

# The Otter

SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF VERDE RIVER GREENWAY

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY ON THE VERDE RIVER



VOLUME  
FOUR  
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ISSUE 15

The Nature Conservancy, REI and Friends of Verde River Greenway, with their partners the Town of Clarkdale and Arizona State Parks hosted a series of volunteer events on the Verde River to celebrate National Public Lands Day, the weekend of September 24-25, 2016. Over 60 volunteers contributed 480 hours of service on public lands at the Tuzigoot Access Point, in Clarkdale; and at Shield Ranch, at the confluence of West Clear Creek and the Verde River, near Camp Verde.



On Saturday, Sept. 24, volunteers from the Verde Valley and REI joined Friends of the Verde River Greenway and the Town of Clarkdale for Verde River clean-up and restoration activities at Tuzigoot River Access Point. Volunteers cleared and built trail, closed-off and reclaimed old roads with native plants, took down old fences, and cleaned-up litter along the riparian corridor of the Verde River.

This year marked the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual national celebration of Public Lands Day. To encourage people to join in and visit their public lands, National Public Lands Day events offer volunteer opportunities, free access, and other special activities on all public lands and many state parks.

Saturday night was a lively scene of camping and a gear-affle, hosted by The Nature Conservancy, REI, and Friends of Verde Verde River, at Shield Ranch. A complimentary dinner was also provided for all volunteers who

*Continued on Page 3*

### PROGRAM MANAGER'S LOG

When taking this job almost five years ago I never imagined I would be here to launch VWRC's fifth year of on-the-ground work and celebrate the improvements we've made during the past four years to the riparian areas along the Verde River and her tributaries. The impacts we have made to improve the health of the Verde are visible both along our streams and in our communities. Your participation as a stakeholder, whether it's been as a participating landowner, a donor giving back, an AmeriCorp serving your community, a Steering Committee member guiding the process, a Veteran with a mission to take down *Arundo*, an awesome Field Supervisor, a funder, a volunteer, or supported VWRC in any other capacity – YOU have brought us closer to our common goal in managing the treat of invasive plants. I look forward to celebrating with you all on December 8th, during our Annual Stakeholder Meeting. Happy Fall!

*Anna*

### News you otter know

**Arundo Free Oak Creek**  
**Page 4**

**Conservation Crew Season Kick-off**  
**Page 2**

**New Faces for Restoration**  
**Page 4**

**Verde River Day 2016**  
**Page 6**

**Watershed Events Calendar**  
**Page 7**

**Announcements**  
**Page 8**

## VWRC CONSERVATION CREWS KICK OFF SEASON

### Fall Training with AZCC & Gila Watershed Partnership



The next generation of environmentalism has arrived, and this year, it looks like 40 conservation crew members—youth and veterans—working together, to improve and protect the health of Arizona's Watersheds. For the past five years, the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition (VWRC) has hosted conservation crews for seasonal restoration work in the Verde Valley, totaling in over 60 thousand hours of restoration work since 2011.

This past Monday, September 19, VWRC began its Restoration and Habitat Improvement Crew Training for the six conservation crews that will be working in the Verde and Gila River Watersheds this Fall 2016-Winter 2017 season. Co-hosted with Arizona Conservation Corps and the Gila Watershed Partnership, the training included an introduction to watershed health and riparian ecology; threatened

and endangered species; native and invasive plant identification; biological controls and herbicide treatment; field data management; Wilderness First Aid; and chainsaw and wood-chipper use. Those that attended the Wilderness First Aid and Herbicide Handlers Courses during the training were able to receive professional certification.



