



1413 SECOND ST. #3
SANTA FE, NM 87505

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THANK YOU!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Only Constant is Change

There have been a number of changes here at the Santa Fe Watershed Association since you last heard from us in a newsletter. First of all, David Groenfeldt left as the Executive Director in December of 2009, which afforded me an opportunity of a lifetime: to return to my beloved hometown of Santa Fe after being away for 14 years.

What a whirlwind it has been! What a delight to pick up the reins of a small organization that is so actively involved in the local network. And how could it not be? Tending to the processes of land and water in our region at the watershed level is no small mandate. From an outsider's perspective, it's been a fascinating year of learning and observing just how we in New Mexico, and in Santa Fe specifically, are creating change in order to deal with the complexities of circumstance that are upon us, and ever increasing.

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FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Santa Fe River and its watershed,

I am opening this newsletter with great enthusiasm, as our dream is getting closer to reality: the river and its many arroyos forming a web of life and greenery, to make the land that drains into our river—our watershed—a more resilient system.

We are witnessing historical changes in water management issues. Urban sprawl, combined with New Mexico's chronic water scarcity, and the consequences of global warming, compel us to re-think the ways water is allocated between the main water users and the environment. The Santa Fe Watershed Association, working closely with City and County officials, State agencies, the River Commission and nationwide networks of citizens' organizations, weighs in on the decision-making process, contributing to addressing the roots of the problems and to leaving a legacy.

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The Only Constant is Change continued from the cover



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Felicity Broennan,
Executive Director

For example, there are some important trends that resource managers in municipalities, counties, states and nations are beginning to recognize as a marketable avenue to care for our ecosystems called Payment for Ecosystem Services. Basically it is the concept of asking those of us who are the beneficiaries of "services" that our ecosystem provides, to pay for maintenance and protection of the ecosystem. Read more about how the SFWA, the City of Santa Fe, and other partners are pioneering this approach and helping to ensure clean water supply and river protection by protecting our watershed, on page 6.

Other changes here at the organization include staff changes. Robin Hilliard took over as the new Adopt-the-River Coordinator in June of 2010, and Pamela Dupzyk, education program coordinator, is no longer with us. We thank her for her dedication to the organization over the last five years. We are pleased to welcome Eileen Everett as the new education program coordinator.

As for those things that remain, we held two very successful clean-ups this year. *Love your River Day* on February 12th saw more than 30 people come out on a cloudless winter day and collect 46 bags of trash, while on May 28th, our annual *All American River Day* saw another 28

community members, including the Santa Fe Lacrosse Team, haul 30 bags of trash out of the river.

We will once again be offering our guided hikes into the Santa Fe Upper Municipal Watershed. We hope you will join us for one of these wonderful outings. See details on page 9.

We're also thrilled to announce that legendary musician Willie Nelson and Family will play a benefit concert for us at the Santa Fe Opera on September 17th. Tickets are available now by calling 505-986-5900 or by visiting www.santafewatershed.org/willie. Don't miss this phenomenal opportunity to see a fantastic show!

Felicity Broennan



© Felicity Broennan



THE SANTA FE RIVER

SO FISH CAN MAKE  TOO!

Santa Fe Watershed Association • www.santafewatershed.org

Message from the President continued from the cover

This newsletter covers the mosaic of our activities: planting trees, restoring the river and building trails; educating the youth through a large program with the City; helping the public participate in decision-making about water issues; and participating in the national and regional water policy dialogue through America's Great Waters Coalition and the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Advisory Council.

Our plans for the years ahead expand on what we are already doing. A recent visit to Congress in Washington D.C. has confirmed that policy makers need and welcome public support for important reforms that benefit the Nation, the State and our watershed. With your support we will project a stronger voice through dialogue with all concerned, and increase public participation with neighborhood meetings, public events, games, and tours in public lands and in the upper watershed. We will also expand our adult and youth education programs to strengthen involvement and understanding of where our water comes from in the watershed.

There are immense opportunities to implement shovel-ready river restoration projects and hands-on community projects that are designed to manage stormwater runoff, harvest rainfall, and plant trees in Santa Fe's urban areas. These projects could create thousands of jobs every year in our community. We are working hard, in these difficult economic times, to secure funding for these projects.

Finally, I take this opportunity to invite you to come to SFWA's benefit concert at the Santa Fe Opera on September 17th featuring Willie Nelson and Family. He'll sing a special Santa Fe River song, and of course your favorites and more.

