



Santa Fe
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

1413 SECOND ST. #3
SANTA FE, NM 87505

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Leave your windows and go out, people of the world,
go into the streets, go into the fields, go into the woods
and along the streams. Go together, go alone.
Say no to the Lords of War which is Money
which is Fire. Say no by saying yes
to the air, to the earth, to the trees,
yes to the grasses, to the rivers, to the birds
and the animals and every living thing, yes
to the small houses, yes to the children. Yes.

—Wendell Berry

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Spring Currents, which spotlights our programs in the Upper Santa Fe River watershed — also known as the Santa Fe Municipal watershed. For close to three years, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been helping residents from 8 years to 80 learn where their water comes from, the role that forest health plays in securing a healthy surface-water supply, and what's being done by the City and the U.S. Forest Service to provide water security to residents of the Santa Fe River watershed, especially in this time of severe drought.

More than 1,000 4th and 5th grade public school students have visited the upper watershed through the My Water, My Watershed program. For many of them, it is their first foray into a forest. For others, Nichols Reservoir is the largest body of water they've ever seen. Still others have never stepped into a river, much less familiarized themselves with the macroinvertebrates hidden beneath the slippery rocks.

Many of us can trace our love of the natural world to a specific event, teacher, field trip, or experience that cemented our curiosity or awe at a young age. Our goal with these kids is to offer them that opportunity. In the following pages, you'll hear from one of them, and from a teacher who also appreciates the program and left with a better understanding of our water situation.

But kids aren't the only ones we work with! For adults, we offer four hikes each summer into the same area. In the spirit of Wendell Berry, come with us! Come see for yourself the beauty of our forest and river that give us the ability to live in this beautiful place we call home. We'd love to have you along. Say yes!



Felicity Broennan,
Executive Director

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Santa Fe Watershed,

On a beautiful Saturday morning in late April, I joined the Santa Fe Watershed Association staff and about a dozen of my neighbors in planting trees along the river trail upstream from Frenchy's Field. The hundreds of willows and cottonwoods that were put in last year were just beginning to leaf out, and we filled in around them with New Mexico olive, four-wing saltbush, apache plume, and other hardy, native tree and shrub species.



©Anna C. Hansen

This community tree-planting was the first of three that SFWA is organizing this Spring. It was through a similar event that I first became involved with the organization many years ago, and I loved the satisfaction of getting my hands dirty in a project that tangibly improved Santa Fe's natural environment. Today, I marvel at both the growth of the trees we planted back then and the growing number of wonderful opportunities that SFWA provides for Santa Feans of all ages to get outside and connect with each other and their watershed.

In the coming months, SFWA will be leading four guided hikes into the upper watershed, organizing river clean-ups, and teaching a Climate Masters community education course, an innovative program that recently received a Sustainable Santa Fe award from the City. You can find out more and sign up to participate in these and other activities on our web site (www.santafewatershed.org).

SFWA's diverse education, restoration, and advocacy initiatives offer something to appeal to just about everyone. With the warm weather upon us, I encourage you to join your friends, neighbors, and fellow SFWA members in getting outdoors and getting involved in this inspiring work!



SFWA President Kristina G. Fisher

Forever Changing: Our Climate and All That Goes With It

With global warming leading to climate weirding, the Santa Fe Watershed Association is expanding its program areas to help our region take measures to adapt to and mitigate the results of what's happening.

© Jamey Scillings



Esha Chiochio, Climate Solutions Coordinator

Most of us know that here in the Southwest we can expect hotter and drier climate patterns. With 2012 now declared the hottest on record across the world, there is much to do.

SFWA was chosen by the Model Forest Policy Program as one of six groups across the country to participate in a "Climate Solutions University." This ten-month intensive learning program will guide our organization through a collaborative process that will produce a climate action plan for forest and water security. Taking the lead on the project for SFWA is Esha Chiochio. Esha recently earned her Master's Degree in water planning. She is also a Climate Master graduate, active participant in ¡Got Sol! and a member of the City of Santa Fe's Sustainability Commission.

And speaking of Climate Masters, SFWA will be offering its second class in the Fall of 2013. The 30-hour course guides participants through an in-depth look at the carbon and water footprints of the major systems we all use every day. Experts from various sectors including transportation, consumption and waste, energy production, and water engage the class in a lively exploration of their personal experiences and possible solutions. The class includes a day-long field trip into the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed. To sign up for Climate Masters or learn more about it, contact SFWA Education Director Eileen Everett (eileen@santafewatershed.org, 820-1696).



