



# FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Sustaining Flows | Restoring Habitat | Promoting Community Stewardship



On the cover: The first pools of the Verde River headwaters. Jon Fuller, record holder for the longest boat trip on the Verde River, paddles his yellow canoe on the shallow spring fed pools of the Upper Verde. This section of river once flowed year round, but now is intermittently dry throughout the year.



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Nanette Armstrong  
Rich Armstrong  
Steve Ayers  
A. B. Berman  
Gillian Burns  
Robert Bush  
Jake Cecil  
Charles Combs  
Ron Condon  
Arlene Connolly  
Kathy Davis

Wade Gibson  
Connie Gilmore  
Tony Gioia  
Dale Graham  
Jim Graham  
Mike Gray  
Fern Greathouse  
Kathleen Green  
Patti Greeneltch  
Jolynn Greenfield  
Jamie Guyn

Dannie Keil  
Jonathan Knight  
Janice Konderik  
Harry Lampros  
Steve Leininger  
Michael Levick  
Whit Manter  
Debbie Mantyla  
Natalie Mastalski  
Gina Miller  
Elaine Nichols

Mynzah Osiris  
Joan Otterson  
Ann Owen  
Laurie Parker  
Gail Peters  
Jacob Phelps  
Francine Porter  
Nathan Porter  
Kimerly Poucher  
Diana Pryer  
James Quinn  
Elisa Rios

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Kristen Rothrock  
Kate Salamanek  
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Karen Schudson  
Tracy Schultze  
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Leah Donell  
Peg Downs  
Michael Durgain  
Cindy Emmett  
Kristine Follet  
Marsha Foutz  
Felicia French  
Pete Fule

Elise Guzman  
Jeanmarie Haney  
Emma Harries  
Amber Hatfield  
Carolyn Heath  
Michael Hilton  
Maegen Hughes  
Becki Jensen  
Chris Jensen  
Laura Jones

# 961

Hours of energy and expertise donated to  
Friends. **Thank you to our volunteers!**





## WHO WE ARE

| Friends of the Verde River works collaboratively for a healthy, flowing Verde River system. We envision a river and tributaries that support our natural environment, vibrant communities, and quality of life for future generations.

## STAFF

**Dr. Nancy L.C. Steele**, Executive Director  
**Dr. Maxwell Wilson**, Sustaining Flows Manager  
**Tracy Stephens**, Habitat Restoration Manager  
**Karon Leigh**, Marketing & Communications Manager  
**Kegn Moorcroft**, Stewardship & Development Manager  
**Matthew Gilbert**, Financial Services Administrator  
**Virginia Weis**, Administrative Assistant  
**Laura Jones**, Community Engagement Coordinator  
**Isaac Dudley**, Development Coordinator  
**Maya Rappaport**, Communications Coordinator  
**Elaine Nichols**, Habitat Restoration Program Coordinator  
**Emily Garding**, GIS Specialist  
**Jacob Phelps**, Habitat Restoration Field Supervisor  
**Jennifer Beltran Gastelum**, Habitat Restoration Intern

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Delbert “Chip” Norton, President  
Tony Gioia, Vice President  
Brent Bitz, Treasurer  
Jeni O’Callaghan, Secretary  
Thomasene Cardona  
Peggy Chaikin  
S. Max Castillo  
Susan Culp  
Jennifer Diffley  
Shelley Detwiller DiGiacomo  
Marsha Foutz  
Siera Russell  
Harry Sweet





# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



In 2018, Board President Chip Norton and Executive Director Nancy Steele cut the ribbon to a new headquarters and launched a new brand.

As I write this, my final “Letter from the President,” Friends of the Verde River has been struggling with the challenges caused by COVID-19. Thankfully, I can report that our staff and board are healthy and have worked safely and diligently on meaningful conservation programs and policies throughout the year.

This final act as President evokes memories of 2009, my first year holding this office. We were a small group of passionate conservationists with no revenue, no staff, and a mission to improve six miles of river in Cottonwood, called the Greenway. The contrast between those early days to the breadth and depth of collaborative accomplishment described in this annual report is truly remarkable.

As always, achieving our vision will require strong partnerships, professional staff, and an effective board. Those pieces are now in place, as is the exceptional leadership provided by our new President, Jeni O’Callaghan. Jeni lives and ranches on Verde riverfront property, and she cares deeply about the people and wildlife that depend on the Verde River.

“I would love to live like a river flows, carried by the surprise of its own unfolding.” - John O’Donohue

I am mindful that this has been an exceedingly challenging year for the people in our watershed, and I recognize that healthy rivers and healthy communities are interdependent. As such, all of us at Friends wish you good health and success as we work together to build a better future.

