



SFWA Celebrates 25th Anniversary!

Can you believe it?!

We'll be offering multiple ways for you celebrate along with us. From a film festival to a community appreciation event, we have much to celebrate this year, including in-person activities!



Cards of Photo Contest Winners

Remember all of those beautiful photos that your friends and neighbors took for our 2020 Winter Watershed Benefit? We loved them so much we've made cards of them so that you can share them with all of your favorite people. To purchase contact raquel@santafewatershed.org.



Happy Spring!

As the snow melts and flows into our beautiful river and tributaries, we at the Santa Fe Watershed Association are happy to see more and more of our wonderful community members showing up to volunteer, offering fiscal sponsorship, and sharing stories and enthusiasm for our most precious resource.

Angel Volunteer Focus



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Tim Kirkpatrick, one of our outstanding Angel Volunteers.

Since 2018 he has donated countless hours and resources working with us to restore riparian areas along the river and assisting our educators in the field during My Water, My Watershed lessons.

He has truly earned an amazing set of Angel Volunteer wings.

Message from our Executive Director

"The past is prologue"



My Mother used to say this. It rings so true in reference to our hometown watershed. We need to move forward to build a better world for ourselves and future generations.

In this advocacy work, we need to plan and to continue restoring the functions of the watershed. In some cases back to how it was in the past...

We have a poem on the wall at the SFWA office titled "Vertiente del Rio Los Brazos" and it begins with, "Wolves had the run of this watershed, and

shepherds herded their flocks for months across common lands without a fence...". Maybe there are elements of the past that we cannot replicate (lobos will not likely have the run of this watershed again) but we can address the notion that our watershed lands are common lands.

We know that whatever happens in one part of the watershed effects all of the other parts of the watershed. A new building here or a new road there changes the infiltration through our soils and into our common aquifer. We need to treat our Downstream Users as we would wish our Upstream Users to treat us, which includes bringing them into the discussion and listening to their needs and concerns.

We generally assume that all of the Users, including the Santa Fe River watershed itself, want more water, but that is not necessarily always true. Often they simply need the right amount of water at the right time of year. Historically in New Mexico, use was tied directly to need: If you grew an acre of alfalfa, then that acre needed one acre foot of water. Therefore, your historical beneficial use was one acre foot per year.

How do we incorporate all of these "beneficial uses" into the demand side of our current water equation? We have to hear from every User in the watershed, there simply is no other fair and equitable way about it. Otherwise, the wolves will have the run of this watershed.

Andy Otto

A fun and educational way to support SFWA!

The Wild and Scenic Film Festival just gets better year after year. Join us for a hybrid event this year featuring online screening opportunities and an in-person screening and celebration.

You can help bring this great event to Santa Fe audiences by becoming a sponsor, offering to volunteer, and by telling all of your friends about it!

Contact Amara@santafewatershed.org to get involved.



Education at SFWA



Climate Masters

After a two-year hiatus, New Mexico Climate Masters is back in full swing. This spring's class met weekly at the Randall Davey Audubon classroom to hear experts speak about various aspects of climate change, discuss issues that New Mexico is facing, and develop projects to help the local community with climate change challenges. Students are now expected to complete 30 hours of a service project, with an outreach component, related to climate change to claim the title of "Climate Master".

Presentation topics have been as broad as an overview of COP26 and climate change goals from a global perspective to a narrow focus on the impacts of climate change in the local Santa Fe community. Students have delved into what climate change may mean for things like water supply and the growing need for conservation, the NM 50 Year Water Plan, energy efficiency and sustainability programs, regenerative agriculture and the importance of soil health. One highlight was a visit from US Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez of NM's 3rd Congressional District. Representative Leger Fernandez expressed her love for New Mexico's people and environment and discussed legislation she has been working on such as the Just Transition for Energy Communities Act, to help New Mexico address climate change and vulnerable populations within New Mexico.

We are truly honored to play a role in the health and vibrancy of our watershed and community through this program and want to thank the City of Santa Fe for its support.

