



# SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

*earth***LINES**

2021 Newsletter &  
2020 Annual Report





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*as of January 1, 2021*

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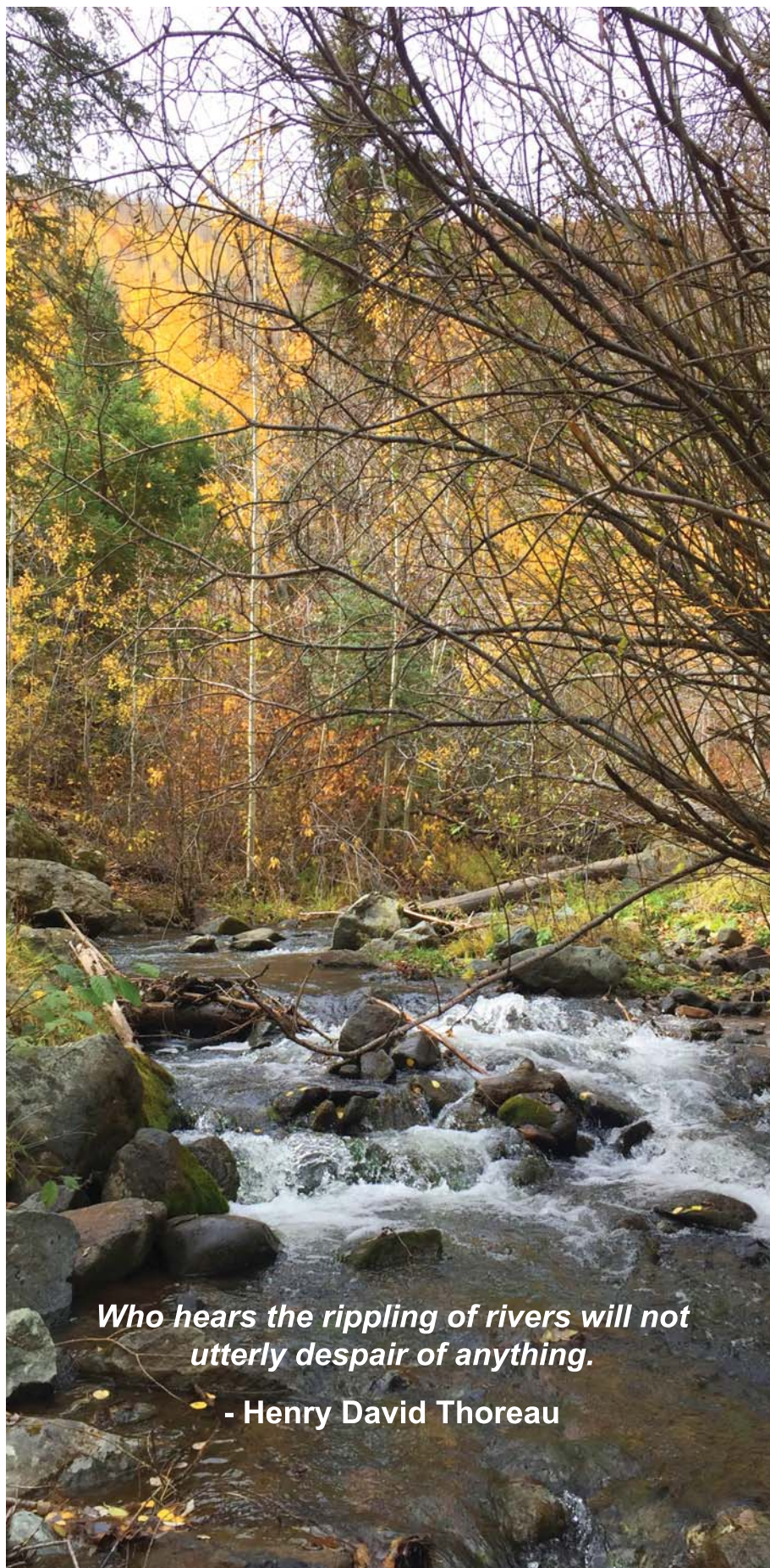
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*Who hears the rippling of rivers will not  
utterly despair of anything.*

**- Henry David Thoreau**

On the Cover: Protecting the foothills from Santa Fe to Pecos  
is one of SFCT's focus areas. Photo by Michael Miller.  
Newsletter design and layout by McAllister Yeomans.



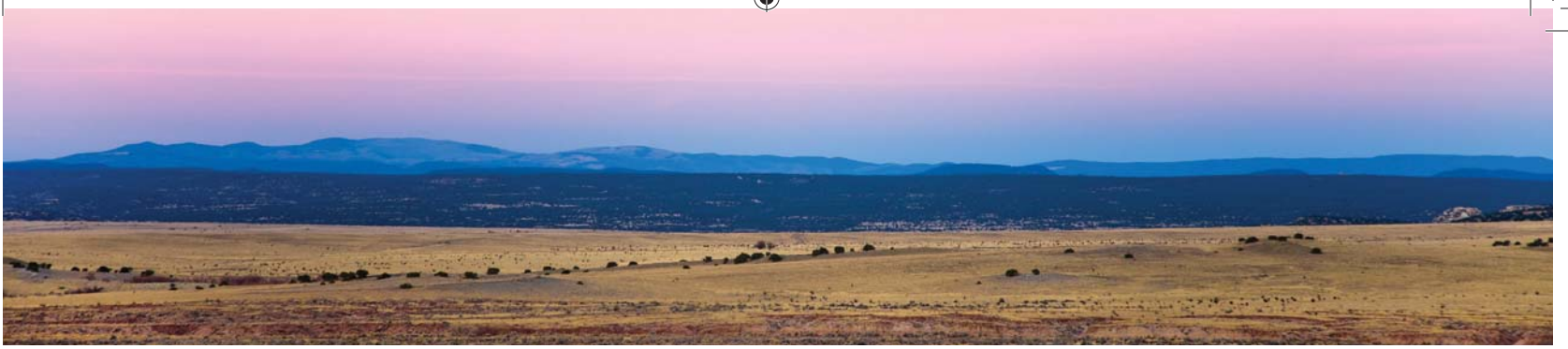


Photo by Tony Bonanno.

## From the Executive Director

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In many ways, the coronavirus, which erupted in 2020, was a turning point for conservation. Would this new virus have emerged if humans had not pushed nature to its limits? It is hard to know exactly what caused it, but we saw that human encroachment into wildlands is causing plants and animals to become fragmented from their native habitat. When that happens, they can become isolated in smaller and smaller areas, causing inbreeding, disease and eventually extinction. Scientists say we must protect at least 30% of the earth's land and water by 2030 to avert catastrophic biodiversity loss and climate disruptions. The threat is big and imminent, and in this issue of *Earthlines* we want to show you how the Santa Fe Conservation Trust is a part of the solution.

Locally, we are experiencing hotter and drier weather that seems to be more of a norm than an exception. Climate change now poses one of the principal threats to the biological diversity of the planet and is projected to become an increasingly important driver of change in the coming decades. Plants and animals are less able to adapt thanks to the very rapid pace of change: over the next century, the rise in average global temperatures will be faster than anything experienced by the planet for at least 10,000 years. Many species will simply be unable to adapt quickly enough to the new conditions, or to move to regions more suited to their survival.

But rather than despair, now is the time to act! It is time to stand up for nature and do all we can locally to protect the biodiversity of our area. In terms of conservation, we believe this means embracing a more holistic, integrated and dynamic approach that looks at entire ecosystems in our area to promote habitat connectivity. In this issue, you'll learn more about landscape scale conservation and how SFCT is working to implement it. We are also announcing some big conservation wins in the Galisteo Basin Watershed that will improve climate resilience and recreational opportunities while helping to protect an important wildlife corridor between the Sandia Mountains and the Sangre de Cristos.

The board and staff of SFCT believe that achieving our goal of landscape scale connectivity to protect biodiversity is key to achieving the 30 x 30 goal in northern New Mexico. To be successful, we must open the doors of conservation to more people who might not be able to afford the transaction costs of conservation easements or a loss in equity from donating their development rights to us. Your generous support will help us to increase the pace and scale of private land conservation, make our services more equitable and inclusive and give more people the opportunity to be part of the solution to protect the places they love.

2020 was a tough year on so many levels, and yet we also experienced it as a collective deepening of our commitment to conservation, and to working with as wide a diversity of people as we can to ignite their passion for nature through our community programs. In this issue, you'll see how dark times have brought out the best in our organization. If you like what you see in this issue, please make a donation to help us move our work forward. Never has your generosity been as important as it is during these challenging times!

Sincerely,

**Sarah Noss**  
*Executive Director*





Pronghorn antelope. Photo by Kirt Kempter.

## SFCT Works to Protect Ecosystems to Serve You Better

Since our founding in 1993, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust has been working throughout northern New Mexico to protect the landscapes we all love. SFCT now has over 43,000 acres protected stretching from the Los Pinos River valley by the Colorado border, through the wide open expanses of Georgia O’Keeffe country by Ghost Ranch, along the highly visible foothills from Santa Fe to Pecos, through the archaeologically rich landscapes of the Galisteo Basin, to the historic ruts of the Santa Fe Trail winding through large ranches near Las Vegas.

We are proud of what we have accomplished with the landowners who have partnered with us over the past 28 years. Conservation, however, is not as simple as it was 28 years ago when SFCT first started. Big problems, like habitat degradation and climate change, are showing us that our site specific, parcel by parcel approach may not be enough to sustain the biodiversity, ecological function and climate resilience of a whole landscape. The boundaries that we traditionally work with are manmade. Where there was once whole, natural features of a landscape, now there are fragmented pieces divided by roads, dams, fences and development. We are realizing that working to protect larger, landscape-scale areas offers us

an opportunity to make an impact going forward on a more systemic level. We want to continue individual acts of conservation but also expand our business model with an eye toward connectivity to protect ecosystems.

