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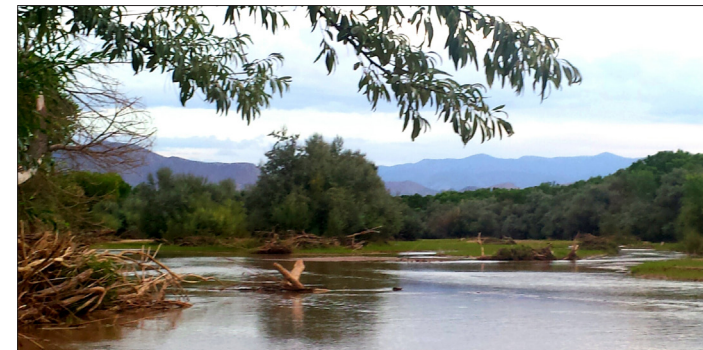
**Muncy Family Ranch Protected Forever**



We are very pleased to announce that RGALT has taken a very special property under its protection. Working together with the Muncy family and our partners, we have accepted into trust this beautiful Socorro County ranch that snakes alongside the Rio Grande. The conservation easement project forever protects 530 acres of riparian habitat along two and half river miles. Protected under the CE is a historic crane roost, which provides night-time roosting for hundreds of cranes seeking protection from their predators while they sleep.

With each of our conservation easements we begin a relationship with the landowner and their family taking the time and having the conversations about their land and the future. Through this journey we build the trust needed to forever protect these working lands and gain an understanding of their land ethic and the legacy they want to leave behind.

The Muncy Ranch project began in 2012 when we initiated our first conversations with Chuck Muncy, Sr., and his wife Patty. They had a strong desire to protect this special place but needed help with funding. RGALT was able to assist with this aspect by including the ranch project in our second Rio Grande Corridor New Mexico – North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant proposal. The Muncy Ranch conservation easement project was approved for NAWCA funding in 2014. That same year, Chuck Sr. was diagnosed with terminal cancer and passed soon after. It was his wish to ensure the ranch was protected forever. Working with his wife Patty and son, Chuck Jr., we were able to take the project



to finish.

The Muncy CE project exemplifies the marriage between agriculture and wildlife conservation; it not only protects a working ranch, but also critical wildlife habitat including migratory birds. The ranch is comprised of wetlands, flooded forest, cottonwood mixed forest, and upland desert grasslands, providing the perfect habitat for large game including deer, elk, bear, lion, as well as endangered species.

It has been our honor and pleasure to work with the Muncy family, ensuring Mr. Muncy's wishes were respected and the legacy of his land ethic is protected forever.



Chuck Muncy Jr. on his family's ranch in 2018.

**Note from the Director**

Dear Friends,

Chilly nights are upon us and we find ourselves in the amber glow of autumn. Fall is my favorite time of year in the Rio Grande valley; it bursts with the rich colors of sunflowers and purple asters fully blooming, the green fields lined with cottonwood trees tinged in gold, chiles red in the fields, the homey scent of roasted green chiles wafting through the air, and the arrival of the first Sandhill cranes. I invite you to please take a moment of pause to let us catch you up on RGALT's 2018 accomplishments.

We want to share stories about our new conservation easement (CE), update you about our work with new and old partners, tell you about our organizational changes, and invite you to join us in celebrating the abundance of our farms at our November fundraising event, a Fall Harvest Matanza Dinner. Please know we are always working to improve our ability to protect the land, water, wildlife and cultural traditions in this place we call home.