© Anna C. Hansen

Leonardo Segura, graduate of Climate Masters 2012, watering willows along the Santa Fe River.



A Remarkable Victory Dashed

Graduates of SFWA's first Climate Masters class enthusiastically began a campaign to help reduce New Mexico's carbon footprint after learning that we spend an average of \$60,000 per month on electricity (!) to power the New Mexico Capitol Complex. Members of ¡Got Sol!, as they call themselves, worked tirelessly during the 2012 legislative session to secure \$185,000 from 27 bi-partisan members to fund solar panels on the garage of the State's Capitol Complex. What an excellent way to take a chunk out of that bill AND decrease the carbon footprint generated by the aging buildings. With one stroke of the pen, however, Governor Martinez vetoed the measure.

¡Got Sol!'s efforts have not been in vain. They brought this issue to the forefront, and they'll be back next year. Congratulations to the entire group for making such a huge impression out there, and for setting the bar so high for the next class! Congratulations to all members on receiving the Community Outreach Award from the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission. Here's to all of us reducing our carbon outputs and helping our state do the same!



¡Got Sol! at the 2012 Roundhouse on Renewable Energy Day

Musings from My Water, My Watershed

All of SFWA's education programs include reflective time. During these quiet moments, we ask everyone to open their senses to the world around them. These are often the moments during our field trips that we are most likely to spot wildlife – a red-tailed hawk soaring overhead, a great blue heron resting next to the reservoir, a mule deer munching on grass, or an Abert's squirrel up to some mischievous deed. Often, we provide the framework to create a sensory poem. We want to share one of our favorites:



My Watershed

I see flowers, water, rocks, and trees.
I see pine cones, bugs, beetles, and fleas.
I hear birds chirping and wind blowing,
I hear pencils writing and water flowing.
I feel rocky sand, paper, and a pencil that feels
like a horn from an ox.
I feel a clipboard, and my cut from a box.
I smell pine needles and a lemon on a dish.
I smell water with a lot of fish.
I taste my sun chips, smooth and crunchy,
and my peanut butter jelly.
I taste my cheese stick very yummy.
I think it might upset my tummy.
I wonder if I'll come again, and if the trees
will keep growing.
I wonder if some rocks will fall, and if the
water will keep flowing.

— by Michelle



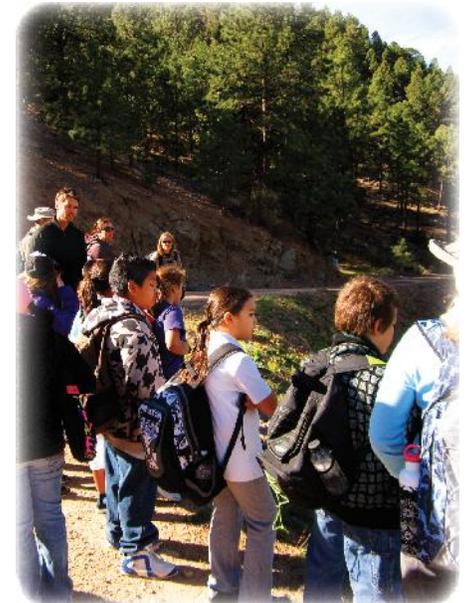
©:Anna C. Hansen (2)

A Teacher's "Thank You"

We had an awesome time on the field trip today! The children learned or reviewed so many things. They took out their tracking print cards and came to conclusions about what animals made the tracks. They made inferences about why the trees above the watershed would have been cut down. They heard about the history of the reservoir (they loved that the goats packed in the materials and then packed the soil with their hooves). They saw wild turkeys and a heron. They made connections about the interdependence of living and non-living things. They had hands-on time in the Santa Fe River to humanely capture and identify macroinvertebrates. They used keys to identify four different conifers. They practiced using all of their senses to enjoy and become more aware of their surroundings. They kept journals to record their observations, just like scientists do. They looked at rock samples and reviewed igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. It was amazing.

Thank you to everyone involved. I cannot speak more highly of the field trip. The kids have already asked if they can go again!

Thanks again, Cheryl



Look Who's Living in the Upper Watershed!

We at SFWA are a curious bunch. Whenever we're with classes in the upper watershed, we're constantly on the lookout for signs of wildlife. Whether it's tracks or scat, the resident critters leave plenty of evidence of their presence in our study area. In September 2012, we set up a wildlife camera to see what might appear. The camera has a motion detector and takes photos during the day and at night with an infrared flash.