There is no shortage of good causes to adopt, and unless one has unlimited time and money, choices must be made. I thank you for having made a choice for the Santa Fe River and its watershed.

***François-Marie Patorní, President,
Santa Fe Watershed Association***



François-Marie and Felicity at Amigos Bravos benefit in June

©:Anna C. Hansen

Welcome Eileen!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Eileen Everett as our Education Program Coordinator! In this capacity, Eileen will be responsible for implementing the upper watershed education programs, creating curriculum for adults and youth, and helping to plan and implement our annual Watershed Festival in June. Eileen began her career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque after completing a B.A. in Human Ecology from College of the Atlantic and an M.S. in Wildlife Science. After seeing the need for public outreach, Eileen made the switch to environmental education and began working for Audubon New Mexico in 2004. During her time there, she was promoted to Education Manager and grew the education programs to reach over 4,000 New Mexican youth and created Audubon's first "no waste camp." In 2008, she opened up her own environmental education consulting business, Down to Earth Education, and worked for a variety of organizations including the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science developing climate change education programs. Eileen is thrilled to be working back in Santa Fe and looks forward to providing opportunities for local youth and adults to explore the Santa Fe River and the ecosystems and humans that depend upon it. In her spare time, she enjoys being in the outdoors especially hiking, running, and gardening.



© Anna C. Hansen

BOLD ENDEAVOR: COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION & OUTREACH FOR THE SANTA FE UPPER WATERSHED

The Santa Fe Watershed Association signed a three year contract with the City of Santa Fe to implement the education and outreach portion of the Upper Watershed Management Plan. This 20-year plan was jointly written with the USFS (Santa Fe National Forest, Española Ranger District), the City of Santa Fe, and The Nature Conservancy. The project was initially funded through a CFRP grant administered by the SFWA in 2007. The City has since been awarded \$1.3 million in grant funding from the New Mexico Finance Authority to implement the first three years of the plan. Now that the plan is in place, the education and outreach component is filling our days! There are several components to this program:



MY WATER, MY WATERSHED



© Felicity Broennan

Imagine an entire day outdoors with a group of 10 year olds! This program is available to 4th and 5th graders of Santa Fe Public Schools and focuses on connecting kids with all things water. Integrating aspects of required science curriculum, the students first participate in a one hour pre-field trip orientation visit to learn some basics about where our water comes from. On a full day field trip, the students are taken into the forested municipal watershed (closed to the general public), where they collect and identify aquatic insects, explore a real beaver lodge and dam, and look for the tracks of forest inhabitants like bears, turkeys and deer. Students learn how reservoirs work, how the water is piped to the treatment plant and then to their homes, and how all of this occurs within a watershed. Up to 500 students will go through this program each school year.

SANTA FE BLUE PAGES

Last year one of our SFWA members introduced us to The Orleans Blue Pages, an incredibly thorough guide to the care and feeding of a watershed. Orleans is on Cape Cod, but the model for this wonderfully accessible book is what we're using to customize our own Santa Fe Blue Pages (SFBP). A 48 page colorful guide, the SFBP will cover a plethora of topics, including: The connection between our watershed and our bodies, where our water comes from and what's in it; how to care for the most precious and the most fundamental element of life: Water. What we do with water says a lot about us, and we hope this book will help us make better decisions, especially in this particular year of drought.

The Blue Pages



Living Well with the Water We Have

Thunderhead IV by Dan Boldman

VIDEO

The SFWA is working with videographer Sean Cridland to produce a 20 minute documentary style production on the topic of protecting our water source. The video will be used to help our community understand the importance of prescribed fire as a mechanism to ensure a healthy forest environment and prevent a catastrophic blaze like the Pacheco and Las Conchas fires currently burning around the Santa Fe Watershed. Local experts in the film include Sandy Hurlocker and Bill Armstrong with the USFS, and Dale Lyons and Claudia Borchert with the City of Santa Fe.

WATERSHED MONITORING

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, local middle schoolers will begin collecting watershed monitoring data using the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, or BEMP for short. Students will study both living and non-living qualities such as precipitation, air and soil temperatures, native plant and exotic plant productivity, surface-active arthropod activity, vegetation cover, and woody debris/fuel loading.

