

SANTA FE, NM 87505

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

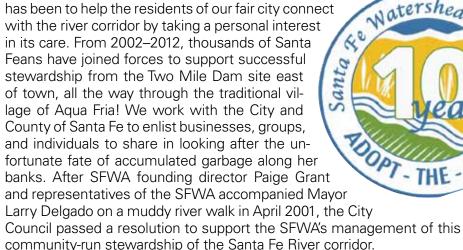
A River Needs Water TOO and Your Voice NOW

rirst off, we are thrilled that four years of promoting a Living Santa Fe River is just a vote away from "a watershed moment." On February 29th, the Santa Fe City Councilors will consider the merits of a detailed and thoughtful ordinance that will guarantee water for the river channel. This is the result of a long-term effort by Mayor Coss, the Santa Fe Watershed Association, diligent City Staff; a volunteer group of diverse stakeholders that spent a weekend in retreat to run a plethora of scenarios; a caring community that came out on a below-zero night to name their priorities for water in the river; and several councilors who continue to champion this effort. It really does take a village to raise a river! It also takes laws. And Santa Fe stands on the precipice of creating a really good one that will benefit the river, the community, the ecology, and downtown businesses. continued on page 2

Adopt-the-River Turns 10!

marks a significant time on the calendar for SF-WA's flagship program: Adopt-the-Watershed Asso

River. For ten years, our goal



continued on page 4

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A River Needs Water TOO continued from the cover

But it can't happen without you. Please show your support and enthusiasm to your City Councilors. If you don't give the river a voice by calling or writing them or coming to the City Council meeting on February 29th, they won't know you care about the river, and they won't necessarily support the creation of this ordinance. So PLEASE... Let your representative know how much this means to you and how good this is for our river, our families, our community, our planet. Because Rivers Need Water Too! Especially in face of the changes we're currently witnessing.

Another issue of great interest to all of us is the upcoming election for the Santa Fe Opportunity Bonds that would fund Public Safety, creating a more Sustainable Environment, and Parks and Trails. These bond measures hold millions of dollars for restoration efforts in the watershed, dollars that will go toward building resilient ecosystems along the river, help strengthen arroyo stabilization and create new parks in park-starving neighborhoods. Please look into the details of this legislation and if you deem it a good thing for Santa Fe, well then...get out and vote, and get your friends and family out to vote. This is participatory democracy, and no one group can do it alone. For information visit the City website at http://www.santafenm.gov.

Finally, as you've undoubtedly noticed, it hasn't been such a wet winter. In fact, according to some sources, New Mexico is experiencing the sixth worst drought in its history. But rather than clobber you over the head with depressing statistics, we'd like to alert you to a program SFWA is offering as a way to address the inevitable variances that are occurring due to global climate change.

Last fall the New Mexico Environment Department was forced to drop their highly successful Climate Masters Program. Seeing the value of continuing their offering to Santa Fe residents, we have picked up the reins and begun fundraising to keep Climate Masters going through our

organization. To date we've received a \$4,500 grant from EPSCoR and are half way through our goal of matching those funds. Climate Master alumni have been stellar in their support and if you would like to donate also, you may do so through our website, by calling our office, or sending us a check. For more information on the class itself please contact our Education Director Eileen Everett at 820-1696 or by email at eileen@santafewatershed.org.



Executive Director

Please join us in 2012 in any way you can to help us Felicity Broennan, create a thriving and resilient 2012!



Support a Living River

Santa Fe ... because a river needs water, too.

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Santa Fe River and its Watershed,

The year 2011 was great for the Santa Fe Watershed Association, for our water and for our future. As described in this newsletter, we have made enormous strides on our three main program areas: advocacy, education and restoration. And in September, twenty four hundred of us celebrated, filling-up the Santa Fe Opera, cheering Willie Nelson and supporting the SFWA.

