



# Currents

Vol. 25 No. 1 Summer 2021

## From the President: Thanks To You, We're Looking Ahead

Welcome, friends of the Santa Fe Watershed Association. As spring catches up with summer, it's a wonderful time to get outside. For so many of us, the connections we feel to nature start with exploring outdoor places near our homes. These activities can mean simply taking a walk and appreciating tall trees and greenery in the city along the Santa Fe River.

This is an exciting time for the Watershed Association. We are working on several new initiatives, like developing a shared Watershed Management Program that is intended to build on previous work done in different regions of the watershed with extended stakeholder input, and to bring all of the information together for a complete watershed perspective (see page 3). Another effort is to expand urban tree cover throughout the Santa Fe River and Watershed. The program we have put together is called the CommuniTree Network, and it officially launched in early May. The work emphasizes

planting trees along the river and includes coordinating with many partners in this effort to enhance our community.

Many of our more traditional programs, such as My Water, My Watershed; Adopt-the-River; Adopt-an-Arroyo, and Rain Gardens, continue to thrive and have a positive impact in our community. In addition, our three annual river clean-up days are great for friends and family to find a favorite spot along the river or an arroyo and spend some time cleaning it up. All of these activities are geared toward meeting our mission statement, which is to protect and restore the health and vibrancy of the Santa Fe River and its watershed for the benefit of people and the environment.

Our watershed is not without issues and problems, both past and present. You have been steadily making a difference for our river system, and we want you to join us to continue to make a difference for our community.

We are grateful for your past support, and as always, we see the Santa Fe River and Watershed as a community resource that requires strong stewardship to address evolving issues that impact all of us. This year we are in an exceptional drought which will put increased pressure on a diminishing supply of water and a functioning watershed that supports our lives.

You can make a difference in the success of our programs and the sustainability of our watershed by making a donation. Each dollar raised will help fund river stewardship, restoration projects, and educational programs that directly tie our community to the Santa Fe River.

Your friendship and support have sustained us in the past, and those values will carry on as we look ahead. Please consider a gift to the Santa Fe Watershed Association to continue our collective work.

Thank you for putting your trust in us.



*Steve Hamp,  
SFWA Board President*

## Testimonials From Our Fans

After serving on the board of the Santa Fe Watershed Association for a number of years, I became a re-invigorated volunteer. Along with many others, I have worked to help get water to the container-grown cottonwoods that were replanted after the historic flood of 2018. Those trees cannot survive yet without ongoing watering – their roots are not yet deep enough to sustain them, even if we were not in a serious drought. With the continuing help of volunteers, SFWA is continuing to lead in keeping these trees watered. Please help whenever you see a call for volunteers!

"This year, I also helped use the time-tested technique of boring eight-foot-deep holes in order to get saplings of willow and cottonwood down to where they will have enough moisture (we hope) to continue without watering – after their first year or two. This planting project will continue next year from Frenchy's field down to the Siler Road Bridge. We hope in time to turn what is now one of the barest stretches of the Santa Fe River into a shady riparian corridor for birds and wildlife, and for all Santa Feans to enjoy."

— Tom Noble  
(continued on page 3)

From the Executive Director: We're Listening and Speaking Up

Working for a relatively small watershed in the American Southwest during a potential mega-drought is hard. The value of water increases every day, and that just turns up the heat. Everyone has a valid opinion about what should be done to ensure water resiliency – and no two opinions are the same. We who see ourselves as stewards of the watershed try to be helpful, but others too often seem to see us as adversaries. And we, too, imagine other dedicated folks as foes – that’s not fair either.


**THE MISSION** of the Santa Fe Watershed Association is to protect and restore the health and vibrancy of the Santa Fe River and its watershed for the benefit of people and the environment. We achieve this through education, restoration, stewardship and advocacy. From the river’s headwaters to the Rio Grande, we honor the connection of people and the watershed.

Then we wonder if we’re doing enough. We haven’t talked to *everyone*, and we haven’t listened to *everyone*. How can we think about taking a break when there are so many voices and points of view to be understood? We’re dealing with water here, the very essence of life: El agua es la vida.