*"I expect that being on the crew this season will be a really good experience for me, and will give me a new way to love the river, and treat it as a valuable resource." —Becca Taylor*

VWRC partnered with the Gila Watershed Partnership (GWP) this year to work towards a new goal of connecting the 'dots' of restoration projects across watersheds. GWP is a 501-C(3) based out of Safford, AZ, whose mission is to protect and improve the Gila Watershed and its tributaries, and that of the land and people who live and work there. With similar goals for restoration—including native plant

introduction; invasive treatment and removal; water quality; and flood control—GWP has teamed up with VWRC to share a conservation crew for this season. The crew will spend 1-2 weeks in the Verde Watershed, then travel to the Gila Watershed to complete 8 more weeks of work.

"I see GWP and VWRC as sister organizations—we do much of the same restoration work, just on different rivers—for the Gila and Verde Rivers. We both need the same skills and knowledge for our crews, and so our partnership has succeeded by working to train our crews together this year," said Shawn Stone, Restoration Specialist for GWP.

The Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) developed the training with VWRC, bringing great expertise and organizational capacity to benefit those attending. AZCC operates conservation service programs across Arizona that empower individuals to positively impact their lives, their communities and the environment. AZCC has program offices in Flagstaff and Tucson, which direct regional youth, adult, and veteran's crews year-round. Conservation crew members serve in their positions as AmeriCorps members, a national program for community service that sets out to engage Americans in public service work across America—in their own backyards, and on public lands—to help others meet their critical needs in their communities.

The crews themselves are approximately eight members each, and are teams of young men and women, as well as veterans. VWRC started working with Vetraplex, a non-profit based out

of Cottonwood that supports veterans in building skills for businesses and their future. In all, five crews attended training, that will be working directly with VWRC for projects within the Verde River Watershed. This season, the VWRC crews will tackle the most invasive and prolific "weeds" of the Verde River Watershed: *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed);



## NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY 2016

Continued from Page 1

camped overnight at Shield and joined for Day 2 of the National Public Lands Day celebration on Sunday.

Sunday, September 25 provided volunteers with an opportunity to build pollinator habitat at the Pollinator Garden project site, on The Nature Conservancy's property at Shield Ranch. Molly McCormick, a Northern Arizona University graduate student, has installed the Shield Ranch Pollinator Garden and is completing her graduate thesis' research work based on the methods and their success applied to the garden to attract pollinators—such as native bees and butterflies— with native plant habitat. Earlier this summer, Monarch butterfly larvae (caterpillars) were found on site at the gardens!

Volunteers worked together to weed the pollinator gardens of noxious bind-weed and amaranth, preserving the lush native milkweeds, wildflowers, and grasses for habitat. Native grass mulch (grown on-site, at Shield Ranch) was applied to the gardens as well. Volunteers also enjoyed tours of the property and the riparian scenery with Nature Conservancy staff.

The weekend's events were so popular and received such



impressive feedback from volunteers and organizers that REI, The Nature Conservancy, and Friends of Verde River Greenway will be planning more volunteer events together, to be held in the Verde Valley, in the near future. Thanks again to all those who helped organize and volunteer at this year's National Public Lands Day! You all made it a wonderful weekend of work!

*Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven); *Tamarix* (Salt Cedar); and *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian Olive). Restoration work will occur at several locations along the Verde River mainly focused in the Camp Verde area with retreatment occurring in the Upper Verde and along Oak Creek.



"I joined the VWRC-AZCC crew because I wanted to try something new, and get a new view of what being 'outside' could be like," explains first-year crew member Matthew Lockman-Franklin during training.

"This is my third season with the VWRC-AZCC crew," said Sydney Nieminen. "I enjoy VWRC's crew training more each year

*"I find the work we do challenging, in a good way. It can be really hard, fast-paced work, and even frustrating at times... But still, I am up for the challenge." —Sean Borruso*

because I see it building off past years', and understand that our field work is evolving to be better implemented every year."

"I guess I was just at the right place, at the right time," Sean

## CONSERVATION CREW KICK-OFF

Continued from Page 2

Borruso tells about his role as the crew leader for the VWRC Veterans Crew. "I find the work we do challenging, in a good way. It can be really hard, fast-paced work, and even frustrating at times. The one plant out there I can't stand is the *Arundo* (donax) [commonly known as Giant Reed], it is a real nasty invasive plant, and is more difficult than you would think to take out, still I am up for the challenge."

