



# CURRENTS & FLOWS

Summer 2022

## REFLECTIONS ON THE VERDE DURING THE DRY SEASON

I paddled the Verde last week. It is probably the last time for me until the monsoons hit. The flow decreases every day during the dry season. That aside, I love how paddling in still water gives me the Zen meditative feeling. Paddle, paddle, paddle, glide, repeat. Peace and relaxation take over.

I approach a rapid, really it is a riffle, my Zen changes to alert. I want to ensure I am in the right part of the riffle, dodging the sandbars and continuing to float so I can return to the Zen.

The Verde is a ribbon of green, it gives me my Zen, it brings me to an alert state. I want the Verde to continue to flow, to give me still waters, to give me riffles, and yes, even rapids. I wish the same for all of us who enjoy the Verde River. Thank you for your support of this Zen, but I encourage you to be alert when needed for the riffles, rapids, and sandbars that come our way.

*Jeni O Callaghan*

President, Friends of the Verde River

## Welcome four new board members

*We Welcome New Members to the Board of Directors*



**Dick Lynch**

Dick Lynch moved to Sedona years ago to become a river guide. Today he operates Verde Adventures, the first company to offer commercial guided trips on the Verde River.



**Blythe Newell**

Blythe Newell is an accountant who specializes in nonprofit accounting. In her spare time, she spends as much time outside as possible and loves rivers. She lives in central Phoenix.



**Dean Pefanis**

Dean Pefanis and his wife Tammy moved to Arizona in 1995; they currently live in Cornville. Dean has worked in Information Technology and has a long history of volunteerism and board service, including with the Verde Valley Wine Consortium.



**Jeanne Swarthout**

Jeanne Swarthout, Ph.D. has had a professional career divided between field archeology and higher education. She recently retired after serving as the President of Northland Pioneer College in Navajo County. Jeanne lives in Camp Verde.



## We say goodbye to director Harry Sweet

*Harry Sweet has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2015, serving as our Treasurer from 2015 through 2018. Harry was one of the small group that created and grew One for the Verde, the program that we now call Business Conservation Partners.*



*In Home on the Range, the lyrics say: "Where the deer and the antelope play..." But there are no antelope in America – the song refers to pronghorn, a unique animal that is not an antelope at all. Pronghorn's closest living relatives are giraffes.*

## Pronghorn in Arizona

Recently Friends of the Verde River partnered with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and Arizona Wildlife Federation to support pronghorn movement. AZGFD was tracking pronghorn movements to the north of Tuzigoot. They noticed that two herds seemed to be prevented from connecting with each other. They determined that fencing and dense vegetation around the river were keeping the pronghorn apart.

And then they found the skeleton of a pronghorn that had tried and failed to jump a fence. You see, pronghorn aren't built for jumping; they prefer to crawl under fences. This macabre sight mobilized the group. Volunteers removed old, unnecessary fencing in March and April.

There is more to be done but we are already seeing success. The Forest Service is using remote trail cameras to monitor pronghorn movement. The photographic evidence shows that pronghorns are now crossing where fences were removed, restoring their historic migration corridors.



## State of the Verde Watershed Conference is OPEN

Join Friends for the 2022 State of the Verde Watershed Conference, September 26-29, 2022! The conference theme is “The Future of the Verde River System - Solutions for the Next Ten Years.” Our keynote speakers include former governor and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Carol Peden Schilling, Chair, Board of Trustees, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. This year we have added a full-day Stormwater Funding and Financing Workshop, co-hosted by the U.S. EPA Environmental Finance Center, on the 29th. Register and learn more at [VerdeRiver.org/SOTVW](http://VerdeRiver.org/SOTVW).

The graphic features the logos for Friends of the Verde River and the Environmental Finance Center at Sacramento State. The text 'Save the Dates' is written in a cursive font. Below it, two boxes provide details for the 'State of the Verde Watershed Conference' (Sept 26-28, 2022) and the 'Stormwater Workshop' (Sept 29, 2022). Both events are held at the Cliff Castle Hotel Casino in Camp Verde, AZ. The background shows a scenic river landscape.

## River Friendly Living Development Spotlight

The Tiny Camp Cottonwood Resort is the newest Certified River Friendly Development. This newly built tiny home development in Old Town Cottonwood went above and beyond in their conservation practices. This site has achieved Silver by including a greywater irrigation system and a rain harvesting system that reduces their water use and captures up to 20,000 gallons of water per year!



# FRIENDS TEAM CHANGES



Welcome Kimberly Maxwell, Development Manager: Kimberly brings over 20 years of experience in program development and management, as well as fundraising to Friends. She intends to use this experience and her passion for nature to ensure that the Verde River remains as a viable resource for wildlife and the community.



Welcome Hudson Keffer, Restoration Technician/GIS Specialist: Hudson is a passionate ecologist and spatial data scientist with experience working in land management, GIS, and environmental research. He supervises and supports field crews in the monitoring and treatment of invasive species within the Verde Watershed and produces map-based resources for the organization. Hudson earned a B.S. in Conservation Biology from Arizona State University and is working towards the completion of a B.S. in Geography and GIS.



Farewell to Kegn Moorcroft, Stewardship Director: After 2.5 years with Friends of the Verde, Kegn has departed from Friends for a new career with the City of Sedona. Kegn was instrumental in the development of the Sycamore Society, Verde Forever, donor cultivation, communications strategy, team development. She will continue to be a river steward and a donor.

# MONTHLY DONOR SPOTLIGHT: *Marsha Foutz*



Marsha Foutz is many things – a gardener, an artist, a former teacher, a Founder of Made In Clarkdale, an honoree as a Founder of the Friends of the Verde River, and a self-professed “river rat.” Living in Clarkdale for many years, she has explored the Verde River, kayaked its greenway, and enjoyed the natural beauty it provides.

Marsha is also a monthly donor to FVR, choosing to offer regular support, because as a former board member, she knows how important it is to be able to count on regular income. She reminds us, “As with all things we appreciate, love it or lose it!”



**Friends** *of the*  
**VERDE RIVER**

**Invest in Friends of the Verde River’s crucial conservation projects for a healthy and flowing Verde River system. Become a monthly donor at [VerdeRiver.org/RiverHero](https://VerdeRiver.org/RiverHero).**