



CURRENTS & FLOWS *Spring 2022*



Happy 10th Anniversary!

Welcome by Dr. Nancy L.C. Steele,
Executive Director

Fiesta de la Garza was a great success. Thank you to the over 150 people who bought a ticket, pulled a cork, won an auction item, volunteered, donated, or otherwise had a good time for a good cause. On Wednesday, December 1st, many of you joined us to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of this organization. With music by Sister and the Sun, catering by Colt Grill, wine donated from Salt Mine Wine, and beer donated by Sedona Beer Company, we enjoyed perfect weather at the Cottonwood Community Club House.

As is our tradition, we honored a few special people:

Ron Corbin
City Manager, Cottonwood -
River Friendly Living Awardee

Dick Lynch
Verde Adventures -
River Steward Award

Jim Ariola
Old Town Red Rooster Cafe -
Business Partner of the Year

Laurie Altringer
Science Vortex -
Nonprofit Partner of the Year

Chad Yokum
Prescott National Forest -
Government Partner of the Year

Debbie LaFrance
Volunteer of the Year

City of Sedona Mayor
Sandy Moriarty -
President's Award

And Special Honorees: founding
board members Peggy Chaikin,
Marsha Foutz, and Chip Norton.



Peggy, Marsha, and Chip were surprised with commendations from Senator Kelly, Senator Sinema and Congressman O'Halleran. We were especially honored that Senator Kelly's Northern Arizona Director Coral Evans and Constituent Services Representative Judy Sulltrop joined us in person.

We also surprised Greg Kornrumpf with a Verde River goodie bag to remember us by as he enjoys retirement from a long career with Salt River Project.

Thank you for celebrating our tenth year as a nonprofit organization with us!

Nancy L.C. Steele

Nancy L.C. Steele





MLK Day of Service: Thank You for Your Service!

For Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, volunteers joined Friends and our partners to improve the Verde River! 13 volunteers came out to plant 140 willow trees and clean up 100 pounds of litter at the Clear Creek River Access point with the Prescott National Forest and the Town of Camp Verde. 17 volunteers spent the morning at Tuzigoot River Access Point with folks from the Town of Clarkdale and they pulled 1,000 invasive tree of Heaven sprouts, maintained half a mile of trail, and picked up 100 pounds of litter. The volunteer group of 13 people at Dead Horse Ranch State Park worked with Park Rangers to improve a trail that had been washed-out so people could access the river in a sustainable and safe way.

We also had an independent option for volunteers to clean up wherever they are. Volunteers participated in the virtual #PurdyVerde cleaned-up and removed litter from areas across the watershed. Finally, the Sedona volunteer site was cancelled and still there were 5 volunteers out there with their own supplies to pick up litter! In total volunteers donated xx hours of service for the Verde River and her surrounding lands on Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

Verde River Runoff: March 19-27

We need you! Join us for the Verde River Runoff - a week long event and fundraiser encouraging Arizonians to get outside and enjoy the Verde River system! Whether you're in the river, next to the river, cleaning up the river or supporting those who do ... you can take time to appreciate the life that the Verde brings to our state. Please take photos of your time spent on the Verde River and encourage your friends to participate!

Ways to Participate in the Verde River Runoff:

Paddle the Verde River - See our website for the best river access points!

Pick up trash and share your results on social using #purdyverde

Make a donation to Friends -
VerdeRiver.org/donate



Make a Difference for the Verde on Arizona Gives Day: April 5-6

Arizona Gives Day is a 24-hour giving blitz that "helps raise awareness about the critical role Arizona nonprofits play in our communities and inspires people to give generously creating a thriving and stronger Arizona for all." This year, we hope you will choose to support Friends as your non-profit of choice and support our mission of working collaboratively for a healthy and flowing Verde River system. azgives.org/verderiver-az (Use QR code)





Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival

April 21-24

The Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival is back at Dead Horse Ranch State Park! This festival is filled with experiences centered around our community's natural world. You will enjoy guided tours, interactive workshops, educational exhibitions, vendors, and more! The 2022 theme is Nature's Clean-Up Crew and we are excited to welcome our Keynote Speaker, Katie Fallon, author of "Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird." Katie is an author, teacher, and birder in West Virginia.

In addition, the festival will host free family nature walks for the Verde Valley BioBlitz, as well as free educational exhibitions on Saturday, April 23.

Registration opens to the public on February 1, 2022.

verderiver.org/birding-festival



BioBlitz

April 21-May 1

Join us to learn more about the plants and animals who live here. Friends has teamed up with the Science Vortex to host the Verde Valley BioBlitz in conjunction with the Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival. Funded by the City of Cottonwood, the BioBlitz is a way for you to contribute to science! You take photos of plants, fungi, and animals and upload them to a mobile app, iNaturalist, to identify and record as many species of plants and animals as possible over the course of two weeks. We download your observations to find out who lives here with us humans. Through the BioBlitz, we will better understand the state of the Verde River. There will be prizes for the most species observations. It's a win win!

Visit verderiver.org/bioblitz/ to learn more.



WATER WATCH

Water Quality Monitoring

Want another way that you can help out the river? Friends of the Verde River has partnered with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to sample water quality along Oak Creek. We currently have two crews of community scientist volunteers who regularly collect and analyze water samples. The crucial information gathered by these volunteers is used to identify areas of concern where restoration projects are needed.

If you are interested in becoming a community scientist on the Arizona Water Watch team sign up to be a volunteer at verderiver.org/volunteer.

Featured VVBNF Artist:



Syri Hall
Sedona, Arizona



"Moonlight Sonata"

FRIENDS TEAM CHANGES



Isaac Dudley

Isaac Dudley has stepped up into the Flows Project Manager position to lead projects focused on maintaining surface flow in the Verde River. Isaac has worked with Friends for almost four years as our Development Coordinator. A Verde Valley local, Isaac is passionate about the outdoors and Verde River Watershed conservation. Isaac recently received his water harvesting certification from the Tucson-based Watershed Management Group.



Elaine Nichols

Elaine Nichols has taken on greater responsibilities as the Restoration Project Manager to continue to advance the goals of the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition. Her expanded responsibilities include working with partners to implement our invasive plant management and sediment reduction projects, along with our community science program. Elaine recently earned her Master of Science in Environmental Management from Western Colorado University.



Maxwell Wilson

After three years as Friends' Sustaining Flows Program Manager, Maxwell Wilson departed for a new opportunity with the City of Phoenix. In his time with Friends, Max led the development of the River Friendly Living Program, the Verde Watershed Report Card, and many other projects. We hope to see Max in the Verde from time to time, chasing the elusive "Verde Trout"!

To see the full Friends team, visit verderiver.org/our-mission-and-vision/staff