



Verde Watershed

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“Dead Horse Ranch State Park and the Verde River Greenway play a significant role in the quality of life for Cottonwood and Verde Valley residents.”

DIANE JOENS, COTTONWOOD MAYOR-ELECT AND STATE PARKS BEST FRIEND AWARD RECIPIENT

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www.vwa.org

DIANE JOENS RECEIVES STATE PARKS AWARD

During a 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Arizona State Capitol on March 28th, State Parks Director Ken Travous and Verde River Greenway Coordinator Max Castillo presented Cottonwood Mayor-Elect Diane Joens with the Third Annual State Parks Best Friend Award. The award recognizes a volunteer or group of volunteers who have contributed significantly to the support of a park, natural area, or the agency as a whole either with substantial fundraising efforts or outstanding advocacy support.



DIANE JOENS WITH STATE PARKS DIRECTOR KEN TRAVOUS (L) AND VERDE RIVER GREENWAY COORDINATOR MAX CASTILLO (R)

Joens received the award for her advocacy for the Verde River Greenway and the Verde River and leadership for Stewards of Public Lands river and ephemeral wash cleanups. Her participation in the Dead Horse Ranch Trails Coalition and the Cocopai Resource Conservation and Development Verde Valley Trails Action Team was also noted during the ceremony. Joens was also the publisher of the Verde River Almanac, a community project with the goal of connecting people to the Verde River. State Parks first presented the award in 2005 to Ron Hummel, president of Friends of Sonoita Creek. In 2006, the Benefactors of Red Rock State Park were recognized.

“Dead Horse Ranch State Park and the Verde River Greenway play a significant role in the quality of life for Cottonwood and Verde Valley residents,” Joens says. “We are fortunate to have Fort Verde, Red Rock, Slide Rock and Jerome State Parks for the enjoyment of our residents. Arizona State Parks support our local area economy and our tourism industry,” she emphasizes.

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VWA members appreciate the years of volunteer effort that she has given. She is a former Vice-Chairman of VWA, has been editor of the Verde Currents, and still finds time to serve as Webmaster for the VWA website. In addition she represents the City of Cottonwood on the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee.

Joens has indicated an interest in the establishment of a Friends of the Verde River Greenway group in conjunction with the Arizona State Parks

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Cont'd - JOENS AWARD

Foundation, a non-profit organization providing support to the Arizona state parks.

Additional information about the Arizona State Parks Foundation is available at <http://www.arizonastateparksfoundation.org/>. Community members who are interested in forming a Friends of the Verde Greenway organization in conjunction with the Foundation may call Joens at 634-4112, or email her at dianej@sedona.net.

RAIN... RAIN... RAIN!

As the Spring and Summer months bring much needed rain, here's some fun rain facts to ponder!

The world's rainiest place is Mt. Wai'ale'ale, Kauai, Hawaii. During an average year, there are only 15 dry days

But by average annual rainfall, the wettest place in the world is Mawslynram, in Meghalaya State, India with 467 1/2 inches per annum.

The greatest annual rainfall in the continental United States was 184.56 inches at Wynooches, Oxbow, Washington in 1931.

The wettest state in the United States is Louisiana, with annual rainfall of 56 inches

Nevada is the driest state with an average annual rainfall of only about 7 inches.

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**WELL ATTENDED
"A RIVER REBORN
- THE STORY OF
FOSSIL CREEK"**

On February 21, at the Cliff Castle Casino, nearly 80 people gathered to have popcorn and see the new PBS documentary titled, "A River Reborn," narrated by Ted Danson and produced by an Emmy Award-winning team at Northern Arizona University.



This ground-breaking documentary tells the story of how environmental advocates and a major corporation --APS-- ended up working together to decommission a dam and restore a river for native fish. It also highlights the importance of research in helping to guide restoration efforts managed by government agencies.

Director of the film, Stefan Sommers, was our master of ceremonies. The VWA was able to secure nearly a dozen new members at the event.

by Dan Campbell, Vice Chair, Verde Program Manager: dcampbell@tnc.org

**RAINWATER HARVESTING PRESENTATION
APRIL 19TH IN CLARKDALE**

The City of Cottonwood and Town of Clarkdale are co-sponsoring a free presentation on Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands on Thursday April 19th at 7pm at the Clark Memorial Clubhouse located in downtown Clarkdale. Admission is free.

Noted water conservation expert, Brad Lancaster, author of the acclaimed new book, *Harvesting Rainwater for Drylands* will be leading the presentation. On Lancaster's 1/8th acre lot in downtown Tucson, he personally harvests 100,000 gallons of rainwater a year and has created an oasis without need for additional watering.

Lancaster's presentations are known for their informative, easy to understand, enthusiastic and inspiring style. Please attend this very special and informative presentation to learn more about the ways in which these techniques are being used to transform the southwest desert environment. Come learn how we all can all benefit from Rainwater Harvesting.

Brad Lancaster is a water conservation and permaculture expert, teacher and designer who has taught at the University of Arizona, ECOSA Institute, Prescott College and Columbia University. He also helped design the Stone Curves and Milagro housing developments in Tucson. <http://www.harvestingrainwater.com>

Cont'd - RAIN FACTS!

The record of consecutive days with no measurable precipitation in the U.S. is 352 days - in Sentinel, AZ (Feb 1901 - Jan 1902)

The longest period without measurable rainfall in the United States was 767 days at Bagdad, California

The greatest rainfall ever recorded in a 24-hour period was 74 inches at La Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

Rainfall is classified as light if not more than 0.10 inch per hour, and heavy if more than 0.30 inch per hour

Big, heavy raindrops can fall at speeds up to 22 miles per hour

It takes about one million cloud droplets to provide enough water for one rain-drop.