HIKES

Each summer, the SFWA leads guided hikes into the Upper Santa Fe Watershed, an area that has been closed to the public since 1932. Each hike lasts five hours and covers 2.5 miles, during which a variety of topics is covered, including the history of Santa Fe's drinking water supply; how the reservoir systems work; forest thinning and healthy forest ecology; the role beavers play in creating a healthy water supply; and other interesting and lesser known trivia of your water supply! You'll want to sign up early as we're limited to 20 participants and they do fill up fast. Call our office at 505-820-1696 to register.



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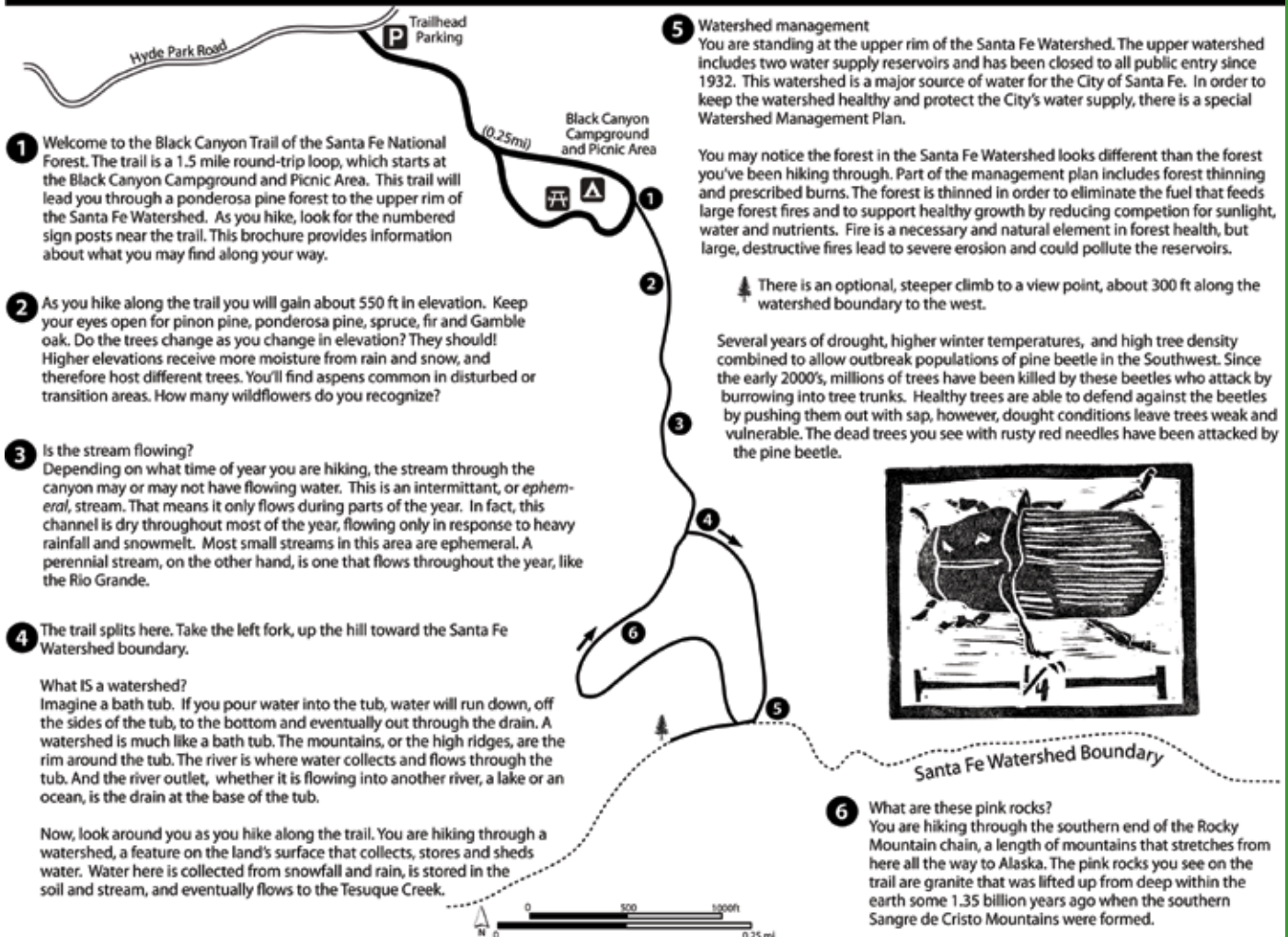


