado Stables Horses in the July 4 Eldorado Parade

Lace ‘em up!

The Eldorado Adult basketball season is here. Lace ‘em, players, and c’mon out to the Community Center basketball court for fun and friendly pick-up hoops, Thursdays, 6:15 pm–dusk.



August 2018 Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email chandy@hoamco.com with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 5th of the month for publication in the following month’s Vistas. Please include “Attn: Vistas” and be sure to indicate:



- 1. TYPE OF EVENT**
- 2. Location**
- 3. Date & Time**
- 4. A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions about both the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number. Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Architecture Committee	Tues., August 14,	7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	F
Architecture Committee	Tues., August 28,	7-9 pm	Mark Young	466-4248	F
Board Meeting	Thurs., August 30,	7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	RR
Board Working Session	Mon., August 27,	4-6 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Community Open Discussion	Thurs., August 9,	6-7:30 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Conservation Committee	Tues., August 7,	7-9 pm	John Reynolds	466-4248	F
Election Committee	Tues., August 7,	2-4 pm	Bette Knight	466-4248	CFR
Environ. Ad Hoc	Tues., August 28,	3-5 pm	Karen Murry	466-4248	CFR
Facilities & Grounds	Wed., August 1,	3-5 pm	Nolan Zisman	466-0540	CR
Finance Committee	Tues., August 14,	9:30 am-12 pm	Sal Monaco	690-5125	CFR
Information Committee	Tues., August 21,	7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., TBA	3-5 pm	Russel Winslow	466-4248	RR
Stable Committee	Wed., August 22,	7-9 pm	Amelia Adair	720-563-1018	CFR

MONTHLY / SEMI-MONTHLY MEETINGS / BIMONTHLY

Community Garden	3rd Tuesday of month	6-7 pm			CFR
EAW&SD*	1st & 3rd Thurs.,	7-9 pm	Anna Mondragon	466-1085	EAWSD
Eldorado Arts & Crafts	Last Thurs.,	7 pm	Mary Fredenburgh	466-1035	CR
Eldorado Book Club	3rd Wed.,	3 pm	Pam Henline	phenline@comcast.net	LR
Eldorado/285 Recycles	2nd Tues. of month,	4-6 pm	Sue Daniel	(856) 220-7087	CFR
Roadrunner RV	3rd Tues. of month		Brad Cottingham	466-4655	
Search & Rescue	2nd Thurs.,	7-9 pm	santafesar.org		VGPL

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Mon.,	6:30-8:10 pm			CFR
AA	Tues.,	5:45-6:45 pm			LR
AA	Wed.,	6:45-8:10 pm			CFR
AA	Thurs.,	6-7 pm (Women Only)			CFR
AA	Fri.,	6-7 pm			RR
AA	Sun.,	5:15-6:15 pm			La Tienda
Adult Basketball	Thurs.,	6:15-dusk			BB Court
AI Anon	Sat.,	11-12 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wed.,	7-9 pm	Karl Cordova	karl_cordova747@msn.com	RR, CR, LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri.,	1-4:30 pm	Shirley Davis	982-6179	LR
Eldorado Hikers	Tues.,	8:30 am	Terry Gibbs	466-6914	CC
Fire & Rescue Training	Tues.,	7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Duty Sections	Sat.,	8-12 noon	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Interval Training	Wed.,	9 am	Susan Kayar	204-8290	Max Coll CC
Interval Training	Fri.,	8:30 am	Susan Kayar	204-8290	Max Coll CC
Knitting Club	Tues.,	10-12 noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	LR
Life Drawing	As scheduled	Mon., 10-12 noon	Mavis Murphy	466-8189	RR
Overeaters Anon	Mon.,	7-8 pm	Barb	954-1533	LR
Senior Lunch***	Mon.-Fri.,	11:30-12:30 pm		466-1039	Sr Center
Spinning Group (Fiber)	1st & 3rd Thurs.,	9:30-11:30 am	Ellen Higgins	970-201-4776	LR
Square Dancing	Fri.,	6:30-9 pm	Connie Walters	466-4226	Max Coll CC
Yin Yoga	Mon.,	5:30-6:45 pm	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Tues.,	9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga/Gentle Stretch	Wed.,	9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/ Gentle Stretch	Thurs.,	9-10:15 am	Mary Horst	490-2790	CR
Yoga/Vinyasa Flow	Fri.,	9-10:15 am	Julia Cairns	466-1935	CR
Yoga for Healing	Mon. & Fri.,	9:30-10:45 am	Maureen O'Brien	216-0807	Sr Center
Zumba	Tues. & Thurs.,	9-10 am	Tana Monaco	690-4332	Max Coll CC

* Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District ** Check the ECIA website for the most up-to-date dates/times

*** Abbreviations: CC=Community Center, CR=Classroom, CFR=Conference Room, F=Foyer, LR=Living Room,

RR=Railroad Room

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradosf.org

Meadows in Eldorado

One of the reasons many newcomers pick Eldorado is its relatively undisturbed habitat. Even after decades of use as rangeland for cattle and other livestock, the natural environment in the community still reflects its original high desert quality. Many residents prefer to keep it that way, and not mess with natural growth. An added advantage is that there is no need to mow our large lots.