It helps to look at healthy landscapes as an integrated whole where nature, community and culture are intertwined. The landscapes that we call home are also home to the plants and animals we depend on to survive. Landscapes foster economic development through farming, tourism, ranching, timbering, etc. They give us recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, access to nature and respite from the stress of our daily lives. Landscapes also contain the stories of place about who we are and where we come from. With so many interconnected parts impacting an entire landscape—and benefiting everyone and everything associated with it—large-scale, systems-focused conservation makes us realize that we need to consciously work more collectively and collaboratively if we are to protect larger, whole landscapes that are vital to sustaining us and future generations.



## Nine Years Left to Get to the 30 x 30 Vision

The US is one of 50 countries that has signed on to the 30 x 30 Initiative, an international effort to protect 30 percent of the Earth's wild areas. Scientists say that protecting 30% of the planet's land and water is the minimum needed to prevent the worst consequences of climate change, including widespread loss of species. To date, 12% of US land is protected. Meanwhile, the US is seeing an alarming decline in wildlife populations; currently in the US, about 12,000 wildlife species are in need of protection to avoid the threat of extinction. Especially in the west, we are experiencing the peril of climate change from heat, droughts and wildfires. We may never be able to go back to a climate we all remember from our youth. But if we act now, we can at least stop this scary cycle from getting worse for ourselves and future generations. It is going to take all of us, land trusts, private landowners, Indigenous communities, farmers, ranchers, local, State and Federal governments working together to reach the goal. The more connectivity we can create the better, because habitat fragmentation is thought to be the number one threat to biodiversity. Six out of every 10 acres in the US are in private hands, and when you get east of the Mississippi, it goes up to nine out of 10 acres. So reaching the goal of conserving 30% of land in the US by 2030 can't happen without private landowners keeping their lands as healthy as they can and working to protect them permanently with land trusts.

## Healthy, Connected Land Provides You with Climate Resilience and Many Other Benefits

The National Academy of Sciences recently published research from around the planet showing how improved stewardship of larger landscapes can mitigate 11.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide pollution per year. That amounts to 37% of the mitigation needed between now and 2030 to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius. Conservation provides natural solutions for climate change. Preserved open space improves air quality because trees and plants give us oxygen to breathe and clean the air of pollutants. The vegetation serves as a "carbon sink," pulling CO2 from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. Water quality is improved because vegetation slows runoff and reduces erosion so our precious rainwater can sink into the ground and replenish our aquifers. By slowing runoff, streams and streambeds are protected, and the amount of pollutants entering receiving waters is reduced. Wildlife and plants depend on undisturbed open space for their food, shelter and reproduction. Larger, conserved areas

also allow for more public recreation while boosting biodiversity and ecological health. So moving toward larger, connected conserved areas just makes sense.

## SFCT is Embracing a More Landscape-Scale Conservation Model

It will take time to build the collective of people and organizations manifesting connected, conserved areas for maximum impact. But to start, SFCT protects almost 100 conservation easements in three northern New Mexico counties that we can work on connecting to improve migration corridors, strengthen wildlife habitat and provide natural climate solutions discussed above. To begin creating that connectivity, we have studied where our conservation easements are clustered and have identified three focal areas:

### Tesuque/Santa Fe Pecos Galisteo Basin Watershed

To guide us on where we should put our energies in these three focal areas, in 2020 we worked with Nick Viau and Deb Grieco at Allpoints GIS and Breece Robertson at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy to create a science-based prioritization tool. It maps an incredible array of data showing working lands, water rights, wildlife habitat, streams and tributaries, cultural sites, areas of high recreational value, etc. This GIS mapping tool will help us identify properties with high conservation values in areas where we want to boost connectivity to ensure the best use of our finite resources. And finally, we have hired Ariel Patashnik, a land conservation specialist, to work with our Land Program Manager, Melissa Houser, to help implement this vision. Learn more about Ariel on page 6.

So, as you can see, SFCT is geared up and already in the midst of creating the kind of connectivity that will impact the 30 x 30 imperative locally. On the following pages, learn more about the momentum we've already created in the Galisteo Basin Watershed.





## Landscape Conservation in the Galisteo Basin Watershed

Of the over 43,000 acres we protect in a three-county region in northern New Mexico, none is perhaps more threatened than the Galisteo Basin Watershed, where SFCT has more than 15,000 acres protected. It is one of the larger stretches of privately owned lands in the Western Wildway Network, a 6,000-mile landscape stretching from Alaska, down the Rockies through the Canadian and US Rocky Mountains, to the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico.

The Galisteo Basin Watershed provides critical connectivity along the Wildway and covers 730 square miles just south of Santa Fe. It serves as a wildlife corridor between the Sandia Mountains, the Ortiz and Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Plants and animals alike rely on the water resources of Galisteo Creek and its tributaries and wetlands. Here there is growing development pressure, which is cutting off migration corridors, diverting precious water resources and threatening the biodiversity of the area. Because most of the land here is privately owned, SFCT can

make a significant contribution by working with private landowners, from all walks of life, to protect the biodiversity found here.

This landscape is also rich in archaeological sites that date back far back as 5,000 BC. The Galisteo Basin was one of the primary population centers of the northern villages of Tewa-speaking people known as the Tano. The Tano people played a central role in the events of the early colonial period and were prime movers in the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, occupying Santa Fe after the initial Spanish defeat. The reconquest era was disastrous for the Tano, according to archaeologist James Snead, and by the early 18th century, they had abandoned their communities in the Galisteo in favor of other local pueblos or the newly-established village of Hano at Hopi. The story of this place, who lived here, their migration and its ramifications must be told and the archaeological sites protected for future generations.

View of the Galisteo Basin. Photo by Billy Johnson.







## SFCT's Conservation Homestead

Within this threatened landscape, SFCT is showcasing the power of conservation in the Galisteo Basin at SFCT's Conservation Homestead. In March 2020, thanks to the support of the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust, SFCT was able to purchase this 300-acre parcel in the Galisteo Basin that, had it been developed, would have created a housing cluster in an otherwise wide open landscape. Surrounded by almost 6,000 acres of adjoining SFCT conservation easements, the purchase of the Conservation Homestead is a huge leap forward in protecting a wildlife corridor from the Conservation Homestead to the headwaters of the watershed at the top of Apache Creek in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The Thaw Charitable Trust wanted to return the land to a more natural state, so part of their support helped us demolish the ranch buildings, reseed the homestead area and revive the grasslands to support habitat for wildlife and migratory birds. Workshops and workdays on erosion control techniques have already occurred to teach trail builders and other landowners these restoration techniques to mitigate the effects of climate change on a wider level. Five miles of trails are being constructed to allow for public access. These trails will connect to a nearby 40-mile trail system in the Galisteo Basin Preserve. As we get farther into the project we will build an accessible loop to ensure equitable access for everyone. Outings for youth will ignite their passion for nature, creating the next generation of conservationists. SFCT is finishing its management plan for the property and plans on having a public opening later this Fall.



## Apache Creek Property

Last summer, we were approached by some very generous donors concerned about the sale of a 614-acre property closer to the top of the Galisteo Basin Watershed near the headwaters of the Apache Creek. They offered to help SFCT buy it, which we did in June 2021, with plans to put it into a conservation easement to protect this important tributary to the Galisteo Creek that creates a healthy wildlife corridor, riparian zones and wetlands in an otherwise arid landscape. This acquisition is another huge step forward in protecting the Galisteo Basin Watershed.

These are just two examples of how SFCT is working on protecting an entire ecosystem, contributing to the 30 x 30 goal, strengthening the formation of the Western Wildway Network and protecting the biodiversity of life that sustains us for maximum impact.

Will you help us continue to protect and connect the places we love? Contributions help put these important conservation deals together that benefit you with cleaner air and water, healthier ecosystems, protected cultural resources and recreational opportunities. Please use the envelope provided and make a donation today!





## Meet Our Newest Staff Member

### Ariel Patashnik

We are pleased to announce that we have hired a new Conservation Specialist here at SFCT. This has been a long time coming, as we had to increase our income enough to be able to afford expanding our staff, but meanwhile our land work was growing and becoming more challenging to handle. We now work with almost 100 landowners to protect over 43,000 acres of land throughout northern New Mexico, land that offers public access in some cases, and protects scenic views, open space, cultural resources and the biodiversity of life that sustains us. We have a strategic conservation plan to guide our conservation work over the next 10 years that we have been putting into place, and key to that was hiring a professional to help us connect our patchwork of conservation easements into larger, connected areas to reduce habitat fragmentation, the number one threat to biodiversity. Thanks to all of you who have supported our work over the years, we were able to begin the nationwide search to fill the position. Now we are so excited to welcome Ariel Patashnik to our staff as our new Conservation Specialist.



Ariel has spent seven years working for land trust organizations, first with the New Mexico Land Conservancy in Santa Fe, then with the Sonoma Land Trust in Santa Rosa, CA. Most recently, she was Land Acquisition Program Manager at the Sonoma Land Trust, which utilized her skills in shepherding the entire conservation easement process through from beginning to end. Ariel grew up in San Diego and attended Yale University as an undergrad. She went on to receive her Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 2012. Teamed with Melissa Houser, our land program manager, both are going to reach out to a wider variety of landowners to protect the places we all love with the added benefit of strengthening our resilience to climate change by creating larger, landscape-scale conservation areas.

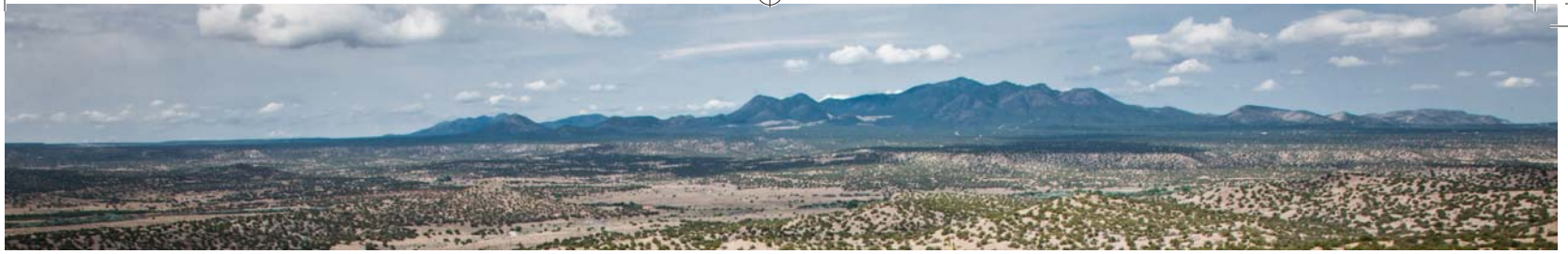
“Private landowners have such an important role to play in stewarding water, wildlife habitat, and all of shared natural resources,” says Ariel. “I’m thrilled to be helping SFCT partner with more landowners and fill in the missing puzzle pieces in our network of conserved lands in northern New Mexico.”

