



Audubon

Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch



We are so lucky to call this place our home and we are so lucky to call you our friend!

December 2018

Hello friends!

Thank you for your support in 2018, please join us for 2019!

We felt your love in 2018- from memorials, honorariums and monetary donations to your valuable volunteer time, and we appreciate you for it! Your support enabled us to fulfill our mission of facilitating impactful, applicable and important research on the Ranch!

Your generously donated dollars assisting in not-so-glamorous-but-very-important work such as emergency plumbing repair in our researcher housing and well repairs, as well as in our very proud support of young academics. Our 2018 Apacheria Fellowship scholars consisted of University of Tennessee, Knoxville doctoral student Maggie Mamantov and Masters student Nick Beauregard at Northern Arizona University. Maggie is currently conducting research entitled 'Monitoring the effect of invasive species of dung beetle communities in Tennessean grasslands' while Nick is 'Investigating Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo breeding status in the mountains of southeast Arizona'. He has study sites in our



2018 Apacheria Fellowship recipient,
Nick Beauregard.

own backyard, is collaborating with local volunteer birders and government agencies alike, and even presented at our September Living Gently on the Land potluck! We are so proud of them both and so honored by our supporters who continue to make this program possible.



Riester ladies planting sacaton!

This year, we received not only monetary support, but also volunteer support from our local business supporter, Riester Advertising Agency, Phoenix! The Riester Foundation has been helping to facilitate our efforts to restore the native sacaton flats on the Ranch for a while. However, this year a group of employees also visited the Ranch to help us repair irrigation

and transplant sacatons! What a treat with such a fun group- thank you for your support Riester crew! Similarly, a local high school's Green Club helped us design some habitat improvements to our Chiricahua Leopard frog tanks, purchased the materials for us and then helped us install them!! Definitely a fantastic group of young adults!

Many of you generously volunteered your time. From our week-long volunteer trips when you helped us move gravel, lay brick, clean out the shop and greenhouse, improve our wetlands, transplant seriously poke-y plants and even enjoy a couple

marvelous hikes in your spare time!! We are so impressed and could not have asked for more dedicated groups! Other volunteers helped us throughout the year, checking game cameras, presenting at our Potluck and Presentation series, tirelessly helping us with vegetation monitoring and even trimming some of the large trees around the buildings

to help keep us Firewise (which came in handy!!).



Devoted vegetation monitoring volunteers



Our dedicated service trip volunteers.



We are so excited for the year ahead! Whether it is financial or volunteer support, we love working with all of you! In the upcoming year, we are hoping to use your financial support to update our research lab facilities! We aim to appeal to a broader range of researchers, so we would love to have equipment to help facilitate their work! From a drying oven for our soil researchers to a centrifuge to help our molecular researchers to prepare field samples- we can't wait to make the lab a more diverse and productive space! Furthermore, we aim to update some of our researcher housing accommodations. We would also like focus support this year to road maintenance and updating the road signs on the Ranch!

Over the coming months, last year's successful Montezuma quail woodcarving raffle will help us continue to support young academics in their research endeavors. Thank you to all who participated! Our 2019 raffle is an exciting sandhill crane experience at our sister station, the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary in Kearney, Nebraska! The winning ticket holder will enjoy a three-day/two night stay for four guests near the sanctuary. During their stay, guests can partake in tours, explore the site, view sandhill cranes and other waterfowl from viewing blinds all while being in the center of America's greatest migration event. Raffle tickets are only \$50/each- what a deal! Drawing will occur 09/19; trip must occur between March and April 2020. Purchase tickets during your next visit to the Ranch, mail a check or call 520-455-5522.



Sandhill cranes at the beautiful Rowe Sanctuary, NE

We thank you all for an amazing 2018! We hope you join us and continue your support in 2019. We could not do our work without you! More so, as you are all considered family, we wouldn't want to!

Thank you friends,

Cristina Francois, Director
Ben Beal, Conservation Program Manager
Suzanne Wilcox, Office ninja



P.S. Keep up with us on our AWRR Facebook page!