

# Dragons and damsels

**Gary Froehlich shares the beauty of Bosque del Apache at a New Mexico Tech photography exhibit**

**Story by Stephanie Holinka • Photos by Gary Froehlich**

Sometimes art inspires science, but Gary Froehlich's (5345) work in the science of optics inspired him to learn more about the art of photography. But Gary's training in optics came before his interest in photography.

"After my training," Gary says, "I figured that maybe I should have a camera."

Gary combined his technical skill with patience and his love of nature to photograph all types of wildlife, sometimes remaining near-motionless for hours at a time to get that perfect shot.

"Dragons and Damsels of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge," an exhibit at New Mexico Tech's Macey Center, showcases more than 40 of Gary's dragonfly and damselfly prints taken over many years of visits to the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge.

He attributes his love of nature to his grandmother, who led Girl Scouts on wildflower walks and nature hikes when he was young. "She was a Scout leader for more than 65 years," Gary says, "which is still, I believe, a record."

His grandmother allowed him to join her scouts on their nature adventures, allowing him to earn many of the nature-oriented merit badges for both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts along the way.

Gary's photos appear in many books including *The Stokes Field Guide to Birds*, as well as some of the Stokes Beginner's Guides. His photos will also appear in UNM Press' upcoming "Raptors of New Mexico."

Some people may recognize Gary as the cover model for the 2008 edition of *Labs Accomplishments*, where he stood inside an anechoic chamber at the Facility for Antenna and RCS Measurements (FARM), a resource used by the synthetic aperture radar groups.

Gary's field-test work at this and other ranges frequently takes place at night, leaving him with plenty of daylight to seek out all types of wildlife with his lenses. During his down-time during such field work, he's identified and documented the birds, reptiles, and insects at each of the facilities where he has spent many long days and nights.

Initially, Gary was interested in photographing birds, but he expanded his repertoire to the smaller world of insects. As a frequent visitor to Bosque del Apache, Gary has led many workshops about the birds, insects, and reptiles that inhabit the sanctuary.

He finds that the best way to learn something new

about the animals in the Bosque is to volunteer to teach a workshop.

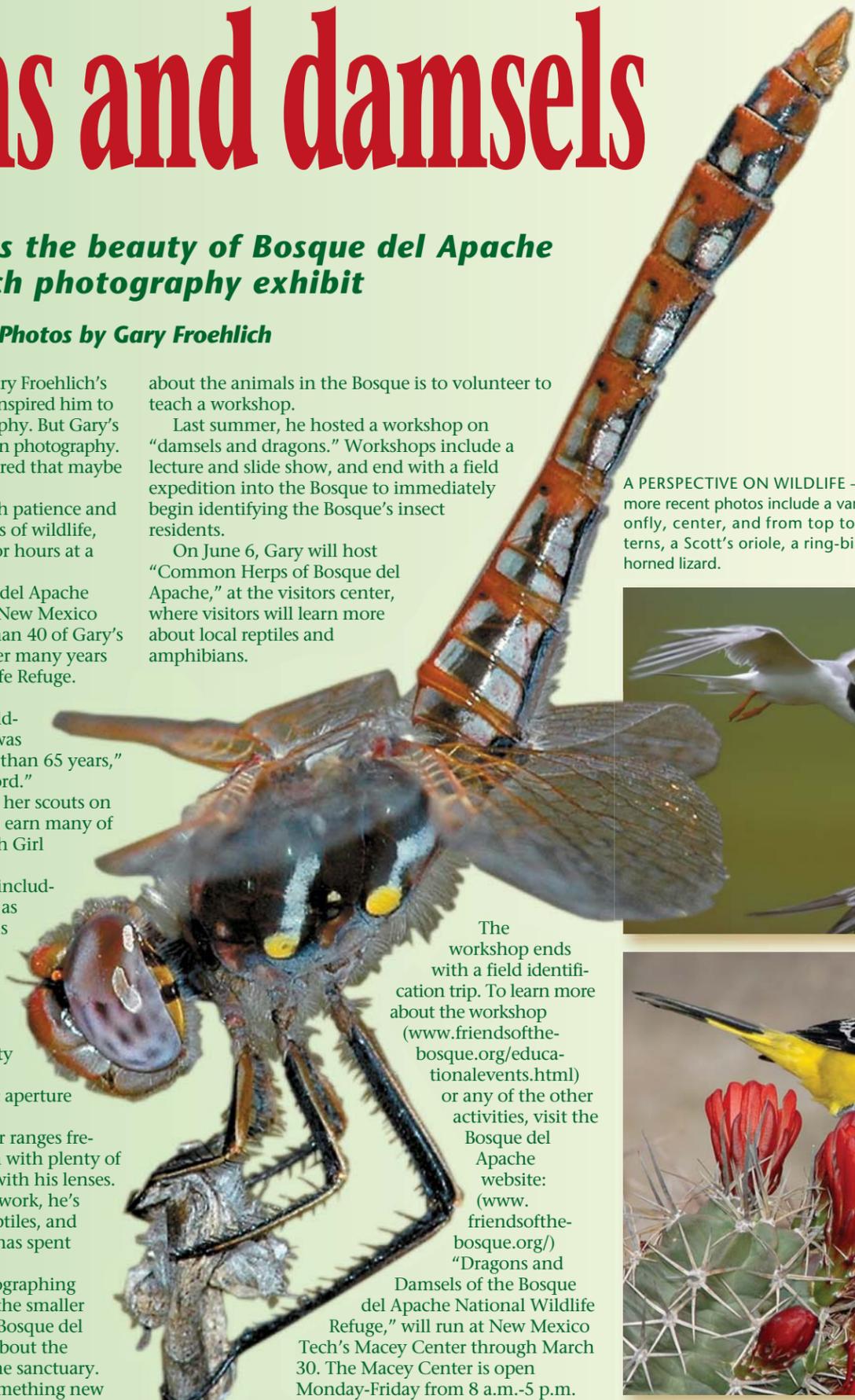
Last summer, he hosted a workshop on "damsels and dragons." Workshops include a lecture and slide show, and end with a field expedition into the Bosque to immediately begin identifying the Bosque's insect residents.

On June 6, Gary will host "Common Herps of Bosque del Apache," at the visitors center, where visitors will learn more about local reptiles and amphibians.

The workshop ends with a field identification trip. To learn more about the workshop ([www.friendsofthebosque.org/educationalevents.html](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/educationalevents.html)) or any of the other activities, visit the Bosque del Apache website: ([www.friendsofthebosque.org/](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/)) "Dragons and

Damsels of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge," will run at New Mexico Tech's Macey Center through March 30. The Macey Center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

A PERSPECTIVE ON WILDLIFE — Some of Gary Froehlich's more recent photos include a variegated meadowhawk dragonfly, center, and from top to bottom, a pair of Forster's terns, a Scott's oriole, a ring-billed gull, and a round-tailed horned lizard.



GARY FROEHLICH patiently waiting with his camera for the perfect shot.

(Photo by Randy Montoya)