Along with donors like you and the ongoing commitment of our Board, this was a team effort to expand our capacity to protect land. And it couldn’t have come at a better time, as the national effort to protect 30% of our land and water by 2030 gets underway. So thank you for the continuing role you play in helping us make our work even more impactful. We wouldn’t be able to expand in this way and hire such an outstanding person without your generous support.

Below: one of Ariel's first projects was performing a site visit at the new Apache Creek property (page 5)







View of the Galisteo Basin and the Ortiz Mountains. Photo by Tony Bonanno.

## Welcome to Our 2021 New Board Members

### Carmela Niño

Since earning her Real Estate Broker License in 2000, Carmela has been an active, full-time, full-service real estate professional at Barker Realty. True to her Santa Fe roots, she has devoted the last 21 years to helping her community grow by empowering clients, family and friends through successful real estate transactions. Carmela brings diligence, determination, grace and local knowledge to her work, which has earned her the respect and trust of her clients and peers.

Born and raised in Santa Fe, Carmela grew up exploring the outdoors with her dad valuing her natural surroundings and the rugged beauty of the high desert. She attended St. Catherine's, a local private school for Native American children, which exposed her to different cultures and traditions. Sleepovers at the Pueblos and Feast Day celebrations instilled a deep cultural sensitivity and appreciation. She brings that spirit of hospitality, tradition and tenacity not just to her work, but also to SFCT's Board. "I feel fortunate to have grown up in such a multi-cultural environment here in Santa Fe, with wonderful memories of the outdoors with my family. If anything, I hope that my skills, experiences and perspectives will deepen the already rich work that is happening at SFCT."



### Ginny Olcott

Ginny Olcott is a native Santa Fean and is recently retired from a 35+ year career as a real estate appraiser. As an appraiser, her practice included all types of real property, with a focus on large equestrian facilities, luxury estates, and vacant land, including several conservation easement properties, which was how she was introduced to the work of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust. She served on the New Mexico Real Estate Appraisers Board from 2015 through November 2020.

Ginny graduated from Santa Fe High School, and completed undergraduate studies at the University of New Mexico with honors. Her hobbies include cycling of all types, hiking, skiing, and gardening. She is an accomplished knitter and hand-spinner, winning several awards. She was a search and rescue volunteer for ten years, and a founding member of Atalaya Search and Rescue. She is also a founding member of the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, where her talents with a rake and McCleod come in handy for trail building. She is a fierce defender of wild lands, wildlife and all critters. Her household includes a rescued blind red heeler and his tormenter, the cat. "I am thrilled to be on the board at SFCT. I find that my work as an appraiser allows me to offer guidance and ideas on SFCT's land conservation efforts, plus I love the trails, and I am happy to do anything I can do to improve and expand them!"



Meet the rest of our board at [sfct.org/about/board-of-directors](https://sfct.org/about/board-of-directors).



## Strickly Business

*A former river guide and money manager, George Strickland is ready to set sail with SFCT*

*By Rose Farley*

Down in the Galisteo Basin, a rutty ranch road runs south and west from the Cottonwood trailhead and leads to the old Thornton homestead. Now that the remnants of the barn have been removed, there is scant evidence that this open space was once a working ranch. To the uninitiated, it might even look like the land has already been returned to its original splendor. But its transformation is just beginning, as evidenced by the long, parallel rows of recently upturned dirt that run down the site, gently following along the natural contours of the land before disappearing into the distance. Overhead, a May sun has broken through a gloomy blanket of clouds.

"This is called keyline plowing," says George Strickland, who fends off the incoming rays with a pair of Smith sunglasses and a ball cap that advertises the Great Barrier Reef. A pink scarf decorated with salmon is wrapped around his neck, warding off the morning's chill and hinting at one of his many favorite outdoor past-times; he has one for each season. There is a hole in the seat of his cotton shorts, which look like they might have been acquired about the same time as his 1980s-era Gary Fisher mountain bike.

George is the newly appointed chairman of the board of directors of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and he can't help but laugh a little as he tries to explain how keyline plowing works. He must admit he isn't entirely sure. "I was a river guide and an investment manager, so a lot of this stuff is new to me and I find it fascinating," he says. "I'm really learning a lot getting involved in this."

The plowing is part of a land rehabilitation process SFCT has initiated at the old homestead site, which comprises roughly 300 acres and has been renamed the Conservation Homestead. When the ranch buildings were built, the land was altered so water would drain around the structures—just like at any home. But with no water, the natural vegetation at the site has disappeared and with it the wildlife. The plowing—and related reseeding—is the first stage of a 10-year process designed to restore the land, first by redirecting water so it once again flows in harmony with the landscape.



Photo by Andrew Wilder.

The Conservation Homestead is one of SFCT's latest projects and for George, who has served as treasurer and as a board member at SFCT since 2014, overseeing it is a key part of his new role as board chair. Or as he describes the job in a nutshell: "To be someone who has a vision for the future of the organization and some idea of how to get there."

The future, as he sees it, is to transform SFCT from an organization that is traditionally approached by landowners who are already interested in conservation into an organization that proactively seeks out and educates landowners who may not know what land conservation is or who want to conserve their land but lack the necessary financial resources. To get there George is hoping he can use his expertise as a former investment manager at Thornburg Investment Management to create an endowment at SFCT and modernize its portfolio management practices. Already, the effort is bearing fruit: In 2021 SFCT was able to hire a new conservation specialist dedicated to this new conservation strategy.

The new challenge is a lot like the situation George encountered when he first got to Thornburg in 1991, accepting a job as an assistant portfolio manager for municipal bonds to his mentor, Brian McCann, who had taken over as CEO. The firm was small back then, and its remote location kept it off the radar of most young money managers, who predictably looked to Wall Street for work. But not George. When he first came to New Mexico in the 1980s as a river guide or, as he likes to put it, "a migrant recreational worker," he thought he was just passing through, en route to someplace like California.



A bachelor's degree in Economics in hand, he was in full post-undergraduate goof off mode. First, he started guiding rafting tours in the mountains of North Carolina, but then moved on to the Caribbean and later Costa Rica, India and Nepal. Five years later, when he found himself in New Mexico battling Class IV whitewater rapids in the Taos Box, he was hooked. The son of a Navy doctor who was born in Cypress and spent his childhood traveling from Taiwan to Vietnam and London had found his future forever home.

Well, first he had to make a brief trip back east, to the D.C. area where he spent most of his high school days and which is the closest place to a steady home he had growing up. His father's Navy career led him to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and ultimately to University of Maryland, where he researched tropical diseases. The school was a natural choice for George. To support himself while he finished his MBA in Finance, he took a job at the Calvert Group--an investment firm that introduced him to the concept of socially responsible investing. "I was very idealistic," George recalls, "I thought I can do this investment stuff, which I have a propensity for, and I can change the world and I can make money all at the same time."

As it turned out, the firm's ideological investing strategy was not quite as revolutionary as he'd hoped. And he had a hankering to move to the southwest. "I had fallen in love with Santa Fe and when I found this little, teeny investment company and they needed someone to work on the trading desk—that was pretty heavenly for me."

As a college student, George knew he had a natural aptitude for math and a serious interest in courses like "modern portfolio management." But what he didn't know was he would have to learn the people business if he was to succeed. "For the first 10 years I was at Thornburg, we had to manage the money, but we also had to grow the business. It was a boot strap-built business."

Fast forward 22 years and Thornburg had grown from having 12 employees managing about \$300 million in assets to 200 employees managing about \$85 billion in assets. "It really grew up," George says, adding that they got there by following the sage advice of his mentor, Brian McCann. "One of the things he always said was just concentrate on the things you do really well, do those things and don't worry about the rest of it."

In 2014, when George broached the subject of retiring, a Thornburg colleague, David Chase, suggested George take his place as SFCT's treasurer, tasked with getting the organization onto a more stable financial footing. "It started out as a hobby," George says of his work at SFCT, "and it became a passion."

George may not understand the technical aspects of keyline plowing, but he knows that rehabbing this land is a long-term process that will pay dividends to future generations. This year, he and his wife, Anita, who hails from Española, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. George recalls how their only daughter, Cloe, used to wonder why they dedicated so much of their time and money to SFCT every year when there are so many other problems in the world. He knows that Cloe, like a lot of young people, can get depressed when she thinks about the future of the planet. But the key to overcoming problems that are overwhelming is a lot like long-term investing—take them on one at a time.

"I tell her if each of us can make a difference in some small way and combine it with the efforts of all the other people who are making a difference in some small way, together it's a pretty big difference," he says. "What we're doing at SFCT and even more microscopically what we're doing with the Conservation Homestead makes a difference. On a global scale it's in a small way. But on a local scale, it's moving the needle."

Below: staff, board and volunteers gather at the Conservation Homestead.





## Come Join Us for a Walk or Hike!

Have you experienced your mood lift when you step outside on a beautiful day, smell the clean, pine-scented air and feel the sun on your shoulders? It has been medically proven that getting outdoors, even for 30 minutes a day, provides enormous mental and physical benefits, and when you spend that time walking with friends, the benefits are even greater! *Vámonos: Santa Fe Walks* gives that opportunity to everyone across the city with free, family-friendly walks offered up to five times a month from May through October.

*Vámonos* means “let’s go,” and it represents the spirit of our walking program started in 2018. Almost 900 people have joined us for a walk or hike, a resounding success given we had to pause for the pandemic in 2020.

Maybe you were one of the many who hit the trails during 2020, seeking relief from stress and isolation. But some people simply don’t feel safe walking alone, need support to get outside, aren’t familiar with local trails, or don’t feel motivated unless they share the experience with others. If you are one of those people who wants to feel a part of a larger community again while safely enjoying the benefits of outdoor exercise, *Vámonos* is for you!