"I'm really enjoying this training because they are teaching us everything to prepare us for our crew's work. Really, they [VWRC] go above and beyond, and treat us like professionals. I expect that being on the crew this season will be a really good experience for me, and will give me a new way to love the river, and treat it as a valuable resource," shares Becca Taylor, first-year VWRC crew member.

To follow the progress of the crews' work, and know more about VWRC's restoration projects this winter season (2016-2017), Friends of Verde River Greenway will be keeping a blog for AZCC and VWRC live on their website, [www.verderivergreenway.org](http://www.verderivergreenway.org).

## NEW FACES FOR RESTORATION

### RILEY SCANTLEBURY: VWRC FIELD ASSISTANT

riley@verderivergreenway.org

Riley grew up in the Verde Valley and graduated last year from Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah with a degree in biology. After graduation she returned to the Verde Valley and took an AmeriCorps position working with The Nature Conservancy. Through her experiences in college and with The Nature Conservancy Riley has participated in science in the community outreach programs, researched native bird species, monitored flow levels in the Verde River and worked on various stewardship projects. With her interest in conservation and love of the Verde Valley she is excited to be working as the field assistant for Friends of Verde River



### EMILY GARDING: FRIENDS GIS SPECIALIST

Emily@verderivergreenway.org



Over the last decade, Emily has been involved in various conservation GIS projects across the western US. Her experience ranges from tracking wildlife and identifying potential wildlife corridors to assisting with recreation, land use, and conservation planning, in addition to mapping invasive plant infestations. Emily is a proponent of using GIS to make the world a better place for all beings, and uses social media to connect with like-minded people. Founder of #gistribe, an online community of geo-professionals, her other interests include blogging, tweeting, and organizing online events for geo-enthusiasts. Emily is putting her skills to use helping Friends of the Verde River Greenway manage data and map invasive plant treatments to help preserve and restore the Verde's unique riparian ecosystem.

### CLAIRE CATLETT: FRIENDS COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH COORDINATOR, OSM/VISTA

Claire@verderivergreenway.org

Happy to find herself continuing to do what she loves the most, Claire continues her career in watershed protection and restoration with Friends of Verde River Greenway as the Communications & Outreach Coordinator. Claire's role is facilitated by Conservation Legacy's Office of Surface Mining AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America) program, dedicated to creating capacity for communities and environments affected by legacy mining. Claire has served previously as both an AmeriCorps VISTA and VISTA Leader in New Mexico, and spent the past five years living and working in the Gila River Watershed, in Silver City, NM. Claire recently managed a small stream restoration business, working on rural and urban watersheds alike. She is a certified Rainwater Harvester from Watershed Management Group in Tucson. Claire is looking forward to learning from the wonderful staff and community of FRIENDS, and hopes to develop her photography and writing for the benefit of the Verde River.



### KURT ANDERSEN: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY VERDE RIVER TECHNICIAN, AMERICORPS

Kurt.Andersen@tnc.org



Kurt grew up in Northeastern Connecticut before moving to Prescott to attend college. He graduated last year with a Bachelor's of Environmental Studies and promptly left to work as park ranger in Alaska. He has recently returned to the sun and warmth of Central Arizona as The Nature Conservancy's Verde River Technician, where he'll help monitor stream flows and restore habitat. As a canoer and fisherman he has a vested interest in keeping the river flowing.



## ARUNDO FREE OAK CREEK

### Restoring a Native Riparian Health in the Verde Watershed



The common name, Giant Reed, does not do this plant justice... *Arundo donax* (scientific name), is one of the world's fastest growing plants, and the largest invasive plant threat to the health of Oak Creek and the greater Verde River Watershed. Sometimes confused for bamboo or corn, this invasive plant species is much larger in size and scale: it can grow up to 30 feet

tall, and up to 4 inches a day. *Arundo donax* forms in large clumps and has a massive tubular root mass, that clogs waterways, poses fire and flood hazards, outcompetes native plant species, limit access to a stream and overall, compromises a healthy riparian habitat.