My Water, My Watershed

The SFWA's My Water, My Watershed 5th grade field trips into the Upper Santa Fe Watershed started up again in March and everyone is excited to get out of the classroom and into the outdoors! Twenty field trip days were available and when scheduling opened for teachers in January, they were booked within a week. With the support of City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Department employees and ongoing dedicated volunteers, SFWA education staff facilitate student exploration of one of their water sources.

Students hike to the Nichols Reservoir and learn about the history of the area and how the City of Santa Fe manages and treats the water. Students make connections between their water supply, how it gets to their homes, and the need to conserve water in their daily lives. Field trips will be taking place weekly through mid-May with an estimated 440 students participating!

What Else is Going on at SFWA?

Rain Gardens



Thanks to the fantastic work of The RainCatcher, Inc. and Watershed West, as well as the essential support and collaboration with the City of Santa Fe and the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau, we have now completed construction of a beautiful new rain garden at Brother's Lane on East Alameda and a Zuni bowl structure at the river-end of Camino Escondido. Both projects will help raise awareness for green stormwater infrastructure, improve soil health and groundwater recharge, and protect our River from erosion and pollution. Be sure to stop by and watch these sites blossom with vegetation, and even mushrooms!



We can never get enough of building rain gardens! They truly are one of the best tools we have to improve the resilience of our urban ecology and hydrology.

This spring we are partnering with Southwest Urban Hydrology, the City Water Conservation Department, and the Santa Fe Public Schools Sustainability Office to install four new parking space rain gardens at Nye Early Childhood Center. Not only will these rain gardens help make the parking lot at Nye greener and reduce the heat island, but they will provide an ideal place for young students to learn early on about stormwater, pollinators, soil, and a host of other topics in a fun and engaging way.

CommuniTree

This spring we are thrilled to once again be partnering with Rio Grande Return, with support from the Office of Outdoor Recreation, the Sierra Club Foundation, the Lineberry Foundation, Silver Bullet Productions, and of course the City of Santa Fe, to plant 500 cottonwood poles and 5,000 willow poles in the River between Frenchy's Field and Siler Bridge. Even though surface water doesn't consistently flow through this reach, restoring the riparian ecology here is definitely an important piece of helping our River and watershed stay alive and to flourish.



We are also excited to be partnering with Seeds of Wisdom, LLC, with support from the Nusenda Foundation, to create a geodatabase that will help us track survival and health of trees we plant, and adjust for future projects. Stay tuned for more great tree projects, and feel free to get in touch if you have ideas!

Mori@santafewatershed.org

And even more...



Stakeholder Study

SFWA and our partners at Utah State University and Geosystems Analysis have wrapped up stakeholder interviews and follow-up sorting of priorities, to highlight areas of alignment and misalignment with current watershed management plans. We are planning to present our initial findings and get feedback from stakeholder later this summer and into the fall. We will then summarize all of the findings in a report that can be used to inform future water management decisions and plans within the watershed. Stay tuned!

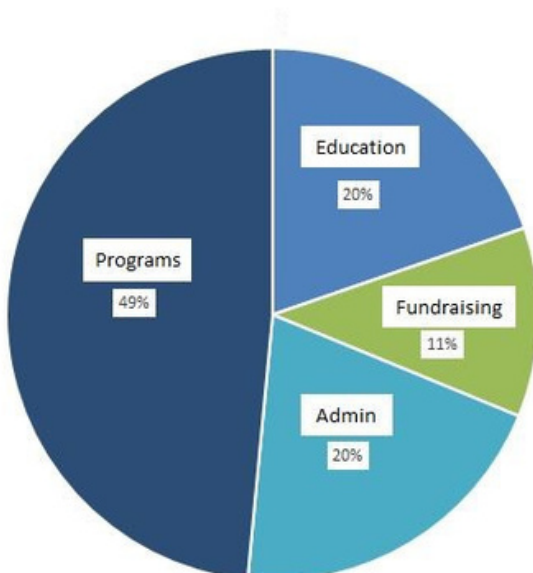
SFWA's Adopt Programs

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of dedicated Steward teams and Fiscal Sponsors Adopting reaches of the Santa Fe River. As the program expanded to our Arroyos, too, the amount of litter collected from our waterways has increased significantly, as has community engagement. We have 44 active steward teams, many of whom are school groups, and 32 active sponsors. We've had 650 volunteers remove over 8.5 tons of trash from our waterways this fiscal year (July-June) so far!

