

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge



American Avocets
Crystal Reservoir

Photo © Kari Tyrone

The Friends of the Desert National Wildlife Refuges Complex held a photo contest. The participants had to submit their works between May 1 and May 31. It is time to announce the winner!

“I love Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge”, says Kari Tyrone. Her photo of American Avocets at Crystal Reservoir in Ash Meadows claimed first prize in the Friends of the Desert Refuges photo contest.

Kari has lived in Nevada for over 25 years and loves to explore the surrounding areas. She has a passion for nature, wildlife, photography and particularly enjoys visiting Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge (near Alamo, Nevada) and Ash Meadows, both of which are crucial to migratory birds.

This amateur photo contest was aimed at raising awareness of southern Nevada wildlife refuges. When we asked Kari to share her thoughts about Ash Meadows with others she said, “Go stare into the most amazing blue springs, see the stark contrast of the bluest of blue color against the ashy white of the ground. Smell the desert brush-scented breeze. Spot a bird of prey or a visiting loon on Crystal Reservoir. Watch a great egret, go fishing, and so much more! Enjoy the peaceful sounds of nature and just BE.”

Please join us to congratulate Kari whose shorebirds photo won both the popular vote category and the judges’ choice award.

Great photo Kari and thanks for sharing with us.



Kari Tyrone



Take photographs, not just pictures

- Your picture should tell a story, so determine what you want to express and the most dramatic way to do it. Not centering the subject is an easy way to make a photo more dramatic.
- Avoid blurry photos by using a tripod or shooting at a faster shutter speed to stop the action of moving subjects.
- Simpler is better. Avoid having a busy background or foreground, so the subject is easily identifiable and not too far away. Don’t be the person that says, “See that dot in my photo? That was a bighorn sheep on the ridge.”
- Lighting is vital and oftentimes moving a few steps can change a photo dramatically.
- Take a closer look at the image. Does it tell a story? How is the lighting? Is the image dramatic and does it capture the feeling of the moment? Picture what you are seeing as a framed photo on the wall and if you like what you see, press that shutter button to get the award winning photograph.

Advice from professional photographer, Sharon Schaefer

People of the Refuge

Ash Meadows has an exquisite history, and its unique character has been the focus of work and study of numerous people for a long time. Just like Ash Meadows is proud of the endemic treasures that exist only within its boundaries, it also takes pride in its people who devote their talents, enthusiasm and time to keep Ash Meadows healthy. Volunteers and interns find various ways to participate in Ash Meadows restoration and maintenance such as volunteer, Pathways, and AmeriCorps programs. They are gaining valuable experience in different areas, and the refuge is gaining a valuable helping hand.

William Thomas is a volunteer through AmeriCorps, a program designed to serve public needs such as health, education and environment, and to offer professional experience to the service members. This is his first experience working with land management in a purely conservational context. His focus is removing invasive plants and animals to support healthy ecosystems.



Joey Bauer is spending her summer break as an intern at Ash Meadows NWR. She had always enjoyed spending time here, and having the chance to work in the refuge and studying the wildlife is a great opportunity. "Wildlife surveying, habitat monitoring and restoration are important management activities that provide me with essential knowledge for my future career."



Lydia Bailey is another helpful AmeriCorps volunteer at Ash Meadows. She says, "My time at Ash Meadows has given me first-hand experience with land management practices and a better understanding of the work that goes into conservation and restoration." Daily activities at Ash Meadows such as controlling invasive plants and fish and plant identification will help her to achieve these goals.



Miguel Jimenez has been involved in the Pathways Internship program. "Ash Meadows NWR will help me achieve these goals by further diversifying my skill set in conducting Nevada Bird Count Surveys, helping with restoration projects, and fish surveys for the endangered pupfish", says Miguel.



Marco Negovschi is also an AmeriCorps volunteer at Ash Meadows. He says that his work will aid in the eventual restoration of the natural alkali meadow and wetland habitats that historically existed before commercial agriculture altered the landscape.



