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Our Vision

- Returning the Santa Fe River to a living river.
- Restoring the heart to our community

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Imagine A Living River

When water is released from the city's upstream reservoirs, as it was recently, the Santa Fe River comes gloriously alive. So THIS is what the river could be...

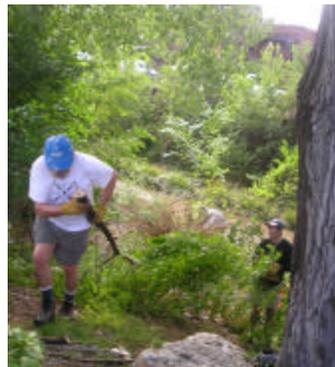
Keep that thought. Imagine a "real" Santa Fe River: a flowing, meandering, tree-lined stream where fish and frogs can swim, children can play, and which all of us can enjoy. The beauty of this river will also have a practical side; a continually flowing river will allow more water to infiltrate into the aquifer where it can be recovered through wells. A healthy river system might deliver water all the way to the Rio Grande to replace some of the water which Santa Fe City currently pumps from the Rio Grande aquifer near Buckman. A living Santa Fe River would enhance property values and provide a desirable "waterscape" for cafes, hotels, and residential dwellings. A flowing river would provide recreational fishing, and could even help restore acequia agriculture within our watershed.



David Groenfeldt is SFWA's new executive director.

Impractical? A waste of water? There is a growing scientific and economic consensus that rivers need to flow, even where water is very scarce. In arid South Africa, for example, environmental flow is the law. Living rivers stabilize the water supply, support wildlife and biodiversity, and enhance the quality of life for the whole community. What would it cost us? Releasing 1,000 acre feet per year would probably be enough, and much of that could be recovered from the aquifer using existing city wells. The lower reservoir levels would allow more storage during floods, avoiding unplanned releases. See our website for more details about how it could work. When can we do it? While there is a long, multi-year "to-do" list for full river and riparian restoration, the critical first step is already feasible: "Just add water!"

Adopt-the-River Recognition Event



Sierra Club Adopt-the-River volunteers hard at work.

It's time to say thank you to all the hard working stewards and supportive sponsors of the Adopt-the-River program. A Recognition Picnic will be held on Thursday October 5th from 4:30-6:30 P.M. at Patrick Smith Park. This will be a great chance to meet and socialize with others who are dedicated to making our river the

best it can be. Mayor Coss will be there as well as the SFWA Board to personally express their thanks. Food, music, and tokens of appreciation will be provided. Without the stewards and sponsors, the Adopt-the-River program would not exist and this is our way of saying a huge "THANK YOU"!

River Clean-up and Art Extravaganza

La Montañita Co-op Food Market, SITE Santa Fe, and SFWA joined together to host a day of art, river clean-up, and fun on Saturday, September 16th from 9:00-1:00 P.M.

The day began with over 40 people helping to clean up the river. An art contest using the trash collected followed, with everyone from tots to adults participating. Judging was by Juliet

Meyers of SITE Santa Fe and prizes were awarded in child, teen, and adult categories. A mobile with shoe, a broken bottle collage, and a trash queen were just a few of the entries.

The Community Swap was also a big hit. People brought clean high quality stuff (clothing, books, small household items) that they wanted to swap. This was a no money—barter only

event. More than one participant walked away happy with their new items. All leftover items were donated to charity.

Great snacks were provided by Annapurna Restaurant, Cloud Cliff Bakery and Café, Aroma Coffee, Fano Bread, Heidi's Jam, and La Montañita.

It was great day to help the river, to be creative, to get

and get rid of some cool stuff, enjoy great food, meet your neighbors, and help restore the Santa Fe River.



Look for another "Art and Trash" event this Spring!

"Water links us to our neighbor in a way more profound and complex than any other" - John Thorson

Santa Fe Municipal Watershed Project



The Santa Fe watershed after thinning.

The Santa Fe Watershed Association has received a \$36,000 challenge grant from the National Forest Foundation to help oversee the environmental monitoring in the upper wa-

tershed (which feeds the city's two reservoirs) and keep lines of communication open among the U.S. Forest Service, the City of Santa Fe, and local residents.

Forest thinning in the municipal watershed, which began in earnest two years ago, is nearly complete. A total of 5,200 acres has been thinned, and about 600 acres remain to be done, altogether amounting to some 75% of the non-wilderness portion of the

upper watershed. This is enough, say forest managers, to render a dreaded "crown fire" (when the fire reaches the crowns, rather than staying on the forest floor) very unlikely.

There is still work to be done: the slash from the thinned trees needs to be piled and burned as weather conditions allow. Most importantly, the environmental monitoring program needs to continue, to ensure that the forest really is on the road to health.