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TRAIL GUIDES

Two new interpretive brochures have been created under this program, one for The Nature Conservancy's Canyon Preserve, and one for the Black Canyon Trail on Hyde Park Road. Both of the brochures offer illuminating highlights of the areas they describe for those who are interested in a self-guided tour. They can be downloaded from our website at: www.santafewatershed.org

Black Canyon Trail of the Santa Fe National Forest



Protecting our Most Precious Source

PIONEERING PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES BY ESTABLISHING A WATER SOURCE PROTECTION SYSTEM

DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOU PAY YOUR WATER BILL EACH MONTH, YOU ARE NOT PAYING FOR THE WATER? You are paying for water treatment and to support the infrastructure that makes sure the water gets to your home and office. What about “external” costs associated with protecting the watershed so that we have a safe, reliable water supply? Now, in a radical evolution of necessity, a new system is being developed in our community, as well as in communities world-wide, to ensure that ecosystem protection work is done and that the costs are paid for by those who benefit from the “services” the ecosystem provides, such as clean air, water, etc. It’s called Payment for Ecosystem Services.



McClure Reservoir in Santa Fe's upper watershed.

© Seth Roffman

Since 45% of Santa Fe's drinking water comes from the mountains and runs through the forest via the Santa Fe River, before being captured in the two reservoirs east of town, a healthy forest is a must for healthy drinking water. If we suffer a fire like the Las Conchas currently burning near Los Alamos, it would put that water supply at severe risk. But, it takes great amounts of money and effort to keep that forest healthy.

Wikipedia explains Ecosystem Services this way: “the benefits of nature to households, communities, and economies,” or, more simply, “the good things nature does.”

Twenty-four specific ecosystem services were identified and assessed by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a 2005 UN-sponsored report designed to assess the state of the world's ecosystems. The report defined the broad categories of ecosystem services as food production (in the form of crops, livestock, capture fisheries, aquaculture, and wild foods), fiber (in the form of timber, cotton, hemp, and silk), genetic resources (biochemicals, natural medicines, and pharmaceuticals), fresh water, air quality regulation, climate regulation, water regulation, erosion regulation, water purification and waste treatment, disease regulation, pest regulation, pollination, natural hazard regulation, and cultural services (including spiritual, religious, and aesthetic values, recreation and ecotourism).

Notably, however, there is a “big three” among these 24 services which are currently receiving the most money and interest worldwide. These are climate change mitigation, watershed services, and biodiversity conservation. Demand for these services in particular is predicted to continue to grow into the future. One seminal 1997 Nature Magazine article estimated the annual value of global ecological benefits at \$33 trillion, a number nearly twice the then global gross product.



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A Few Steps closer to a Living River

A living river conjures up images of large trees, fish jumping, swallows dipping and lunging, frogs croaking, striders striding...each of us has images of rivers, but guaranteed, all of them include flowing water down the corridor. Here in Santa Fe, we all know too well the sadness associated with a parched riverbed. The Santa Fe Watershed Association's Living River Initiative strives to find ways in the community to rewater the Santa Fe River. And now, thanks to those efforts, the efforts of our governing body, and the entire community of Santa Fe (for their valiant water conservation), the Santa Fe River is several steps closer to having at least a minimum of water flowing down her river bed.



© Felicity Broennan

The City of Santa Fe convened a Core Working Group of 12 diverse community members, as well as two large public meetings, to design the way in which water would be by-passed from the reservoirs and sent to quench the thirsty river corridor. The SFWA had three representatives in the group that was brilliantly facilitated by Toby Herzlich and Erin English. Our personal thanks go out to all the community members that participated in this working group, and most importantly to those who came to the larger public meetings and spoke loudly for the river.

In the public meetings, participants were asked to rank their priorities for a river, and a large majority (64%) said "Create a healthy, vibrant, resilient ecosystem." Bravo!! Other priorities include:

- a. Create an Ecologically Healthy Vegetative Corridor
- b. Benefit the Entire Community with Flows
- c. Nurture a Beautiful, Natural Urban Greenspace w/ water in arid environment
- d. Provide an Educational Resource for Schools & Community Stewardship

But our work is not done! We must still pass ordinance legislation that will ensure the annual bypassing of water to flow in the river. Stay tuned to hear how you can make your voice heard to your representatives about how much you care about our river, and want to see Wet Water flowing down her channel, giving her a fighting chance to support life.

REI Planting: There is life!!

