

# Currents & Flow

Fall 2020

Cover Photo: Doug VonGausig

## You are a River Hero

Together, we can do anything! For this issue of Currents and Flow, we are celebrating the idea of “togetherness”. This has been a challenging year for everyone. One of the challenges for us, has been not seeing each and every one of your smiling faces in person. We have missed you dearly! Despite everything, we have truly felt the strength of our community throughout these times of hardship. Even when we are not able to physically stand together, we are together in action and thought.

This year, the Friends of the Verde River Board of Directors, is showing their commitment to working side by side with YOU by matching your gift. That could be twice as many tools for volunteers, twice as many willow trees planted, or even twice as many jobs for our crew of military veterans. Thank you, for your commitment to a healthy Verde River. By making a donation today, you will DOUBLE your impact!



Nancy L.C. Steele, Executive Director

## Thank you Veterans!

Friends of the Verde River would like to say THANK YOU to the Vetroplex in Cottonwood, and the amazing team of military veterans for all that they do to keep the Verde River Healthy. Over the last year, this great team has worked throughout the Verde River Watershed, removing invasive plants, reseeding restoration sites, and even planting Cottonwood trees as important riparian habitat.



“In the four seasons I’ve worked with the Vetraplex crew, they have never failed to go above and beyond to get their work done. We are so fortunate to have this dedicated crew working on the Verde River!” Elaine Nichols, Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Friends of the Verde River

In the Verde Valley, all creeks and streams flow into the river. This year, to keep these tributaries healthy,

Continued on Page 4

## MISSION

Working collaboratively  
for a healthy, flowing  
Verde River system.  
**VerdeRiver.org**



**Friends of the  
VERDE RIVER**



## Also in this newsletter:

Virtual events! Learn about how some of our favorite events went VIRTUAL.

Listening to the Verde: a season of online videos and workshops.

DOUBLE your impact by donating today! Our Board of Directors will MATCH you dollar for dollar.





### Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival

Who knew you could watch birds right from your living room? This year Friends of the Verde River teamed up with some fantastic birding guides to bring you the Virtual Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival. Although we were saddened by not seeing all of our amazing birders together in person, we were amazed to see how many people joined in from around the country.

From New York to California and nearly everywhere in between, we all flock together! This unique virtual setting allowed us to host the largest birding hike in the history of the festival. With over 60 people watching at one time, Witt Manter, a virtual guide, lead us through the habitat of Dead Horse State Park in Cottonwood, Arizona. Thank you to all of the virtual guides; Patty Greeneltch, Lisa Grubbs, Tim Webber, Rich Armstrong, Whitt Manter, and everyone who participated.

### Verde River Runoff- September

After postponing from March to September, we were thrilled to have the opportunity to get out on the water again. Using a mobile race app called Strava, participants were able to race competitively, or just for fun anywhere in the world.

Many participants created fundraisers and together raised a total of \$1,931 above and beyond their registration! Thank you to all of those who participated in this event! We are excited to find new ways for our community to come together, no matter where you are!

## Read what participants had to say!



“Any excuse to get out on the water with my friends, I will take it! Especially to support an organization that works hard to keep the environment healthy.”  
– Becky M., Indian River Bay, Delaware



“I used to live in Arizona but I have not been able to visit due to Covid-19. This was a great way to send AZ some love.”  
– Emily C., Goose Lake, California



“Our paddle on the Russian River was the perfect day. We saw an eagle’s nest, otters, so many different ducks and a blue heron! Thank you for this reminder...”  
– Emily M., Russian River, California



“I was sent a link for the Runoff from a friend in Arizona and I saw it as a great reminder to appreciate the Susquehanna River and the abundance of water that it has.”  
– Abby P., Susquehanna River, Wrightsville Pennsylvania

# Listening to the Verde

## A Season of Online Speakers and Workshops

Listening to the Verde is a full season of online videos featuring local experts, inspirational stories, and opportunities to learn new things about the Verde River. On October 1, 2020, we launched our first episode featuring Tim Elinski, the Mayor of Cottonwood, and Jon Huey, Chairman of the Yavapai-Apache nation. They spoke passionately about their connection to the Verde River, and how they work to protect it.

This series will continue through Spring 2021. Every month a new episodes will be published! Sign up today to learn about important work and hear engaging stories about the Verde.

Join us in December to learn about habitat and important species of plants and animals. It is free to sign up and you can access the videos any time you like.



“There aren’t any summers that I can remember that I didn’t spend time on the Verde River. Either fishing or on a rope swing.” Jon Huey, Tribal Chairman, Yavapai-Apache Nation



“The river truly was a companion to me in my youth, and I have very fond memories,” Tim Elinski Mayor of Cottonwood



**View Content: [VerdeRiver.org/Listening](https://VerdeRiver.org/Listening)**





# Your River Needs YOU!

## Thank you Veterans Continued:

the industrious Vetroplex crew spent lots of time removing salt cedar, and giant reed from Beaver Creek and where the Oak Creek flows into the Verde. We are so grateful for the dedication and time that this team has put into the health of the Verde River. Without crews like this, and without YOUR support, this important work would not get done. THANK YOU!

## Upcoming Events:

- **Fiesta de la Garza**  
December 2, 2020

- **Highway Clean up with VVBNF**  
January 16, 2021

- **Listening to the Verde**  
New episodes each month

See [VerdeRiver.Org/Events](http://VerdeRiver.Org/Events) for more information.

## DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

The Friends of the Verde River Board of Directors, issued a challenge to MATCH your gift dollar for dollar up to \$30,000! By donating today, you will be doubling your support for a healthy Verde River.

Donation

\$50 - becomes \$100

\$100 - becomes \$200

\$500 - becomes \$1,000

\$1,000 - becomes \$2,000

\$5,000 - becomes \$10,000

\$25,000 - becomes \$50,000

Scan here to donate securely  
online, or visit  
[VerdeRiver.Org](http://VerdeRiver.Org)



## VerdeRiver.Org

**DOUBLE** your gift by donating today! Let's work together to save the Verde River.