There are several different outings for every taste: the hour-long weekday walks after work are on paved trails featuring Santa Fe’s parks, and the two-hour Saturday hikes will introduce you to some of the City’s 55-miles of soft-surface trails. Our Take a Walk on the Southside walk is a favorite for families and follows the Arroyo Chamiso Trail meandering from the Southside Library to the lovely Swan Park and back. In central Santa Fe, our Wellness Walk starts at Larragoite Park and goes to Ashbaugh Park on the Acequia Trail. Walk with our Elders is an easy stroll along the Santa Fe River Trail. Saturday morning hikes explore regional dirt trails including the County Rail Trail, La Tierra Trails, Dale Ball Trails and new this year, a trip to the Pecos National Historical Park



Sometimes we enjoy *paletas* after *Vámonos* walks.

to hike to the Pecos River on the South Pasture Loop Trail.

Medical research shows that both being in nature and walking are powerful, inexpensive public health interventions. Walking provides numerous health benefits, including lowering risk of heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure while improving mood and helping with weight loss. The Japanese are big proponents of “forest bathing,” and have found that two hours in a natural setting reduces your pulse rate, and significantly reduces depression, fatigue, anxiety, and confusion. Yet, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American spends 93% of his or her time indoors! SFCT created *Vámonos* to insure that everyone has access to nature!

You can find the full schedule of walks and hikes at [sfct.org/vamonos/](https://sfct.org/vamonos/). Want a text reminder before each walk? Text SFWALKS to 833-243-6033. See you on the trail!

*Vamonos* is organized by the Santa Fe Walking Collaborative, convened by SFCT. Collaborative partners help broaden the reach of this program. Each partner dedicates time and energy into the planning and promotion of the program. Our partners are listed on page 29.





## Let's Go Camping!

It took us three tries, due to the pandemic, to go on our Bears Ears Camping Trip, originally scheduled for May 2020. We finally pulled it off this May, and it was worth the wait! Twelve of us had such a great time that SFCT is offering the trip again in 2022. So get ready for a five night camping trip with four days of hikes and explorations at Cedar Mesa, part of Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah!

Sunday, May 8 to Friday, May 13, 2022

Price: \$990      Deposit: \$200

(\$470 tax-deductible)

Led by our experienced guide, Linda Siegle, you'll be amazed at the prolific rock art that scales the canyon walls. We'll hike through the Southwest's most colorful canyons to find hidden ruins. During the evenings, see the Milky Way blazing a trail across a night sky that the ancestors of this ancient place revered.

- It's a wonderful opportunity to take pictures, explore a magnificent setting and learn the stories told by the land.
- Delicious meals are provided by the leaders and prepared by all.
- Meet us there or drive with SFCT. Van transportation from Santa Fe will be included and also provided from the campground to all the trailheads.

Limited to ten people. You must be able to carry a pack with a few liters of water and hike up to 6-miles per day on uneven terrain. Get all the details here: [sfct.org/event/bears-ears-guided-camping-trip](https://sfct.org/event/bears-ears-guided-camping-trip).



Shade dwellers, from the top: Peter Gordon, Jeff Colodny, Beth Kirby, Doug Turner, Linda Siegle.



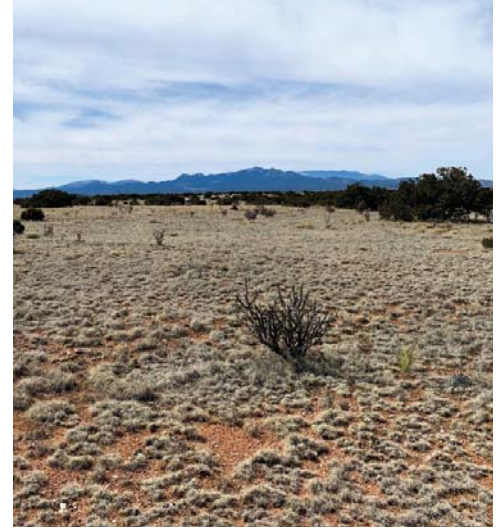


## 2020 Conservation Easements

2020 was a busy year for land conservation at SFCT. We protected another 975.56 acres bringing the total number of acres conserved by SFCT in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and San Miguel Counties to 41,788 with 95 landowners. SFCT also now owns four properties, bringing the total protected acres up to 43,222.

### Commonweal Conservancy: West Canyon #4 (549 acres)

On March 27th, we closed on an amended and restated conservation easement on West Canyon #4 in the Galisteo Basin Preserve with our landowner partners, the Commonweal Conservancy. The amended and restated conservation easement adds 548.56 acres to the existing 250-acre easement, for a total of 798.56 acres conserved in the heart of the Galisteo Basin Preserve. The amended and restated conservation easement creates a larger buffer on the west side of the Galisteo Springs conservation easement, which protects the source of water for more than 350 generations of ancient and modern peoples. This additional protected acreage also grants public access to five miles of trails that connect to the Galisteo Basin Preserve's larger trail network.

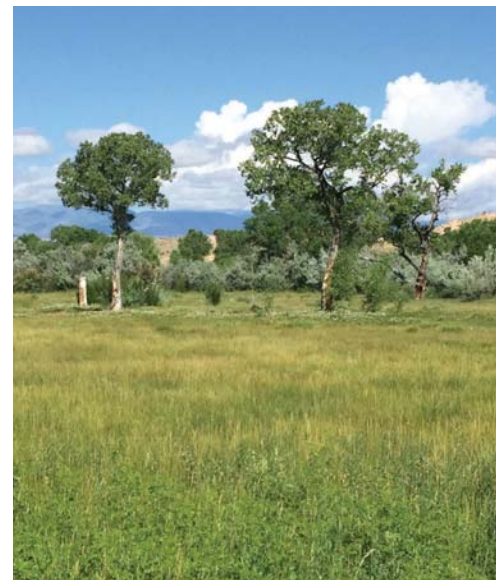


### Forest Trust: Big Fence (372 acres)

This rolling 372-acre parcel in the Galisteo Basin watershed brings SFCT one step closer to the “landscape” scale conservation that we envision for the Galisteo area. A former homestead from the early 1900's, the property, owned by the Forest Trust, is now an unoccupied piñon-juniper woodland, smack dab in the middle of major wildlife migration pathways. The property is currently grazed, supporting local agricultural producers. We're pleased to help our fellow conservation organization guarantee that this agricultural property within Santa Fe County will be here for both agricultural production and wildlife habitat—forever.

### Jacona Amendment (remove building envelope)

In 2020 the landowners amended their conservation easement to remove a one acre building envelope from the property, further preserving this wetland and irrigated pasture along the Rio Pojoaque in perpetuity. The surface diversion water rights from the Acequia Ancón de Jacona are permanently tied to the property, protecting these water rights forever. Wetlands make up only about 0.6% of land area in New Mexico. However, up to 85% of all species depend upon these ecosystems at some point during their life span. These wetland ecosystems provide numerous benefits for the human population as well; they help to lessen the impacts of floods and droughts, thus stabilizing water supplies, improve water quality by filtering out pollutants and sediment, recharge aquifers and wells, and provide opportunities for education, recreation, hunting, and fishing, and even serve places of spiritual and cultural significance.

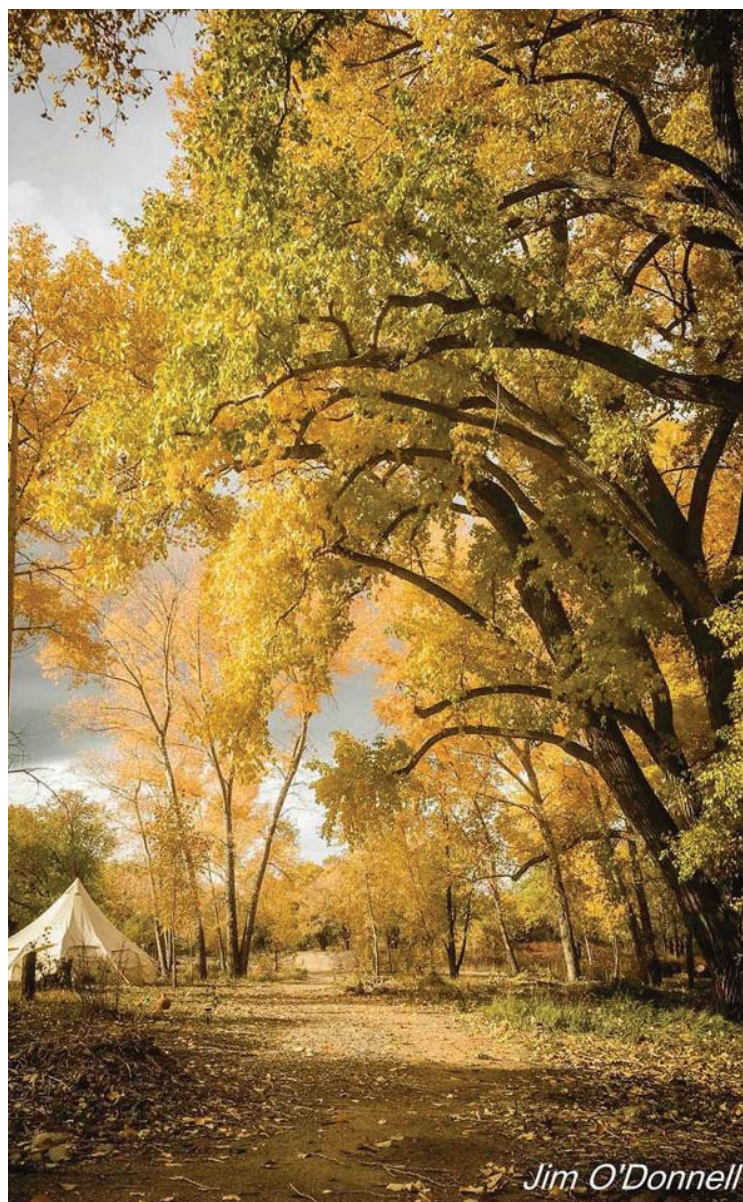




## Taos Land Trust: Rio Fernando (20 acres)

The Taos Land Trust donated a conservation easement to the Santa Fe Conservation Trust to permanently protect 20 acres of land that houses the Taos Land Trust offices and will become the Rio Fernando Park. The conservation easement protects the newly restored Vigil y Romo acequia, the Río Fernando de Taos and public access walking trails in Taos, NM. The conservation easement is comprised of 13 acres of historical agricultural land and nearly 7 acres of wetland next to Fred Baca Park just one mile from the center of downtown. Its wetlands hug the Rio Fernando, connect to a broader wetland that spills out into the adjacent Fred Baca public park and flows downstream to the Rio Pueblo that feeds the Rio Grande. The remainder of the property is urban forest and land once used for agriculture and ranching.