**Chip Norton**

*Friends of the Verde River Board of Directors President  
2009 - 2020*



# SUSTAINING FLOWS

## VERDE RIVER EXCHANGE AND INTEGRATED LAND AND WATER PLANNING

### BY THE NUMBERS

Offset the impacts of **4.6 million** gallons  
of groundwater pumping on the river Hosted **2**  
workshops to bring river-friendly infrastructure to our  
communities **10** Verde River Exchange buyers

#### VERDE RIVER EXCHANGE BUYERS

Bueno Marketplace and  
Printshop

Merkin Vineyards

Page Springs Vineyards, LLC

Pillsbury Wine Company

Pines Motel

Rainbow Acres

Sinagua Malt

Southwest Wine Center

The Mine Café

The State Bar

Buyers listed throughout this report  
are recognized for FY20 contributions,  
designated from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

“You could say that it’s altruism, but in the end, it’s something that directly benefits us. We participate to help support the river, the river supports the tourism, the river supports the wine, the wine and the tourism support us – that goes right back to the beginning to keep supporting the river.”

**Aaron Fisher**

Bueno Marketplace and Printshop

*As quoted in The Arizona Republic, August 20, 2019*

“I think down the road having the Verde flowing and Oak Creek flowing is going to be our greatest asset.”

**Eric Glomski**

Page Springs Vineyards, LLC



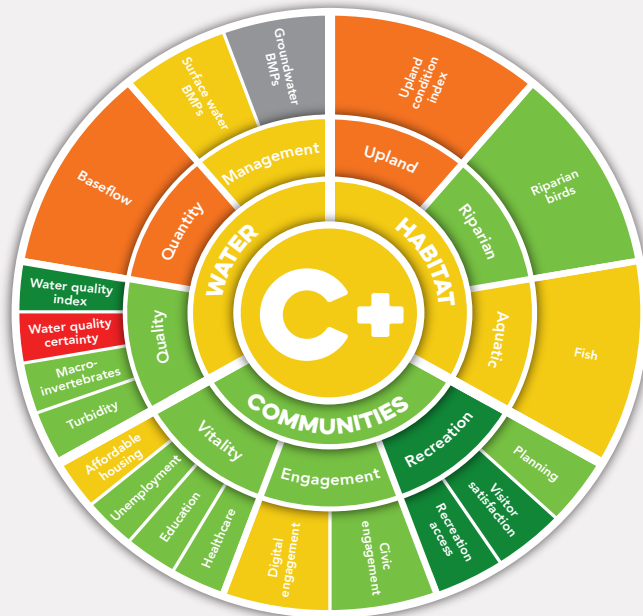
Verde River Exchange Partners receive offset certificates. From left to right: Val Fish, Pillsbury Wine Company; Eric Glomski, Page Springs Vineyards, LLC; Paul Higgins, Rainbow Acres; Lisa Russell, Southwest Wine Center; Anna May Cory, Pines Motes; Chip Norton, Sinagua Malt. Not pictured: Aaron Fisher, Bueno Marketplace and Printshop; Maynard James Keenan, Merkin Vineyards; Mark and Kelsi Venker, The Mine Café; Sean Morris, The State Bar



# THE WATERSHED REPORT CARD

SUCCESS STATS

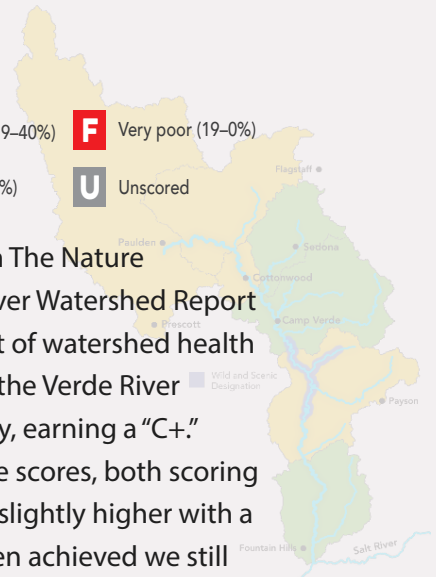
In collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, Friends published the **first ever** Verde River Watershed Report Card and scored **18** indicators of watershed health in **7** geographic zones.



## Grade scale

<b>A</b> Very good (100–80%)	<b>C</b> Moderate (59–40%)	<b>F</b> Very poor (19–0%)
<b>B</b> Good (79–60%)	<b>D</b> Poor (39–20%)	<b>U</b> Unscored

Developed in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, the 2020 Verde River Watershed Report Card is the first holistic snapshot of watershed health ever taken in the Verde. Overall the Verde River Watershed is moderately healthy, earning a “C+.” Water and habitat had moderate scores, both scoring “C”s, while communities scored slightly higher with a “B.” While great progress has been achieved we still have a long way to go before the watershed is healthy.



Friends and The Nature Conservancy celebrate the release of the 2020 Verde River Watershed Report Card with mayors of several Verde Valley communities. From left to right: Kim Schonek, The Nature Conservancy; Mayor Sandy Moriarty, City of Sedona; Mayor Charlie German, Town of Camp Verde; Mayor Doug Von Gausig, Town of Clarkdale; Mayor Tim Elinski, City of Cottonwood; Nancy Steele, Friends of the Verde River.

“The Watershed Report Card is an excellent tool for prioritizing conservation actions and aligning community needs. The metrics selected are priorities for our community because Friends and TNC worked with more than 15 entities to develop the metrics and scoring methods.”

