



FY 2018 Annual Report

Sustaining Flows • Restoring Habitat
Promoting Community Stewardship

A YEAR OF GROWTH FY 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



STAFF

Nancy Steele, Executive Director
 Isaac Dudley, Business Development Coordinator
 Emily Garding, GIS Specialist
 Matt Gilbert, Financial Services Manager
 Laura Jones, Community Engagement Coordinator
 Ben Kowalewski, Habitat Restoration Coordinator
 Karon Leigh, Marketing & Communications Manager
 Elaine Nichols, Habitat Restoration Field Supervisor
 Anna Schrenk, Habitat Restoration Manager
 Alan Smith, Verde River Exchange Coordinator
 Amanda Webster, AmeriCorp Vista
 Matt Wilson, Habitat Restoration Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chip Norton, President
 Tony Goia, Vice President
 Brent Bitz, Treasurer
 Peggy Chaikin, Secretary
 Max Castillo
 Susan Culp
 Marsha Foutz
 Jeni O'Callaghan
 Siera Russell
 Harry Sweet

FY 2018 IMPACTS BY THE NUMBERS

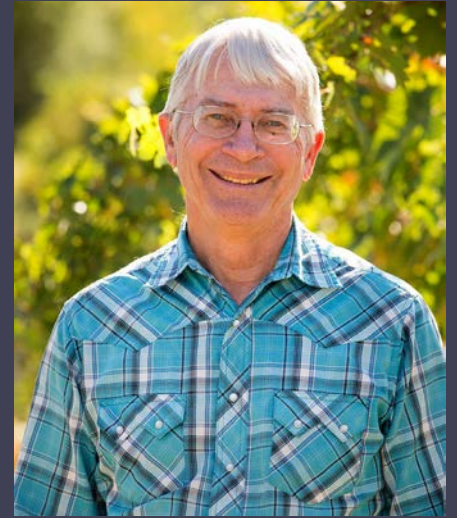
8691.1
Volunteer Hours
Contributed

14.6 Acre Feet
of Water Offset
Credits

450 Bird Festival
Participants

87 River Runoff
Boaters

"PARDON OUR DUST. CONSERVATION RETROFIT UNDERWAY."



Chip Norton, Board President

That could have been our tag line at Friends as, in recent years, we worked on important conservation projects and simultaneously built capacity for the future. I recall strategic planning and coordination efforts that involved Friends and important conservation partners. In 2016, we finished a new strategic plan and changed our name to reflect a broader watershed scope. In 2017 we took on additional programmatic work as the Verde River Basin Partnership and Verde River Valley Nature Organization merged into Friends. 2018 involved even more change as we hired Executive Director Nancy Steele and Program Managers Matt Wilson and Karon Leigh. Additionally, the Honorable Siera Russell, judge and Yavapai-Apache Nation Councilwoman, joined our Board of Directors.

Looking forward, we have an ambitious plan of work for the next two years. That work includes innovative programs that build on our work to improve river flow quantity and quality and restore riparian habitat. Additionally, we are currently working with the University of Maryland and The Nature Conservancy on a Watershed Report Card that will assess watershed health and identify priority projects.

Lastly, please join us as we work with local communities, business leaders, and land managers on volunteer projects and events that support flowing streams and healthy rural communities.



Looking back on my first six months on the job as Executive Director of Friends, I realize just how much we have accomplished because of you, our supporters. In our work, we encourage fun and fellowship around nature ... and sometimes a little bit of friendly competition. Maybe you wanted to be the first down the river at the Verde Runoff or maybe you wanted to add to your life list with the most birds at the VV Birding & Nature Festival. No matter what, you want to have fun with the river. But you also want to work hard to keep it healthy. Our January Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service mobilized over 50 people who volunteered at four different sites around the VV to maintain native gardens and clean up trash along the river. The REI Volunteer Day in June brought in about 30 Phoenix-area REI employees to work with VV regulars on trails and natural areas. Fun combined with hard work are what feeds you, this great organization, and our communities. Thank you! Long may the rivers flow.

- Nancy Steele



RESTORING HABITAT

For the diverse native flora and fauna of the Verde River and its watershed.

RESTORING RIVER HABITAT

During the 2017-2018 treatment season, we hired 24 youth and veterans in 3 crews to restore habitat in the Verde River watershed. We treated 815 acres of land.

The following spring and summer, our 4 person monitoring crews mapped over 3,000 acres, monitored invasive regrowth, and assessed native plant recruitment across the Verde Watershed.