Thank you REI staff for nominating our organization as the beneficiaries of a \$5,000 grant! In July of 2010 we received money from REI to help with revegetation efforts along the river trail behind the Barrio La Canada. We enrolled 30 volunteers to come out over two weekends to plant a wide variety of drought tolerant plants and bushes. Volunteers worked under the watchful eye of Barbara Fix, Gail Haggard, and Susan Westbrook, who graciously donated their time and expertise to guide the selection and location of the plants. Dirt flew in the frenzy, and by the end of the weekend, nearly 500 plantings graced the banks of the trail. When we recently checked on the newbies a few weeks ago, I'm happy to report that nearly 80% of them have made it through the winter. Yet another crew recruited in record time spent a full Saturday in May bringing water and mulch to all the thirsty young ones. Thank you to ALL the volunteers who added their sweat equity to the river trail. Everyone Benefits!!

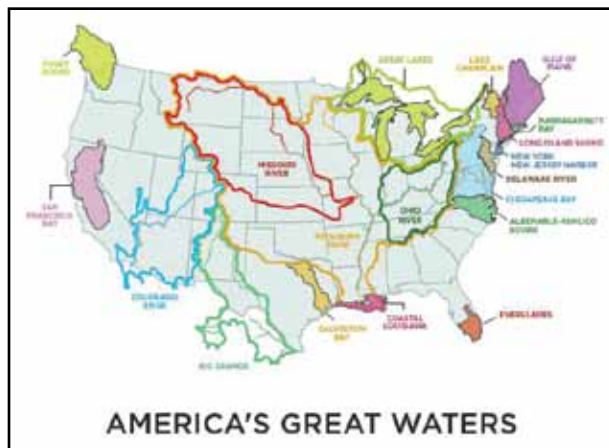
Thank you also to SFWA Board Members Eliza Frank, Tom Noble, and Kristina Fisher for their roles in organizing and digging and planting! And most of all, thank you to REI for giving back to your community in such a healthy and positive way.



© Anna C. Hansen

Avenida Cristobal Colon at the Santa Fe River

A NATO Style Strategy for America's Great Waters



To state the obvious, we are all connected through water and watersheds. As you all know, the Santa Fe River Watershed is a tributary to the mighty Rio Grande River Watershed. What you might not know is that depending on how it's measured, the Rio Grande is the fourth or fifth longest river system in the U.S. Last summer, a small, loosely knit group of people representing approximately 150 organizations and state and federal agencies, all worked together to produce a watershed-wide Dia Del Rio Day in October. They also formalized their group into a coalition called the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo Regional Advisory Council. Felicity Broennan was nominated the Vice-Chair of this organization and led the effort to nominate the Rio Grande to become one of America's Great Waters, a designation formerly belonging to only ten water bodies in the U.S. America's Great Waters Coalition accepted the Rio Grande as one of the newly designated water bodies in March of 2011. The Colorado River was also added to their map along with seven others.

This designation is important for several reasons. First, by joining the coalition, we have agreed to work with a watershed-wide representation of people to produce a comprehensive restoration plan, AND put a price tag on it. Second, once this comprehensive plan is in place, we will be added to the other Great Waters budget and we will be added to the lobbying efforts for federal legislation. The legislation put forth before congress will emphasize the necessity of repairing the ecosystems of these large water bodies, show how it can produce jobs, support the local economies that depend upon these ecosystems, and hopefully yield more federal dollars to build healthier, more resilient systems in this arid region of ours.

RERI 1 & 2 Restoration Projects

The River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative is a state program that designates funding for a variety of restoration activities around the state. The SFWA is the recipient of two of these grants, both focusing on a project along



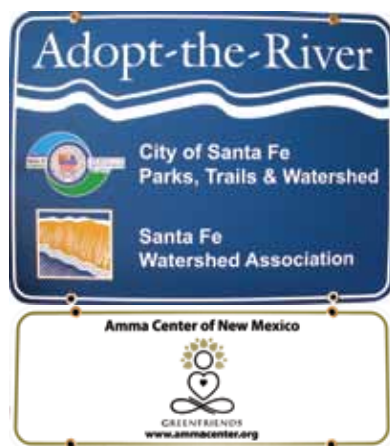
Santa Fe Canyon Preserve

the Santa Fe River where it comes out of the forested canyon and onto The Nature Conservancy Preserve. We have conducted several assessments over the last six months including an archaeological assessment, to see if there are any major sites in the area, a riparian vegetation assessment, and a soils and hydrologic modeling assessment. We are also conducting an aquatic species inventory and modeling assessment.