**Kimberly Schonek**

Verde River Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy

“The one thing that I think we can all agree on is that we need to do everything we can to conserve the Verde River.”

**Mayor Tim Elinski**

City of Cottonwood

*As quoted in The Arizona Republic, August 20, 2019*



# THE WATERSHED REPORT CARD

## You can practice a river-friendly lifestyle!

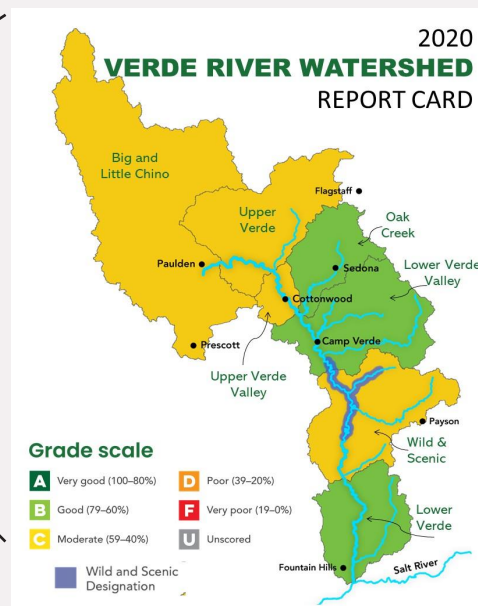
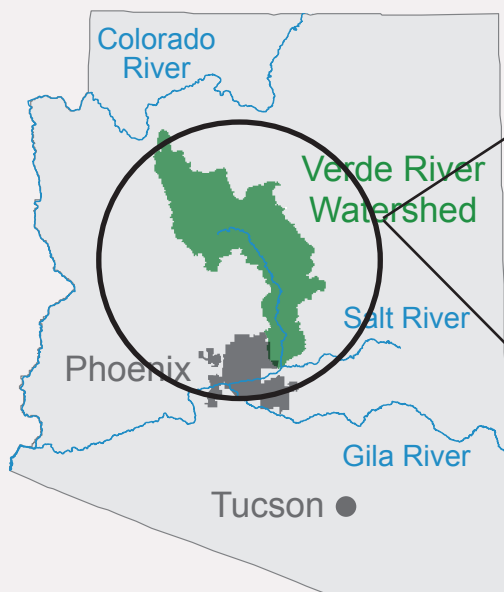
**Reduce your water use** to protect the river, lower costs, and use less energy.