A similar partnership exists between our two organizations on Taos's Rio Hondo Park, which the Taos Land Trust owns and SFCT protects with a conservation easement. We're pleased to help our fellow land trust guarantee that one of the last agricultural properties within the Town of Taos—along with the waters in the Vigil y Romo acequia and the wetlands of the Río Fernando—will be here for everyone to enjoy for generations to come.



## Forest Trust: Transfers (15 acres)

SFCT recently added two conservation easements to its portfolio. The two easements were transfers from the Forest Trust. One protects a one acre scenic view on a hilltop visible from Bishop's Lodge Road. The second protects the scenic view on 14 acres along a road on the top of Ojo de la Vaca mesa, just south of Cañoncito. We send our thanks to the Forest Trust for trusting us with the perpetual protection of these two properties!





## 2021 Conservation Projects (so far)

We expect to have another six conservation projects completed by the end of 2021 that will add 2,377 acres of protected land to our portfolio. If you want to get the latest updates from us on all our work, subscribe to our email blasts by going to [sfct.org/contact/](https://sfct.org/contact/). Here's where we are so far:

### Commonweal Conservancy (White Rock Grotto 822 acres)

Our friends at the Commonweal Conservancy continue their amazing conservation work at the Galisteo Basin Preserve by partnering with us to protect another large parcel via conservation easement on the southwestern edge of the Preserve called White Rock Grotto. Not only will 822 acres of gorgeous terrain be protected, another five miles of trails are being constructed to add to the extensive trail network already there.



### SFCT's Conservation Homestead (300 acres)

The Conservation Homestead is a special place of multicultural history and spacious quiet beauty. Under the ownership and stewardship of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, this scenic landscape offers a window into the natural flora and fauna of the high desert, as it is being restored to showcase a diversity of native plants and animals and provide learning opportunities to all who visit. The Conservation Homestead represents the shortgrass and shrubland ecosystems of the central Galisteo Basin. The Conservation Homestead provides habitat to a variety of mammals, birds, and reptiles, including lizards, snakes, jackrabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, prairie dogs, coyote, foxes, deer, and sometimes pronghorn antelope and bear. Because land trusts cannot both own and hold a conservation easement on the same parcel, SFCT donated the conservation easement to the Taos Land Trust, protecting this land forever. Buying, restoring and conserving this land would not be possible without the generous support of the Thaw Charitable Trust.

### SFCT's Apache Canyon (614 acres)

The Apache Canyon property is part of the upper Galisteo Basin watershed, an important wildlife linkage area between the Southern Rockies Wildlands Network and the New Mexico Highlands Wildlands Vision used by cougar, black bear, mule deer and elk. The protection of this property helps safeguard the habitat and water resources these species need to move around the landscape. The parcel is dominated by ponderosa pine, piñon, one seed juniper, Rocky Mountain juniper and riparian vegetation along the drainages and Apache Creek, all of which provide excellent habitat for wildlife. The property contains over a mile of the Apache Creek, which is the headwaters of the Galisteo Creek. We were able to purchase this property in June 2021 thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors who also provided funding to place it into a conservation easement. SFCT will donate the easement to the Taos Land Trust in 2022, and eventually hopes to donate the property to the Forest Service.





Legend  
● SFCT Protected Properties

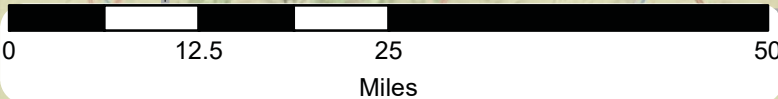
# SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

## PROTECTED PROPERTIES & SERVICE AREA MAP

SFCT holds 95 conservation easements and owns 4 conservation properties.  
We work primarily in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and San Miguel Counties,  
with two conservation easements in Taos County.

### SFCT Protected Lands County Breakdown

County	Acres	Properties
Rio Arriba	6,389	7
Santa Fe	15,928	73
San Miguel	20,863	15
Taos	42	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,222</b>	<b>99</b>





## Landowner Profile: Al Reed

*His land is our land*

By Rose Farley

Al Reeds stops at the switchback at the Arroyo Hondo Open Space and looks down the canyon at the remnants of the old dam, the one the Chicago developers had begun building in the early 1900s with visions of creating a reservoir to supply an apple orchard. "But funding for the project was tight," he explains. "As the dam got higher, they used less concrete." And then came a 100-year flood. The deluge busted up the dam and roared down the canyon towards the railroad, in the area where Richards Avenue now runs. "The water hit a trestle and shifted it so that when a locomotive came along it actually derailed."

More than a century later on this early summer morning it's hard to imagine anyone envisioned tending an orchard in this thirsty space. The wetlands below are shriveled, and the arroyo is nowhere in sight. There's been no rain to coax the wild thistle into showing off their pink and purple blooms. Even the Cholla cacti look parched.

"We lived in town, but as a kid it was great to come out here. I remember one year having a birthday party," recalls Al, who is 71. "We'd hike down to the bottom of the canyon. There were wonderful grassy areas for picnics and the Arroyo Hondo ran more year around."

Today this land, known as the Arroyo Hondo Open Space (AHOS), is comprised of 87 acres situated just outside Santa Fe to the west of Harry's Roadhouse. Its recreational trails loop around pinon-spotted lands and climb hilltops that offer panoramic views of the Galisteo Basin, Cerrillos Hills and Ortiz Mountains. The area was first home to the Arroyo Hondo Pueblo and later, during the civil war, soldiers used the hills to relay signals. Thanks to Al and his family, plus the efforts of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT) and a coalition of neighborhood residents and county officials who came together in 2001 to make it happen, AHOS is protected from development and open to everyone.

The AHOS is one of two pieces of land that Al's father, Joe, and some business partners purchased in the 1950s. Joe, a painter, came to Santa Fe in the 1940s from Kansas and put down roots on Canyon Road, then a residential dirt road that was home to artists like painters Randall Davey and John Sloan.

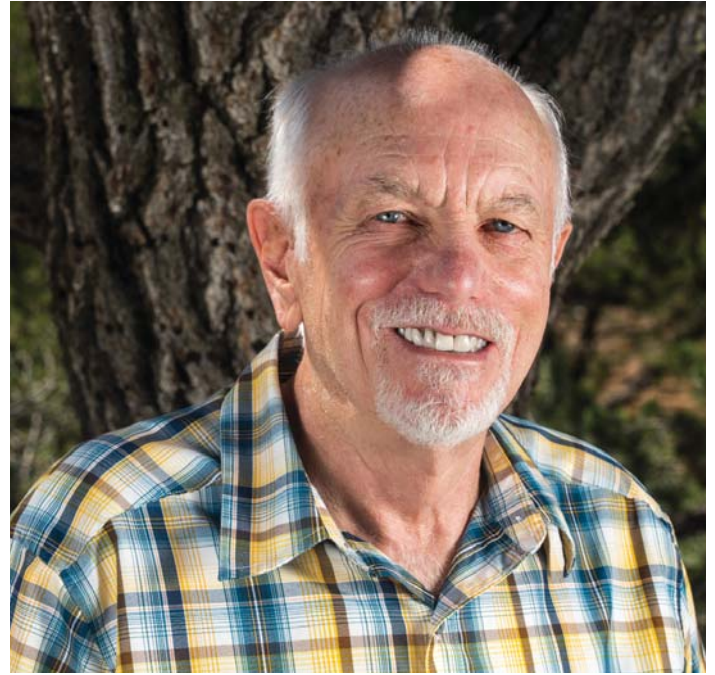


Photo by Andrew Wilder.

Why the partners bought this land remains a mystery. Perhaps to develop it or hold it and sell it for a profit. "Back then," Al recalls, "this was really outside of town."

Al's childhood romps around the Arroyo Hondo led to a life outdoors in New Mexico's wilds. He befriended the Blake family of Taos and tackled that mountain's steep terrains during winters. Summers were spent out at Heron Lake, which had a bustling marina. He worked at Ski Santa Fe, where he made snow and joined the ski patrol. "It was fun," Al says. "I hit about 40 years old and decided I needed to come down from the mountain and get a job."

In time Al found work at the Santa Fe Community College, where he wore many hats before becoming dean of business and applied technologies—a post he held for 12 years. Al joined SFCT's board of directors in 2017 and today he shares his experience with other property owners who are considering placing their land in a conservation easement.

After his father passed, Al and his two sisters inherited the family land—the 87 acres at Arroyo Hondo plus a separate 40-acre parcel located three miles south in what's now Hondo Hills. But instead of it being a boon, the inheritance became a tax burden. The idea of developing Arroyo Hondo proved too expensive, and neighbors wanted it preserved. So the family decided to act, first by selling the AHOS tract to Santa Fe County at a reduced price to fit the county's budget. Later, Santa Fe County installed the 3-mile trail system. Today SFCT continues to monitor the property annually.



"It was a big step to take. No matter what we would have done with the property, it was kind of scary going through the process of divesting ourselves of it," Al says, trying to recall what it was that was so scary. Not any one thing really, he says. It was everything. "Just letting go—of something that you had in your family for so long. It was a little tricky letting go of it."

In 2014, Al and his wife, Debra, decided to protect the second parcel by placing it in a conservation easement. The Reeds, who still live in the home they built there in 1986, again turned to SFCT to walk them through the legal process of donating their development rights to the land trust to permanently limit the uses of the land and protect its conservation values. The property contains the ruts of the Santa Fe Trail, provides important wildlife habitat and is scenic open space that can be seen from the Old Las Vegas Highway. Protecting these conservation values for future generations provides a public benefit.