I’m reminded of the poem, “If”, by Rudyard Kipling: *“If you can keep your head when all about you / Are losing theirs and blaming it on you, / If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, / But make allowance for their doubting too....”*

So we need to keep showing up. One more meeting, one more letter, one more phone call. There will always be “one more,” because these are dynamic situations, and any solution we find today will be revisited tomorrow.

That’s why your support is critical – If we don’t have to watch our backs, we can look around and ahead. With your support, we have a voice. There can’t be a river without a watershed. Bless this watershed of the Rio de Santa Fe.



*Andy Otto, SFWA Executive Director*



SFWA Collaborates and Receives State and Federal Funds

**Rain Gardens and Zuni Bowl Projects**

In cooperation with the City of Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Watershed Association (SFWA) has been awarded funds by New Mexico Environment Department River Stewardship Program to slow runoff along the Santa Fe River. The goals of the East Alameda Rain Gardens and Camino Escondido Zuni Bowls project are 1) to protect and improve water quality in the Santa Fe River, and 2) to assist in the restoration of the Santa Fe River watershed and its designated uses. Each year, NMED funds projects that address the root causes of poor water quality and stream habitat. The New Mexico Legislature appropriates funds for the program.

We have completed the preliminary plans and permitting; we expect to start creating the rain gardens and Zuni bowls in the Summer and Autumn of 2021.

**Watersmart Project**

The SFWA has received Phase 1 funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program for its project entitled “Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management and Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed.”

Building on a 2015 study of the Santa Fe basin, SFWA will collaborate with the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County,

and other stakeholders to develop a plan to address concerns about sustainability and reliability of surface-water supplies. For Phase 1 of this project, SFWA is thrilled to be working with Utah State University and Geosystems Analysis, Inc. to record, rank, and geographically orient diverse stakeholder priorities across the watershed in order to inform future watershed management plans.

---

**Testimonials** *(continued from page 1)*

I would say that, if not for NGOs like the Santa Fe Watershed Association, funds would rarely be put on the ground on broadly beneficial (and necessary) restoration projects.

— *Toner Mitchell*  
*New Mexico Water and Habitat Program*  
*Trout Unlimited*

For centuries, Santa Fe had a thriving river providing water to people and farms. Today, the “river” is a dry, down-cut eyesore much of the year. My wife and I support the Santa Fe Watershed Association because it is working to revive this threatened watercourse.