**Be a part of your community,** stay informed, attend meetings, and make your voice heard.



**Volunteer and donate** with one of the many river-focused organizations.

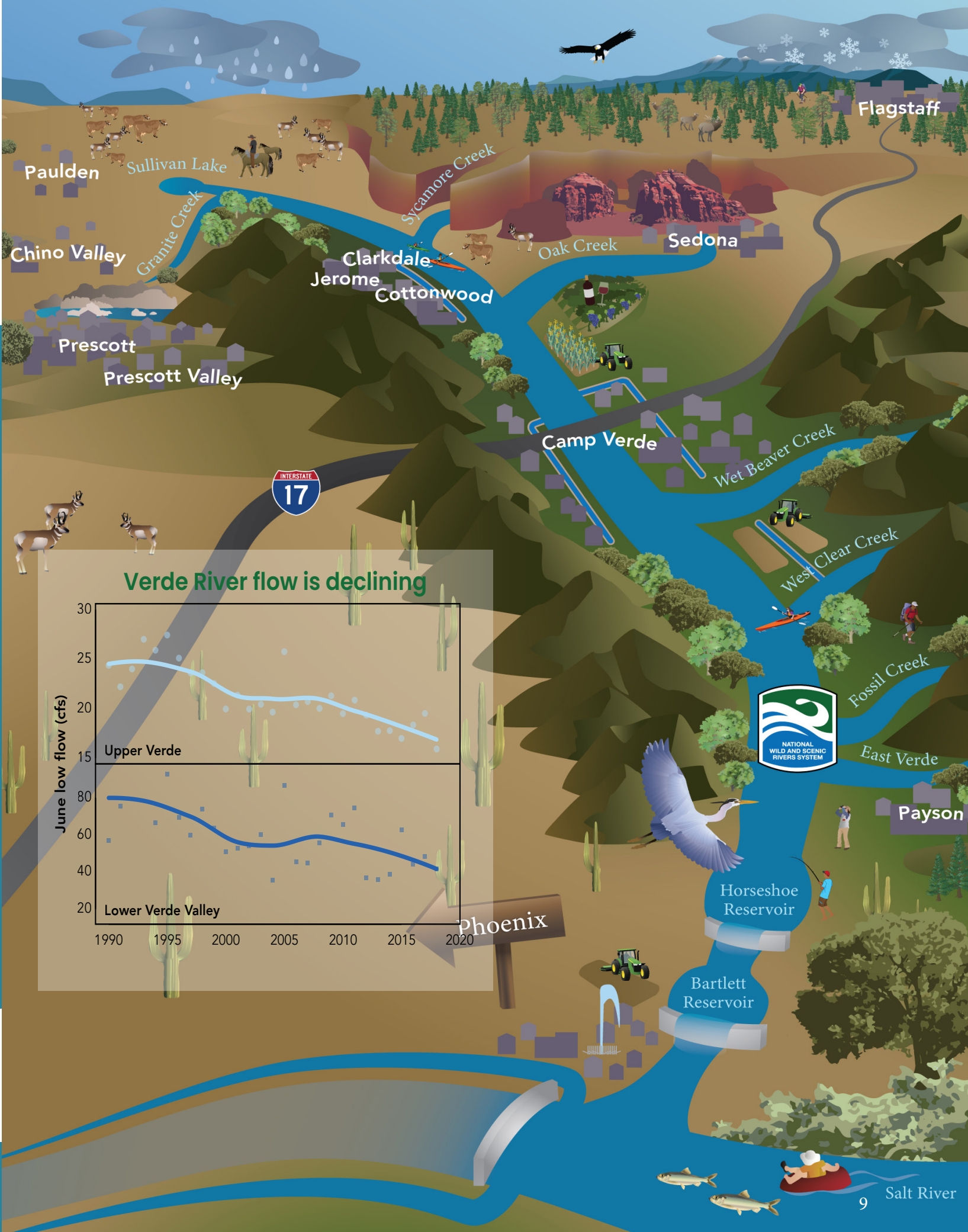


## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

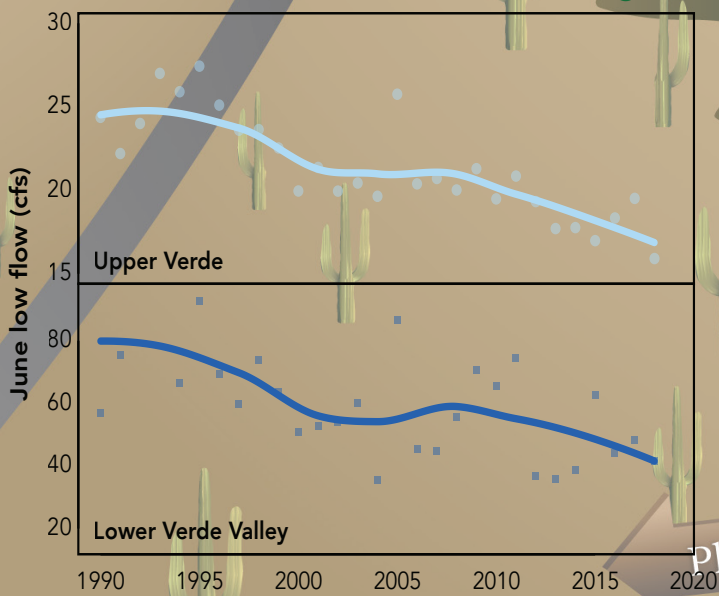
Since 1990, flow in the Verde River and its tributaries has been steadily declining. From 1990 to 2018, Verde River June low flow declined 32% in the Upper Verde, and 46% in the Lower Verde Valley. Trends are based on the mean June 7-day low flow in cubic feet per second (cfs), measured by the U.S. Geological Survey.

## FUNDERS AND PARTNERS:

- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
- UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE
- NINA MASON PULLIAM CHARITABLE TRUST
- UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



### Verde River flow is declining





# RESTORING HABITAT

## BY THE NUMBERS

| **4** events **111** volunteers **333** hours

| **90** willow poles planted **800** ft of trail improved

| **2,000+** tree of heaven removed **15** cottonwood trees protected  
| **1,100+** acres of invasive plants treated

| **250** pounds of trash collected **235** private land owners



"On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we celebrate with a day of service with Friends to work on habitat restoration and clean up the riparian area along the Verde River. Each year we have a wonderful volunteer turnout and are very grateful for our partnership."

### **Jennifer Steffen**

Park Ranger II & Volunteer Coordinator Arizona State Parks  
& Trails and Dead Horse Ranch State Park

*Jennifer Steffen with two of the river stewards assisting with clean up efforts at Dead Horse Ranch State Park.*

## FOSSIL CREEK

Friends worked with the National Forest Foundation, Coconino National Forest, and Arizona Conservation Corps to inventory and remove invasive plant species and protect the habitat.

"The National Forest Foundation is thrilled to work with Friends to invest in Fossil Creek - improving the health and function of the riparian habitat, enhancing outdoor experiences, and protecting the water supply for millions of local and downstream users."

### **Rebecca Davidson**

Director, Southern Rockies Field Program,  
National Forest Foundation



*The Arizona Conservation Corps crews stopping to enjoy beautiful Fossil Creek during their field work.*



*Field Crew Supervisor Jacob Phelps and the Vetraplex crew members celebrate planting the first cottonwood tree on the Toy Property.*

"The Catena Foundation is pleased to partner with the Friends and the Trust for Public Land to protect and enhance this important property at the confluence of Wet Beaver Creek and the Verde River. The effort represents a unique opportunity to promote public access for locals and visitors to enjoy native riparian habitat, picnic, bird watch, hike, or ride a bike."

**Mike Wight**

Restoration and Trails Program Manager,  
Catena Foundation

## TOY PROPERTY

The Trust for Public Land purchased the Toy Property, 58-acres in the Town of Camp Verde in late 2018 to protect the confluence and its large forests of riparian habitat.