Cecilia Rosacker  
 RGALT Executive Director

**SPONSOR THE**  
**2018 HARVEST DINNER!**

**FARMALL: \$500 - TWO TICKETS AT 50%**

**MASSEY-FERGUSON: \$1,000 - TWO TICKETS FREE**

**MINNEAPOLIS-MOLINE: \$2,500: FOUR TICKETS FREE**

**JOHN DEERE: \$5,000 - SIX TICKETS FREE**

**CONTACT CECILIA ROSACKER (505) 270-4421**

ANNUAL RIO GRANDE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST FUNDRAISER



**HARVEST DINNER**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

1:00 PM - DUSK

*Experience a New Mexico Tradition -*

**FALL MATANZA ON THE FARM**

**RGALT invites you to enjoy a wood-fire roasted feast of locally farmed meats and vegetables at La Joya Farms - our premier conservation project.**

The Taliaferro family generously welcome you to experience their unique 700-acre farm surrounded by the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy dinner in the farm field and watch the sunset over the Rio Grande with the rugged Ladronez Mountains as a backdrop.

**Live and silent auction • Music by Lone Piñon**  
**Tickets and details at [www.rgalt.org](http://www.rgalt.org)**

RGALT is 501(c)3 non-profit; all ticket purchases and donations are tax-deductible.



**RIO GRANDE**  
**AGRICULTURAL**  
**LAND TRUST**  
 RGALT protects agricultural  
 land and water for people  
 and wildlife, forever.



# Harvest Fundraising Dinner

We are thrilled to tell you about our upcoming annual fundraising event, a **2018 Harvest Dinner on Sunday November 18 from 1pm – dusk at La Joya Farms**, one of our premier conservation projects. We want you to experience first-hand the intersection between agriculture and wildlife conservation. And in keeping with New Mexico's cultural traditions, we are working with Albuquerque's finest chefs to prepare a wood-fire roasted feast, a matanza of local meats and fall vegetables. Dinner will be served in the farm field overlooking the Rio Grande, the cottonwoods glowing golden in their fall colors. As the sun sets we will watch the cranes journey from the fields to their river roosts, all against a backdrop of the rugged Ladrones Mountains.

La Joya Farms is a perfect setting for celebrating our work and demonstrating our holistic approach to conservation. Once a part of the La Joya Spanish Land Grant, this beautiful expanse of irrigated farmland is adjacent to the Rio Grande and is surrounded by the USFWS Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge and the Ladd-Gordon Waterbird Complex. RGALT has three conservation easements on the 700 acre La Joya Farms and we are currently working on two more projects protecting hundreds more acres of agricultural and riparian lands. We have achieved these conservation projects through our North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants that protect migratory bird habitat, including irrigated farmland.

We are grateful to Hank and Kelly Taliaferro for graciously opening their family farm to the community and for allowing us



Guests mingle and dine at the 2017 Harvest Dinner

to share in their conservation dream. We can't think of a better way to celebrate our work than to bring our supporters out on this land to taste the abundance of our farms and meet our generous conservation landowners who protect these special places for all of us, forever.

Visit our website for tickets, [www.rgalt.org](http://www.rgalt.org)!

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## CONGRATULATIONS HANK TALIAFERRO!

Recognized by the Intermountain West Joint Venture as the 2018 private landowner conservation champion award winner!

Hank Taliaferro has been selected as the 2018 Intermountain West Joint Venture private landowner conservation champion award winner! This award recognizes and honors private landowners for their contributions to natural resource conservation and management in the Intermountain West in alignment with the goals, objectives, and priorities of the IWJV. Further, the individual or entity is a community-based conservation leader and helps to promote this conservation model at multiple scales. *"I have had the opportunity to work with many private landowners along the Rio Grande over the years, and I have never found a landowner more committed to protecting the wildlife, wildlife habitat, and agricultural lands within the Rio Grande corridor than Hank Taliaferro".* –Alan Hamilton, President, Rio Grande Return

Hank is every land trust's dream conservationist; not only is his dream to protect his farm, but he also works to improve farm productivity while still managing the land to benefit wildlife. The Taliaferro's La Joya Farm is surrounded by the Sevilleta



NWR and the NM's Ladd-Gordon Waterbird Complex, and includes three RGALT land conservation easements with two more underway. The Taliaferros have used much of their own funding to preserve and enhance a substantial section of the Middle Rio Grande Valley. They focus on several sources of revenue including that earned from farming and ranching operations, hunting opportunities and ecotourism development.