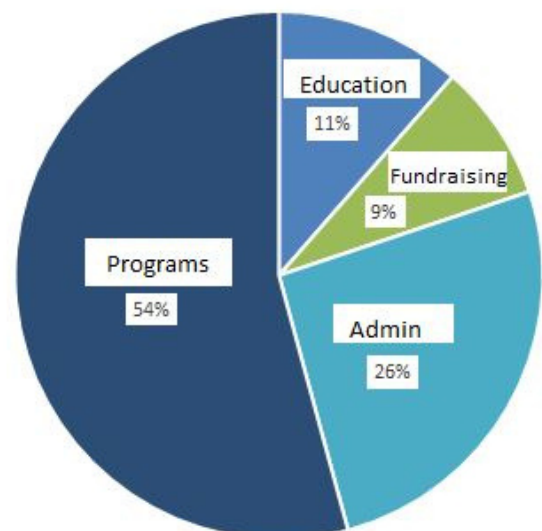
We can't thank our community enough for supporting these efforts. And there are still reaches that need sponsors and stewards. Let us know if you're interested in getting involved! Amara@santafewatershed.org.

SFWA's Financial Overview

Income Breakdown by Class - 2021



Expense Breakdown by Class - 2021



Message from our Board President



Worth Remembering

All of us at the Santa Fe Watershed Association would like to thank you, our supporters, as we mark our 25th anniversary. While a lot has changed in 25 years, our commitment to the community and to you has not. Highlights of some early accomplishments are worth remembering.

Founded in 1997, the Santa Fe Watershed Association evolved with a group of people wanting to protect and restore the Santa Fe River. One of the first projects initiated was the Adopt-the-River program in partnership with the City and County of Santa Fe. The program enlists sponsors and steward teams to help take care of the river. It remains a core element of the Association today, and has been expanded recently to include the Adopt-An-Arroyo program. Together we celebrate the spirit of our river system.

In 2007 there was a push to protect and sustain the upper watershed. A collaborative planning group including the City of Santa Fe, the United States Forest Service Espanola District, the Santa Fe Watershed Association and the Nature Conservancy worked to develop a 20-year watershed management plan. Key elements of the Municipal Watershed Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2009, were public awareness and educational outreach. The Santa Fe Watershed Association took responsibility for development and implementation of the My Water, My Watershed program, focused on introducing fifth-graders to the Santa Fe Watershed. This educational program now reaches just about every public school fifth grader in Santa Fe.

Another milestone for the Santa Fe Watershed Association was the passage of the Target Flow for a Living River Ordinance in 2012. The effort required intense advocacy which was led by the Association in soliciting city-wide support. When the City Council voted to let 1,000 acre feet of water flow into the river on wet or normal years it was a giant first step to reviving the Santa Fe River. Your dedication in supporting our work really made a difference back then, and your continued support will enable the Santa Fe Watershed Association to stay a leader in our community.

Help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary by giving a donation today. Your loyalty inspires us to keep innovating and developing new ways to meet the challenges of our time. We depend on contributions from individuals and businesses to sustain our existing programs and to develop new ones,

Thank you again for helping us be successful. It's a privilege to have you as a friend of the Santa Fe Watershed Association.

Steven Hamp



Support the SFWA Watering Team!

As we prepare for watering season, we need a couple of steady volunteers to help us keep newly-planted trees and shrubs alive.

Email amara@santafewatershed.org if you're interested in learning more!

Thank you to our generous donors

SFWA appreciates each and every one of you!

SFWA Collaborates and Receives

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Agua Fria Village Association

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