

Currents & Flow

August 2021

Thank YOU for 10 Years of Support!

Dear Friend,

This is Friends of the Verde River's tenth year in operation. Yes, you heard that right. We have been working together for ten years as an "official" nonprofit organization. Ten years is an important milestone. We are so appreciative for everyone who has helped us grow and succeed. That means you! Thank you! All this year, we will be highlighting the ways you have worked to restore native habitat for wildlife, create river stewards, and keep our rivers flowing. Yes, you! You have done this important work with us.



In this issue of Currents & Flow, we have some stories about River Friendly Living projects. Projects that keep more water in the rivers and protect or expand our native habitat. And we'll be sharing a fun story of a bear encounter. Now that we can be together in person again, we are bringing back in-person volunteer activities. Join us!

I'm sure you are feeling the heat and are concerned about our continuing drought. I'm concerned about the rivers, too. How can we keep them flowing? Friends of the Verde River is the only local organization completely focused on river health. One way you can keep the rivers flowing is by supporting the work we do. We can't keep the Verde healthy and flowing without your support! You are why we do this work. Keep Friends working for the next ten years. Be generous, be kind, be river friendly.

Thanks for being a River Hero!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Nancy L.C. Steele'.

Nancy L.C. Steele, D.Env.

Executive Director

MISSION

Friends of the Verde River works collaboratively for a healthy, flowing Verde River system.
VerdeRiver.org



**Friends of the
VERDE RIVER**



Also in this newsletter:

- River Friendly Living
- A Wild Encounter
- Sycamore Society

*Cover image: Sunset over the Verde River in Cottonwood, Az.

Before



After



Inspiring Voluntary River Conservation

Launching this summer, River Friendly Living is a new way Friends will empower and recognize the homeowners, businesses, and communities who do their part to keep the Verde River healthy and flowing.

Over the last 18 months Friends worked with a diverse group of stakeholders including environmentalists, government staff and elected officials, business owners, agricultural producers, and real estate developers to create standards and program rules for homes, businesses, and developments. Now we are putting these programs to the test on a few carefully selected projects to ensure they work as intended before being released to the public. To that end we have undertaken pilot certifications with three homeowners, three agricultural producers, and three other businesses. These pilot certifications will be finalized in the coming weeks.

Most visibly, we partnered with a local builder, Tierra Verde Builders, and business, Yavapai

Title Agency, to construct stormwater basins at Rio Verde Plaza in downtown Camp Verde seen below. By working together on this River Friendly Development project, we created infrastructure that will help keep the Verde healthy and flowing over the long term. Rain from the parking lot now flows to these basins, putting more than 300,000 gallons of rainwater each year into the ground. This protects the river from pollution and supports river flows. Projects like this show how we can work together for the Verde River.



RiverFriendlyLiving.org



Sustainable
Water Supply

Clean Water

Healthy Habitat

Connected
Communities

USE WATER
EFFICIENTLY

REDUCE
CHEMICAL
USE

REMOVE
INVASIVE
PLANTS

DONATE!



Get
Certified!

Boots on the Banks & Volunteer Info

A Wild Encounter

Friends of the Verde River's monitoring crew has been out on the river for the past three months. This dedicated crew was able to work along many miles of river. The monitoring work that they are doing is important for us to understand the success of the restoration efforts we are implementing throughout the Verde Watershed. It also helps us plan for future restoration. The crew takes inventory of invasive plant species and measures regrowth of native plant species in our restoration sites. During this work, the crew gets a first hand experience of the diversity of life that depends on a flowing Verde River. Exciting wildlife encounters and rare plant species sightings are a regular part of the crew's day. A major effort this spring was to monitor the plant communities along lower Fossil Creek. While the crew was out, they had their most exciting encounter of all, a bear!



Here is a quote from one of the crew members: Sarah, "I stood frozen in my tracks, eyes widened, and beads of sweat appeared. Stumbling to get the words to fall from my lips. Nervously stuttering, "bear" I wondered why no one could hear me. Until finally I found the strength to yell "BBBEEE-AAAARRR." Robin and Chelsea, the two other monitoring crew members, broke from their fog mesmerized by the breathtaking beauty, only to realise the bear was a few feet away. With cameras already out, filled with pictures of vibrant flowers, they quickly got away with a snap of the bear!"

**Would you like to become a volunteer for Friends of the Verde River?
Watch the orientation video by scanning below.**

**Interested in volunteering this year?
Please scan the QR code to watch the
orientation video!**



You Make It Possible!

Leave a Legacy: Sycamore Society

Water is vital – and never more so than in a dry climate like Arizona's. The Verde River is a life force as one of the last free flowing rivers of the Southwest. It offers recreation, benefits agriculture, supports native plant life, and harbors animals.

Envisioning ways to assure the future of the Verde, Friends of the Verde River is pleased to inaugurate the Sycamore Society. These special friends of the river have made provisions in their wills, trusts or other charitable plans for a lasting gift in support of the Verde River.



Sycamore Society

There are a number of ways to signal your support for the Verde through a legacy commitment.

- **Include a commitment for Friends of the Verde River when updating your documents.**
- **Make FVR a beneficiary of an investment account, a pension plan, or a life insurance policy.**
- **Give a gift of appreciated stock and enjoy the opportunity to deduct the full fair market value while passing capital gains taxes.**
- **Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA for all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution.**

Would you like to learn more about how to leave a legacy?

Contact Kegn Moorcroft at 928-274-2077 or KegnM@VerdeRiver.org.

VerdeRiver.org/RiverHero

Congratulations to the winners of the Run the Verde Raffle!

- Michele Wilson
- Anna May Cory
- Lucy Reinhardtulatowski
- Jerry Morton

\$10,562 Raised!



**Friends of the
VERDE RIVER**