An enormous number of wintering geese, ducks, sandhill cranes, as well as migrating shorebirds and passerines can be found in the bosque and farm fields at various times throughout the year. RGALT has worked with Taliaferros to protect hundreds of acres of farmland and riparian bosque with some funding coming from our North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants.

Since RGALT's initial relationship with the Taliaferros, the conservation effort has grown to become a true example of a holistic approach to conservation. RGALT has worked with the Taliaferros helping to facilitate the implementation of several conservation organization's programs, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District, Save Our Bosque Task Force, Rio Grande Return, and North American Wetlands Conservation Act funding. This is an ongoing collaborative effort to preserve this important ecological area, forever.

RGALT supporters can experience La Joya Farms by attending this year's Fall Matanza Fundraising Harvest Dinner.



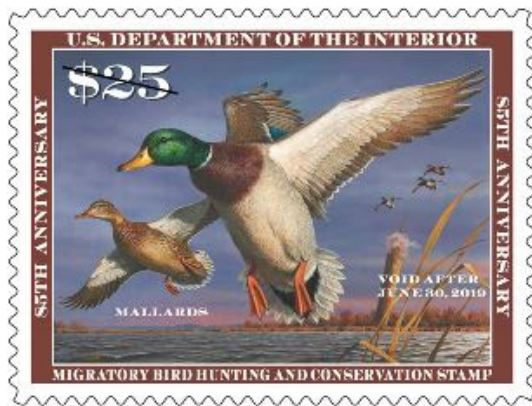
# The Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial

*Have you ever wondered why migratory birds are protected by federal law across North America?*

Enacted in 1918, this landmark agreement has been the cornerstone of migratory bird management across North America for 100 years. The story behind this visionary waterfowl management partnership, which represents one of the greatest conservation achievements of the 20th century, still resonates today. The Rio Grande is a critical link for migratory birds journeying from Canada to Mexico in the Central Flyway. RGALT's private land conservation work in NM's Middle Rio Grande, protects private lands that provide critical linkages along the migratory bird corridor. Join us in celebrating the Migratory Bird Treaty, a true conservation victory!

*"If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environmental problems in the world."*

— Thomas Lovejoy, biologist and conservationist.



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## Cross Watershed Network Conference



The 2018 Cross Watershed Network Conference was held at Sevilleta NWR. Private landowners, non-profits, scientists, land managers, consultants, and watershed enthusiasts from across the West came together to share their knowledge, expertise, and lessons learned about watershed restoration. RGALT was thrilled to take the group out to tour our conservation easements, as well as help sponsor the conference.



# Connecting the Corridor for Wildlife

## Places & People of the Middle Rio Grande Corridor, New Mexico

The Intermountain West Joint Ventures (IWJV) operates in 11 western states building and strengthening partnerships - the lifeblood of wildlife and agriculture conservation in the Intermountain West.

Excerpt from [www.iwvjv.org](http://www.iwvjv.org)  
In April the IWJV Management Board held their annual meeting in NM. Conservation partners, including RGALT lead a day long tour of the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) giving the board a snapshot of the places and people that protect the river corridor and connect the Middle Rio Grande Corridor for wildlife. Hank Taliaferro's La Joya Farms, where RGALT holds several conservation easement properties were included in the tour.

*"Since time immemorial, the Rio Grande has been a wild and unpredictable river. Over the last several centuries, human settlers have*

*altered the river and its flows. Very large areas of wetland habitat and the beautiful array of wildlife that live in them were destroyed, and it was once assumed that they were gone forever. That is, until conservation-minded people started restoring and protecting habitats in the area, resulting in today's corridor of refuges, wildlife management areas, and private lands that provide important habitat for migratory birds, big game, and a host of other wildlife and plants"*

RGALT plays a key role in connecting the corridor, protecting privately owned flood irrigated agricultural land and the riparian floodplain of the Rio Grande and its tributaries. This important partnership, and many others like it, comprised of federal agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations, tribes, universities, policymakers, corporations, foundations, and private landowners,



(l to r) Cecilia Rosacker, RGALT; Alan Hamilton, Rio Grande Return; Hank Taliaferro, CE land owner; Dave Smith, IWJV; Gina Dellorusso, SOBTF at Taliaferro's La Joya Farm CE.

reflect a broad diversity of values, landscapes, and land-use patterns in the Intermountain West. These partnerships are the lifeblood of conservation and agriculture in this region.