This information is all background that will give us a baseline of data for the other restoration project currently underway. That project seeks to restore a portion of the Santa Fe River Channel to its original channel, through The Nature Conservancy Preserve. By providing connectivity with Two Mile Pond, the restored channel upstream of the Pond, and the already healthy stretch of river up to Nichols Dam, would importantly enhance the river's ecological resilience.

Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

Adopt-the-River: Up for Adoption



Welcome

La Fonda and the Santa Fe New Mexican as our newest Adopt Sponsors! We also welcome Upaya Zen Center and Amma Center of New Mexico's Green Friends as new Steward Groups.

Sign up for Watershed Hikes



© Seth Roffman

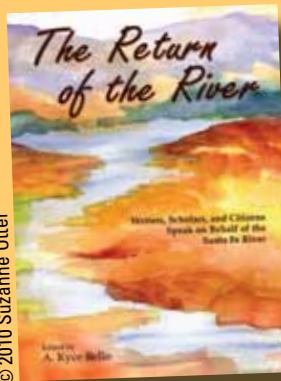
Our coveted hikes are back! Limited to 20 participants, these five-hour hikes fill up fast! Preregistration is a must. To reserve your spot, call us at 505-820-1696. These hikes are free, thanks to the City of Santa Fe.

DATES: July 16th; August 13th; September 10th; October 8th and a van accessible trip on October 12th.

Our Watershed Community

AUGUST 27 & 28: UPSTREAM DOWNSTREAM; IS A DIFFERENT WATER FUTURE POSSIBLE?

Join the SFWA, Railyard Stewards and the SF Art Institute for two days, as we explore different elements of the SF Watershed and then produce a creative representation of the watershed. Price TBA for the weekend covers tour, speakers, and even food! Call SFWA for more information: 505-820-1696.



The Return of the River

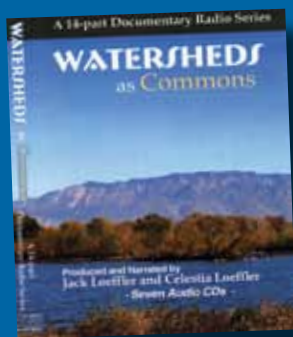
Edited by A. Kyce Bello

© 2010 Suzanne Otter

If you haven't already, please buy this book and read the amazing stories inspired by the Santa Fe River. The book launch reading in May featured poignant, funny, interesting, and adventurous tales of a broad spectrum of writers, all devoted to our beloved, beleaguered, and most precious Santa Fe River.

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!

Join the Santa Fe Watershed Association at the \$100 level and receive *The Return of the River* Absolutely Free! (See form on page 11)



Watersheds As Commons

Watersheds As Commons, an incredibly important radio series produced by Jack Loeffler and Celestia Loeffler is now available! Set in the American Southwest, the most arid region on the North American continent, the dozens of interviewees include New Mexico Puebloan, Hopi, Navajo, Chiricahua Apache, and Tohono O'odham Native American people; Hispano scholars, Anglo ranchers, writers, historians, environmental activists, scientists, lawyers, politicians, agency bureaucrats, poets, musicians and salt-of-the-earth people, all of whom are deeply concerned about the threatened watersheds and bioregions of the American Southwest and beyond.

The series was produced with the intent to expand the dominant cultural purview by including the points of view of many who still live close to the land, who understand natural processes, who see far beyond an economically dominated paradigm, who perceive the conflict between corporate-funded legislation and natural law, who understand ecology and aesthetics, who regard homeland as sacred, who recognize that the human species is but one of many species who live in a common landscape, who sip from common waters.

The series also shows that human over-population in watersheds with diminishing waters is ultimately disastrous; that we must expand our consciousness to include the needs of the planet that sustains us, and then make that understanding central to our way of life. To order visit: www.lorefoftheland.org

Santa Fe River Trail Almost Connected!

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 marked the beginning of the City's construction on new segments of the Santa Fe River Trail. But they're not doing it without making extensive restorative improvements to the river channel itself. The site between Camino Alire and Frenchy's Field is almost unrecognizable for the amount of work already accomplished.

The restoration aspect includes new grade control structures built with large limestone boulders to help decrease erosion and prevent further down-cutting of the river bed. The devastating steep cut banks are being reduced to gentle slopes and the flood plain will be widened in order to slow down flash flood storm flows. The finishing touches will include planting of river vegetation for greenery, shade, habitat, and additional channel stabilization.

