



Verde Watershed

Currents

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2009

Volume 13 Issue 4

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

Chair **Ed Wolfe** @
ewwolfe@commspeed.net
or Ph: (928) 776-4754

Vice-Chair **Dan Campbell**
Sec. Treas. **Chip Norton**

Liaisons:

Upper Verde **Art Coates**
Prescott Area **John Rasmussen**
Middle Verde **Brenda Hauser**
Lower Verde **Greg Kornrumpf**
Currents Editor **Valerie Trammell**
Webmaster **Diane Joens**
dianej@sedona.net
(928) 634-4112
Currents Editorial Committee
Loyd Barnett, Ed Wolfe

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VWA ORGANIZES VERDE RIVER GREENWAY CLEANUP EVENT



In August the VWA was recognized with a \$25,000 grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation to "support and inspire local watershed conservation efforts" in partnership with Coca-Cola's Aquarius Spring!™ natural spring water brand. Aquarius Spring!™ toured 10 markets around the country this summer to promote watershed conservation and encourage people to take action in their local communities.

On September 5th the Aquarius Spring!™ tour stopped at the Rockin' River Ranch south of Camp Verde for a Labor Day weekend river cleanup and restoration event that was organized by Chip Norton of the Verde Watershed Association and Max Castillo of the Verde River Greenway State Natural Area. A bonus for event participants was a preview of Rockin' River Ranch, Arizona's newest State Park, which is not yet open to the public. (See Jan-March 2009 issue of Verde Watershed Currents, at <http://www.vwa.org>, to read about the acquisition of the ranch and its addition to the Verde River Greenway).

For the 100-plus advocates who showed up to help, it was a day well-spent. Armed with loppers, wire cutters, canoes, heavy equipment, trucks and elbow grease, the posse of volunteers fanned out to do battle with invasive plants, litter, barbed wire and sunken debris. Many significant agencies and organizations were represented by

the volunteers, including National Park Service, National Forest Service, Arizona State Parks, Yavapai County Juvenile Probation, Town of Camp Verde, City of Cottonwood, Salt River Project, Beaver Creek Regional Council, Friends of Verde River Greenway, Verde River Citizens Alliance, Dead Horse Ranch Trails Coalition, Future Farmers of America, Camp Verde Historical Society, Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, Friends of Montezuma Well, Verde Watershed Association, Red Rock State Park and Stewards of Public Lands.

After a morning of strenuous public service, the volunteers took a break for lunch, eating al fresco under the shade of massive Texas Mulberry trees located at the Ranch headquarters. A review of the morning's work revealed that the volunteers had definitely earned their lunch; restoration crews had removed over 1000 lineal feet of barbed wire fencing and several stands of invasive Tamarix trees and Pampas Grass. The cleanup crews, working from both boat and land, added a trailer full of more than 30 exhumed tires, two auto bodies, several large metal culverts and a 30-yd. roll-off dumpster full of trash. A final punctuation to the event occurred soon after all of the volunteers had eaten and departed, when a strong convection storm arrived at the Rockin' River Ranch and delivered long-overdue monsoon rain to the watershed. *Prepared by Chip Norton*

MONSOON WRAP UP/WINTER OUTLOOK

The Verde watershed has a lengthy precipitation record for the monsoon that dates back to 1900. Out of the past 110 years, this year stands out as one of the driest. For 2009, the monsoon, as defined by June 15th through September 30th, produced only 3.09 inches of rain, which is roughly 50% of normal. When comparing 2009 to the entire record, this past monsoon was the third driest. So what happened? The “monsoon” high-pressure cell was displaced a little further south and east than normal causing the state (and especially northern AZ) to have additional days with dry westerly winds aloft creating more frequent and longer lasting breaks in the summertime precipitation regime.

Fortunately, we get to look forward to winter precipitation, and one of the more reliable indicators for forecasting precipitation during this season is sea surface temperature. Anomalies in the sea surface temperature over the equatorial Pacific are more commonly