The easement process is intended to stem development, but it is more flexible than people realize, Al says. Owners can prohibit public access to their land, for example, create building envelopes or draw an envelope around an existing home to allow for expansion. In addition to realizing federal tax breaks, New Mexico's transferrable tax credits can be sold for cash and can offset the cost of creating an easement and even generate income for some generational owners. Certain commercial uses, like filming, can be allowed. "Each easement is individually tailored so that what's included and what's not included can be worked out on an individual basis," Al says. "SFCT has 99 conservation easements and every one of them is different."

After helping owners craft the terms of their easements, SFCT is tasked with annual monitoring of the properties to ensure compliance. "I look at the monitoring as a partnership with SFCT. Rather than policing your property, it's like an annual health checkup." Al recalls one year when his property was hit with a major bark beetle outbreak that killed many trees. "That's something that's made note of in the annual monitoring visit. You get a picture of your property over time."

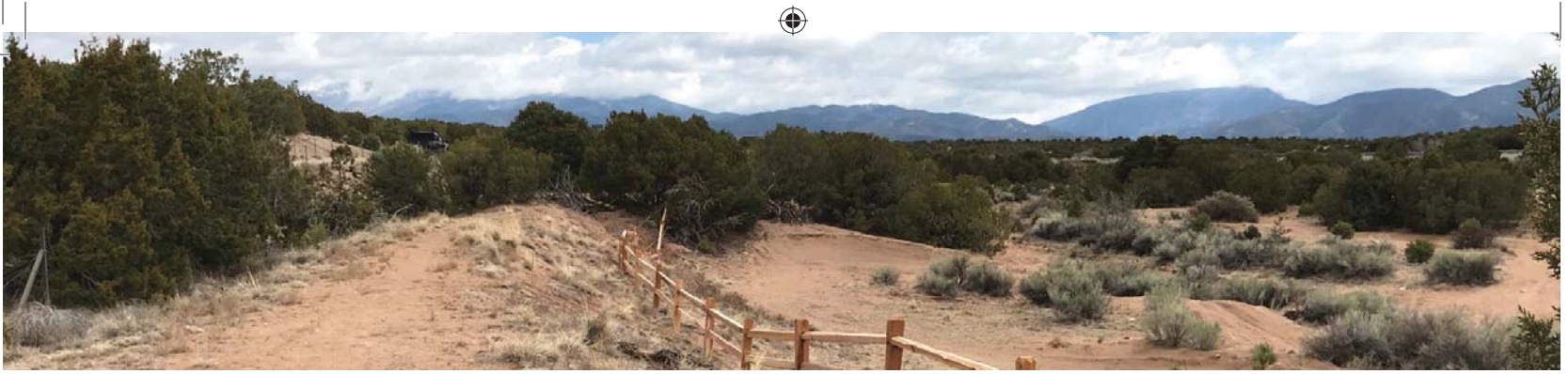
Al knows the value of land conservation because he's seen the environmental impacts of population growth on his hometown over time. The open fields that once lined Canyon Road are gone. Lake Heron is at a fraction of its peak, its water diverted to meet the needs of Santa Fe and Albuquerque. His 40-acres in Hondo Hills have become an island sanctuary. And here at the switchback, the surrounding hilltops that were once so remote are now spotted with homes, a fate that would have happened at the AHOS, had it not been for the Reed's generosity.

Up ahead on the trail, a pair of approaching hikers admonish their Jack Russell terrier, who has bounded up to Al and is sniffing his running shoe. He let go of this land, but he still owns his memories. And greeting these hikers is a payoff on which he continues to bank. "Now I just get a kick out of seeing people enjoying it," he says, turning away from the old dam to take in the view to the west. "Just being able to stand here and look out and see Tetilla Peak, the Jemez and the view--the space and the sky—makes for a very healing experience that everybody needs."

**Below: Arroyo Hondo Open Space. Photo by Billy Johnson.**







Above: the new Chili Line Trail, part of La Tierra Trails.

## 2020 Brought Two Wonderful Trail Projects that Will Create More Outdoor Recreation for You.

In 2020, we were awarded a grant from the State Outdoor Recreation Division's Special Projects and Infrastructure Fund for a rail-to-trail conversion that will combine outdoor recreation with historic preservation. The funding will allow SFCT to create an interpretive trail on a quarter mile of the former Chili Line rail bed. The Chili Line was a narrow-gauge railroad that ran through northern New Mexico from 1880-1941. It passed through three New Mexico counties and three pueblos on its way from Santa Fe up the Rio Grande and into southwestern Colorado. It remains a well-known and colorful character in our region's history, but its actual location and the many miles of abandoned rail bed that remain in place today are not well known, despite the significant opportunities they present for public access and interpretation. This Chili Line Trail Project will have regional significance by transforming a neglected but easily accessible rail bed on the edge of Santa Fe into an educational and recreational resource that will be a model for the development of rail trails on forgotten, eroding and gradually disappearing rail beds throughout northern New Mexico. The new Chile Line interpretive trail should be open by the end of 2021. Stay tuned.

The second trail project is in the Galisteo Basin on SFCT's newly acquired Conservation Homestead. We are designing and installing five miles of new dirt trails on 300 acres of land that is now protected by a conservation easement with public access. Our vision for the property is to have it open from dawn to dusk. Visitors can hike, bike or horseback ride on the trails that meander the property and connect to the larger Galisteo Basin Preserve trail system. Because we feel strongly about making access to nature as equitable as possible, we are working to secure funding to install a road and parking area that connects to a shorter, more accessible trail so that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy equitable access to this wonderful property. If you would like to donate toward this effort, please contact us at [info@sfct.org](mailto:info@sfct.org).

### Pandemic Cancels SFCT's City Trails Contract, but the work goes on.

Early in the pandemic, when the City was facing an \$80 million shortfall, SFCT's trail maintenance and promotions contract, which we had held since 2014, was canceled. This despite the fact that our trail systems were being heavily used as a source of solace during the coronavirus shut down. This put SFCT into a difficult position, as the contract, which we have held since 2014, helped us pay the salary of our Trails Program Manager! Thankfully, a local foundation came forward to cover the contract, and many of you, as well as the Frost Foundation, donated to help fill in the extra expenses. We hope to be back under contract for the City's next fiscal year which started July 1, 2021 and will certainly let you know if that doesn't happen! But even in the midst of the coronavirus, and thanks to everyone's help, our Trails program moved forward seamlessly, donating its services to the City to keep our trails maintained. From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, our Trails Program Manager, Tim Rogers, managed 58 wonderful volunteers who donated more than 885 hours of maintenance on trails throughout the City and County!

SFCT's masked and mighty trail volunteers.





## SFCT Leading the Implementation of the Safe Routes to School Program

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust, under the leadership of our Trails Program Manager, Tim Rogers, is embarking on a major expedition to promote walking and bicycling in our community. Building on its successful “community conservation” efforts (Vámonos: Santa Fe Walks and the Passport to Trails field trip program) SFCT is leading the “Safe Routes to School” two-year grant with nearly \$300,000 in federal support through the City of Santa Fe. SFCT and the City’s efforts will be complemented in collaboration with the staff of the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Santa Fe Public Schools, and other partners.

The objective of Santa Fe Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is to establish a city-wide SRTS Plan founded on the development of pilot activities in the areas of the “Four Es” – Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Engineering, along with additional emphasis on Equity and Evaluation. The overall goal is to get more kids to walk and bike to school.

The end result after two school years will be a fundable and sustainable community-wide SRTS program that will be implemented in K-8 schools throughout Santa Fe. We will know we are successful if more schoolchildren are walking and biking to school, which could signal a somewhat radical change in the mindset in our auto-centric community.

Encouraging Santa Fe’s families to walk or ride a bicycle in the community is a natural extension of SFCT’s “community conservation” approach. Just like the natural-surface, recreational trails that SFCT has helped develop and maintain in public and private open space in practically every direction from town, better development of the walkways and bikeways



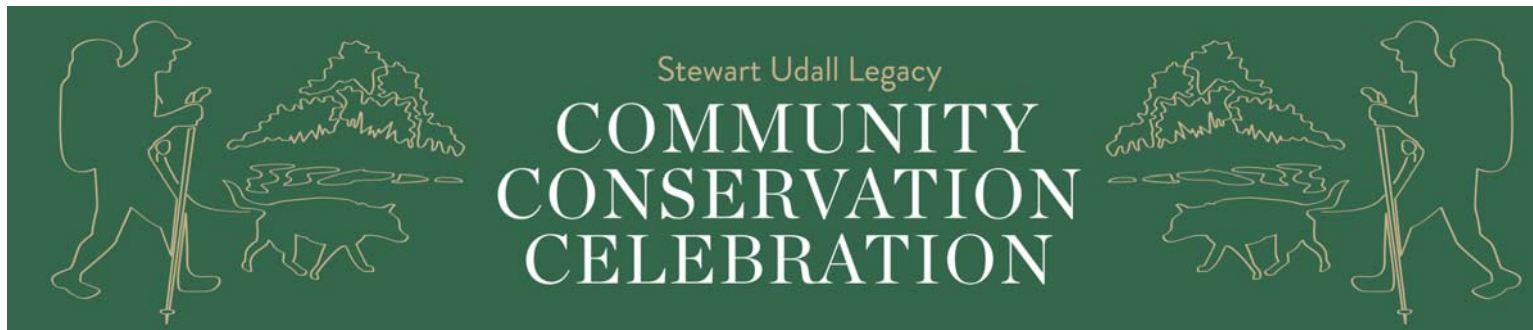
where we live, work, and study represent opportunities for improving the health of Santa Fe’s people, environment, and economy. Plus, this effort will help SFCT nurture the next generation of conservationists; the more kids enjoy being outside in nature, the more they’ll want to defend it in the future. We are also complementing this activity by collaborating with the Railyard Park Conservancy (RPC) and the MPO on a similar, but shorter-term, city-wide “Safe Routes to Parks” planning effort through a grant obtained by the RPC for this year.

