

Currents & Flow

November 2019

Thank YOU for supporting a healthy Verde River!

In this issue of Currents and Flow we are celebrating a partner that loves the Verde River: Rancho Tres Brisas. I think you'll enjoy reading this story about their love of this beautiful ribbon of green. We are also celebrating a successful State of the Verde Watershed Conference, held October 28 – 30 at the Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel in Camp Verde. About 170 people came together for two and a half days of experiencing the Verde and learning about how it's doing. This conference focused on the Verde Watershed Report Card. People were able to get a preview and talk together about the state of the Verde. Look for the final report card in early 2020. I hope you are able to experience the Verde and express your love of all things riverly. Please consider making a year-end gift to Friends of the Verde River to keep the river flowing! You make this work possible.

Nancy L.C. Steele, Executive Director



A Story about the Verde River and Rancho Tres Brisas.



Since 1963 when my grandfather purchased Rancho Tres Brisas I have been able to experience the beauty of the Verde Valley and our flowing river. My grandfather recognized it as a sustainable asset that would provide beauty, recreation and commerce. He also knew this ribbon of green in Arizona provides special habitat for many creatures along its path. My grandfather saw the power this water had to provide ways for all to enjoy it.

I remember as a child the cathedral like feel of the Verde bottomlands with towering cottonwoods arcing over the river. As a teen I remember the adventure of floating the river to the nearby Mindeleff Caves with its huge nest of daddy long legs! We all dove for the entrance after that discovery! Now, as an adult I recall seeing my first glimpse of a

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MISSION

Friends of the Verde River works collaboratively to restore habitat, sustain flows and promote community stewardship to support a healthy Verde River system.

VerdeRiver.org



**Friends of the
VERDE RIVER**



Also in this newsletter:

- The State of the Watershed Conference: Industry professionals, activists, and concerned citizens gather to discuss watershed health.
- Why do you love the Verde River? Stories from people who care.
- Join our Circle of Friends: How to support a healthy Verde River.



State of the Verde Watershed Conference



Thank you to our Conference Sponsors

Key Sponsors \$5,000



Platinum Sponsors \$2,500



Gold Sponsors \$1,500



Silver Sponsors \$1,000



Bronze Sponsors \$500



A Watershed Report Card Conference

On October 28-30 at Cliff Castle Casino in Camp Verde, Friends and the Nature Conservancy, held the second State of the Verde Watershed Conference. Friends and The Nature Conservancy presented draft results from the first ever Verde River Watershed Report Card to about 170 participants representing federal, tribal, state, county, and local agencies, as well as other conservation groups and members of the public. Over two and a half days attendees explored the watershed on guided field trips, provided feedback on report card methods on the topics of flow, habitat, and community, engaged with speakers such as Dr. Bill Dennison, Vice President for Science Application at the University of Maryland, and Lisa Atkins, Arizona State Trust Lands Commissioner, and enjoyed a cool evening by a warm campfire and live music at Jackpot Ranch. You made this conference possible, and we couldn't have done this without our supporters.



Why do you LOVE the Verde River?

Felicia Oskar



My grandmother's back yard is part of Verde River in Clarkdale. It's my childhood memories(80's), bonfires, parties, playing on the sand bar, and more. My family and I lived on that river. It's my foundation. Thank you for taking such good care of it too.

Kelly Flemming



I first found out about the Verde River in 2009. I had recently begun spending one week out of each year visiting family in Scottsdale. I have lived in Wisconsin my whole life. It wasn't until winter of 2012 that I actually got to see the river and spend time with her. I was instantly obsessed! Since then, I have grown so close with her. She is more than a friend to me. She is like a sister!

Ray Maestras



I am a part time AZ resident. I walk the river everyday I can. I love the beauty, the sounds of the river and wildlife. I just wish everyone loved it as much as myself. Too many people walk by trash on the trail or easily reached in the river. I have adopted this stretch and do what I can to keep it clean.

"It's my foundation."

"She is more than a friend to me. She is like a sister!"

"I love the beauty, the sounds of the river and wildlife."

Your River Needs YOU!

Rancho Tres Brisas Continued:

river otter, a yellow-billed cuckoo, and other wild-life that call the river corridor home.

In fact my husband and I had one of our first dates up here—I introduced him to the river and the wildness that we call Rancho Tres Brisas.

Fast forward to 2019. My husband and I now live on and own Rancho Tres Brisas. We raise grass and grain-fed tasty critters (BEEF) that live on Tres Brisas all their life. We can only do this because of the river. We are able to irrigate our grass for the beef because of the Verde River. We have worked closely with The Nature Conservancy and the NRCS to ensure we use wise water practices. This winter we are installing sprinkler irrigation that uses less water than flood irrigation. This is important especially in Arizona's summers! We want to be stewards of the river.

We support our Verde River because Arizona needs a green ribbon of life-giving water that serves as a home to cathedral cottonwoods, provides wildlife homes, adventures for individuals, and allows us to produce and provide food for those wanting good Verde Valley grown beef.

Join our Circle of Friends

If you have supported Friends of the Verde River with an annual gift in the past, thank you! We invite you now to renew your support, as well as consider upgrading your contribution.

Donation

- \$50.00 - Supporter Circle
- \$100.00 - Conservationist Circle
- \$250.00 - Preservationist Circle
- \$500.00 - Protector Circle
- \$1,000.00 - Leader Circle
- \$2,500.00 - Silver Circle
- \$5,000.00 - Gold Circle
- \$10,000.00 - Platinum Circle

Scan Here to Become a Friend of the Verde River!



“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

Maya Angelou