### SUCCESS STATS

Inventoried **21 acres** of riparian forest. Treated the **salt cedar**. Planted **20 cottonwood trees**. Planted **90 willow poles**. Seeded **1-acre of disturbed area** with native grass seed.

## VERDE WATERSHED RESTORATION COALITION PARTNERS

Arizona Department of  
Environmental Quality

Arizona Department of Forestry  
and Fire Management

Arizona Game and Fish  
Department

Arizona Conservation Corps

Arizona State Parks and Trails

Arizona Wildlife Federation

City of Cottonwood

Coconino National Forest

Conservation Legacy

National Forest Foundation

National Park Service

Natural Resource Conservation  
Services

Northern Arizona University

Oak Creek Watershed Council

Prescott National Forest

RiversEdge West

Salt River Project

The Nature Conservancy

The Vetraplex

Tonto National Forest

Town of Camp Verde

Town of Clarkdale

Trust for Public Land

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Verde River Institute

Verde Natural Resources  
Conservation District

Yavapai-Apache Nation

Yavapai College

Partners listed throughout this report are recognized for FY20 contributions, designated from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



# PROMOTING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

Friends of the Verde River holds many annual signature events that inspire river stewards, educate the community, and engage nature lovers. Learn more at [verderiver.org/events](https://verderiver.org/events).

## STATE OF THE WATERSHED CONFERENCE



"When I learned about Friends' State of the Watershed Conference, I was very excited and knew I had to attend! It was very interesting to learn about the threats to our rivers and how Arizona handles the care for their rivers in comparison to my home state of Wisconsin."

**Kelly Fleming**

Owner of KT Kayak Rentals,  
State of the Watershed Conference Attendee

SUCCESS STAT



## VIRTUAL VERDE VALLEY BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL



"When I led a virtual Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival (VVBNF) tour, I was able to spot a family of 8 White-Nosed Coati in a tree - an amazing sight that I will remember forever. I posted the photograph to the VVBNF Facebook page and was able to connect with other virtual festival attendees about our shared experiences and passion for birds."

**Whit Manter**

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival  
Guide Coordinator

SUCCESS STAT



**Salt River Project (SRP)**  
showed their support  
to Friends by being  
the Full Season Event  
Sponsor for FY20.

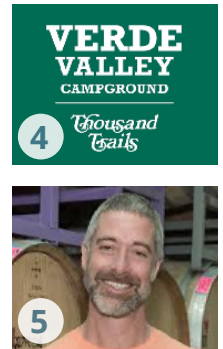
"SRP understands the importance of the Verde River to the local economy, a healthy riparian corridor, and high quality of life. The activities that Friends promotes and supports raise awareness of the Verde River. SRP is happy to provide its corporate support."

**Greg Kornrumpf**

Salt River Project  
Manager, Water Rights

# FIESTA DE LA GARZA

So many people, so many hearts, hands, and minds, are necessary to protect the Verde River system. In 2019, Fiesta de la Garza was hosted at 3 Kings Kasbar and sponsored by Tierra Verde Builders and Mary Taylor Huntley.



1. Laura Jones honors Kathleen Greene as the Volunteer of the Year. As a long-time volunteer for the Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival, Kathleen Greene distinguished herself by her leadership for the Family Nature Festival.
2. Steven "Max" Castillo holds the President's Award. Max retired from Arizona State Parks in 2015 and retired from the Board of Directors of Friends of the Verde River in October 2019. Max has left us a legacy of working to preserve the Verde River and its tributaries that spans illustrious 44 years! Thank you, Max.
3. The Community Partners Award for the Verde Valley Water/Ways Exhibit was shared by Yavapai-Apache Nation (Vivien Stevens), Save our Ancient Red Rocks (Peggy Chaikin), Yavapai College (Linda Buchanan), and Camp Verde Community Library (Kathy Hellman).
4. Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition Partner of the Year: Thousand Trails Property Management, Verde Valley RV & Camping Resort
5. Verde Conservation Partner of the Year: Jeff Hendricks, Chateau Tumbleweed.

## THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

3 Kings Kasbar	Dudley Photo	Sky Rock Inn of Sedona
Alpacka Rafts	Freeport McMoRan	Salt Mine Wine
Arizona Game & Fish Department	Forever Our Rivers Foundation	Save Our Ancient Redrocks
Arizona Public Service	Jay's Bird Barn	Salt River Materials Group
Center for Biological Diversity	Mary Taylor Huntley	Southwest Decision Resources
City of Cottonwood	NRS	Tierra Verde Builders
Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce	Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Town of Camp Verde
Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership	Page Springs Vineyards, LLC	Town of Clarkdale
Dancing Apache Ranch/Red River Cattle LLP	Rivers Edge West	Verde Adventures
Dead Horse Ranch State Park	Rancho Tres Brisais	Verde River Adventure Center
	Salt River Project	Yavapai County
		Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe



# PROMOTING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

## VERDE CONSERVATION PARTNERS

The Verde Conservation Partners are a group of businesses that are dedicated to a healthy Verde River. These partners contribute to a fund that we award to worthy projects through a competitive process. In fiscal year 2020, Friends awarded \$10,000 to the projects described on the facing page.