Up until last year, SFCT had taken literally thousands of students from two south-side schools, El Camino Real Academy and Nina Otero Community School, to Dale Ball Trails and La Tierra Trails since initiating the Passport to Trails field trip program in 2014. We will continue to work closely with these two schools on promoting walking and bicycling to school, which they are well-positioned to do, and to continue our Passport to Trails activities with them this Fall, as well. We will then expand the number of pilot schools and pursue district-wide activities in the coming school year.

If you are interested in helping with the education and encouragement part of this effort at the above pilot schools or as it spreads to other schools in the district, ie, leading a walking school bus or helping to train kids on how to safely bike ride, contact Tim Rogers at [tim@sfct.org](mailto:tim@sfct.org).







## Conservation Wasn't Canceled in 2020

*and neither was our party!*

What do you do with a beloved event when a pandemic prevents everyone from leaving their homes? How do you connect with your supporters and let them know that conservation isn't canceled, and neither is our appreciation for all who take part?

Adaptation was the name of the game last year, and so our annual Community Conservation Celebration took a twist and turned virtual. A deep dive into the worlds of Zoom, digital communication and production didn't deter our "let's do this" volunteer planning committee. We were going to throw a party!

Every party needs music, food, and drink, so our "pre-party" presented three musicians, margarita-making instructions, and a charming video of local kids singing while marching through the trees. Thanks to Jono Manson, Indigie Femme and Alex Maryol, you were sure to hear something you liked while eating and perhaps sipping on a margarita (mix provided by Cowgirl) or wine (provided by La Casa Sena Wine Shop). We are grateful to Cowgirl, Rio Chama, and La Casa Sena Wine Shop for offering to help make our virtual event feel more like a party. And you gave back to them during trying times by purchasing those packages!



Senator Tom Udall

Of course, our sponsors put their trust in us by making this virtual event happen. We are ever so grateful to the individuals and businesses that stepped up for the transition to virtual. They are listed on page 25 and deserve a hearty thanks from our community.



Terry Tempest Williams

The new virtual realm does have its advantages, and allowed us to reach out to two conservation superstars – Senator Tom Udall and author, Terry Tempest Williams – who chatted about everything from the 30 by 30 initiative, to Native American lands and the future of conservation in the Southwest. Our volunteers, landowners, trail users and supporters shared their perspectives and feelings about land protection, the significance of our local trails, and nature's ever-increasing role in healing and health. They also expressed the critical need for outdoor equity and inclusion that is met through SFCT's programs. We fit over 400 people in 2020 under our "virtual tent," so the messages were heard far and wide.

And then there were all of you! Much more than viewers, you became the main players during a live paddle raise appeal by grabbing your phones and texting in your donations to exceed our fundraising goal! As the thermometer on the screen continued to rise, the fervor in the studio, in our homes, and on the screen was felt by all. In a year when many nonprofits had to release staff and cancel programs, 2020 showed us how the preservation of nature, being outdoors, and having access to well-maintained open spaces and trails are at the very core of our well-being. You let us know how much you value our local outdoor quality of life. With boundless gratitude and an invitation to join us again this August for a virtual party (see the back cover), may the outdoors continue to be a vital and nurturing part of your lives!

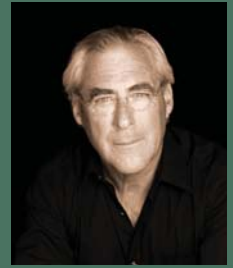




## SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST

earth**LINES**

online chats



Top: Bill deBuys, Laura Paskus. Bottom from left: Kevin Bixby & Gabe Vasquez; night sky advocates Sam Finn, Peter Lipscomb, François-Marie Patorni & Terry Smith.

## Online Chats

*A way for you to get informed in the comfort of your home*

In 2020 at the peak of the pandemic, SFCT initiated its Online Chats. Our thought was to bring you free, cutting edge conservation discussions via interesting presenters and moderators while you were stuck at home thanks to the coronavirus.

We launched the Online Chats on December 9th bringing together two distinguished environmental writers for an online conversation about what climate change really means in New Mexico – one of the fastest warming states in the country. The chat featured Laura Paskus, whose new book, *At the Precipice: New Mexico's Changing Climate*, had just been published by UNM Press. She was in conversation with one of SFCT's founders, Bill deBuys, author of *A Great Aridness, Climate Change and the Future of the Southwest*.

Then on March 31st we brought together two outspoken conservation advocates, activists, and change-makers from southern New Mexico giving us their perspectives on the realities of conservation near the US/Mexican border and the need for more equity and inclusion in the field of conservation. Featured in this

chat were Gabe Vasquez, a Las Cruces City Councilor and founder of Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project and co-creator of the New Mexico Outdoor Equity Fund and Kevin Bixby, Executive Director of the SW Environmental Center.

Dark Skies was the topic of the Night Sky Edition of the Online Chats on April 29th. At stake was the City's conversion of its thousands of streetlights to LEDs. The switch to LEDs was a laudable decision that would save energy, but the City seemed set on installing 3,000 kelvins in residential neighborhoods and 4,000 kelvins on main thoroughfares. From an environmental and health standpoint, these levels of lighting would be harmful to both humans and wildlife, not to mention damaging our heritage of dark skies. So we asked four local residents who had been tracking the conversion of Santa Fe's streetlights to discuss how outdoor lighting can impact our sense of place, the health of animals and humans, night time safety, and our ability to see the stars. They were astrophysicist Sam Finn, astronomer Peter Lipscomb, and policy change advocate François-Marie Patorni moderated by former SFCT board president Terry Smith. Their discussion reached over 200 listeners, many of whom asked the City to lower the kelvins to a more acceptable level, which the City ultimately decided to do.

If you missed any of the online chats, you can listen to them by going on our website: <https://sfct.org/online-chats/> More Online Chats will be coming this winter.





# Audited Financial Statements

## January 1 through December 31, 2020

### Financial Position

#### Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$558,983
Accounts Receivable	\$93,202
Prepaid Expenses	\$16,746
Fixed Assets	\$2,383,499
Operating & Stewardship Reserve	\$1,137,146
Stewardship Endowment	\$192,701
Other Assets	\$2,500

**Total Assets** **\$4,384,777**

#### Liabilities & Net Assets

##### Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$3,236
Payroll Liabilities	\$25,460
Unearned / Deferred Revenue	\$0
Passthrough Payables	\$6,811

**Total Liabilities** **\$35,507**

##### Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$3,438,997
Board Designated	\$38,371
With Donor Restrictions	\$871,902

**Total Net Assets** **\$4,349,270**

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** **\$4,384,777**

### Activities

#### Operating Income

Contributions & Grants	\$660,757
Fundraising Events	\$123,909
Program Services	\$106,755

**Total Operating Income** **\$891,421**

#### Operating Expenses

Mission Programs	\$544,057
Development	\$82,219
General & Administrative	\$82,219

**Total Operating Expenses** **\$708,495**

**Net Operating Income** **\$182,926**

#### Non-Operating Income & Expenses

Investment Income	\$160,711
In-Kind Contributions	\$18,375
Restricted Grant for Purchase of Land	\$1,250,000

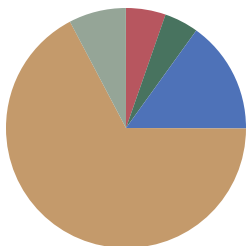
**Total Non-Operating** **\$1,429,086**

**Total Net Income** **\$1,612,012**



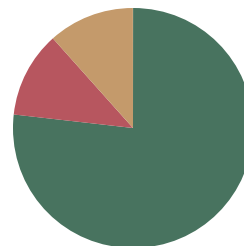
Right: SFCT's 2021 guided camping trip to the Bears Ears National Monument.

#### Income



Contributions (15%)
Grants (67%)
Program Services (5%)
Events (5%)
Other (8%)

#### Expenses



Mission (77%)
General & Admin. (12%)
Development (12%)





## Your Donation Preserves the Places We All Love and Need!

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust depends on your generous support to ensure our land, trails and sky are protected for future generations. There are as many ways to give as there are needs to be met. And every gift is appreciated and needed. Please use the envelope provided and send in your donation today. Gifts can also be made online at [sfct.org/donate/](https://sfct.org/donate/).

### Types of Giving

#### Outright Gifts

Donations can be made in the form of cash, checks, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate and personal property. Please contact SFCT at (505) 989-7019 for stock transfer instructions.

#### Pledges

Your gift can be paid over one year or several years. You can specify when payments will begin and the frequency of payments (i.e., quarterly, semi-annually or annually).

#### Sustaining Member Gifts

A recurring monthly gift starting at just \$10 a month might be easier on your budget. Plus it gives SFCT the security of a steady, reliable stream of operating support.

Here's how easy it is to become a Sustaining Member:

- Choose the amount that you want to contribute every month.
- Decide if you want to use a credit card or your checking account.

If your life changes, you can choose to increase, decrease or suspend your monthly gift. All you have to do is check the box on the envelope, call us at 505-989-7019 or go online to sign up.

#### Matching Gifts

Does your company offer a Matching Gifts Program? If they do, submit their form with your donation.

### Vehicle Donations

Do you have an old vehicle you don't use anymore? Donate it to SFCT! We make it easy. Just go to [careasy.org/nonprofit/santafeconservationtrust](https://careasy.org/nonprofit/santafeconservationtrust) or give us a call at 505-989-7019 for more information.

### In Kind

We also accept in kind donations. Please contact us for a list of needs.

### Volunteers

SFCT has many volunteer opportunities: with programs, in the office, for our events, and doing trail maintenance. If you'd like to make a gift of your time, please contact us.

### Designate SFCT for your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA

Age may just be a number, but if that number is 72 (or higher!) you can now make your required minimum distribution a tax-free gift to SFCT directly from your IRA. This gift will not count as taxable income for you, and will make an amazing impact preserving the land you love. Please contact your financial advisor for details.