"Arundo Free Oak Creek" is a campaign of Friends of the Verde River Greenway (Friends) and the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition (VWRC) to eliminate the invasive species *Arundo donax* from the Verde Watershed completely. In the Verde Watershed, *Arundo donax* is found along most of our stream systems, although it is the densest along Oak Creek and the Verde River. Along Oak Creek, stands can be seen at the top of Page Springs and continue through Cornville until the confluence of the Verde River. On the Verde River, *Arundo donax* is primarily present below the Tuzigoot Bridge.

More overwhelming than its sheer size, is the large extent of riparian area that has been overcome by *Arundo donax* along Oak Creek. Originally introduced to the Verde Valley as a means of erosion control, this plant has yet to prove its worth. Rather than control erosion along stream banks, *Arundo donax* has overtaken stream channels with its biomass, significantly altering the natural flow of the stream, and creating backwater channels which cut into new banks along the perimeter of the invasive plant's patches.

The massive biomass of *Arundo donax*, in fact, **poses more of a flood hazard than anything else**: the plant's giant reed stalks easily break apart, and during floods, these stalks can clog waterways, increasing the impacts of flooding. In fact, the *Arundo donax* actually thrives on flood

events, as the plant spreads new colonies with its "pole-planting" of broken stalks and root masses during floods. The plant's rhizomatous root system ensures the quick success of these new *Arundo donax* colonies, and making this plant not only the fastest growing, but also giving it a speedy rate of succession, seen most clearly by its wide spread across the riparian corridor of Oak Creek.

Long-time Oak Creek residents describe that after the 1993 flood, *Arundo donax* began to show its true colors as a dangerous invasive... First small patches appeared, which expanded year after year to the point where today some of these patches have overtaken the majority of properties. Residents attempted to control this very fast growing plant; some with success, some gave up, and some were unaware that their property was being invaded.

Left un-checked, the *Arundo donax* **outcompetes native riparian vegetation** that naturally stabilizes banks and provide habitat—as compared to reeds, sedges, grasses, willows and cottonwoods—plants that play a vital role in the sustainability and health of the Verde Valley watershed.

*Arundo donax* grows as a monoculture, and as such, **increases fire threats** to riparian areas. Its large, woody biomass becomes dry during dormant winter and early spring months, times of year when fire risk can be high. Add to the list of strikes against *Arundo donax* **that it lacks any natural enemies**: animals don't eat it, native bugs don't burrow in it and it has a very limited agricultural or commercial use. Often these factors help keep a plant in check.



The good news is that many property owners along Oak Creek have shown a sincere interest in removing the plant from their individual properties, and are willing to team up with adjoining neighbors to create solutions for the full eradication of *Arundo donax* on much larger segments of the riparian area of Oak Creek. For four years now, Friends

## ARUNDO FREE OAK CREEK

Continued from Page 5

and VWRC have been teaming up with private landowners and public land management agencies in the Verde Valley to use Conservation Corps and local Veteran crews to treat and remove large stands of *Arundo donax*.

The success of this team effort is shown by projects like that completed in 2014 on the property of Mr. George Reeve, and his neighbors. Reeve and his neighbors worked together to remove stands of *Arundo donax* as large as houses from the banks of Oak Creek. One particular challenge of this work was the fragmentation of property lines along this particular stretch of the creek: private property crossed the creek in those places where the streambanks had changed over time, leaving smaller parcels of one property isolated from the greater property on just the other side of the creek. In the end, Mr. Reeve, an experienced local real estate professional, led his neighbors in the restoration work completed by VRWC Field Crews, and even chipped in himself by providing the logistical support of building a foot bridge across a ditch, access to his private roads, and even the use of his quads and bulldozer.