VERDE WATERSHED RESTORATION COALITION

The Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition (VWRC) is a collaborative effort uniting local riverside property owners and land managers to maintain a healthy Verde River by addressing threats and opportunities for improving river health. In FY18 we began work on a new strategic restoration plan.

VWRC PARTNERS

Arizona Game & Fish Department
 Arizona State Forestry
 Arizona State Parks
 AZ Conservation Corps
 City of Cottonwood
 Coconino National Forest
 Friends of the Verde River
 National Park Service
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Prescott National Forest
 RiversEdge West
 Salt River Project
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Vetraplex
 Town of Camp Verde
 Town of Clarkdale
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Verde Natural Resource Conservation District
 Walton Family Foundation
 Yavapai-Apache Nation



SUSTAINING FLOWS

To ensure the Verde River will flow for generations to come.

VERDE RIVER EXCHANGE

The Verde River Exchange allows water users to reduce their "water footprint" while helping to protect river and creek flows for the future.

2018 EXCHANGE PARTNERS

New:

Rainbow Acres
The State Bar
Sinagua Malt

Renewing:

Page Springs Cellars
The Fish's Garden
Merkin Vineyards

WATER & LAND PLANNING TOOLBOX

The Toolbox is a new online resource that we launched in FY18 to provide information about policies, model ordinances, and other tools for the integration of local land use planning and water management decisions for local communities.

While the focus of this Toolbox is the Verde River Watershed, it contains information applicable to local communities throughout Arizona.

verderiver.org/verde-land-and-water-planning-toolbox/



TOOLBOX PARTNERS

Freshwater Policy Consulting
NextWest Consulting
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
The Nature Conservancy
Western Resource Advocates

2018 ANNUAL PARTNER AWARDS

Every year Friends gives out awards to people who had a significant impact on the work of restoring habitat, sustaining flows, and promoting community stewardship. This year, we gave out awards in six categories at our December party. In addition, we surprised Marsha Foutz with a one-time special "Boots on the Banks" award.



Chairwoman Jane Russell-Winiecki

2018 President's Award

The Honorable Jane Russell-Winiecki

Board President, Chip Norton, presented the President's Award to Jane Russell-Winiecki, Chairwoman, Yavapai-Apache Nation acknowledging the Chairwoman's contributions and commitments to the Verde River.



Marsha Foutz, Founding Board Member

Boots on the Banks

Marsha Foutz, Founding Board Member

In an emotional surprise, board members Peggy Chaikin, Jeni O'Callaghan, and Max Castillo called Marsha Foutz up to receive this one-time award. Marsha was recognized for outreach: personal and project-based and results driven outreach in volunteer activities and led in trail creation and improvement, river rock rolling for boat-able flows, arundo/tamarisk/aliantus lopping and treatment.



Eric & Gayle Glomski
Page Springs Cellars

Business Partner Award of the Year

Eric & Gayle Glomski, Page Springs Cellars

and the whole team at Page Springs Cellars. Executive Director Nancy Steele presented the award for their dedication to the health of Arizona's rivers. Nancy said, "they don't just live their values, they also are pro-active about helping others to understand and adopt those values. Page Springs' employs ultra-efficient watering strategies, purchases water offset credits when available, and will eventually recycle wastewater onsite for reuse. It's not just about water. They generate their own electricity through solar panels; create community with events like Tilted Earth; and nurture the soul through yoga and massage onsite at the tasting room. As an ecologist, Eric sees the big picture, the whole person, the ecosystems that support all living things."

Private Landowner

John & Janet Carstens

This award recognized two of the many private landowners in the Verde Valley that joined the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition and have been actively involved in habitat restoration on their own property in the last year. Ben Kowalewski told the story of how the Carstens "were a pleasure to work with, welcomed our crews to their property and helped with the work along the way." It is because of landowners like the Carstens we can continue restoring the health of the Verde watershed.



Crew removing arundo on Carstens' property.



Laura Jones presenting award to volunteer, Whit Manter.

Volunteer

Whit Manter

Laura Jones was honored to present Whit Manter with the volunteer award. Whit contributed 258 of volunteer hours to the 2018 birding festival. "Whit's sense of humor, flexibility, tenacity, and willingness to talk to virtually everyone that might have information on our field trips made the success of the 2018 Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival possible."

Nonprofit Partner

RiversEdge West

Friends presented this award to Executive Director Rusty Lloyd. Nancy Steele said "RiversEdge West embodies the spirit of collaboration and the power of a small group of committed individuals to change the world in remarkable ways."