— *Ruth and David Noble*

2020 Donors — Thank You, Every One of You

Anonymous	Henry Chavez, Jr.	Melvin Hagman	Alasdair Lindsay	Marty Peale	Mary Schruben
Agua Fria Nursery, Inc.	Susan and Yates Coulter	Steven Hamp	Livingry Foundation	Roger S. Peterson	Suzanne Scott
Agua Fria Village Association	David Douglas	Morgan Hees	William Loeb	Nicholas Potter	Southwest Urban Hydrologies
Alison Amann	Del Norte Credit Union	Lois Herrmann	Antonio Lopez	Ron Press	Lynne Stickrod
Anna Archer	Jan Duggan	Toby Herzlich	Robert and Brenda Lurcott	Raincatchers	Jamey Stillings and Esha Chiocchio
Catherine Baca	Doug Earp	Victoria Hudimac	Lee and Susan MacLeod	Rancho Siringo Neighborhood Association	Whitney and Kate Sunderland
Marissa Ballantine	Earthwrights Designs	Ken Hughes	Gwyn and Wilson Mason	Edward and Melanie Ranney	Jeffrey Sussmann
David Bazell	Deanna Einspahr and Rick Martinez	Inn on the Alameda	McCune Charitable Foundation	Larry and Nyla Rasmussen	Tierra Concepts, Inc.
Francois Becker	El Castillo Retirement Residences	Gerald Jacobi	Janet McVickar	Anthony Ricketts	Turtle Mountain
Carol Branch	Anne and Thomas Farrell	Jan-Willem and Ariel Jansens	Tucker Melancon and Diana Moore	River Source	United Church of Santa Fe
Brindle Foundation	Steve Ferree	Brenda Jerome	Timothy Mitchell	Sophie Rixe	US Eagle Federal Credit Union
Bristol Family Law, LLC	Kristina Fisher	Tom and Carlyn Jarvis	Kevin Myers	Jane and Phillip Rollins	Loretta E. Valencia
Bonita Brody-Stewart	Rick and Lisa Fisher	Betsy Jones	Nancy Ann Mellen Foundation	Donald and Sally Romig	Heather Volz and Larry Casper
Ada Browne	Barbara Fix	Lisa and Joel Kantor	Michael Nelsen	Rosemary Romero	Wellesley Congregational Church
John Buchser	Denise Fort	Heather Karlson and William Leeson	David and Ruth Noble	Rotary Club of Santa Fe	Billie Wellman
Richard Buffler	Bill and Karen Gahr	Michael Kelley	Tom Noble	Santa Fe Botanical Garden	Sarah Wentzel-Fisher
Amy Bunting	Lou and Lynda Gavioli	Thomas and Sally Kitch	Northern Rio Grande Natural Heritage Area Inc.	Santa Fe Community Foundation	Cynthia West
Julianne Burton-Carvajal	Larry and Lori Gibson	La Fonda on the Plaza	Nusenda Credit Union	Santa Fe County	Kay West and John Molyneaux
Elva Busch	Jane Gilbert	La Montanita Co-Op Food Market	Mary Olson and Matthew Hecht	Santa Fe Garden Club	Neil Williams and Paige Grant
Chris and Carol Calvert	Myron and June Goldfinger	Lori Lanier	Denny and Trudy O’Toole	JoAnn and Fen Sartorius	100 Women Who Care
Lynne Canning	Raymond Greenwell and Karla Harby	Conchita Lopez	Susan Owens	David Schlessinger	Henry Yeiser
Steve Carson	Sarah Greenwood	Elizabeth Lee	Gwen and Tom Paine	Fred Schott	Lyle York and Matthew Wilson
Charles Case II	Sterling Grogan	Amy Lewis	Carol Pava	Merry Schroeder	Giacomo Zafarano
Barbara Lynda Chatterjee	Keith Grover	Melia Lewis			



## Volunteer River-Tree Watering on Fridays

Bring a couple of hours, a bucket to carry water, gloves, and a backpack – as we'll be walking a lot. We're watering the trees from Frenchy's Field footbridge to the Siler Road bridge, and then on to San Isidro river crossing to Romero Park. They need our help until their roots grow deep enough to reach the water table when the river goes underground. SFWA will bring light refreshments.

This River-Tree Watering is to be a weekly event, on Fridays, through the summer and fall.

Please contact SFWA River Steward Coordinator, Keely Jackson Kennemore, for details (505/820-1696).

**Tickets for Wild & Scenic  
are available on-line NOW!**

### Santa Fe Watershed Association

1413 Second Street, #3  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

505/820-1696 • [info@santafewatershed.org](mailto:info@santafewatershed.org) • [www.santafewatershed.org](http://www.santafewatershed.org)

**Board of Directors** Steven Hamp, *President* • Janet McVickar, *Vice President* • Lindsay Archuleta, *Secretary* • Loretta Valencia, *Treasurer* • *Other members:* Colleen Baker, Peter Ives, Pilar Law, Tony Ricketts, Fred Schott • **Staff** Andy Otto, *Executive Director* • Raquel Baca-Tompson, *Administrative Director* • Morika Hensley, *Director of Planning, Education, & Restoration* • Keely Jackson Kennemore, *River Steward Coordinator* Amara Nash, *Adopt Program Manager* • **Newsletter Editor, Design & Production:** Marty Peale • **Photos & Illustrations:** Keely Jackson Kennemore



presented by Santa Fe Watershed Association

**WILD & SCENIC** FILM FESTIVAL  
where activism gets inspired

Resilient by Nature

July 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm  
a virtual festival experience

peak design klean kanteen EARTHJUSTICE SANTA FE WATERSHED

[santafewatershed.org](http://santafewatershed.org)