### BY THE NUMBERS

Gained **10** new partners    Funded **2** new projects

Businesses put **\$10,000** back into the

community through our program

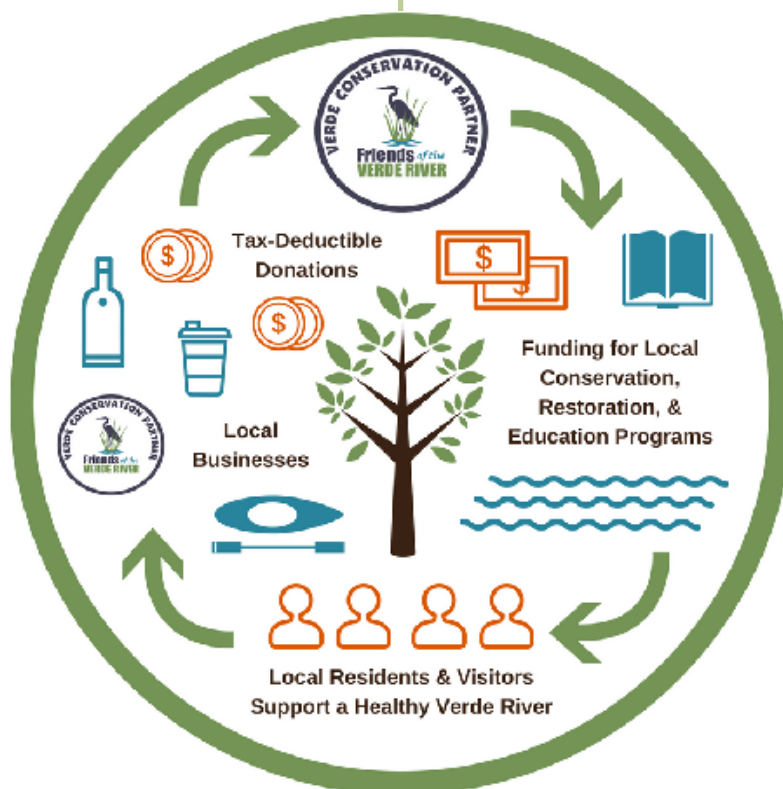


### FEATURED PARTNER

**Cody Hudson** has shown amazing commitment to the Verde Conservation Program over the last year! With the world up in the air, Cody was a voice of consistency and support. Cody has been participating in the Verde Conservation Partner Program for several years while also serving on the council of business representatives that helps to decide what conservation projects will have the greatest impact for a healthy Verde River.

Thank you, Cody, for your dedication and incredible support.

### HOW IT WORKS



## BLOWOUT WASH TRAIL

The Blowout Wash Trail system is one of the first planned trail systems in Cottonwood. It offers an easily accessible trail for walkers, commuters and mountain bikers. This great trail system will eventually connect the top of Mingus Mountain to Sedona AZ.



“The ultimate goal of this project is to provide outdoor recreational opportunities by connecting the River to the uplands, which may be used to encourage visitors of the Verde Valley to recreate responsibly.”

**Morgan Scott**

Management Analyst, City of Cottonwood

## TUZIGOOT RIVER BATHROOM

Bathroom construction at the Tuzigoot River access point will reduce the impact of visitors to the area. Friends of the Verde is happy to fund this project that will add to the legacy of work done at this incredible site.



“The intent is that a design of a facility would be created and constructed as a sample that can be followed at other sites along the river. The Disposal system will meet current ADEQ criteria for a safe disposal of wastewater including denitrification of the effluent.”

**Maher Hazine**

Public Works Director, Town of Clarkdale

## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

3 Kings Kasbar  
Adventure Encounter  
All Things Creative  
Arizona Stronghold  
Aspey, Watkins & Diesel  
Blazin' M Ranch  
Cat's Meow  
Chateau Tumbleweed  
Coldwell Banker Mabery Real Estate  
Dora Thayer  
Dudley Photo  
Elizabeth Kinsfather  
Fry's/Kroger  
John Knochel  
Julianne Nearing  
Karon Leigh Art Studio  
Maxwell Wilson  
Merkin Vineyards/Osteria  
NAZ Thermal Imaging  
NBJ Ranch LTC (Rancho Tres Brisais)  
Ocotillo House Airbnb  
Old Town Association  
Olsen's Grain  
Page Springs Vineyards, LLC  
Pillsbury Wine Company  
Pines Motel  
Red Rooster Cafe  
River's Edge  
Sedona Timeshare Rentals  
Smart Window Creations  
SNAP Fitness  
Square Roots Vineyard  
THAT Brewery  
The Flatiron Cafe  
The Mine Cafe  
The Muse Gallery  
The State Bar  
The Vineyards at Cottonwood  
Verde Tint  
Vino Di Sedona  
Vortex ATV Rentals  
Yavapai Broadcasting

Partners listed throughout this report are recognized for FY20 contributions, designated from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