Rusty Lloyd, Executive Director
RiversEdge West



Public Land Agency

US Fish & Wildlife Service

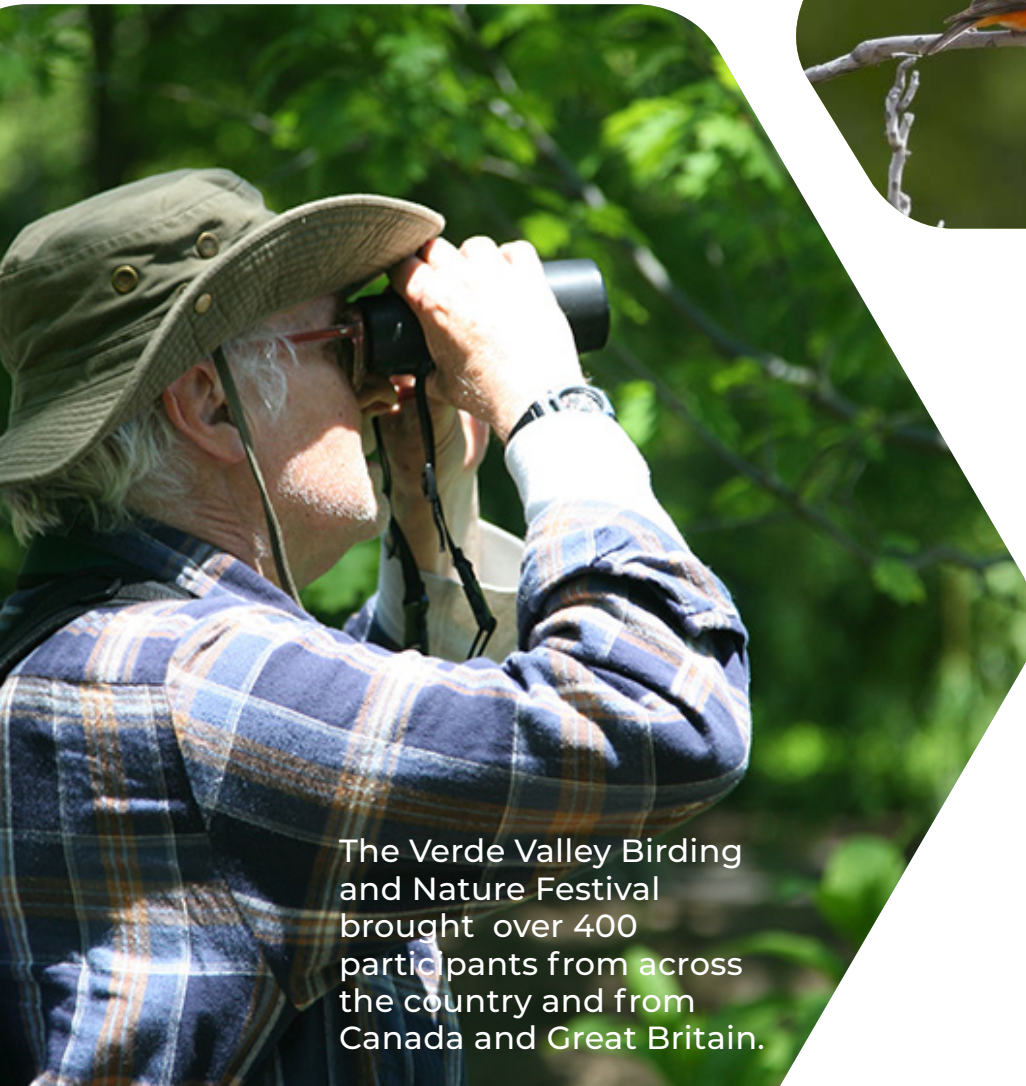
USFWS helped VWRC with solutions to multiple restoration challenges. We honored them for their support through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program which provides technical and financial assistance to restore or enhance fish and wildlife habitats for the benefit of Federal Trust Species.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

The Friends' Community Stewardship program grew in FY18 with the addition of the The Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival and the Verde River Runoff which came to the Friends' organization through a merger. Friends took the lead in continuing these popular community events that draw visitors from across the state and beyond.

Through events we engage people in activities that bring people to the Verde River to experience its unique beauty and to learn about the importance of river stewardship.

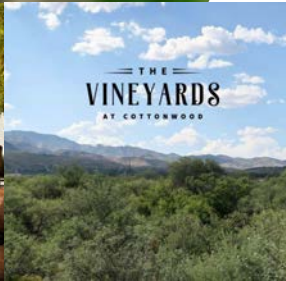
VERDE VALLEY BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL



The Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival brought over 400 participants from across the country and from Canada and Great Britain.



