

Santa Fe New Mexican: Letters to the editor, Sept. 7, 2014

River cleanup

For more than a decade, the Santa Fe Watershed Association and Michael Smith have walked sometimes convergent, sometimes divergent paths in their efforts to heal the Santa Fe River. Smith and association founder Paige Grant met as she was setting up the Adopt-the-River program and wanted to pull in this energetic person who had taken on cleaning up a particularly trashed-out section of the Santa Fe River just because he thought somebody ought to do it. Smith soon joined the board of the watershed association and continued to work on picking up trash, thinning invasive trees and planting native riparian vegetation with the Adopt-the-River program.

Smith has since moved upstream and left the association, but through his continuing commitment to the little *rito* that is the heart of Santa Fe, has continued thinning invasive vegetation along the banks under the banner of “Friends of the Santa Fe River.”

The watershed association hopes the Friends of the River achieves the desired outcome in its endeavors.

Our Steward Teams have done a great job over the years of keeping garbage and debris out of the riverbed and riparian zones, and we applaud their incredible efforts. Thank you to these marvelous volunteers on behalf of the river!

Andy Otto

Executive Director

Santa Fe Watershed Association