The work completed with Mr. Reeve and his neighbors is important to Friends and VWRC not just because of the work that is done on the ground, but also the in-kind resources that are expended by neighbors, like the use of Mr. Reeve's bulldozer, or the construction of a foot bridge. These in-kind contributions go a long way towards ensuring that Friends and VWRC have the resources to continue this vital

restoration work, and ensure the success of the "Arundo Free Oak Creek" campaign. On average, it costs over \$3000 an acre to remove this invasive plants,



*Arundo donax herbicide treatment*

and contributions of land owner time, materials, or financial pledge towards restoration projects and their maintenance are critical to completing this important work. In the past four years, VWRC has spent \$523,800 removing *Arundo donax* from private and public land along Oak Creek primarily upstream of the Cornville Bridge.

Yet, we are still quite a far way off from eradicating *Arundo donax* in its entirety along Oak Creek, and the greater Verde Watershed. Stay tuned to the progress of this series of articles, as we here at Friends and VWRC hope to keep our community in the loop of what it will really take for us to achieve our goal of restoring the native riparian health of the Verde Watershed. Together, we can create an "Arundo Free Oak Creek" that benefits both landowners and the entire Verde Watershed.

On Sept. 24, 2016 the Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce sponsored 28th Verde River Day at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. A concert at the Old Town Center for the Arts, sponsored by the Verde River



Valley Nature Organization on Friday, Sept. 23 kicked off this river event. This river celebration brought together many organizations interested in environmental health and the protection of the Verde River.

2,384 people enjoyed this annual celebration of the Verde River. There were 34 exhibitors including the following Verde River conservation groups: Friends (Friends of the Verde River Greenway, VRBP (Verde River Basin Partnership),

## VERDE RIVER DAY 2016

### VRWC Celebrates the 28th Anniversary

VRVNO (Verde River Valley Nature Organization) and the AZCC (Arizona Conservation Corp). Some of the government agencies present included: Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality; Arizona Game and Fish; and the City

of Cottonwood Utilities Dept. The Verde NRC (Natural Resource Conservation District) was aided by volunteers from Camp Verde High School's Future Farmers of America, and the Korean Student Leader Program of the Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce sponsored free canoe paddling for 644 people in the east lagoon from 10:00 - 3:00.

On Sunday, Sept 25 this river celebration concluded with introducing 30 people to the river via free guided canoe rides sponsored by VRVNO.





## WATERSHED HAPPENINGS

### October

**October 18: "Boots, Brats, and Brews" with One for the Verde, 5:30—7:30PM, at Blazin' M Ranch**  
Bust out your boots and enjoy an evening of fall fun with One for the Verde! Tickets are \$15 in advance, at : [www.blazinm.com/reserve](http://www.blazinm.com/reserve) and \$20 at the door.

### November

#### Nov. 1: Verde River Basin Partnership Community Meeting, 10:30 am

VRNP extends an open invitation to all members of the community to learn about the Verde River at its monthly meetings. Join this Nov. 1, at the Yavapai Co. Board Room, 10 S. 6th St., Cottonwood.

#### November 11: VWRC Veteran's Day Fundraising Campaign

Join VWRC in our effort to support our Veteran's Crew, by donating towards our goal of raising \$5,000! Join us for an Veteran's Day Chili Cook-off for our veterans, 4:00—7:00PM, Friday, Nov. 11! Bring your best chili to this fun event, at Vetraplex, 125 S. 6th St., Cottonwood. For more info, contact Jenice (928) 821-1071.

#### November 12: Community Kayak Day

On this special, one day only event is a great way for you to experience the thrill of kayaking the Verde River with Clarkdale Boat Company and One for the Verde! Special Rate: \$25.00 per person, spots are limited—call Dan at Clarkdale Boat Co. at 800-478-4711 to reserve ASAP!