"Vermillion Flycatcher"
Doug Von Gausig



VERDE BUSINESS CONSERVATION PARTNERS

In 2018, we refreshed the One for the Verde as the Verde Business Conservation Partners program. Local businesses and their customers creatively work together to help ensure that our natural resources are managed to the benefit of us all. Friends of the Verde River strongly believes that a healthy Verde River contributes to a healthy local economy.

Aaron Fisher of The State Bar
& Valerie Fisch of Pillsbury Wine Company



ER RUNOFF



2018 CONSERVATION PROJECTS FUNDED

In 2018, we awarded \$13,500 to fund local conservation projects.

\$5,000: Verde River Institute

Verde River Water Quality Testing

\$3,250: Springs Stewardship Institute

Verde River Spring and Spring
Dependent Species Assessment

\$3,250: Oak Creek Watershed Council

Oak Creek Water Quality Field Day

\$2,000: City of Cottonwood

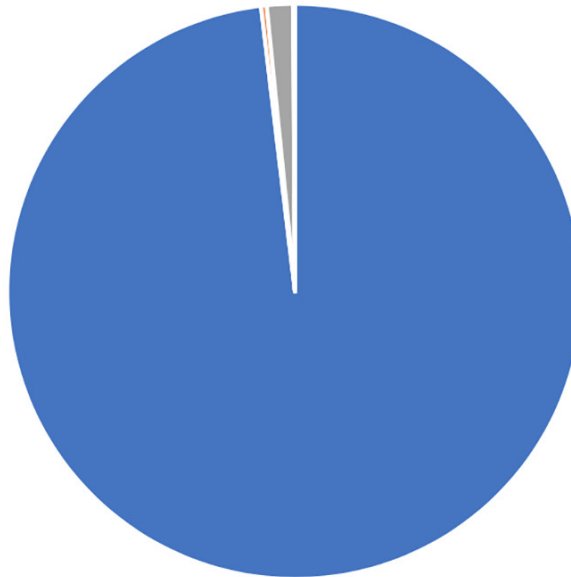
Trail Sign, Project



FY2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY18 Income \$2,079,473

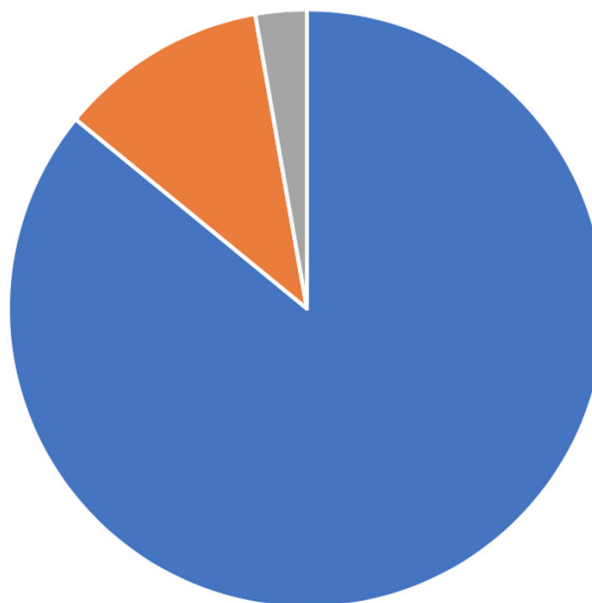
Grants, \$2,040,124
In-kind contributions, \$6,568
Contributions, \$30,524
Interest income, \$662
Miscellaneous revenue, \$1,577



■ Grants ■ In-kind contributions ■ Contributions ■ Interest income ■ Miscellaneous revenue

FY18 Expenses \$1,890,283

Program services, \$1,623,972
Management and general, \$213,878
Fundraising, \$52,433



■ Program services ■ Management and general ■ Fundraising



THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING SUPPORTERS

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Fremont Cottonwood **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Chip Norton

Desert Willow **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Brent Bitz
Susan Culp
Abigail Disney
Robert Johnson

Black Hawk **\$500 - \$999**

Elizabeth Bieber
Kathy Davis
Jocelyn Gibbon
Kay Hawkle
Karon Leigh
Jeni O'Callaghan
John O'Donnell
Ninon Tantet