The project will finish development of the River Trail from John Griego Memorial Park to Camino Alire. There will also be a new, one-third-mile-long trail segment built from Calle Don Jose to Frenchy's Field. When complete, the River Trail will extend from St. Francis Drive, westward through Alto Park, down to Camino Carlos Rael, and through Frenchy's Field Park to the intersection at Agua Fria Street and Osage Ave.

The construction, difficult to execute in this small and windy portion of the river, is expected to last another six months. The benefits of health for the corridor, however, are priceless, and will result in a much healthier, more resilient river channel. Plus, the benefits of finally having a connected river trail will be appreciated by all residents!



© Brian Drypolcher

The failed grade-control structure near Ricardo Road, damaged in flooding on July 3, 2010 is an example of where it's necessary to install a new grade-control structure, raise the bed of the river to replace lost fill, and replace steep cut banks with sloping banks to provide a broader flood plain.



© Anna C. Hansen

Santa Fe River restoration near Avenida Cristobal Colon below Camino Alire, June 2011



© Seth Roffman

Protecting our Most Precious Source

continued from page 6

The SFWA is partnering with the City of Santa Fe and The Nature Conservancy to pioneer this program here in our watershed as a way to supply funding in perpetuity for the care of our forest—the same forest that supplies 45% of Santa Fe's potable water. For less than \$1.00 per month, water users could help to maintain the quality of their water by helping to maintain a healthy forest through proper management that will decrease the chances of a catastrophic forest fire. Ultimately, it's good for the forest, good for the water, and great for the community.

Imagine a world where... No one puts trash in the river, water flows endlessly toward the Río Grande, and kids are taught the 4th "r," Water.



The Santa Fe Watershed Association is building that world, and we need your help. Your Water. Your Watershed.

THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU — PLEASE JOIN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TODAY.

Name _____	Individual	Business
Address _____	Friend	\$30
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Contributor	\$50
Enclosed is my check for \$ _____	Supporter	\$100
Made Payable To: Santa Fe Watershed Association	Donor	\$250
Please Charge \$ _____	Benefactor	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD	Patron	\$1000
Card Number _____	Angel	\$5000
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41 STUDENTS
1.5 HOURS
123 BAGS
MAY 30, 2011
PRICELESS!



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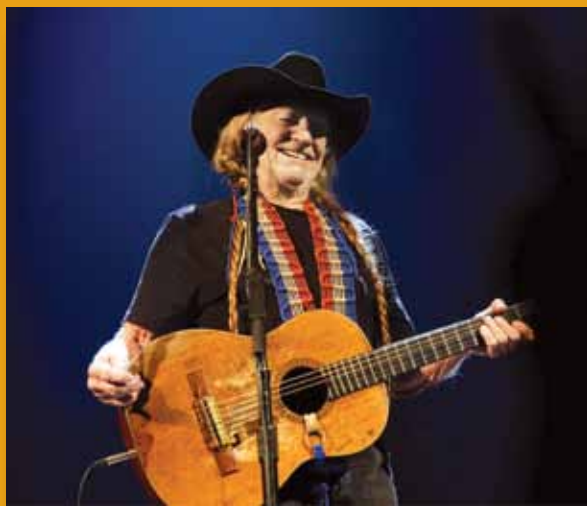


Santa Fe
WATERSHED

ASSOCIATION

**1413 SECOND ST. #3
SANTA FE, NM 87505**

WWW.SANTAFEWATERSHED.ORG



*Willie Nelson
& Family*
at the Santa Fe Opera
SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 • 7:30 P.M.

Willie Nelson will perform a benefit concert for the SFWA on September 17th, 2011, 7:30 pm at the Santa Fe Opera House. This will be the last performance at the Opera Theatre for 2011. Executive Director Felicity Broennan, who has dabbled in music

promotion to benefit watershed projects in the past, has been working closely with Jamie Lenefesty of Heath Concerts to create this first of its kind benefit for the Watershed Association. Tickets are now available through our website www.santafewatershed.org/willie or by calling 505-986-5900.

Sponsorships are also available. Please call Felicity at the office (505-820-1696) for more information and come out to see one of America's greatest icons. It promises to be a fabulous show!

Thank you to our media sponsors: Santa Fean and Green Fire Times