



## Water Conservation Tips:

- Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs, and ground cover with rock and granite mulching.
- Install an instant water heater on your kitchen or bathroom sink so you don't have to let the water run while it heats up.
- Bathe your pets outdoors in an area in need of water.
- Turn the water off while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week.



**Verde Currents**  
Verde Watershed  
Association  
P.O. Box 4595  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322  
verdewatershed@yahoo.com  
www.vwa.southwest-water.org

## Statewide Symposium Highlights Sustainability

Special Verde Valley Program Featured by Arizona Hydrological Society

*Sustainability Issues of Arizona's Regional Watersheds* was the theme of the Arizona Hydrological Society's 16th Annual Symposium in Mesa Sept. 17-19.

A diverse hydrologic community of experts talked about land subsidence, water planning policies for stream-aquifer systems, earth fissure risks in mountain-front settings, substantial growth with inadequate access to water, and urban-rural disconnect.

Much attention has been given to estrogenic compounds in wastewater. One study presented at the Symposium showed that more than 90 percent of estrogenic compounds of wastewater origin were removed from wastewater effluent during soil-aquifer treatment, and the removal was mainly by biodegradation rather than adsorption.

All the newest science in spatial data and Geographic Informational Systems (GIS) was presented at the Symposium. Other topics included presentations about local governments struggling to reduce depletion of streamflow and other impacts to riparian areas, high arsenic in water, salinity control, Colorado water issues, and management of watershed runoff impacts. Many more topics were presented.

Some notable quotes: "Considering that a watershed is a drainage area where surface waters flow, and given that Arizona has limited surface water flows and ever-increasing human populations with ever-increasing water demands, then it should be apparent that we must do everything reasonable and within our powers to restore and sustain our degraded and overly-

stressed watersheds. Perhaps rather than using the word "sustainability," we would be better served by using the phrase "watershed resource protection and restoration." --David Kirchner of Basin & Range Hydrogeologists, Inc.

One whole afternoon session featured presentations about the Verde Valley.

Future editions of *Verde Currents* will cover more topics, as well as highlight this year's Drought Summit at Northern Arizona University, and other statewide water events. To continue receiving the *Verde Currents*, join the Verde

Watershed Association today! See Page 3.

--by Diane Joens

## Calendar of Events Page 4



Photo by Diane Smith Joens

Historian Jack L. August Jr., Ph.D. presented his book, *Vision in the Desert: Carl Hayden and Hydropolitics in the American Southwest*, at the AHS Symposium.

To submit an article, photo or calendar event for *Verde Currents*, e-mail [dianej@sedona.net](mailto:dianej@sedona.net).

# VWA Announces Publication of *Verde Currents* Newsletter

and Debut of *Verde River Almanac*



Cover by Valerie Trammell

The Verde Watershed Association will manage the distribution and reprinting of the *Verde River Almanac* community project. To order a copy of the book e-mail [dianej@sedona.net](mailto:dianej@sedona.net).

The *Verde River Almanac* debuted at Verde River Days September 27, 2003. John Parsons, "Old Man River," first envisioned the *Almanac*. As an internship for Project CENTRL, a two-year leadership class, Diane Joens collaborated with community members to complete the project. She says she chose the *Almanac* to help people connect with the river. The book will be available at many locations throughout the watershed. The next issue of *Verde Currents* will announce those locations. Be sure to pick up a copy, and learn more about your watershed. The Verde Watershed Association will manage the distribution and reprinting of the book.

is founded on the principle that wise and sustainable use of water resources is best accomplished by a voluntary association of members of the watershed communities, working together to understand both the watershed and each other. Such understanding will be the basis for resolving conflicts and promoting cooperative use of the water resources."

•Goals – "...to preserve and protect the Verde River and its watershed, by means of local initiative and control, while using its water resources in a sustainable productive way, avoiding long-term damage or loss of productivity through misuse or overuse."

The VWA is a forum to bring together citizens, user groups and representatives of agencies to better understand the watershed. Using a philosophy that could be described as "helping bring people and science together," the VWA has participated in a number of activities directed at meeting the mission and goals, education and dissemination of information and bringing together various interests to discuss issues.

VWA activities provides impetus to interests on both sides of the Verde Watershed which helped lead to the formation of the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee and its Technical

Advisory Committee.

VWA's assistance with the establishment of the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) have resulted in some of the technical information analysis and dissemination previously done by VWA being done by this entity. Several VWA officers were appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee and former Chair Tom O'Halleran is now in the Arizona House of Representatives (where he currently chairs the committee dealing with water and other natural resources).

Because of the effects of these changes, in December 2000 it was decided to temporarily discontinue the monthly general meetings, but to continue meetings of the Natural Resources Committee and, when necessary, have combined meetings of VWA and its Natural Resources Committee. In addition, the meetings were changed to daytime, the morning

## WE'RE BACK!

After a hiatus of three years the newsletter of the Verde Watershed Association is back. The *Verde Currents* was last published in November of 2000. Many readers may remember the newsletter as the *Confluence*. This popular newsletter was published monthly for many years until September, 2000 when grant funding was expended. It became necessary to rename the newsletter and VWA chose the name *Verde Currents*. However, without funding to pay for the preparation and compilation of the newsletter, it became impractical to continue. VWA has voted to again publish their newsletter and will initially publish it bimonthly. As resources increase, the organization hopes to publish it monthly.

## WHO ARE WE?

The Verde Watershed Association (VWA) was organized in 1993 to help bring people together within the watershed to learn about the watershed and its resources and to work toward achieving common goals. The following are the mission and goals of the VWA:

- Mission - "The Verde Watershed Association

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*Verde River  
Almanac  
available  
Sept. 27*

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of the third Wednesday of the month, to facilitate attendance at both VWA and WAC which meets on the afternoon of the third Wednesday. Meetings have been held in the same community (and sometimes the same facility) as the WAC meetings.