2012 begins with a high expectation and with a challenge. The expectation is that the Santa Fe River will be flowing forever, with 1,000 acre feet each year except in major droughts. This will be guaranteed by the upcoming Target Flow City Ordinance, to be voted on by the City Councilors on February 29th. The challenge is to make sure that this happens. Although in principle all are in favor, the Councilors need to be comforted in their vote by massive public support.



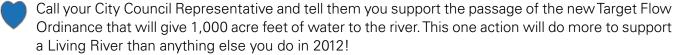
François-Marie and Felicity at Journey Santa Fe in October, 2011

This is why I am personally asking each of you to write to your City Councilor and tell her or him in your own words that you support the ordinance. All City Councilors are involved with the river and the watershed through their membership in City boards and committees, and therefore I would also urge you to write to the other Councilors and to Mayor Coss. Practical details are in the body of this newsletter.

I cannot overstress the importance of your personal involvement. Just as "each vote counts", each of us has to be the voice of the river. Thank you for supporting our water and our future, Happy New Year 2012.

François-Marie Patorni, President, SFWA

5 Ways you can Love your River this year~



Come to the Public Hearing on February 29th in the City Council Chambers and DECLARE your voice for the LIVING RIVER Target Flow Ordinance!

Get out and vote on March 6 for the Santa Fe Opportunity Bonds: General Obligation Bonds for Public Safety, Parks and Trails, and Sustainable Environment.

Join our Community Wide Clean-up in May and help rid the corridor of unhealthy/unsightly debris. Help us be proud of the river that flows through the Capitol City of New Mexico in this 100th anniversary of our statehood!

Bring your family to the annual Santa Fe River Watershed Festival & Fishing Derby, held the first weekend in June along the river between Old Santa Fe Trail and Don Gaspar. Stimulating and interesting games and activities for all! Watch our website for more information.

Contact Information for City Councilors

Don't know which district you are in? Call the City Clerk at 505-955-6520.

Mailing Address for all Councilors: 200 Lincoln Ave., P.O. Box 909, Santa Fe, NM 87504

District 1 Patti Bushee pjbushee@santafenm.gov Phone: (505) 955-2345

Chris Calvert ccalvert@santafenm.gov Phone:(505) 955-6812 District 2 Rosemary Romero r2romero@santafenm.gov Phone: (505) 955-6818

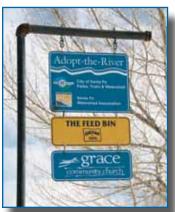
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Carmichael Dominguez cadominguez@santafenm.gov Phone: (505) 955-6814 District 4 Matthew E. Ortiz mortizlaw@msn.com Phone: (505) 955-6817

Ronald Trujillo rstrujillo@santafenm.gov Phone: (505) 955-6811

Adopt-the-River Turns 10 continued from the cover



Since 2002, over 3,000 River Sponsors and Stewards organized by the SFWA have given financial and sweat equity support to 26 river reaches. Average annual participation in our program has grown from 200 to 600 people. Similar to other Adopt programs (medians, highways), Adopt-the-River gives businesses the opportunity for visibility via signs along Alameda St. The money they give covers materials and staff time to recruit, train, and coordinate the monthly garbage collections of each group assigned to a river reach. We supply garbage bags, gloves, sharps containers, and the stewards supply the time, energy, and enthusiasm.

In 2004, we extended our task list to deal with a number of stately cottonwoods that had died from the drought, in front of El Castillo. City crews cut down the trees but left as much of their tall trunks as possible. This being

Santa Fe, artists Don Kennell and Jose Lucero carved them into unique, picturesque sculptures that are now a highlight along Alameda Street.

On February 11th, SFWA hosted a Thank You Brunch at the Inn & Spa at Loretto to award the businesses and organizations that have been Sponsors and Stewards active with the program for six or more years. Each received a hand-etched glass commemorative award thanks to our highly skilled and incredibly generous volunteer Jeff Binion.