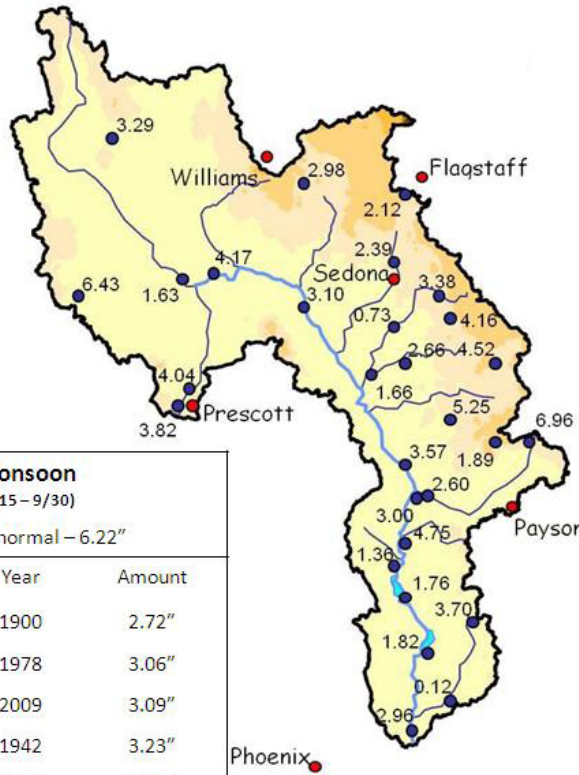
known as El Niño (warmer than normal sea surface temperature) and La Niña (cooler than normal sea surface temperature).

El Niño typically translates into wetter than normal conditions for Arizona and the Verde watershed while La Niña correlates with drier than normal conditions for the same area. The current state of sea surface temperatures over the equatorial Pacific indicates El Niño conditions with the sea surface temperature forecast pointing to El Niño conditions through the winter. Official forecasts from the National Weather Service and the Climate Prediction Center are indicating a greater probability of above normal precipitation. However, a word of caution, the last El Niño and La Niña did not behave as expected demonstrating the less than

perfect relationship with El Niño/La Niña and winter precipitation.

*Submitted by Greg Kornrumph
Salt River Project*

Verde River Watershed
2009 Monsoon Rain – 3.09”



Monsoon (6/15 – 9/30)		
30-year normal – 6.22”		
Rank (driest)	Year	Amount
1	1900	2.72”
2	1978	3.06”
3	2009	3.09”
4	1942	3.23”
5	1993	3.29”

≡ ANNOUNCEMENT ≡

The Verde River Basin Partnership Annual meeting will take place at 2 PM, Nov. 2, at the Jerome Fire Station. Highlights will include an update on the Partnership’s quest for federal funding, a review of the revised USGS-VRBP Hydrology Science Plan by Jim Leenhouts, Associate Director, Arizona Water Science Center, and election for 2010 of at-large members of the Partnership’s Coordinating Committee.

YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC) UPDATE

The Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee is continuing to collaborate and make progress on priority projects. The Central Yavapai Highlands Water Resource Management Study (CYHWRMS) with The Arizona department of Water Resources (ADWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is beginning work on the second phase of the study. NAU is progressing with phase 3 of the surface water model for the Verde Valley system. The WAC is also supporting the Verde Valley Project WET "Make-a-Splash" Water Festival.

The first phase of the CYHWRMS study will be complete when the Demand Analysis Table is complete. While some final details of Phase 1 are still being finalized, such as components of anticipated water use in 2050, the second phase of the study will begin in October, 2009. The Demand Analysis Table of Phase 1 will be presented to the WAC at an upcoming meeting (probably November 2009).

Phase 2 of the CYHWRMS will consist of a water-supply assessment. This will be followed by development of alternatives to meet future demands (future phases). The purpose of the water-supply assessment is to locate and describe water resources that could be included in various water supply portfolio(s) to meet the different combinations of 2050 water demands within the Study area. Much of the thought processes and the results of Phase 1 will serve Phase 2 objectives.

NAU graduate student Rob Ross is working on a Verde Valley surface water model. Currently, the third phase of the NAU project is ongoing. The objectives are: collect data to support expansion of the pilot hydraulic model of the Verde River from Mile Zero to the Camp Verde gage,

including the perennial tributaries and the major diversions and ditches; simulate steady, low flow condition of the Middle and Upper Verde River without diversions; and simulate unsteady flow of the Middle and Upper Verde River with up to two major diversions constrained by new data collected in this study. Current work is completing data needed to obtain the necessary geometry of the channels and surrounding area. The study team will use WMS software integrated with HEC-RAS software to test and calibrate the flow model for the river reach from the Tunnel ditch to Woods ditch return.

The Verde Valley Water Festival (Project WET Make-a-Splash) is on October 22, 2009 at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. The festival will help 4th graders understand the water cycle, our watersheds and water resources in an interactive fun event. The event is to be preceded and followed by classroom work. The WAC (and many others) has contributed funds and some personnel time to the festival. Chris Moran, of Yavapai County and the WAC, has successfully managed the festival again this year with help from Yavapai County Cooperative Extension, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Project WET, and many volunteers and contributors. Many thanks to all who have contributed time and resources to the success of this event.

Please contact the WAC Coordinator, John Rasmussen (john.rasmussen@co.yavapai.az.us or 928-442-5199), for more details on any of the WAC activities or if you would like to be added to the WAC email-recipient list.

Submitted by John Rasmussen

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:
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