# PROMOTING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP FUNDRAISING

Individual donors are the backbone to Friends of the Verde River. Many contribute monthly, some contribute once a year. No matter the size of the gift, all donors are appreciated and needed to accomplish Friends' programs and events. Be a river hero by donating at [verderiver.org/riverhero](http://verderiver.org/riverhero)

## BY THE NUMBERS

| **\$5,000** raised at Fiesta de la Garza | **\$6,500**  
| raised at first Run the Verde Raffle | **\$7,000** raised  
| on Arizona Gives Day | **2x** monthly donors in one year



"Donating to Friends of the Verde River is important because water is life. Growing up in the Verde Valley and now being able to share this gorgeous area with my husband, the Verde River was and still is a staple of our outdoor enjoyment; however, it needs our protection. Donating to a cause that champions conservation of our riparian paradise and educates our community on sustainable use is imperative."

**Lauren Secor**  
Monthly donor



"Friends of the Verde River has a mission I feel passionately about. Restoring and enhancing river ecology, finding ways to keep more water flowing in our river and creeks, and getting local communities involved in conservation are all helping our local economy and improving our quality of life. Giving an automatic monthly donation is an easy way to support these important efforts."

**Harry Sweet**  
Friends' board member and monthly donor

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." - William Shakespeare

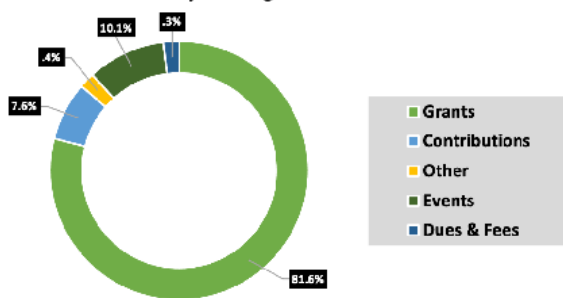


"I donate to Friends of the Verde River because I appreciate the efforts to protect water sources through education and stewardship. Although many of the events and efforts happen north of where I'm located, I recognize that I live downstream and therefore am directly affected by Friends efforts."

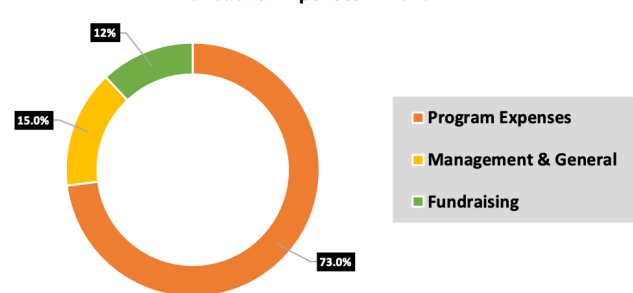
**Abigail Schneider**  
Phoenix resident

## FY 2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue by Funding Source FY2020



Functional Expenses FY2020



In FY 20, the Board of Directors worked with our staff and others to renew our strategic plan for the next three years. As you know, Friends proactively engages in field work and develops policy solutions, guided by sound conservation principles. We work to this end: we want a healthy, flowing Verde River and tributaries that support our natural environment, vibrant communities, and quality of life for future generations.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the following major grant contributors and supporters:



Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Arizona Water Protection Fund  
Catena Foundation  
Coconino National Forest  
Freeport-McMoRan Foundation  
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust  
National Forest Foundation  
Page Springs Vineyards, LLC  
RAIN: Rural Activation and Innovation Network  
The Nature Conservancy  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Walton Family Foundation

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# THE CRUCIAL WORK FRIENDS ACCOMPLISHES CAN ONLY BE DONE WITH YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!!

## **COTTONWOOD** \$5,000-\$9,999

Brent Bitz  
Sheri Young

## **DESERT WILLOW** \$1,000-\$2,500

Jennifer Diffley  
Jeni O'Callaghan  
Dale Graham  
Leann Norton  
Abigail Disney  
Lisa and David Diffley  
Cristopher Frost

## **BLACK HAWK** \$500-\$999

Marsha Foutz  
Mark Venker  
Carol Conti  
Rick Clarke  
Chris Glenn  
Mary Huntley  
Gail Milliken

## **BEAVER** \$100-\$499

Nancy Steele  
Tony Gioia  
Mark L. Foster  
J. Clive Jordan  
Jerry Kendrick  
Birgit Loewenstein  
Kathryn Mabry  
Claudia Hauser  
Eamonn O'Callaghan  
Douglas Pierce  
John Knochel  
Bob Rothrock  
Ellen Fairchild  
Maxwell Wilson  
Jon Fuller  
Laura Jones  
Carly Cooper  
Katrina Landis  
Jimmy Whatley  
Melissa Robinson  
Jack Rathjen  
Laura Moser  
Desiree Johnson  
Dale Harvey  
Kurt A. Baden  
A. B. Berman  
Kathryn Taylor  
Will Blume  
Nancy McCleskey  
Kegn Moorcroft  
Tice Supplee  
AnnaMay Cory  
Joan Bourque  
Trijntje Desch  
Ken Frankel  
Gary Verburg  
Regina Graybill