We are grateful to the following for their steadfast dedication and commitment to the Santa Fe River and our Adopt-the-River Program:

10th Anniversary Awardees

Lifetime Supporters Sponsors:

McCune Foundation Karen Walker Real Estate

Stewards:

New Mexico State Land Office State Supreme Court Building Commission

Nine years of Support Sponsors:

Inn at the Alameda
Tutle Mountain — Sandia Johnson
Los Alamos National Bank
Outside Magazine — Larry Burke
Sheehan, Sheehan, & Stelzner and John Utton
Stewards:

Santa Fe Garden Club Sierra Club (Also Sponsors for five years)





Stewards in action

Eight years of Support Sponsors:

Inn of the Governors
El Castillo Residence
Inn & Spa at Loretto
The Rotary Club
(Also Stewards for six years)

Six years of Support Sponsors:

La Montañita Co-Op Watershed West

Stewards:

Rotary Club Dr. Carl Gibbs

Honorary Supporters

Mayor Coss, Brian Drypolcher, and Staci Matlock





Mayor Coss



Brian Drypolche

Restoration on the Santa Fe River

SFWA is moving forward on our River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (RERI) project on The Nature Conservancy's Santa Fe Preserve. This project will restore a quarter mile of river channel to its historic river bed that was diverted into a man-made by-pass channel approximately a hundred years ago. This project is an important step in increasing the capacity of one of Santa Fe's largest wetland ecosystems and also in improving the functionality of the Santa Fe River.

The construction phase of the project will begin in early March under the talented eye of Steve Carson and his crew at Rangeland Hands. Engineers Neil Williams and Chris Phillips have worked diligently on the design and the City of Santa Fe has approved the permitting necessary for us to move forward.

SFWA received a supplemental grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star Grant program to help cover the costs of revegetation for the area once the construction is complete. If you would like to help plant native vegetation on the preserve, please contact our office to learn dates and times of the planting days, and be ready to learn about wetlands ecosystems and the value of enhancing this habitat here in the Santa Fe River Watershed. Please call 505-820-1696 or email Eileen@santafewatershed.org for more information.

TREE THINNING ALONG AZTEC SPRINGS TRIBUTARY



Last summer, the Santa Fe Watershed Association partnered with the City of Santa Fe's Wildland Urban Interface Specialist in an effort to decrease the amount of sediment carried down from the Aztec Springs drainage and into the Santa Fe River. The recommended treatment for this reduction in this overgrown area of Piñon and Juniper forest was a "Lop and scatter" type of thinning where the crews cut down strategically placed trees and scattered the branches strategically to prevent large scale erosion and sediment transfer. The crew of 10 worked for 50 days and treated approximately 25 acres of this City property.

Also completed under this second RERI state funded initiative was an archaeological review, the sediment assessment, and ongoing through the summer of 2012, a biological assessment of macroinvertabrates in the Nichols Reservoir and upper portions of the Santa Fe River.

UPDATE ON RIVER TRAIL

The City of Santa Fe is nearly finished with its largescale river restoration project between Camino Alire and Frenchy's Field, which also includes completing a previously unconnected portion of the popular River Trail. As of press time, the City forecasted a comple-

tion date in the first week of February. Wild Earth Guardian's Stream Team will be coordinating a tree planting event on March 31st along the Santa Fe River. The registration fee of \$10 includes lunch, please visit www. wildearthguardians.org for more information or call (505) 988-9126.



How Climate Change Saved My Life

By Eileen Everett

ell, climate change may not have saved my life, but understanding climate change and learning ways to reduce my carbon footprint has enhanced the quality of my life. Back in 2008, I acquired the title of Climate Change Educator and began my journey into the world of climate change and its impact on humans, wildlife, and environments. I immersed myself in literature around climate change and global warming and leapt into a world of rising temperatures, changing ocean currents, melting ice, and increased wildfires. Our future world did not look very promising. As I began to develop activities for youth, families, and adults, I learned that I needed to interpret the science of climate



Diablo Canyon, Santa Fe County

change for the public, but I had to make sure no one left with a feeling of doom and gloom. In comes the concept of a carbon footprint, looking at how your individual actions like driving and using electricity release greenhouse gases, which in turn impact our climate.