**WHAT HAVE WE DONE LATELY?**

We haven't gone away, but we have operated with a lower profile.

More Recent activities include:

- Sponsored installation of two low flow stream gages on the Verde River in order to increase the accuracy of measurement. One is at the Black Bridge in Camp Verde, the other near Verde Falls below Camp Verde. More accurate information will help us to better determine whether continued development in the watershed and/or changes in climate affect the flow of the river in critical periods.
- Continuing dissemination of technical information via technical presentations at Natural Resource Committee meetings, participation in Verde River Days, technical exhibits at Arizona Rural Watershed and NAU Drought Symposium meetings.
- Coordinated the preparation and submission of application for a multi-year grant for the Verde Watershed from the Environmental Protection Agency. Grant funding would have accelerated scientific studies on the Verde River and its sources.
- Continued participation in the Executive Committee of the Arizona Watershed Alliance.

**SO WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

The Verde Watershed Association includes everyone in the watershed. We invite you to join us ...we've got some exciting ideas and plans. --by Loyd Barnett

**Citizens Water Advocacy Group to host Educational Water Forum in the Prescott Area Nov. 15**

*Submitted by Kay Lauster, CWAG President*

Citizens Water Advocacy Group (CWAG) formed in Prescott in the fall of 2002. CWAG's mission is to advocate sustainable long-term water consumption by educating the public and encouraging responsible governmental decision-making. The group formed out of concern about the over-commitment of ground water to support continuing growth in the Upper Verde Watershed and the Prescott Active Management Area.

CWAG is concerned that development in the Upper Verde Watershed threatens the health of springs, wetlands, and the Verde River because of the ever-increasing demand it imposes on limited ground-water resources. CWAG is also concerned about growth's requirements for water that are unsustainable in the long term in the Upper Verde Watershed and the Prescott AMA.

At monthly meetings CWAG has hosted a series of speakers who have addressed a variety of topics related to growth and water management. CWAG plans an all day educational water forum for November 15 in the Prescott area. Speakers will include USGS hydrologists, meteorologists, experts on Arizona water law and wildlife habitat.

Contact: *Kay Lauster, President*  
Ph: (928) 636-1622

E-mail: [water@commspeed.net](mailto:water@commspeed.net)

[http://www.verderivervca.org/CWAG/forum\\_11-15-2003.htm](http://www.verderivervca.org/CWAG/forum_11-15-2003.htm)

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*Governor Napolitano Implements Statewide Drought Plan See Page 4*

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**About Verde Currents and VWA**

The VWA Currents is published bimonthly by the Verde Watershed Association (VWA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This document is also available on the VWA Web site at <http://vwa.southwest-water.org>.

The Verde Watershed Association was founded in 1993 with the mission of its members to develop cooperation, communication and consensus to ensure sufficient water supplies to maintain a healthy river ecosystem. The Association membership is a coalition of towns, cities, counties, organizations and individuals working toward these common goals. There are five active committees within the VWA; these include the Natural Resources, Education/Outreach, Legal, Funding and Conservation. Individuals are encouraged to attend and participate in all VWA functions.

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VWA Officers  
Chairman  
Robert B. Hardy  
Vice Chair  
Loyd Barnett

*Elections pending. If you are interested in serving as Vice Chair in one of the regional areas of the watershed, please call the nominating committee at (928) 634-4112.*

To continue receiving the *Verde Currents* newsletter, please join the Verde Watershed Association today!

|                              |                 |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Government units             | \$ 100 per year | Make check payable and mail to:<br><b>Verde Watershed Association</b><br>P.O. Box 4595<br>Camp Verde, AZ 86322 |
| Business for profit          | 100 per year    |  |
| Civic groups and non-profits | 50 per year     |  |
| Individuals                  | 25 per year     |  |

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Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Please mail the Verde Currents.

**Verde Watershed Association**

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**Verde Currents**

**Calendar  
of  
Events**

Tri-Cities  
Water Forum  
Scheduled  
Nov. 15  
See Page 3

We're on the Web!

**verdewatershed@yahoo.com**  
**www.vwa.southwest-water.org**

◆ **GOVERNOR'S DROUGHT TASK FORCE**

The next Governor's Drought Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Water Resources Building, 500 North Third St., Phoenix. [www.water.az.gov/gdtf](http://www.water.az.gov/gdtf).

Contact Carol L. Young  
Administrative Assistant  
Arizona Department of Water Resources  
Water Management Division  
500 North Third Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-3903  
Direct Dial 602-417-2447  
Main Line 602-417-2400  
Fax 602-417-2423  
email: [clyoung@adwr.state.az.us](mailto:clyoung@adwr.state.az.us)  
[dtf@adwr.state.az.us](mailto:dtf@adwr.state.az.us)

◆ **VERDE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

VWA meet Nov. 19 in Clarkdale at 10 a.m. Details to be announced. For more information contact Robert Hardy at (928) 634-5526 or Loyd Barnett at (928) 284-0161.

◆ **COCOPAI RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT**

Cocopai RC&D will meet Nov. 17 at 10 a.m. in Camp Verde--Room 106 at the Camp Verde Council Chambers. For more information call Coordinator Robert Arambula at (928) 774-2401, ext. 231.

◆ **YAVAPAI COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WAC will meet Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. in Clarkdale. Details to be announced. For more information contact John Munderloh at [john.munderloh@co.yavapai.az.us](mailto:john.munderloh@co.yavapai.az.us) or call (928) 771-2300. Information about WAC meetings is available at [www.co.yavapai.az.us](http://www.co.yavapai.az.us).