Beaver \$100 - \$499

Wade Albrecht
Margaret Arroyo
Christine Babcock
Heidi Bohlin
Peggy Chaikin
Jennifer Diffley
Alan Dulaney
Kathy Dunham
Joel Eide
Mark L. Foster
Marsha Foutz
Charles C. German
Tony Gioia
Rebekah Grmela
Holly Harman
Paul Higgins
Dee Hodson
Elisabeth Jennings
David Jones
Laura Jones
Daniel Kates
John & Kathy Keagle
Barbara Kuzara
Judy Lewis
Birgit Loewenstein
Nancy McCleskey
Samuel Morey
Leigh Morrison
Laura Moser
Bill Neubauer
John Neville

Leann Norton
Ronald Orbin
Doug Phillips
Jack Rathjen
Jenise Rideout
Bob Rothrock
Beverly Sass
Anna Schrenk
George Simkins
Susan Sims
Laura Spaan
Nancy & Bruce Steele
Joan Steninger
Martha Strachan
Barbara Thompson
Teresa Unwin
Gary Verburg
Matthew Wilson

Dragonfly Up to \$99

Kathryn Anderson
Rick Applegate
Stacy Augustine
Dan Blaettler
Tina Blake
Ramsey Boehner
Alexandra Boothe
Kevin Bronson
Jodi Brown
Margaret Burch
Robert Burson
Page Carapetyan
Kathleen Cavender
Randa Clark
David Clark
Elizabeth Coldren
Ron Condon
Linda Cormier
Cindy Correll
Dita Couch
Mary Cowan
Greg Cunningham
Linda Dersham
Tim Dixon
Susan Dooha
Cindy Emmett
Mary Erickson
Dennis Eshleman
Josephine Firmani
Janet Fordyce
Robert Frescura
Polly Giessing
Tyler Gill
Michael J Graves
Kathleen Green
J D D Greenberg
Robert Hammerle

Beth Hart
Heide Heidepriem
Eleanor Henry
Linda Hofman
Leslie Hoy
Marty Hredzak
Mike Irons
Norma Jenkins
Chris Jensen
Marcia Jepson
Diane Joens
Alison Jones
Mary Keithler
Leslie Kerr
Kathy Knoop
Jewell Livres
Jean Mann
Peter Marino
Jeanne McGann
Daniel McGuire
Melissa McMaster
Susan Meyer
Mary Miggitt
Patricia Miller
Linda Morris
Debra Murphy
Jamie Nielsen
Jay Osborne
Janice Parrott
Samuel Pedersen
Deirdre Peterson
Robert Phillips
Marlene Phillips
Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer
Fred Ramirez
Devin Rankin
Catherine Ransom
William Regner
Christina Rupp
Mary Ellen Sandeen
Nick Schonek
Kimberly Schonek
Eric Sepulveda
Lucas Shaw
Barbara Smith
Linda Sogge
Anne Sweazey
Mary Szabo
Helene Tack
Henry Tosca-Gabriella
Amanda Webster
Roxanne Wessel
Ernest Wetmore
Jane Whitmire
Ruth Marie Wicks
Sara Wittenberger
Gregory Yori

On behalf of the river, everyone at Friends of Verde River thanks you for your support!

(Fiscal year 2018 is designated July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

José Acuña
 Kenly Alexander
 Lexi Alexander
 Dylan Anderson
 Mike Anderson
 Derek Arbec
 Mark Arenas
 Lane Armstrong
 Nanette Armstrong
 WittenArmstrong
 Steve Ayers
 Loene Backus
 Christopher Ball
 Martin Ball
 Courtney Bartlett
 Susan Beach
 Ryan Beard
 Susan Beesley
 A. B. Berman
 Brent Bitz
 DeniseBlanchette
 Rob Bonner
 Jeffery Bowler
 Sandy Boyce
 Sami Brady
 Linda Bringham
 Silvana Burgos
 Malorie Burris
 Todd Butler

Patti Byk
 Nick Campos
 Nancy Carroll
 Fernando Castillo
 StevenCastillo
 Jake Cecil
 Peggy Chaikin
 Haley Chamberlain
 Carl Chasse
 Char Clarke
 Patsy Claus
 Gary Collins
 Mark Collins
 Colette Condon
 Gary Condon
 Ron Condon
 Arlene Connelly
 Sharon Conte
 Damon Coochwyte
 Edward Courtemanche
 Steve Craig
 Susan Craig
 Andrew Dang
 Kathy Davis
 Linda Davis
 Tyrell DeClay
 Marie DeClue
 Deanna Delarosa
 Annette Desch