FAREWELL, JOSH!



The staff at Ash Meadows would like to wish Joshua Prososki the best in his new position as a Hydrologist for the state of Minnesota. Two years ago, Josh was hired as a Hydrology Technician at the Refuge. We have greatly appreciated his work toward a better understanding of the hydrology of our unique spring pools and flowing streams. In his time here, Josh gained valuable experience in the largest remaining oasis in the Mojave Desert. Coming from the beautiful Land of 10,000 Lakes with an education that focused on hydrology, it was always Josh's goal to eventually find his way back to his home state. Although he will be missed, we are excited to see his goal realized. Perhaps the Twins will now have better luck with their biggest fan within cheering distance.

*The future of Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is in your hands! YOU can benefit wildlife habitat and help people working here. Individuals and groups of all ages are welcome. Scheduling is flexible. Call to become a volunteer today!
775-372-5435*

New Species in Ash Meadows!



http://arizonensis.org/images/plantae/calystegia_longipes.jpg



By Lydia Bailey

A new species has been added to our plant list, never before recorded in Ash Meadows! *Calystegia longipes*, commonly called the **Paiute false bindweed**, is a vine in the morning glory family.

Although *C. longipes* is native to California, Utah, Arizona and Nevada, it is still rare in those areas. While most members of the morning glory family open their flowers only after the sun strikes them, *C. longipes* is unusual because it blooms before morning light reaches it. It is easily distinguished from the invasive field bindweed by its much larger flowers and narrow, deeply trilobed leaves. Currently, only one individual is known on the refuge, growing among sedges in the outflow channel of Jackrabbit spring.

Reference: Austin, D. Rare Convolvulaceae in the Southwestern United States. 1992. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* Vol 79, No 1. Pg. 8-16.



Full Moon over Ash Meadows in July

Summer Tranquility

Summer at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is quiet and peaceful. Although wildlife and people seek shade to survive the hot temperatures which can reach over 100° F, the refuge is teeming with vigor and color. Visitors can enjoy soft whispering of the wind in the verdant screw bean and honey mesquites and listen to vibrant trickling of the Caribbean-blue water in the streams and springs.



The Blues of Crystal Spring



Clouds always welcome in summer



Longstreet Cabin



Oasis in the Desert



Spring-loving Centaury

610 E. Spring Meadows Road
Amargosa Valley, Nevada 89020
Phone 775-372-5435
E-mail: cyndi_souza@fws.gov

The refuge is open from Sunrise to Sunset every day
Visitor Center Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.
Open holidays / weekends when staff or volunteers available

Website: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash_meadows/
Don't forget we are on Facebook too!

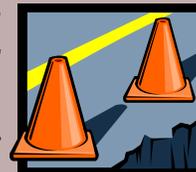


Maintenance announcement

Between the middle of August and the end of September the main road through the refuge, Spring Meadows Road, will be reduced to one lane of traffic. The refuge is in the process of moving power lines underground.

Please follow the traffic rules and regulations.

We apologize for any inconvenience.



Heat Safety Tips

Summer brought extremely high temperatures to Southern Nevada this year. Las Vegas with its 117°F (47.2°C) beat its temperature record for June (116°F or 46.6°C) recorded in 1940. On July 10th, 2013, Death Valley celebrated the 100th anniversary of the world record high temperature. In 1913, the thermometer at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley showed 134°F (56.7°C)!

Please stay safe by following these tips published on the American Red Cross website (<http://www.redcross.org/news/article/How-to-Stay-Safe-While-The-Heat-Is-On>):

- **Never leave children or pets alone in enclosed vehicles.**
- **Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids, even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.**
- **Avoid extreme temperature changes.**
- **Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays. Long-sleeved clothing will also protect your from the sun. In addition, make sure to carry sunscreen and a hat with you.**
- **Slow down, stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.**
- **Postpone outdoor games and activities.**
- **Use a buddy system when working in excessive heat. Take frequent breaks if you must work outdoors.**
- **Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.**
- **Check on your animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat.**