#### November 27: New Wine Release Tasting Party with One for the Verde at Chateau Tumbleweed

Come on out with the whole family to enjoy new wine releases at Chateau Tumbleweed, and show your support for a healthy Verde River! Stay tuned for more info, and visit Friends of Verde River Greenway's website.

### December

#### December 8: VWRC Annual Stakeholders Meeting

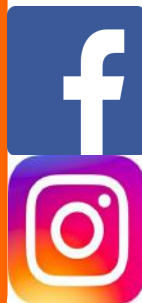
Join VWRC for the Annual Stakeholders Meeting, 2:00—4:00PM at the Clarkdale Memorial Clubhouse Men's Lounge, for the year's work wrap-up, as well as to look ahead to 2017. An awards ceremony will honor this year's most valued stakeholders. A catered reception at Four Eight Wineworks will be from 4:00—6:00PM following the meeting.

For more info on events:

Keep in touch with us  
@verderivergreenway

On Facebook  
& Instagram!

Or visit our [Online Event Calendar](#)



## WATERSHED EVENTS CALENDAR



One for the Verde Kayak Day

Saturday, November 12, 2016

Thank You to our community for making  
our first season such a success!

In celebration join us for this special day!

Proceeds support One for The Verde!

Local Businesses Supporting a Healthy Verde River!

Come kayak the Verde River

Special rate for only this day!

\$25.00 per person!

Kayaks are limited!

To reserve your spot call 800 478-4711



Local businesses  
supporting a healthy  
Verde River!



presents

**Boots, Brats and Brews!**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2016 5:30—7:30 p.m.**

The evenings proceeds go to support  
One for the Verde and a healthy Verde River!

**Tickets: \$15.00 in advance, \$20.00 at the door!**

Special beer tastings, food and live music!

Visit **BLAZINM.COM**  
special events  
to purchase your tickets!

Live  
music by  
Sister and  
the Sun!



Beer  
Tastings  
Provided  
By:



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ONE FOR THE VERDE

#### Community Grant Cycle Extended!

*One for the Verde* seeks applications from municipalities, tribal, state and local government agencies, public land managers, schools and non-profit organizations that are engaged in efforts to preserve, enhance and promote the Verde River and its tributaries. Proposals are due **October 31, 2016**. See attached [Request for Proposals](#).

If you know of an organization or project that would benefit from grant process, please submit and get involved! Last year, six organizations received over \$ 21,000 towards, education, trail signage, improved river access and river recreation.

One for the Verde is a partnership of local businesses supporting a healthy Verde River. Together, these businesses are Partners in Conservation, whose donations contribute to the Verde River Community Grant Fund. For more information on One for the Verde, its Partners in Conservation, and the Verde River Community Grant Fund, please visit [www.onefortheverde.org](http://www.onefortheverde.org).



### NEW ARIZONA WATER PRIZE

#### Verde River Exchange A Finalist



The Arizona Community Foundation, Republic Media and Morrison Institute for Public Policy are pleased to announce the five finalists in the Water Innovation Challenge, the second philanthropic prize competition offered under The New Arizona Prize.

Twenty-three teams met the August 12 deadline for submitting projects for consideration by the 18-member team of

judges and five teams scored highly enough to qualify for the finals. These teams will pitch their solutions to the five members of the Selection Committee during the Prize Ceremony on November 3 and compete for the \$250,000 prize: Arizona State University's "Foundation for a New American University"; City of Phoenix's "Arizona Water Exchange Platform"; Freshwater System's "Crop Guardian Systems"; Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's "Pure Water Brew Challenge"; and Friends of Verde River Greenway's "Verde River Exchange Program."

To read further about the nominated projects, and view team videos, visit the Arizona Community Foundation's website, at [www.azfoundation.org](http://www.azfoundation.org).