One inch of rainfall drops 7,000 gallons, or nearly 30 tons of water, on a 60' x 180' piece of land.

In twenty minutes, one thunder storm can send down over 125,000,000 gallons of water!

The heaviest hailstones on record, weighing up to 2.25 pounds were reported to have killed 92 people in the Gopalganj district of Bangladesh on April 14, 1986.

PROPOSED RENOVATION OF STILLMAN LAKE

Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department held a hearing at Yavapai Community College in Prescott on March 26 to gather public comment on a proposal to restore and enhance native fish in Stillman Lake. Stillman Lake is located at the Verde River headwaters south of Paulden, about 1/4 mile downstream of Sullivan Dam, in the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Upper Verde River Wildlife Area. A spring complex feeds the upper end of the lake and a sediment berm deposited in the Verde River at the Granite Creek confluence causes the river to back-up in its channel forming a narrow, 3,900 feet-long, 20-acre, perennial impoundment. Only the sediment berm at the mouth of Granite Creek separates Stillman Lake from the rest of the perennially flowing Verde River.

The proposed renovation of Stillman Lake is expected to benefit native fishes in the upper Verde River by eliminating non-native predators and allowing razorback suckers and roundtail chub to grow to a larger size until they are able to disperse downstream during flood events. The preferred method for renovating the lake would be to use a fish toxicant to remove the non-native fishes. Fish would be collected and buried on-site and the toxicant would be chemically neutralized. Prior to treating Stillman Lake, desirable sportfish would be captured using a combination of electrofishing and nets and restocked in areas where anglers may better utilize them. Another alternative being considered would involve temporarily removing the sediment berm, draining the lake, and mechanically removing the non-native fishes. A draft environmental assessment of the proposed project is available on-line at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>.

UPPER VERDE RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION COALITION

Six Prescott-area governmental groups—Town of Chino Valley, Town of Prescott Valley, City of Prescott, Town of Dewey-Humboldt, Yavapai County, and the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe—have signed an intergovernmental agreement to form and fund the Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition. Their stated mission (presentation to the Verde Watershed Association, March 21, 2007) is to “Protect the base flow of the Upper Verde River to the maximum extent possible through the implementation of scientifically supported best management practices (BMP) pertaining to the utilization and conservation of all the water resources within the Upper Verde Watershed area”.

The Coalition, represented by an elected official from each of its member groups, meets monthly. Staff support is provided by water-resource managers of Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley and the coordinator of the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee.

The Coalition has identified six projects to pursue over the next three years. At its monthly meeting of March 28, 2007, the staff proposed for consideration the following prioritization of these projects:

Year 1

- Develop water conservation plans and programs.
- Examine existing Big Chino hydrologic monitoring network and design expanded network.

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WATERSHED COALITION CONT'D FROM PG 3

Year 2

- Identify natural recharge areas for protection.
- Identify artificial recharge sites and assess feasibility.

Year 3

- Examine the feasibility of a flood detention project.
- Research healthy watershed management approaches (watershed restoration)

In addition, at the March 28 meeting, the staff proposed hiring either a full-time program manager/coordinator of hiring a consulting firm to manage the Coalition programs. The representatives are to return after weighing with their respective councils both the program priorities and the program management issue. *Edward W. Wolfe ewwolfe@commspeed.net*

VERDE RESERVOIR STORAGE

As of March 27th, Verde Reservoir storage was 77,112 acre-feet which is 27% of capacity. Year-to-date SNO-TEL Precipitation on the Verde Watershed is 53% of normal and current snow water equivalent is 7% of normal.

Verde inflow from January through March was approximately 45,000 acre-feet which is 29% of median. Only 20,000 acre-feet of inflow are forecasted for April and May. Unless significant wet storms develop on the Verde Watershed in April and May the current runoff forecast for January through May, 2007 is for only 65,000 acre-feet or 30 percent of median. The resulting 65,000 acre-feet of runoff on the Verde River for January through May 2007 would be just 4000 acre-feet more than 2006 and rank as the 5th lowest for the period of record. *Contributed by Tim Skarupa, SRP*

YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIONS

At its January 17, 2007, meeting the Water Advisory Committee proposed accepting a contract, subsequently approved by the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, with Hoyt Johnson (H3J Consulting) for preparation of long-term development scenarios in the Verde River watershed in Yavapai and Coconino Counties. The \$60,000 project involves building a GIS database that incorporates such parameters as existing and projected population and land-use information from jurisdictions, communities that have community plans, and land-management agencies; roads, current and future (where available); water bodies; topography; and vegetation. The database will provide a platform from which to develop growth models, critically including how future population through 2050 may be distributed within the watershed. That, in turn, provides an invaluable basis for development of water-demand scenarios—location, volume, and timing of future ground-water demands—that will provide input to the regional ground-water model currently under preparation by the U.S. Geological Survey and expected to be completed later this year.

At its February 21, 2006 meeting the Water Advisory Committee proposed providing a grant of \$13,200, subsequently approved by the Board of Supervisors, to Arizona Project WET (Water Education for Teachers; <http://cals.arizona.edu:80/AZWATER/wet/>). This grant matches an equal one from the Prescott Active Management Area and makes the program county-wide. The program aims to support teachers with training and curriculum materials designed to promote responsible water stewardship through excellent and effective water education.

Membership Form for the Verde Watershed Association

Government units	\$ 100 per year
Business for profit	100 per year
Civic groups and non-profits	50 per year
Individuals	25 per year

Make check payable and mail to:

Verde Watershed Association
P.O. Box 4001
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Fax: _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail address to receive the Verde Currents E-Newsletter:

Web site: www.vwa.org