Leslie Vienneau  
Nancy Leonard  
Paul Higgins  
Siera Russell  
Walt Wictor  
Claudia Carman  
Martha Prumers  
Kim Knotter  
Susan Meyer  
Kathy Dennis  
Lee Wymer  
Beverly Sass  
Alice Erickson  
Laura Spaan  
Ingrid Lee  
Dan Blaettler  
Walt Carr  
Holly Harman  
Elizabeth Sexton  
Lin Mickelsen  
Kimberly Schonek  
Cristy Clouse  
Lisa Ferdinand  
Carolyn S McCullough  
Candice Guth  
Alison Jones  
Kathy Davis  
Elaine Vargas  
Lari Spire  
Steele Sacks  
Abigail Schneider  
Joanne Polayes  
Page Carapetyan  
Kathy Knoop  
Dianne C Koble  
Luis Carlos Pinzón  
Riaño  
Jon Vick  
Dick Dahl  
Kristie Kreutzfeld  
Jayne Lauman  
Edith Woll  
William Scales  
Rosa Palarino  
Deborah Jamieson  
Micah Swenson  
Anna Schrenk  
Larry Pittman  
Daniel Kates  
Barbara Goto  
Wade Albrecht  
Colleen Peck  
Helen-Marie  
Holmgren  
Paul Holmgren  
Valerie Moore  
Krystal Kirsten  
Jolynn Greenfield  
Mike J Graves  
Anne Epstein  
Gillian Burns  
Natalie Mastalski  
Rick Bonney  
Gary Weiner  
Mary Ellen Sandeen  
Greg Cunningham  
Susan Barnard

Hollie Alcocer  
Mary Ellen Kenreich  
Kathy Reitzel  
Margaret Y. Ray  
Joel S Eide  
Robert Frescura  
Victoria Ochoa  
Alex Palley  
Samuel Meyer  
Teresa Miller  
Linda Alkove  
Judy Culver  
Melvin Gabel  
Douglas Hulmes  
Mary DeYoung  
Dexter Allen  
Alan Dulaney  
Jen & Joe Farnsworth  
Alison Erickson  
Joan Steninger  
Jane Whitmire  
Linda Rosato  
John Booth  
Sharon Diffley  
Dan Jessen  
Dieter Knecht  
Jocelyn Gibbon  
Jake Cecil  
Will Carr  
Bonnie Harvey  
Sharon Arnold

## **DRAGONFLY** *Up to \$99*

Suzie Heiney  
Leah Donell  
Ron Condon  
Donald Knoop  
Tina Whitehorn  
Helen Jones  
Karen Lyons  
Sherry Singer  
Kathy Davidson  
Sharri Hogan  
Carl Kerschen  
Pamela Berstler  
Susan Schmit  
Lauren Secor  
Richard Quinn  
Seamus Kelly  
Dan Dagget  
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Donors listed throughout this report are recognized for FY20 contributions, designated from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Nancy enjoys paddling the river, bird watching, and hiking on the diverse trail system.

## Support What You Love

In the spring of 2020, the outdoors became our greatest source of solace. In a world gone numb with rising concerns from COVID-19, amidst stay-at-home orders that separated us from friends and family, most of us could get outside and enjoy nature.

In a time of fear and isolation, we turned to the rivers, lake, forests, and wild open spaces to heal our spirits. The Verde River saw a major increase in newbies paddling the waterways. Sedona's Red Rocks and Oak Creek were swamped with people looking for a challenge or a place of peace. Everywhere, people were looking for water.

Some of those people were unaware or unschooled in the "leave no trace" ethic, unfortunately, piling up their trash at closed facilities with overflowing bins. Friends of the Verde River mobilized to help out while our federal workers were on lockdown. With a hashtag, #PurdyVerde, we mobilized the power of social media for some physically distanced river cleanups.

You made the difference, cleaning up the Verde or another favorite waterway for our river otters, great blue herons, razorback suckers, narrow-headed gartersnakes, southwestern willow flycatchers, and more. We asked and you said, "yes!" These and many other plants and animals rely on you to keep their homes clean and safe. Thank you!

It's a big job you do, defending the Verde. The quest to protect and restore the Verde, one of Arizona's last flowing river systems, continues today because of you. You make it possible for us to restore habitat for wildlife, put water back into the River, and build communities of people who care for the Verde. You are a River Hero, and for that I am grateful.

Let's keep the rivers flowing!

**Nancy L.C. Steele**  
*Executive Director*

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." - John Muir





## VERDE RIVER WATERSHED BY THE NUMBERS

One of Arizona's **last** perennial  
river systems **190** miles of river  
**6,600** square miles of watershed  
**270** species of birds **94** species  
of mammals **76** species of native  
amphibians and reptiles

The Verde River is an oasis of life and livelihoods, providing crucial habitat for fish and wildlife, fresh water for local agricultural production, recreational opportunities, and clean drinking water to over 2 million people in the greater Phoenix area.

If you live in Arizona, chances are that this beautiful and powerful river impacts your life in a significant way.

Donate today to become a river hero  
at [verderiver.org/donate](https://verderiver.org/donate).