Many of us have thought of ways to reduce our carbon footprint by recycling, driving less, and taking steps to increase energy conservation (like switching out lightbulbs from incandescent to CFLs or LEDs.) From my experience, most Americans view reducing their carbon footprint as a nuisance, an extra burden in time and money. Many Americans have taken steps to reduce their carbon footprints, but how do we motivate individuals to take more action? Scientific evidence has been presented over and over again to the American public, but relatively little has changed about how we live our lives. What if we switch around the attitude from feeling overburdened by reducing our carbon footprint to one that enhances our lives?

One of the main areas I have focused on reducing one's carbon footprint has been our food production sys-



tem. Research indicates that from 1/5 to 1/3 of all greenhouse gases emitted by the actions of Americans can be linked to our food production system! This includes all outputs including irrigation, fertilization, transportation, refrigeration, and processing. Looking at food choices is one of the fastest ways Americans can reduce their carbon footprint. Simple actions like eating less animal products, growing your own food, buying locally, or eating less processed food can make big changes. Personally, I have chosen to eat more locally, eat less animal products, and grow some of my own food. The health and economic benefits I have experienced by making these changes far outweigh the benefits I have seen in terms of

reducing my carbon footprint. Gardening gets me outdoors, growing my own food saves me quite a bit of money, and eating less animal products has allowed me to stay in better shape. No store bought tomato can compare in taste to the heirloom tomatoes I have grown from seed. I have the advantage of eating like a gourmet for a few pennies, who can argue with that?

In these times of accelerated carbon emissions and current climate uncertainties that will only increase with each day, it's time that we change how we interpret global warming and how learn to empower ourselves to deal with this issue. For truly it is the pivotal issue of our day and undeniably is impacting our lives and those of future generations, today. If we can make the case that reducing our carbon footprints can help our bodies, communities, economies, and environment, we can begin now. The time has come for

e ior
f our lives, not burden it. So go

us to look at how understanding climate change can enhance the quality of our lives, not burden it. So go ahead, plant a garden, ride your bike, and put down that steak knife! You might just be pleasantly surprised!

My Water, My Watershed

Over 200 Santa Fe Public School fourth and fifth graders participated in the My Water, My Watershed program last Fall. Classes from Aspen Community Magnet School, Chaparral Elementary, and Salazar Elementary explored the theme: Where our Water Comes From through two classroom visits and a full day field trip to the Upper Watershed. During the field trips, students pull on rubber boots before stepping into the river with nets and buckets to collect macroinvertebrates. By collecting data on the types of insects they find, students learn to evaluate the health of the water. They are also treated to a tour of an abandoned intact beaver lodge and a series of beaver dams, giving them a glimpse into the valuable role beavers play in river ecology. One class was fortunate enough to see a real beaver and another class found bear tracks! After seeing the reservoirs and learning that the river is where our water comes from, the students are put to the task of coming up with ways to conserve water at home, in school, and around the community.





Eileen Everett

From August to November, the Santa Fe Watershed Association, the City of Santa Fe, and U.S. Forest Service led four hikes and one van trip into the Upper Watershed, as part of our outreach and education campaign to the public. With an emphasis on forest ecology, water management, and wildlife habitat, hikers are treated to a serene five hour hike with talks by Forester Bill Armstrong, City Water Division Staff on the philosophy and practice of reservoir management, and SFWA Education Director Eileen Everett's history and ecology of the Upper Watershed. These hikes afford an unprecedented opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of where our tap water comes from and what is required to maintain a healthy clean supply.

2012 Hikes are scheduled for Wednesday, July 18th; Saturday, August 11th; Wednesday, September 22nd; and Saturday, October 17th. The van trip is set for Thursday, November 8th. Registration for the hikes will open in May. Sign up early, because they fill very quickly! Please check www.santafewatershed.org for updated information.

Eighth graders from the Santa Fe Girls School spent a day in the Upper Watershed collecting data such as water quality, groundwater depth, macroinvertebrate sampling, and canopy cover. This spring students from the New Mexico School for the Arts, will be introduced to the data collection protocol and add their findings to the data pool.