Students from DeVargas Middle School have been deploying the camera and downloading the images. We've seen everything from an Abert's squirrel to a bobcat. It's always a little like Christmas morning when we download the images. Here are a few of our favorites!



Boys and Girls Club Program Immerses Kids in the River's World!

Last fall, SFWA expanded the My Water, My Watershed program to afterschool fun with the Santa Fe Boys and Girls Clubs. The outing introduced them to the Santa Fe River and its watershed by visiting the Santa Fe River, learning the concept of a watershed, observing the role of beavers in an ecosystem, identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates, and taking time to reflect by composing poetry. For many of these kids, it was only the second or third time that they'd been immersed in a natural environment for several hours. We love sharing nature with them!



Welcome Back

MARTY PEALE — ADOPT-THE-RIVER COORDINATOR

In the wake of Robin Hilliard’s departure as our fearless Adopt-the-River Coordinator, SFWA is honored and pleased to welcome back Marty Peale into that position.

Marty (re)joined the staff in mid-March 2013 after four years of land stewardship and hands-on educational work in landscapes blessed with more water — for example, above Truchas at 9400’ and on Orcas Island in Washington State. But she loves our climate and our community, so she is back to continue exploring our options for adapting creatively to the environmental and social challenges that are before us. Marty has an M.S. in Field Naturalism, training in riparian restoration and permaculture, decades of experience in environmental advocacy in New Mexico, Alaska and Washington, DC, as well as rewarding experiences in fundraising for small-scale, locally initiated and value-added economic development. In her spare time, Marty is stewarding riparian land of her own in El Rito, NM, and otherwise spending as much time as possible in vegetable gardens and the backcountry.



Marty sees our progress. “In the time that I’ve been away, the City has passed the ordinance that we were working on to add 1,000 acre feet to the river. Adopt has grown into the County. There are fewer elms along the river, and Adopt has a dedicated steward coordinator. We have award-winning programs reaching further into all aspects of watershed care — public school programs, greening hotels, Climate Masters, advocacy in La Cienega, and even concerts! It’s exciting to come back to an organization that has evolved so much in a few years!” We’re so glad you’re with us, Marty!



Dahl Joins Adopt-the-River

DAHL SPONSORS A RESTORED REACH OF THE RIVER ALONG THE NEW RIVER TRAIL

In November 2012, Dahl Plumbing of Santa Fe joined us as a Sponsor in the Adopt-the-River Program. Dahl sponsors the reach between Calle Don Jose and Camino Carlos Rael — from the downstream end of Rio Vista Park to the downstream end of Frenchy’s Field. This reach, the western most within the City of Santa Fe,



includes much of the new River Trail and the inspiring restoration work that the City completed downstream of St. Francis, in 2012. You’ll see Dahl’s Adopt signage on Agua Fria at Frenchy’s Field.

Dahl representative Diana Jowers writes, “We are proud to support the Santa Fe Watershed Association. Water is our most precious treasure here in ‘The City Different.’ Conserving and restoring water is imperative to keeping a healthy community for generations to come.” Please join us in welcoming and thanking Dahl for their vision and their support.

Adopt Reaches New Heights in Stewardship

We're not sure we're happy or sad! Thanks to our stellar volunteers who are organized by our Steward Coordinator Keely Kennemore, our Adopt-the-River and fledgling Adopt-an-Arroyo programs have had their best year yet. Since January 2013, 551 volunteers have spent 540 hours picking up 621 trash bags from the Santa Fe River corridor and a few reaches of Arroyo de los Pinos and Arroyo Rincon. We're thrilled that so many people have come out, offering \$9,725 worth of in-kind labor, to keep a whole lot less garbage from blowing in the Spring wind. But we're sad that there *is* so much garbage to begin with. A giant "Thank You" to all the volunteers, to the Adopt Sponsors who support the program, and to the City of Santa Fe staff who help us coordinate the volunteer efforts! It truly does take a Village!



