

2011 Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center Awards

The Fifth Annual Recognition Awards for Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center are dedicated to the “four legs” of the Quivira Coalition’s original “chair” —ranchers, conservationists, civil servants and researchers. We wish to recognize those individuals in each category who have shown remarkable and enduring leadership in the difficult job of working in the radical center — the place where people are coming together to explore their common interests rather than argue their differences, as described by author and conservation leader Bill deBuys.

We believe that the radical center is where real change happens. As Aldo Leopold said it happens on the “actual landscape of the back forty.” But change needs strong leadership, especially in this era of seemingly endless partisanship. We continue to honor those who have advanced the cause of the radical center with integrity, vision and determination – sometimes against long odds. Each has inspired us with their dedication to family, community, healthy lands and advancement through their teaching, writing, research, service, work and good humor. Through their efforts and leadership they have been a strong voice for the common bonds that unite us. We are proud to recognize these fine individuals.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Quivira Coalition, we are honored to present the “Outstanding Leadership” Awards for 2011 to:

RANCHING. *Guy Glosson* is a friend and mentor to the Quivira Coalition. He has managed Mesquite Grove Ranch, Snyder, Texas, for 20 years and teaches low stress livestock handling clinics on ranches in Montana, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Hawaii and in Africa. The core of low stress livestock handling is patience, kindness and respect toward animals. Guy initially learned the necessary skills from Bud Williams, a Canadian rancher and innovator.

Attending one of Guy’s clinics is as entertaining as it is informative. As Craig Conley, says, “Guy generously shares his profound wisdom, most of which seems to have been acquired while staring at the tail end of a cow or a steer. He has taught innumerable neophyte city slickers how to thread a herd of 30 jumpy steers through a four foot gate or to perform the impossible feat of a figure eight. His lessons in low stress livestock management transcend just moving cows but provide invaluable lessons for how to live in this world. He is a true master teacher who captures the essence of the Quivira spirit. Perhaps his most enduring lesson is to ask “why” which must be pronounced in west Texan so it sounds like ‘whaaaa’ in order to be fully understood and appreciated.”



CONSERVATION. Robin Seydel is a consumer and a health and environment community organizer. For more than 25 years she has worked on building the alternative economic system at La Montañita Co-op as newspaper editor and coordinator of membership, community development and education. La Montañita Co-op is a consumer cooperative owned by over 17,000 New Mexican households, with stores in Santa Fe, Gallup and three in Albuquerque.

Since 1999, she has been a registered organic grower of medicinal and culinary herbs, fruit, and nuts; has taught at the Southwest College of Botanical Medicine; and has a private clinical herbal practice. Her writings have appeared in numerous periodicals, newspapers and books. She speaks regularly on a variety of food and cooperative issues at regional and national meetings and facilitates for communities that seek to design their own co-ops. She is the director of the new La Montañita Fund, a grassroots investment and microloan cooperative created to grow the regional food system and strengthen the New Mexican economy. Robin made it possible for the hotel to purchase local products for conference meals.



CIVIL SERVICE. George Long was raised in Denver, Colorado, and graduated from Colorado State University in 1978 with a degree in Forest and Range Management. After graduation he worked as a Reclamation Specialist for the BLM in Northwest Colorado reviewing energy mineral applications and writing reclamation specifications for oil shale development, coal mine permits, pipeline permits and oil/gas well permits.

In 1989, George began graduate studies in Wildlife Management at the University of Arizona. In 1992, he joined the U.S. Forest Service, Carson National Forest, Questa Ranger District as a Wildlife Biologist. Partnerships and grants became his main focus to accomplish wildlife habitat objectives on the Questa Ranger District. In 1999, George was part of a team of biologists who received the USDA Secretary Honor Award for native Rio Grande trout habitat restoration and partnership work.

Today, 17 years after the start of his Forest Service career, this focus on partnerships and wildlife habitat restoration is more important than ever. Together with key partners, including the Quivira Coalition, Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Trout, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation and others, George is making a difference for the fish.



RESEARCH. Bill deBuys, Ph.D., has long been active in environmental affairs. From 1982 to 1986, he directed the North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; and, from the late 1980s through the 1990s he represented The Conservation Fund in the Southwest. His efforts have led to the permanent protection of more than 150,000 acres of wild lands in North Carolina and the Southwest.

From 1997 to 2004, he developed and directed the Valle Grande Grass Bank, a cooperative effort involving ranchers, conservationists and public agencies in the rehabilitation of rangelands in northern New Mexico. The Quivira Coalition continued the project from 2004-2010. In 2000, the effort earned the National Range Management Award of the U. S. Forest Service. From 2001 to 2004, by appointment of President William Clinton, he served as founding chairman of the Valles Caldera Trust which administers the 89,000 acre Valles Caldera National Preserve under an experimental approach to the management of public lands.

DeBuys' current publication, *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest*, examines the precariousness of life in the Southwest and the likely impact on the region of climate change, which promises to transform the Southwest as emphatically as it is already altering the Arctic.