Nonetheless, those beautiful yellow meadows that wave in the summer breeze can stand a little care from time to time. Once established, blue gramma grass, Indian ricegrass, buffalo grass and other native grasses can resist invasion by weeds. The best time for seeding new grasses is June through August.

Any disturbance of the meadow environment, such as laying new water and irrigation lines, replacing septic lines or digging around rat holes, can serve as an invitation for pesky invaders such as Russian thistle, the ubiquitous “tumbleweed,” to take over. Simple weeding is always beneficial, especially along the roadsides where grading gives invasive plants a foothold. Weeding can be tedious but produces remarkable results over time. A brochure that identifies the most common weeds in New Mexico is available on the ECIA website.

Mowing is an option for those homeowners who prefer a more formal look. It does inhibit the activity of snakes and other wildlife. However, short-cropped mowing also does irreversible damage to the native flora. Excessive mowing inhibits the growth of the shrubs, yucca, cacti and small trees that are a natural element of our environment, providing habitat in a complex ecosystem. In any case, mowing at a minimum height of six inches is recommended to keep the grasses healthy. For fire safety reasons, dead plant material, sticks, and other debris should be removed from areas within 20-30 feet of permanent structures.

Many in the community also like seeing native wildflowers appear along our roadways and hike-bike paths. However, once these plants have seeded out in late fall, there is no reason the dead stalks can't be cut down, again to a minimum height of six inches, thereby distributing seeds evenly and preventing additional weed growth.

The Eldorado ecosystem is a fragile one. Almost everything we do here in some way or other disrupts the natural order. But a little help from residents can go a long way to keep the bad stuff out and the good stuff in. With a bit of care, a balance between attractive and natural can readily be obtained.

~Dag Ryen

The Water Conservation In Eldorado

It is not a “News Flash” to any of us that water is the most precious and most at-risk resource on our planet. But before we bury our heads in the sand to avoid all the doomsday scenarios that bombard us, we need to keep a very simple but ultimately most potent philosophy in mind - THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY. There is a lot that we as individuals can do to conserve water. In fact, according to the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation Department, www.eawsd.org, Eldorado residents are already consuming water below national averages.

EAWSD supplies water to 3,000 customers in and around Eldorado, drawing from 10 active wells in two well fields and three major aquifer groups - quite literally, your water is coming from under your feet. There are more than 130 miles of water lines, augmented by seven booster pump stations to provide you with water pressure. The system also includes over 600 fire hydrants.

Unfortunately, the fact remains that the Santa Fe area has been in drought conditions for five years now. We are indeed in the midst of a severe drought this year, including higher than average temperatures. As of this writing, July 1st, water restrictions have not yet been implemented. Year-round, but especially this summer, the EAWSD recommends the steps below that we can take to make sure we are saving our H2O. Conservation now may avoid restrictions later.

▶ Harvest your grey water for plants and water outside only before **9 am** or after **6 pm**.

- ▶ Try to avoid the heavy demand for water use times of the weekends and on holidays by doing laundry and garden watering during the week.
- ▶ If you are in the process of replacing dishwashers, washing machines or toilets, chose the most water efficient.
- ▶ Shower nozzles can be turned off while lathering and limiting shower time saves a lot of water.
- ▶ Install low flow sink and shower faucets.
- ▶ Check anything that could be leaking – even a small leak adds up! Across the US upwards of 30% of municipal water supply is lost to leakage – that amounts to 1 trillion gallons per year! Check under sinks, around water heaters, check toilets for water running when it shouldn't and check yard hoses for any signs of leakage.
- ▶ Inspect your garden's automatic watering system on a monthly basis - look for wet soil that indicates a hidden underground leak.
- ▶ If you hear water pumping when no water is running in the house, it could be a sign of a leak.
- ▶ Do not plant water-intensive plants and trees that are non-native to this area. They soak up valuable water resources. For more conservation tips, visit these websites:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6wyvmz5>

<https://tinyurl.com/yaqgcsfc>

<https://tinyurl.com/y89bn6km>

~Cheryl Shields



Wildlife and Wildfires

FLORA AND FAUNA

All creatures have a natural fear of fire. We humans have an information advantage about incoming wildfires. News, social media (e.g., NextDoor), emergency alerts, and other advisory services as well as – perhaps most important of all – preventative measures can help us know how to avoid fires. Wildlife doesn't have that advantage.

How does a forest or prairie fire affect living organisms?