A Living River Teems With Living Things

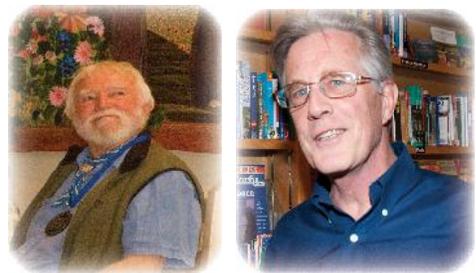
One of the centerpieces of SFWA's field trips for students into the Santa Fe River upper watershed is an introduction to the collection and identification of benthic macroinvertebrates. Benthic macroinvertebrates are organisms without backbones which can be seen with the unaided eye and live on the bottoms of streams, lakes and ponds. Some examples are insects and other arthropods (jointed-legged organisms) such as scuds, crayfish and seed shrimp. Insects comprise the bulk of bottom-dwelling communities and sometimes can make up to 95% of the total kinds of organisms found in benthic collections. Examples of these dominant insects are mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, damsel and dragonflies, beetles, true bugs, aquatic moths, hellgrammites and true flies. True flies are represented by mosquitoes, crane flies, black flies, punkies, and non-biting midges. Macroinvertebrates also include worms, leeches, clams and snails.

(continued on page 8)



Stoneflies are insects that live on the bed of healthy streams and rivers. Have you found them in the Santa Fe River? If so, let us know where! (photo by Rachel Fleming)

Come With Us on a Memorable River Journey!



Come spend a day on the Rio Chama with three spectacular luminaries! Join the Santa Fe Watershed Association and Jack Loeffler, Bill deBuys, and Steve Harris as we float this Wild & Scenic River on June 29th. We'll wind through spectacular northern New Mexico red-rock country that provides the most elegant back-drop for stimulating conversation. Our guests have more than 100 years of conservation experience between them, and boy do they have stories to tell! What a wonderful, intimate way to spend a steaming hot day in June!

We probably don't have to tell you who these guys are, but just in case, here we go! Jack Loeffler is the author of five books including his most recent *Thinking Like a Watershed*, which he edited with his daughter Celestia Loeffler. He is the recipient of a 2008 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and the 2009 Edgar Lee Hewett Award for Outstanding Public Service from the New Mexico Historical Society.

Bill deBuys is a writer and conservationist. He has written seven books, which range from memoir and biography to environmental history and studies of place. After college, he landed in New Mexico as a research assistant, initiating his deep relationship with the cultures and landscapes of the Southwest. His most recent book, *A Great Aridness* (2012), is a must-read for anyone concerned about climate change in the Southwest.

Steve Harris is executive director of the basin-wide stream-flow advocacy group, Rio Grande Restoration and president of Far-Flung Adventures (a Taos-based river outfitting business which will be our trusty guides for the day).

As this is a FUNdraiser, we are charging \$250 per person. All river equipment and a gourmet lunch will be provided. The trip would make an excellent graduation gift, birthday present, or special anniversary day! Space is limited. To reserve your spot, please contact Raquel (raquel@santafewatershed.org, 820-1696).



Teeming with Life (cont. from page 7)

Macroinvertebrates are important intermediate energy processors in food chains and webs; many feed on algae and detritus and serve as food for fish, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and birds. They are important to us also because they serve as indicator organisms; their presence or absence tells us much about the health of the environment. Many State and Federal regulatory agencies conduct surveys of macroinvertebrates to assess the condition of streams, lakes and wetlands.



Capnura fibula (photo by Steve Cary)

For most insects, the immature stage (larvae or nymph) is aquatic and the adult stage is terrestrial. Immatures in the aquatic environment range in size from a few millimeters to almost six centimeters long and have life cycles that range in length from a few weeks to one to three years. The aquatic stage is a feeding machine similar to the caterpillar stage of a butterfly. After a period of development, the immature organism leaves the water to molt into a winged adult. Adults generally are short-lived (perhaps for a few hours to a few days) and do not feed (there are always exceptions such as the adult damselflies and dragonflies which are long-lived and feed on other insects). Adults may be seen flying above the water's surface or resting on riparian vegetation. Their sole purpose is to mate and perpetuate the species.

(continued on page 9)



Santa Fe Lodging Goes GREEN!

Creating a healthy watershed isn't only about planting trees and picking up garbage, it's also about finding ways to reduce and prevent pollution and new ways to stimulate commerce. This is the premise behind the Green Lodging Initiative, a certification training offered by the Santa Fe Watershed Association and Hospitality Green, LLC (HG). HG is the founder of the nationally recognized Green Conierge Certification program. This pilot initiative, funded by a grant from EPA, supports 14 of Santa Fe's hoteliers and bed and breakfasts to meaningfully reduce their carbon, chemical, and water footprints.

The water and the waste (including chemicals used in soaps, shampoos, laundry soap, carpet cleaner...) from hotels go directly to the wastewater treatment plant, which discharges treated water back into the Santa Fe River! This water is used on crops in La Cienega, La Cieneguilla and La Bajada.