Te at the Santa Fe Watershed Association work hard on issues that we believe matter. However, we are never alone as a staff. It takes a community to affect deep change and it's those members of the community that give tirelessly of themselves that make a difference in our lives and in the work we do. SFWA is fortunate and grateful to have wonderful people involved and working behind the scenes to help create our successes. Here's one of them.

JEFF BINION, VOLUNTEER WITH A GIFT FOR GIVING

Jeff and his wife Denise found SFWA by cruising the internet in their newly adopted community of Santa Fe. They were looking for a few good organizations worthy of their experience and talent to donate to. Jeff's experience and passion

for water issues led him to the Santa Fe Watershed Association, where he has given of his creative expertise in glass cutting. Jeff has an incredible mind for generosity. For SFWA he expertly etched two remarkable pieces: A water pitcher and four glasses with our logo for Willie Nelson and a vase for our concert and VIP party hostess Ali MacGraw. It is in the spirit of generosity and community that we thank Jeff for all he has done in the way of brainstorming, glass etching, and just plain giving. And we celebrate him as a very special member of our SFWA family.



Welcome Rachel!



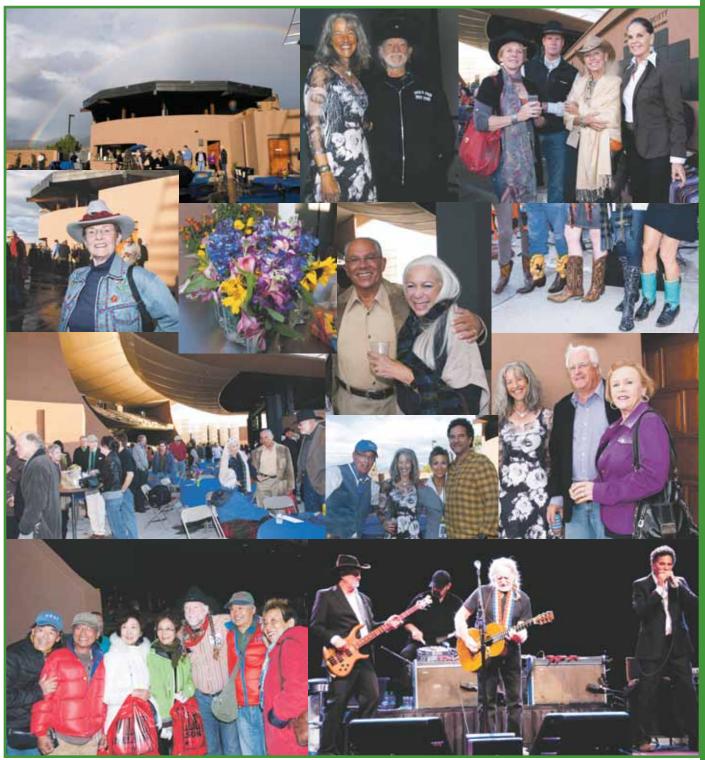
achel Boothby is an AmeriCorps OSM/VISTA volunteer from the Western Hardrock Watershed Team with experience supporting grassroots community organizations in rural and urban settings. In her first five months, she has helped increase SFWA's capacity for outreach communications by building our social media presence and designing graphic media. Rachel is also providing a link to the Railyard Stewards, a partner organization with which she is sharing time, helping to further watershed awareness and illuminate how water connects the community. In her previous year of AmeriCorps service, Rachel galvanized local participation and recognition of the *Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership* through educational events, volunteer workdays, and media presence in Southwest Colorado.