Fire is a natural part of the western states, causing adverse and yes, also positive effects. Some species perish while others have evolved survival tactics for coping.

Smoke, heat, and noise can be triggers for animals to escape. When a fire erupts, birds fly away, sadly, but of necessity leaving nests behind. Larger animals such as elk run from the fire or, if possible, wade into streams or lakes. Smaller mammals and amphibians burrow into the ground or hide under rocks or logs.

Fires cause untold damage to wildlife. Sometimes animals can't outrun the fire or find shelter and end up perishing in the fire. Young and small animals are most at risk. If the fire is incredibly intense, animals that burrowed to avoid it can suffocate due to lack of oxygen taken up by the fire.

Jane Smith, a U.S. Forest Service mycologist (fungi biologist) has measured temperatures of 1,292 degrees F under a log and 212 degrees F two inches deep in the earth. These temperatures make it impossible for any life to survive. Even fungi die.

And yet, there is some good news. Insects fleeing fires provide abundant food for predators waiting outside the fire line. Raptors such as hawks linger on the outside edge of a fire to catch a free meal of insects and rodents trying to escape.

Despite the lack of data on just how many animals die during a fire, no species has been eradicated due to fires. There are, however, cases of rare and endangered species threatened with extinction. You may have seen an article in the Santa Fe New Mexican on June 11 regarding a local example: The Holy Ghost ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis Sancti-spiritus*), is a federally endangered plant existing only in the Holy Ghost Canyon in the Sangre de



Cristo Mountains north of Pecos. The species could be destroyed if a wildfire enters that canyon.

Fires can cause problems for streams and lakes due to accelerated runoff from the burned lands. However, nutrients that are flushed into the water will feed microorganisms that, in turn, nourish larger organisms. Fish may temporarily move away but return to a richer food supply.

After a fire, life always – slowly – returns. Every ecosystem goes through evolution or changes over time. Fire serves as a "reset" button for climax communities such as oak or pine forests. After a fire, the ecosystem is reborn. If you remember the Yellowstone fire in 1988, we all mourned the devastation. If you visit the park today, you will see a vibrant 35-year-old, young forest. Plants, animals, microbes, and fungi all repopulate.

Some plants seed only after a fire. Giant Sequoia, Lodgepole, and Jackpine only release their seeds after the heat from a fire melt the wax which holds the seed in the cone. If an animal species depend upon these trees, they will be harmed by the lack of new trees. The Kirkland Warbler is one such example; it's a bird that only nests in Jack pines. Due to the anti-fire policy in place for the last 100 years, these trees are not replenishing themselves.



Thus, the Kirkland Warbler is endangered. The suppression of fires has thrown some of our forests out of kilter by limiting bio-diversity.

A final note: During fire season, and throughout the year, it's wise to be prepared. The Eldorado Fire and Rescue performs free wildfire home assessments; stop any Saturday morning at Station 1, next to the Eldorado School to learn more. Also, the following Santa Fe County website may be helpful: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5xevqr>.

~Julia Kinney, Bonnie Mahlum, Joseph Newman, Ann Wood, Cliff Wood, Flora and Fauna

Choose to Refuse Single-Use Plastic

Instead of accepting a disposable coffee cup, you take your own every day. You shop with reusable grocery bags, carry a refillable water bottle, avoid pre-packaged foods, use real plates at a picnic instead of paper or styrofoam.

Although these efforts may seem minuscule in the giant face of plastic pollution, they add up. Small actions can make significant impacts. After a month of practicing these habits, you might be surprised to find they've stuck. Take Eldorado 285 Recycles – Those of you that attended the Fourth of July pancake breakfast may have been impressed (hopefully you were) with the fact that the only plastic you saw was the plastic containers of real maple syrup. Everyone was served on a real plate, with real silverware, and many brought their cup for coffee. Uneaten food on plates was composted. Thank you to all that attended this great event, and thanks to all the volunteers that worked the event.

Eldorado 285 Recycles has made a significant impact in this neighborhood. They've become a part of just about every event in our community, first by educating those sponsoring the event and then by volunteering to be at the event to collect and separate recyclables. You'll be sure to see them at the library's upcoming ice cream social and again at the fire department's BBQ in September. No more styrofoam plates or cups, and straws used at the ice cream social will be compostable.

Plan on attending these events to see this group in action and better yet drop by our next meeting on the **2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm** at the community center. Refreshments are served. This is a friendly group that enjoys sharing their knowledge and answering all your questions about recycling. Visit our website at eldorado285recycles.com.

~Treehugger/Eldorado 285 Recycles

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Sheriff: 428-3720
Crime Stoppers: 955-5050
Neighborhood Watch:
<https://eldoradoneighbors.wordpress.com>

Thank You for Another Great 4th of July!



[Photos by S.E.A.]



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