In April 2013, the Green Lodging Initiative earned a Sustainable Santa Fe Award for Economic Development. We designed the program to take a proactive approach. We are supporting the industry's shift to healthier systems and product, making a seamless transition for them and their staff, and giving them the benefit of marketing to a new demographic — one that cares more than ever before about the health of their environment.

In December 2012, special guests EPA Administrator for Region 6, Ron Curry, and Santa Fe Mayor David Coss both offered remarks and support for the program. More than 90 employees attended the training in Santa Fe in February. La Posada de Santa Fe Resort and Spa hosted the launch, and La Fonda Hotel graciously hosted the entire two week training! Altogether, the participation represented more than 1,000 hours of green certification training and set the lodgers well on their way toward reductions in toxic, water, and carbon waste.

This project could not be nearly as successful without the participation and support of working group members, including staff from the Santa Fe League of Conservation Voters, Santa Fe's Environmental Services, New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce (Santa Fe Chapter), and the Santa Fe Lodgers Association. And thank you, Bette Booth, for coordinating the program so ably.



Top: Mayor Coss (seated) and Ron Curry (speaking). Above: La Fonda Hotel's Shawn Murphy, Felicity, and Program Coordinator Bette Booth receiving the Sustainable Santa Fe Award



Teeming with Life (cont. from page 8)

One group is the stoneflies (Order Plecoptera). The name refers to the wings of the adult which are folded over the back. To date, 72 species have been found in New Mexico; along the way I have discovered three species new to science. Stoneflies live primarily in clear, cold, well oxygenated streams and are among some of the most sensitive organisms to degraded water quality and habitat destruction. So far, eight species have been found in the upper Santa Fe River watershed. Their presence along with nine species of mayflies and 14 species of caddisflies make this river section one of the highest quality stream segments in New Mexico. This is due, in part, to the closure of the upper watershed for over 80 years to recreation, logging, firewood removal, and livestock grazing.

My specialty is the winter stonefly. These are small (5-10 mm) and emerge primarily during the colder months. Sometimes adults can be seen in late February-April scurrying around on ice and snow next to watercourses. (They look like moving spruce and fir needles.) Some related species can be found in dryer portions of the state emerging from streams that are wet for only a few months in winter but are dry the rest of the year. This group has eggs that can undergo drying, or if eggs hatch, the immatures can burrow down into the stream bottom to seek refuge in the groundwater. When cold water surface flows return (perhaps in the following year), the immature moves back to the surface to complete the life cycle.

— by Jerry Jacobi, Field Biologist, SFWA Board Member and Chair of the City of Santa Fe River Commission

Two Giant “Thank You’s”

Two very important people have left the SFWA this year. Robin Hilliard, extremely well organized Adopt-the-River Coordinator for the past three years, is taking some well deserved time off in her life. Robin was hired in May 2010 and has kept the program running smoothly ever since, despite the recession. Her most memorable accomplishment was the beautiful celebration of the program’s 10th Anniversary, held last year at the Inn and Spa at Loretto, where 18 businesses and volunteer programs were honored for their tenure in the program. Thank you, Robin, for all of your energy, ideas, and hard work on behalf of the Santa Fe River and the Watershed Association. We’ll miss your beautiful smile, wise insights, and intrepid energy!



One of our long-term, stalwart board members has finished his last term on the board. Tom Noble, having served for eight years, recognized that there just may be life outside of the SFWA. We are most grateful to Tom for his energizer-bunny-non-stop-get-to-it efforts on behalf of our events, tree plantings, Adopt-the-River program, and especially the concerts. Always ready with a truck, a hammer, a wheel-barrow, or a shovel, Tom’s actions have been a force for good in this organization. We’re pretty sure the Willie Nelson pre-concert party would never have happened were it not for his contributions of flowers, blankets, bandanas, wine glasses, table cloths, rental-ware, loading and unloading organization, and connections. We really mean it when we say “Thank You” for the many years of service, ideas, and incredible energy you have put forth on our behalf! We are the stronger for it and ever grateful.