# GROWING THE ORGANIZATION

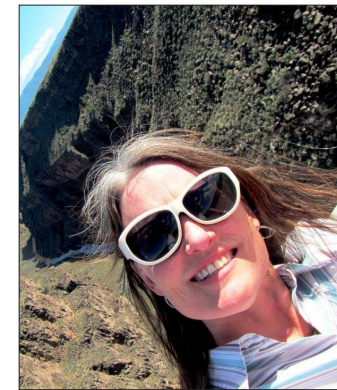
RGALT is assembling an outstanding "A-team" of individuals to complete our mission! One of the key aspects of protecting important lands in the community is building a knowledgeable and diverse team. This past year RGALT strengthened the already powerful team, gaining five new board members.

Our new board members include Zoey Fink, Elan Silverblatt-Buser, Angela Schackel Bordegaray, Michael

Donovan, and Allison Mazan. Zoey serves as the Program Coordinator for the Refugee Agriculture Program - Tres Hermanas Farm in Albuquerque. Elan is a founder and co-owner of Silver Leaf Farms in Corrales. Angela is a Water Planner for the NM Interstate Stream Commission. Michael Donovan is retired with a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology and held faculty appointments at WVU,

Southern Utah University and Lake Superior State University. Allison works for Dennis Engineering in Socorro and has a background in agriculture and conservation. We are excited for the community-based, scientific and agricultural knowledge and expertise Zoey, Elan, Angela, Michael, and Allison bring to our already mighty board!

Angela



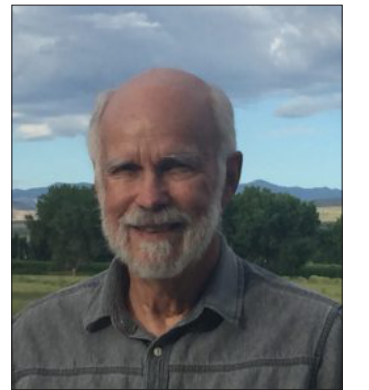
Elan



Zoey



Michael



(Allison, not pictured)

## BERNALILLO COUNTY CONSERVATION EASEMENT WORKSHOP & CE GUIDEBOOK

RGALT and Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) are partnering to protect agriculture in Bernalillo County. Together we published a Conservation Easement(CE)Guidebook for landowners. The guidebook provides information about conservation easements and how they can be a tool to protect lands cherished by the community. The book addresses frequently asked questions and serves as a resource for anyone thinking



about conserving their land for future generations. Visit our website at [www.rgalt.org](http://www.rgalt.org) to download your free copy.

As part of this initiative we are conducting CE Workshops pulling in partners such as NRCS and Bernalillo County to present on their conservation programs.. Attendees will learn about conservation easements and funding opportunities to protect their land. Our fall

CE workshop will be held on October 25 at the AgriNature Center at 5:30-7pm.

For more information call 505-510-DIRT (3478).

**Conservation Easements are a legal tool to protect your family land - forever.**

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

YES! I want to help Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust preserve working farms and agricultural, scenic, and open space in New Mexico!

Benefactor of RGALT - (\$1,000 or more)

Patron of RGALT - (\$250 or more)

Steward of RGALT - (\$50 or more)

Member of RGALT - (\$35)

Friend of RGALT - (up to \$35)

THANK YOU!

Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

All contributions are tax deductible.

Learn more by visiting:

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