Friends of Verde River Greenway: The Verde River Exchange, A Water Offset Program

Groundwater use in rural Arizona is largely unregulated, and few management tools are available. Groundwater is the only potable water supply for the Verde Valley, and it provides the base flow of the Verde River—itself critical to fish and wildlife, local residents, and the Phoenix-area communities that rely on the river for municipal and irrigation water. Unmanaged groundwater use can dewater streams and jeopardize water and economic security. Our proposed solution is the Verde River Exchange, a voluntary community-driven program that allows groundwater users to "offset" the impact of their water use by purchasing credits. Credits are created when an existing user reduces historic water use. Our diverse team will build on two successful pilot projects to create an innovative program that offers a scalable solution for reducing the impacts of groundwater pumping on Arizona's rivers and for stabilizing water supplies for future Arizonans.

For more information on The Verde River Exchange, and the pilot projects at Page Springs Cellars & Vineyards, and Caduceus Cellars-Merkin Vineyards, visit [www.verderiverexchange.org](http://www.verderiverexchange.org).

Awards will be given on November 3, in Phoenix.



### Veterans Day 2016



## Support our Crews!



## ALTERNATIVE PLANT OF THE QUARTER

### Four-wing Salt Bush, *Atriplex canescens*

The Four-wing saltbush, *Atriplex canescens*, is a member of the Goosefoot Family. Its average height is about 2 – 3 feet, but can grow as high as 15 feet. This many small branched shrub has long linear shaped greenish gray leaves 3/8 of an inch to 1.5 inches long that taste slightly salty. Its seed construction also contributes to its name. The seeds are called utricles and have four fringed wings at 90 degrees from the seed to aid in dispersal.

This hardy plant has a unique survival strategy. A fungus forms as seedlings sprout roots that provide nutrients the roots may not yet be able to provide at that time. This plant can also hybridize with 12 other species.

The Four-wing saltbush has a large range from California, northwest to Washington, east to North Dakota and Kansas, and south to Mexico. It grows from 2,500 feet to 8,000 feet in alkaline soils, gravel washes and sandy soils.

Native Americans used this plant for food and a source of niacin. The seeds were cooked and consumed like oatmeal or eaten raw. Ground up seeds were mixed with sugar and water to make a refreshing drink. Deer, pronghorn and rabbits also feed on this wide spread plants.



Photo by Russ Kleiman, WNMU

This low water use, native plant that keeps its leaves year around is an excellent landscape plant considering the extended drought and long term climate change. Its young stems and leaves have tiny scales called scrufs that retard water loss and it grows well in the harsh Southwest climate.

Submitted by: Chris Jensen, NRCD

#### Friends of Verde River Greenway

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Friends of Verde River  
Greenway  
The Nature Conservancy  
Coconino National Forest  
Arizona State Parks  
Arizona Game & Fish Dept.  
Salt River Project  
National Park Service  
Natural Resource  
Conservation District  
USFWS (Partners for Fish &  
Wildlife)  
Tamarisk Coalition  
Yavapai-Apache Nation  
Prescott National Forest  
Verde Valley Land  
Preservation  
Verde NRCD Ed Center  
Southwest Decision  
Resources

#### VWRC Sub-Committees

##### Facilitator:

Tahnee Robertson

##### Outreach, Education and Engagement

Co-coordinators: Laura  
Jones & Steve Estes

##### Research & Monitoring

Co-coordinators: Ruth  
Valencia & Michael Kellett

##### Planning & Implementation

Co-coordinators: Anna  
Schrenk & Sara Van Marel

##### Sustainable Funding

Co-coordinators: Wade  
Albrecht & Chip Norton

#### FRIENDS and VWRC

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Cottonwood, AZ  
86326

**Visit our office in  
"Old Town" at:**  
903 N. Main Street.  
Suite B  
Cottonwood, AZ  
86326  
(upstairs above the  
Red Rooster Cafe)

**Call us:**  
928-301-4934

**Visit us at:**  
[www.verdewrc.org](http://www.verdewrc.org)