It is her interest in seeing the world and meeting new people that brings Rachel to the Southwest from New England. She earned a Bachelors Degree in Arts Administration from Simmons College, Boston, with a Public Relations concentration. To gain hands-on experience in the field, she interned and volunteered at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum for three years, as well as the Griffin Museum of Photography and for ASPECT: The Chronicle of New Media Art. Rachel also spent a summer felling trees and leading teen and adult volunteer trail crews of the Appalachian Mountain Club in the New Hampshire White Mountains. After graduation, Rachel was recruited to the Crate & Barrel Management Training Program. While there, she increased profits through different merchandising methods, built strong customer relations, and delegated projects to part-time staff. "I find my work with the Santa Fe Watershed Association extremely gratifying," Rachel says, "because I can bring together my professional experiences and passions to an organization that is doing so many good things for its community."

Willie Nelson & Family Wow the Crowd

n September 17th, 2011, a sold-out audience cheered, stomped and sang along with singer/song-writer Willie Nelson and Family in a benefit concert for the Santa Fe Watershed Association at the Santa Fe Opera.

Prior to the concert, 120 people gathered on the Stravinsky Terrace for a VIP dinner party where MC Ali MacGraw held a Willie Nelson Look-Alike contest, a Most-Colorful-Boot contest, and ate delicious food catered by Cowgirls, stayed warm with wine donated by St. Claire Vineyards, and cooled down with beer graciously donated by Santa Fe Brewing while listening to the musical talents of Joe's Not Here.



Friends and fans gathered on the Stravinsky Terrace for the VIP party prior to the concert.

Program Highlights

ART, SCIENCE, & RECOVERY: AN ARTFUL POSSIBILITY OF WATERSHED RENEWAL.



hen visiting artist Allan Compton was invited to come to Santa Fe as a guest of the SF Art Institute, he combined his passion for watersheds and seeing outside of the box for a tour of the watershed for a group of creative thinkers. On August 27th & 28th, a group of 23 people, coordinated by the Santa Fe Watershed Association, were guided to key points along the river's edge where speakers presented an overview of issues affecting those particular areas. The day long tour gave attendees an insight into the complex issues that face our community and our river.

Starting at 9:00 a.m., the first stop was the most downstream site just outside of La Cienega. There, Will Barnes and two stu-

dents from the Santa Fe Girls School revealed the health of their site since extracting more than 3,000 Russian olive trees from their nine acre parcel of land. John Horning of WildEarth Guardians spoke at the site where, 20 years ago, they transformed a dusty site into a rich riparian habitat. Next stop was the traditional village of Aqua Fria where William Mee shared a detailed history and the extreme impacts suffered to this once-productive agricultural village from a rapidly growing city. After a tour of the Railyard Park and Plaza gardens we headed to the headgate of the Acequia Madre where Phil and Eleanor Bove explained the history and engineering behind the 400 year old tradition of diverting water through acequias. Last, the group visited The Nature Conservancy's Canyon Preserve to see the two earliest dam sites that changed the face of water use in Santa Fe. The following day, participants were led through a discussion and an art exercise where they created a group mural as an expression of their response to the tour. Thanks to Allan Compton, Bobbe Besold, Chrissie Orr, Diane Karp and her staff at SFAI, Eliza Kretzmann of the Railyard Stewards and especially to VISTA Volunteer Amy Reed for their help with this insightful weekend.

RECYCLED ART CONTEST: TURNING TRASH INTO TREASURE

SFWA has rekindled a favorite Adopt-the-River Event, the Recycled Art Contest! On a warm clear October 15th, die-hard river stewards flooded the Santa Fe River corridor to collect bountiful bags of trash. Two hours later, kids and adults alike were eagerly digging their way through the mountains of plastic bottles, scraps of metal, odd collection of cans, bottle tops, and anything else that had been hauled out of the river that day. Their goal: to create an art piece that would captivate the judges' eye and land them an exhibit space at the annual Recycled Art Exhibit in November. Thirteen kids aged 6-11 and eleven adults gathered for the contest in the parking lot of La Montanita Co-op where we set up tents and tables. All sculptures had to be completed within a one and a half hour time frame and had to contain only materials collected that day from the river. Judges Juliet Meyers and Craig Anderson had a difficult task choosing winners from the

Backle Boothly.

superbly crafted lot. Winners received prizes generously donated by Artisans Art Supply House, Valdez Paints, and MoonRabbit Toys and La Montañita supplied a magnificent array of gigantic burritos and tasty accompaniments to keep us nourished. Don't miss the opportunity to try your hand at turning trash into treasure to our 2012 Recycled Art Contest. Stay tuned for details!