Chuck Desch
 Jessica Diaz
 Hank Dingemans
 Daniel Distefano
 Peg Downs
 Zane Druyon
 Isaac Dudley
 Michael Durgain
 Daniel Durhaw
 Lynne Dustrud
 Kathy Dwyer
 Jeff Eagar
 Katelynn Edwards
 Taylor Edwards
 Adam Elliott
 Cindy Emmett
 Todd Essary
 John Fitzpatrick
 Kristine Follett
 Marcia Fontenot
 Brooke Ford
 Gary Foresman
 Dustin Foster
 Marsha Foutz
 Olivia Gagliardi
 Emily Garding
 Jessica Gay
 Madeleine Gefke
 Bruce George



Charles German	Kim Lipsky	Haley Rodin
Matt Gilbert	Madison Lipsky	Rebeca Rodriguez
Connie Gilmore	Phoebe Little	Bob Rothrock
Tony Gioia	Paige Livengood	Kristen Rothrock
Gayatri Girirajan	Taylor Lodica	Janet Salas
Grace Glynn	Karen Lyons	Stephanie Salas
Sally Gonzalez	Dan Ma	Jennifer Sallas
Freya Gooch	Peter Malmgren	Beverly Sass
Joshua Good	Peter Malmgren	Diane Scantleby
Thomas Gordon	Nestle Mann	Buddy Schmotzer
Denise Gould	Whit Manter	Anna Schrenk
Jim Graham	Melissa Mark	Emily Second
Mike Gray	Sharon Marmaduke	Leigh Sevy
Kathleen Green	Jayson Martinez	Rebekah Sherwood
Mark Groves	Christine McCormick	Justin Shrum
Matt Guebard	Trinity McTurk	Scott Shuppe
Emily Gumalis	Reyes Mendoza	Susan Sims
John Hall	Abby Mezulis	Hannah Siroky
Jeanmarie Haney	Aiden Mezulis	Morgan Smith
Taylor Hanson	Ed Mezulis	Joe Spangler
Barbie Hart	Mike Mijuskovic	Rea Spangler
Amber Hennessey	Maragaret Miller	Joe Stack
Evan Henry	Jim Millis	Kit Stack
Beatriz Heredia	Buck Mitchell	Sienna Stea
Merle Herrick	Kayla Monk	Bruce Steele
James Heywood	Chris Newell	Randy Stewart
Jon Hilton	Cindy Nguyen	Susanna Stoepfel
Michael Hilton	Delbert Norton	Harry Sweet
Lila Hoffa	Cale Ogilvie	Max Tapia
Amanda Honwytewa	Macy Ogilvie	Hugh Taylor
Mary Hudson	Ronda Ogilvie	John Taylor
Nizhooni Hurd	Scott Ogilvie	Clinton Teague
Jesus Hurtado	Autumn Olsen	Dennis Tomko
Marjorie Imperatrice	Jude Ortiz	Jessica Tran
Linda Jalbert	Mynzah Osiris	Trisha Travis
Jeanne Jaques	Joan Otterson	Joseph Velasco
Chris Jensen	Ann Owen	Angelo Vigil
Kelsey Jensen	Viola Paris	Marinelle Villanuevo
Isabella Johnson	Levi Parker	Doug Von Gausig
Nicholas Johnson	Van Parson	Craig Walker
Laura Jones	Kent Paulsen	Cameron Walkup
Nicole Kallman	Gail Peters	Monica Warren
Thomas Kaminski	Suzanne Poslaiko	Brittany Wastart
Erika Karner	Ronald Posten	Phyllis Webb
Elyse Kats	Kimberly Poucher	Jimmy Whatley
Danielle Keil	Briana Prado	Robin Whatley
Jeanne Keller	Terence Pratt	Samantha White
Gary Kenfield	Tyler Prehn	Jane Whitmire
John Kinnamon	Rebecca Pulido	Marshall Whitmire
Debra LaFrance	Rob Pulido	Ruth Wicks
Harry Lampros	Emily Purvis	Joe Willy
Natalie Lampros	James Quinn	Cindy Wilmer
Adam and Jane Langford	Cruz Reyes-Angel	Skyrah Wilmer
Pat Lauman	Lisa Rhodes	Matthew Wilson
Anthony Lee	Melissa Robinson	
Caden Lipsky	Zion Robinson	

Friends of the Verde River

PO Box 2535

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

GET INVOLVED!



Learn more at
VerdeRiver.org

**Make a gift of support at VerdeRiver.org/donate
Tax ID #45-2927355**