

October 2012

## NMLC Celebrates Our Conservation Community

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Dear Friends,

Summer has flown by! Here at the New Mexico Land Conservancy we've been busy on many fronts. We have enjoyed traveling the state to meet with you and monitor your properties. Thanks as always for your help in our stewardship efforts. We hope that this new landowner newsletter, *The Land Steward*, will allow us to keep in touch with you even as monitoring season comes to an end.

This is the second edition of *The Land Steward*. In our first edition we invited you to share feedback about how we can make this publication as useful and interesting as possible for you. We'd like to extend that invitation again! Please get in touch with us about ideas for content, format, or anything else that crosses your mind. One of our goals for this newsletter is to connect you, our landowners, to each other. You are all part of a growing land conservation community in New Mexico. We hope you join us in sharing ideas!

In that spirit of celebrating community and sharing ideas, NMLC is excited to present our first annual Jane Wing Petcheksy Conservation Award to Dr. William deBuys on October 12, 2012 at Bishop's Lodge Resort in Santa Fe.

As many of you know, Dr. deBuys is a noted author and conservationist who has long been active in the southwest. His new book, *A Great Aridness*, is an engaging look into the trajectory of the southwest in a dry future. We are excited to host him and many of NMLC's friends and supporters at this event!

For more information, please visit [nmlandconservancy.org](http://nmlandconservancy.org), or just give us a call. This annual event is a great way to get more involved in NMLC's network of conservation-minded people in New Mexico.

Thanks for reading, and we wish you a very happy start to fall!

Best regards,



Michael Scisco  
Conservation Director  
New Mexico Land Conservancy



## You are our best ambassadors

As owners of conserved land, you are our best ambassadors for NMLC's work across the state. We need your help reaching out to neighbors and communities who may not be familiar with conservation easements. When you talk about how working with NMLC has helped your family reach its goals, you are a persuasive advocate for land conservation!

We hope that you encounter many opportunities to speak informally with your neighbors about these topics. If you'd like to join us at an outreach event and speak more formally to a group about your experiences, just let us know. And if you know of a friend who may be interested in working with NMLC, please connect us!

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Program Deadlines**

These application evaluation period deadlines are subject to change pending passage of the 2012 Farm Bill. For more information, go to:  
[www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/](http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/)

#### **December 21, 2012**

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP),  
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Wildlife  
Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

#### **January 18, 2013**

Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP),  
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Wetland Reserve  
Program (WRP)

## **How's the weather out there?**

You might have noticed that when we monitored your property this year we asked how much rain you've had. This information helps us steward your land by allowing us to connect precipitation totals with our annual monitoring photos. It's always interesting to compare photos from year to year, and with your help, we will be able to compare rainfall, too.

If you don't already have a rain gauge, consider getting one!

Here's an inexpensive option:

<http://www.weathershack.com/taylor-precision/2702n.html>



Mesteño Draw Ranch photos courtesy of Tamara Gadzia

## Events Calendar

*Events sponsored by NMLC:*

**October 12, 2012**

Jane Wing Petchesky

Conservation Award Gala

First annual award presented to

Dr. William deBuys

Bishops Lodge Resort, Santa Fe, NM

More info at [nmlandconservancy.org](http://nmlandconservancy.org)

*Events sponsored by other organizations:*

**November 14-16, 2012**

11th Annual Quivira Coalition Conference

“How to Feed Nine Billion People From the Ground Up: Soil, Seeds, Water, Plants, Livestock, Forests, Organics, and People”

Albuquerque, New Mexico

For more information and to register:

[quiviracoalition.org](http://quiviracoalition.org)

**Feb 15-16, 2013**

New Mexico Organic Farming Conference

“Farming with Pollinators in Mind”

For more information and to register,

email Joanie Quinn at

[jquinn@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:jquinn@nmda.nmsu.edu)

## Welcome Our New Landowner!

We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Greg Moore to our landowner community! Greg recently helped NMLC complete a conservation easement over a portion of his ranch in Mora County. Wagon Mound Ranch is a 23,000+ acre deeded ranch just east of Wagon Mound in northeast New Mexico. This recent conservation easement included the western 7,400 acres of the ranch. Greg is currently working with NMLC to place the remaining 15,000 acres under conservation as well. This project is an exciting development for land conservation in Mora County. Stay tuned!



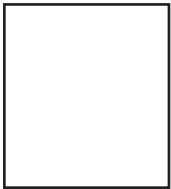
## Meet Joan Bybee and Mesteño Draw Ranch

Joan Bybee has been working since the 1990s to restore the riparian and upland areas of her Torrance County ranch. So when she decided to complete an easement over the ranch with NMLC in 2011, it was a logical next step towards ensuring the ecological health of her land into the future.

Through partnerships with the Quivira Coalition, NRCS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others, Joan is conducting ongoing restoration projects across her ranch. Volunteers have helped build rock structures in Mesteño Draw to restore its meandering nature and floodplain

connectivity. These structures range from simple one-rock dams to more complex Zuni bowls, and have had amazing results trapping sediment and encouraging vegetation growth in the draw. Riparian willow plantings and upland erosion control structures called medialunas are also helping to improve the health of the ranch's grasslands. These efforts will help Joan's grassfed beef business remain sustainable long into the future. For more information or to get involved, you can contact NMLC, or like Mesteño Draw Ranch on Facebook. Thanks, Joan, for your hard work and exemplary stewardship!





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Preserving New Mexico's Land Heritage

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Questions, comments, information to share? Please contact us!

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