The Watershed Association will hold a public meeting to brief residents about the final phase of the project on Thursday, Nov 2 at the Santa Fe Public Library, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

The scientists conducting environmental monitoring studies will present their findings, and representatives from the Forest Service and the city will be available for Q & A. Contact SFWA at 820-1696 or by email at info@santafewatershed.org.

Meet the Staff

The Watershed Association has a new staff ! David Groenfeldt joined as our Executive Director in March; Pamela Dupzyk came on board last October as the Programs Director, and Raquel Tompson started as Administrative Assistant in May.

David has a background in international water projects, having worked with the Inter-



SFWA Staff: David Groenfeldt, Raquel Tompson, and Pamela Dupzyk.

national Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka, and later with the World Bank in Washington, DC. His training as an anthropologist will come in handy when dealing with our local water issues.

Pamela, a new resident of Santa Fe came from Northern California where she was the Program Director for a watershed association. Her back-

ground is in environmental education and public programs.

Raquel is a native Santa Fean and worked in corporate Human Resources for nine years. She is now a stay-at-home mom to her two young children and finds that working for SFWA is the perfect fit for her busy schedule.

San Ysidro River Park

It's Happening! After much effort and not a little frustration, the San Ysidro River Park is under construction. The groundbreaking ceremonies were held on May 14th, San Ysidro Day (see story opposite). The construction company, RL Leeder, a local Agua Fria-based company, are doing various treatments to raise the river bed, slow flow, and stabilize banks.

Treatments range from drop structures constructed of volcanic rock recycled from the landfill, a circular cement structure to be built with sand from the site, and grade control structures built for tributaries of the river constructed with recycled construction waste found on site.

Revegetation plans are also in the works. Santa Fe Permaculture will be using seed mats to replant native grasses and control weed growth. SFWA will be holding volunteer planting days in the fall to put in shrubs and small trees.

Stop by and see the park in progress!



Groundbreaking at the San Ysidro River Park.



Blessing the river and praying for rain on San Ysidro day.

El Dia de San Ysidro

On May 14, 2006, San Ysidro Day, a river blessing was held in the Traditional Village of Agua Fria. San Ysidro Labrador, the patron saint of farmers, is commonly invoked for agricultural issues, good weather and prosperous crops

The day started at the old San Ysidro Church with a commentary from Deacon Enrique Montoya. This was followed by a procession with the San Ysidro retablo from the church to the river for the blessing. With so little rain and snow this winter, the importance of water and the river to the community was even stronger than last year.

The Deacon blessed the river and the water in cups held by the people, songs were sung, and then the water was returned to the river in hopes of bringing rain and prosperity back to the river. After the blessing, everyone return to the banks and shared refreshments provided by the community.

Adopt-the-River Updates

The Adopt-the-River program is going strong with new sponsors and stewards, and our loyal continuing sponsors and stewards. We now have 19 reaches of the river adopted.

Our newest sponsor and steward is La Montañita Co-op Food Market, who have adopted a section west of St. Francis. St. Elizabeth's Shelter have become stewards on the reach from Galisteo bridge to Sandoval bridge. They will be working with volunteer landscapers designers and the City of Santa Fe, to come up with a vegetation management plan for this section.

The Rotary Club of Santa Fe has renewed their sponsorship and stewardship. The Sierra Club continues to keep the stretch from DeFouri to St. Francis looking great. The Santa Fe Garden Club who steward from Brother's Lane Bridge to Old Santa Fe Trail have submitted a proposal to the City for a new path and plantings. Thanks everyone!

For information on how you can become involved, see our website, or call us at 820-1696, or email us at info@santafewatershed.org.



The City is SFWA's partner in the Adopt-the-River Program. Mayor Coss and Jerry Lovato of the Park's Department at an Adopt-the-River work day.



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WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

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Tom Noble
Charles Nylander
Francois-Marie Patorni
Don Seegar
Roy Stephenson

Bringing the Santa Fe River back to life —restoring the heart to our community.

Join Us

If you would like to help us bring back the river, please become a member. Membership entitles you to:

- Discounted or free hikes, workshops, events
- Newsletter with email updates on general progress of organization
- Action Alerts — issue specific and time sensitive.
- SFWA Bumper Sticker

And the comfort in knowing the Santa Fe River is being looked after; and the watershed is being protected for future generations.

To become a member, please contact SFWA at 820-1696 or info@santafewatershed.org

MEMBERSHIPS:

Individual: Member \$25 Friend \$50 Supporter \$100
Donor \$250 Benefactor \$500 Patron \$1,000 plus

Business: Member \$100 Friend \$250 Supporter \$500
Donor \$1000 Benefactor \$2,500 Patron \$ 5,000 plus



Historic view of the Santa Fe River in winter.