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

In December 2011, the Santa Fe Watershed Association broadened our social media capacity by adding a twitter account. Follow us at "@SantaFeH2O" and receive up- to- the- minute updates of happenings at the Santa Fe Watershed Association.

Imagine a world where...

No one puts trash in the river,
water flows endlessly toward the Rio Grande,
and its presence is celebrated by every new generation.

The Santa Fe Watershed Association is building that world.

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

Name	Your tax-deductible donation at any level will help us restore the Santa Fe River and Watershed. We are a 501(c)3 organization.	
Address		
CityStateZip Enclosed is my check for \$	Spring	\$30
Make Payable To: Santa Fe Watershed Association	Acequia Tributary	\$50 \$100
Please Charge \$	Stream	\$250
□VISA □MASTERCARD	River	\$500
Card Number	Reservoir	\$1000
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SIGNATURE	Angel	\$5000

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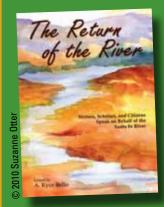
Klean Kanteen® Water bottle – \$20



SFWA Hat - \$15

SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

GIFTS NOW AVAILABLE



The Return of the River – \$25

The Return of the River

Edited by A. Kyce Bello

If you haven't already, buy this book and read the diverse stories all of which were inspired by the Santa Fe River. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit www.santafewatershed.org for more information on these events.

FEBRUARY 29

City Council Public Hearing on Living River Ordinance at City Council Chambers

MARCH 6

Election for Santa Fe Opportunity Bonds: http://www.santafenm.gov/index.aspx?nid=2530

MARCH 31

Tree Planting by WildEarth Guardians Stream Team

APRIL 21

Acequia Day at the Railyard

MAY 19

National River Clean Up Day

JUNE 1-2

Annual Santa Fe River Watershed Festival and Fishing Derby



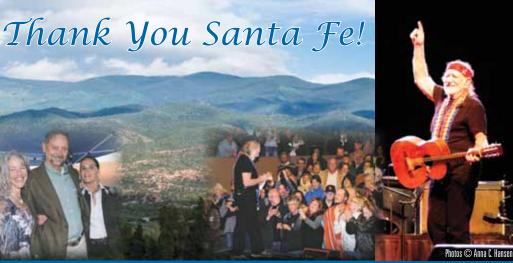
WWW.SANTAFEWATERSHED.ORG

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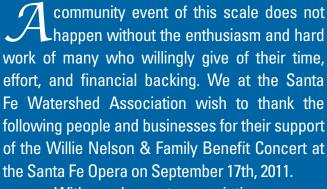
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The SFWA takes environmentally responsible business practices seriously. We have chosen to work with a certified Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) printer. This means that both the print company and the paper used were rigorously reviewed and controlled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





THE MAX AND ANNA LEVINSON FOUNDATION



With our deepest appreciation.

Charlotte Levinson
Ali MacGraw
Mayor David Coss
SFWA Amazing Staff
Tom & Elise Noble
Jeff Binion
Jamie Lenfestey
Phoenix Security
Carolyn Dillon
Broken Saddle
Lucchese
Los Alamos National Bank
Inn of the Governors

Spa & Inn at Loretto
Inn of the Anasazi
Bishop's Lodge
La Fonda Hotel
Whole Foods
Sunflower Market
Cowgirl BBQ
Santa Fe Brewing Co.
The Shed
La Choza
Joe's Diner
Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
St. Claires Winery

Jerry Jacobi
Steve Cantrell
Rick Wiegers
Greg Malone
Dakini Design
Anna Hansen
Green Fire Times
Santa Fean Magazine
Santa Fe New Mexican
Natural Awakenings
Magazine
Tom Morris
Julie Wheeler

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