### Include SFCT in your Estate Plan

Does your connection to the land sustain, enrich and inspire you? Are you concerned about access to nature for your children and grandchildren? Including SFCT in your will is easy to do and will ensure that the land, trails and skies of northern New Mexico will be protected for future generations. Let us know if we are in your will or estate plan, and you'll become a member of the Atalaya Legacy Society. You'll be invited to an annual lunch for insider updates on our work and, if you wish, be acknowledged in our publications. Look online at [sfct.org/planned-giving](https://sfct.org/planned-giving), which outlines ways you can include SFCT in your estate plans. Gifts of any size are welcomed and deeply appreciated!



## In Memoriam

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### Daniel T. "Bud" Kelly, Jr.

Last August, Santa Fe lost one of its finest, Bud Kelly, at the age of 99. He was a man of many talents who impacted Santa Fe in so many ways. He was a true gentleman and a friend to many. We knew him at SFCT because he put a conservation easement on part of his 128-acre tract of land in the Santa Fe National Forest, which he tended with great care and singlehandedly brought back to life after the Vivash Fire burned everything to the ground. Reviving the land made him a hero in our eyes! He was vital until the end, and always came with us on our annual monitoring visits to his land. A native Santa Fean, Bud learned to love the land as an adolescent riding alone or with friends on horseback exploring the Pecos Wilderness and other parts of Northern New Mexico. He also traveled the state with his father, Daniel T. Kelly, Sr, who was the president of the Gross, Kelly & Company, a wholesale and retail mercantile company that first opened in 1879 in Las Vegas, NM and expanded to Santa Fe in 1919. It was through those trips that Bud fell in love with the New Mexico landscape and the people who live here. We send our thanks to Bud's family for directing donations in his memory to SFCT!



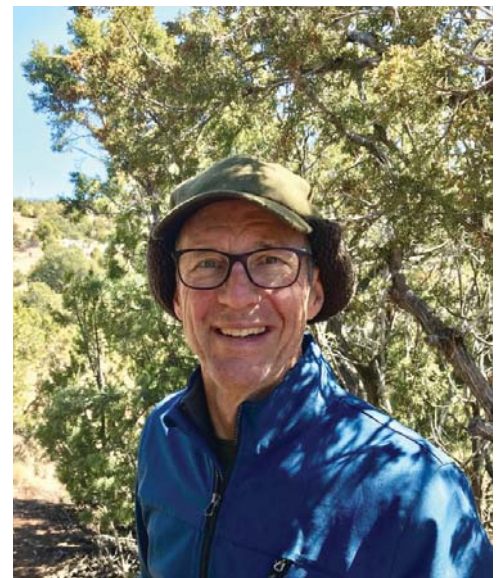
You can read more about this remarkable man at:

[www.legacy.com/obituaries/santafenewmexican/](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santafenewmexican/) and search for Daniel Kelly.

---

### William Fell "Bill" Johnson, MD

The world lost Bill Johnson on May 21, 2021, and it was a tough loss that happened way too early. He was 69 and had been dealing with multiple myeloma, a bone marrow cancer, since 2018. It was just in 2017, when he retired from his psychiatry practice, that Bill finished an epic 18-year cumulative stint on SFCT's Board of Directors. He started in 1996, and served for 12 years during which time he served as SFCT's Board president. Then, after some time off, he came back to the Board in 2011 for another six years, this time to lead the Trails Committee. Bill was a huge part of SFCT's trails legacy, along with Dale Ball, SFCT's first executive director and Stewart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior, who was one of our founders. Dale asked him to join the board, with no idea then that Bill's influence on the trajectory of SFCT would be felt for literally 2/3 of its 28 year history! During his tenure at SFCT, Bill helped secure the conservation easement for the Arroyo Hondo Open Space, and was its official steward until his death. But his passion for trails and mountain biking, and his leadership of the SFCT Trails Committee, helped to secure many other trail systems throughout town, such as the Dale Ball and La Tierra Trails systems, which brought the public into the conservation process. He will be deeply missed by all of us at SFCT. We thank Bill's family for directing memorial gifts in his honor to us.



You can read more about Bill here: [sfct.org/in-memory-bill-johnson](http://sfct.org/in-memory-bill-johnson) and here:

[www.legacy.com/obituaries/santafenewmexican/](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santafenewmexican/) and search for William Johnson.



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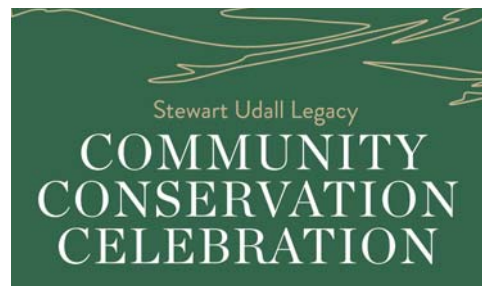
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Jerry Meyer & Nina Zingale  
Minerva Canna  
Railyard Urgent Care  
Tumbleroot Brewery & Distillery

### Sun Mountain Silver

Allegra Print & Imaging  
Bristol Family Law  
City Different Dentistry  
Julie Martinez, MD & Patrick Samora, MD  
Landseer Management  
RKW Enterprises - Auction Support  
Rothstein Donatelli LLP  
The Running Hub  
Santa Fe Prep  
Santa Fe Properties  
Santa Fe Reporter  
Santa Fe Title  
The Simons Firm LLP  
Southwest Care Center  
Stogard Enterprises  
Taos Ski Valley  
Ulrich Investment Consultants

### Arroyo Hondo Bronze

Academy for the Love of Learning  
The Broken Spoke  
Fire & Hops  
Sean Gallagher, *Morgan Stanley*  
Integration Therapy LLC  
La Fonda on the Plaza  
Land of Enchantment Guides  
Mountain Kids!  
Neptune Fish Jerky  
Positive Energy Solar  
Santa Fe Endodontics  
Santa Fe Family & Functional Medicine  
Santa Fe Film Office  
Santa Fe Sage Inn  
Second Street Brewery  
TechSource  
Karen Wolfe-Mattison,  
*Sotheby's International Realty*



Erosion control volunteers and staff at the Conservation Homestead in June, 2021.

## To All Our Volunteers: THANK YOU!

2020 was a tough year for volunteers to help us, since we were all working from home and had to limit our numbers, stay six feet apart and wear masks. But many of you were there for us, working on the trails, participating in zoom meetings to organize our virtual annual event, and helping to get VAMONOS up and running again. We truly could not do our work without you!

## Santa Fe Conservation Trust 2020 Volunteers

Margaret Alexander  
Diane Armitage  
Ella Attlesley  
Kyler Axtell  
Kayson Axtell  
Pippa Barrett  
Gary Bass  
Jenny Blackmore  
Brent Bonwell  
Carly Bonwell  
Pat Brown  
Jeff Brush  
Doug Campbell  
Rosie Chapman  
Finnean Cherry  
John Clum  
Doug Eady  
Jack Elling

Rose Farley  
Jeffrey Gallegos  
Ray Galley  
Linda Giannotta  
Deb Grieco  
Anna Hargreaves  
Jocelyn Harimon  
Kenneth Howard  
Jill Hutchinson-Bass  
Indigie Femme  
Benjamin Johnson  
Clara Jones  
Judith Kilpatrick  
Kyle Klain  
Kim Klain  
Helga Klepp  
Max Klepp  
Daniel Knoblauch

Jono Manson  
Michael Martinez  
Sue McKelvey  
Lorrey Muellenberg  
Lara Prestinary  
BC Rimbeaux  
Breece Robertson  
Jim Robillard  
Nick Rogers  
Clare Rogers  
Jay Sessions  
Linda Siegle  
Elie Sussman  
Robert Trout  
Nick Viau  
Renee Villarreal  
Andrew Wilder  
Leonard Winters

### 2020 Community Conservation Celebration Event Committee

Connie Bright  
Nancy Cook  
Jacqueline Hartley

Elaine Jenkins  
Beth Kirby  
Sarah Noss

Mary Ellen Richardson  
Joanne Smogor  
Pam Walker

### Vámonos Santa Fe Walks Collaborative

Victoria Martinez & Pam Plaza, Brookdale Senior Living Solutions  
Alondra Hernandez, La Familia Medical Center  
Sue Perry, City of Santa Fe  
Mary Ellen Richardson, Community Representative  
Julie Ingram & Lauren Henry, Big Brothers/Big Sisters  
Albert Chavez, City of Santa Fe  
Desiree Valdez & Amy Sandoval, NM Dept of Public Health  
Sue Cossman & Judy Henry, AARP

### 2021 Conservation Homestead Erosion Control Volunteers

Ian Aeby  
Irina Aeby  
Don Begley  
Luisa Benton  
Brent Bonwell  
Lisa Bowdey  
David Brenner  
Athena Cholas  
Nancy Cook  
Carlos Diaz

Carl Gable  
Beverly Gholson  
Pamina Haddock  
Anna Hargreaves  
Paul Hewitt  
Kenneth Howard  
Tracy Hughes  
Jan-Willem Jansens  
Patti Jenkins  
Marina Kellogg

Judith Kilpatrick  
Kitty Leaken  
Sue McKelvey  
Guthrie Miller  
Lorrey Muellenberg  
Shay Namchak  
Ginny Olcott  
Dan Potter  
Joanna Prukop  
Alexandra Schott

Rich Schraeder  
Sarah Smith  
George Strickland  
Robert Trout  
Annikka Wade  
Kimiora Ward  
Al Webster  
Arnold Wise  
Ashlee Wolf  
Sarah Wood



earth**LINES**

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## Get Your Tickets Now for Two SFCT Events, Sure to Entertain and Inspire You!



### Community Conservation Celebration August 26th, 2021

OUR ANNUAL PARTY IS VIRTUAL AGAIN!

Take part online in the comfort of your home.

Nature needs us, and this celebration features  
local action and solutions!

Get your \$5 access pass or deepen your support  
with a meal or wine package.

[sfct.org/events/cc](https://sfct.org/events/cc)

NOTE: The surging delta variant means we will NOT  
offer the option of gathering at the Violet Crown.



### Banff Mountain Film Festival September 7th & 8th, 2021

Watch Banff on a HUGE screen at the  
Motorama drive-in at The Downs Santa Fe!

Enjoy NEW films from the Banff Centre  
Mountain World Tour.

For more information, visit:

[sfct.org/events/banff-mountain-film-festival](https://sfct.org/events/banff-mountain-film-festival)