Tom Noble and Ali McGraw

© Anna C. Hansen



We Love Our Loyal Watershed Community

Angelica Foundation	El Castillo Retirement Residences	Los Alamos National Bank	La Montanita Co-op
Kite Family Trust	Desert Academy	Outside Magazine	The Feed Bin
Brindle Foundation	Inn and Spa at Loretto	Santa Fe New Mexican	Turtle Mountain
Mike McCally & Chris Cassel	Rotary Club of Santa Fe	United Church of Santa Fe	Dahl of Santa Fe
McCune Charitable Foundation	La Fonda Hotel	Rangeland Hands	Arrowhead Ranch
Karen Walker Real Estate	Inn of the Governors/	New Mexico Bank & Trust	Santa Fe Natural
Inn on the Alameda	Del Charro Grill	Santa Fe Stone	Tobacco Company

Kim Abeyta-Martinez	Steve and Kristen Flance	Brenda Korting	Lisa Pence
Cary Arden	Beth and Robbie Floyd	Scott and R Kresan	Roger S. Peterson
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Burke Denman	and Ariel Jansens	Janet McVickar	Cynthia West
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Kristina Fisher	David and Mary Kite	Liz Pawlak	Giacomo Zafarano
Rick and Lisa Fisher			

UPPER SANTA FE RIVER WATERSHED HIKES ☒ 2013

JULY 20 ☒ AUGUST 21 ☒ SEPTEMBER 20 ☒ OCTOBER 19

Closed to the public since 1932, the Upper Santa Fe Watershed has undergone a dramatic transformation during the past decade to protect our surface water supply. Using management tools such as mechanical thinning and prescribed burning, the City of Santa Fe and U.S. Forest Service along with the Santa Fe Watershed Association have been working to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire.



© Anna C. Hansen

These tours are your opportunity to learn about those efforts and catch a glimpse of this nearly pristine forest that supplies 45% of the City's drinking water supply. During a 5 mile roundtrip hike through The Nature Conservancy's Santa Fe Canyon Preserve and the Upper Santa Fe Watershed, staff from the Santa Fe Watershed Association, the City of Santa Fe, and the U.S. Forest Service lead participants on a visit to Nichols Reservoir and beyond, covering topics such as the history of Santa Fe's drinking water supply, how the reservoir systems work, forest thinning and healthy forest ecology, the role of beavers in our watershed, and other topics about the ecology of the Santa Fe Watershed.

Free, but you must be pre-registered! Only 20 people per hike. \$25 refundable deposit holds your place. Call us at 505/820-1696 Immediately!

SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Keeping you hydrated, shaded, warm, and smart!



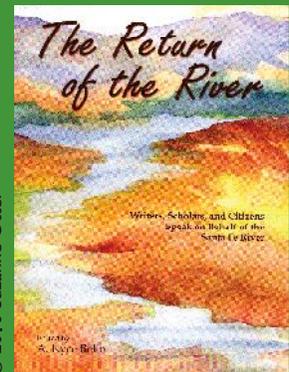
Klean Kanteen®
Water bottle
\$20



Baseball Cap
\$15



SFWA Blanket
\$25



© 2010 Suzanne Otter

The Return of the River
\$25

If you haven't already, buy this book and read it twice. The collection features poignant, funny, interesting, and adventurous tales from a broad spectrum of writers, all devoted to our beloved, beleaguered, and most precious Santa Fe River.

To order any or all of these fine items (they make great gifts!), please call the SFWA office, 505/820-1696.



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ASSOCIATION
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The SFWA takes environmentally responsible business practices seriously. We have chosen to work with a certified Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) printer. This means that both the print company and the paper used were rigorously reviewed and controlled to ensure that the paper came from eco-responsible sources, which helps limit the impact this project will have on the environment.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013 • NATIONAL RIVER CLEAN-UP DAY • 10:00AM-NOON

For the 5th year in a row, SFWA is participating in National River Clean-up Day, a nationwide cleaning of riverbanks across the entire country, all on the same day!

This is a community-wide effort. Join us and bring your friends and family, lacrosse team, soccer team, garden club, chess club, whomever! Just come on down to Alto Park to say hello, check in — and to grab “bread for the journey” refreshments! Please contact Keely: (stewards@santafewatershed.org) to confirm how many of your group will be coming. With that information, we can send other volunteers where they are most needed.

This is the second of our three community-wide river clean-ups this year. The first was Love Your River Day on February 16, when 68 volunteers gathered 134 bags of trash from 16 reaches of the river — awesome! The third will be our Hunter’s Moon River Clean-Up on October 19, 2013.

Bridgestone Tires is accepting tires from rivers all across the country, in order to recycle them — Yay! In Santa Fe, our arroyos are tributaries to the river, so we’ll be collecting tires from arroyos, too. Come help us keep our numbers breaking records!

This national event is sponsored by American Rivers.

