

# *Santa Fe Conservation Trust*



Billy Johnson

*Protecting the Land. Preserving Our Quality of Life.*

Annual Report 2011

# OUR MISSION

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust is dedicated to preserving the spirit of place among the communities of northern New Mexico by protecting open spaces and critical wildlife habitat, by creating trails, and by protecting the traditional landscapes of our diverse cultures.

Linda Spier

## **Board of Directors 2011**

Jim Jenkins, Board Chair  
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Connie Bright, Vice Chair  
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Murray Brott  
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Harlan M. Flint  
Brad Holian  
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Jim Leonard  
Kent Little  
Janet Stoker  
Linda Tigges

## **Committee Members 2011**

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Jim Duncan, Jr.  
Frank Katz  
Susan Livermore  
Beth Mills  
Nicole Rasmussen  
Jane Terry  
Christopher Thomson

## **Staff 2011**

Charlie O'Leary  
*Executive Director*  
Melissa Houser  
*Conservation & Development  
Coordinator*  
Mary Pat Butler  
*Executive Assistant*  
McAllister Yeomans  
*Office Administrator*

In 2012, we say goodbye to Margaret Alexander and Bob Pierce as they leave our Board and welcome Kim Udall, Joanna Prukop and Bill Johnson



Winding our way down the dusty old road that once led from Santa Fe to the Village of Galisteo, we passed rolling cholla-and juniper-covered hills on the way to the lone cottonwood. The deep blue New Mexico sky reflected in the clear pool next to the rubble of an old building lost to the elements. Pieces of petrified wood littered the ground and we spied deer tracks in the mud. The small group of us touring the Galisteo Basin gathered at the spring to learn more about its origin and its use by people inhabiting this landscape for centuries. It was the kind of day that we treasure here at the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT), one where our mission comes full circle and important natural and cultural resources are conserved for all time.

SFCT made several significant contributions to land conservation in northern New Mexico in 2011. Not only did we monitor over 34,000 acres of land entrusted to us, but we completed several new conservation efforts within the Galisteo River watershed, began a new important public trail initiative called La Piedra, and continued on the path to become a nationally accredited land trust.

These conservation successes were made possible by the generosity of people like you, who care deeply for the natural world and understand the influence it has on us as New Mexicans. Whether you made a financial contribution or volunteered some of your valuable time to SFCT in 2011, it enabled us to conserve more open spaces for us all to experience a deeper understanding of the role nature plays in our well being.

Enjoy reading about SFCT's accomplishments in 2011 and we hope we can count on you for your support in 2012.

Best,

**Charlie O'Leary**  
*Executive Director*

**Jim Jenkins**  
*Chairman*

A view of the Dale Ball Trail North



*Heading south out of Santa Fe along the Turquoise Trail, you will see the land. - a swath of green and earthen hues that underscores the foothills of the ancient Ortiz Mountains. The Galisteo Creek meanders across the property along its northern edge. As caretakers of this land, we could not imagine the view some future day lost by development. We partnered with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust to help us protect in perpetuity our land, the water, the wildlife and the view. Trust is the operative word.*

*Working with SFCT staff, we felt they cared about our land as much as we do. We trust that they can and will protect it as if it is their own.*

*- Deborah & Ira Schildkraut, landowners & SFCT easement donors*

## WE SAVE LAND

SFCT is a practical, on-the-ground partner for private landowners and communities wishing to protect the conservation values of their land permanently. These values can include open space, scenic, wildlife habitat, agriculture, cultural and public recreation and education for example. SFCT owns no property long-term; we work with willing landowners to create voluntary, permanent land protection agreements (conservation easements) on private property.

Our landowner partners enter into such agreements for reasons as diverse as they are, including the desire to preserve the land they love forever, ensure its availability for future generations and protect unique natural or cultural assets. In most cases, our work with landowners allows them to access significant Federal and NM State tax benefits.

### Galisteo Basin Watershed:

SFCT assisted a variety of landowner partners in 2011. Helping them to leave a lasting legacy that provides critical ecological and community services that benefit all of us. Just south of Santa Fe in the Galisteo Basin, with landowner Commonweal Conservancy, we helped preserve 530 acres of land in two conservation easements,



including the 280-acre Galisteo Spring, protecting one of the only natural springs in the Basin. These Galisteo Basin Preserve easements benefit wildlife habitat and future public recreation trails and preserve important cultural resources. The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs played a major role in the success of the Galisteo Springs project and is a co-holder of the easement with SFCT. We welcomed the Walking Rein Ranch into our land trust family; the 354 acre property preserves one mile of the Galisteo Creek along the scenic Hwy 14 corridor. In addition, the Allison-Ito Ranch granted a conservation easement to SFCT on 446 acres, protecting spectacular open space and several ancient cultural sites. The generosity of these landowners is praiseworthy.

Preserving properties with a conservation easement renders a multitude of benefits to the Galisteo Basin Watershed. These protected lands

provide wildlife habitat for Pronghorn, Black Bear, Scaled Quail, the endangered South-Western Willow Flycatcher, and many other species. Rainwater is filtered as it percolates through the soil to recharge groundwater supplying us with clean drinking water. Oxygen producing trees and important vegetative plant cover contribute to the natural integrity of the surrounding landscape, sequester carbon and help regulate seasonal temperatures. These are all “ecological benefits” provided by nature – and they are critically important to healthy communities.

### Santa Fe Foothills:

SFCT received donations of land from an anonymous donor and from TBL Land Company to create the La Piedra Open Space, 54 acres of land that was conveyed to the Santa Fe County Open Space & Trails Program for public recreation. (See “A Gift to the Community” page 5)

*Since 2008, hundreds of people in the community have participated in our educational Star Party events; done in collaboration with the Capital City Astronomy Club, Commonweal Conservancy, Salazar Elementary, Santa Fe Garden Club, and Santa Fe Southern Railway celebrating land conservation in New Mexico and the importance of the connection between land and the night sky.*

## WE PROTECT STARS

Very few places on Earth look the same as they did 1,000 years ago, but when we look at the night sky, we see the same sky revered by our ancestors. With the invention of the light bulb came light pollution. Recent studies have shown that light pollution has significant negative impacts on human health, confuses and harms wildlife, wastes energy, creates glare, and actually reduces nighttime visibility. Converting the natural landscape to a man-made built environment usually includes permanently introducing a lot of lighting to where there was none. Outdoor lighting is certainly something we need and luckily there are easy steps that everyone can take to preserve our Dark Skies for future generations. Preserving open space helps bring back the night sky for all to enjoy. *For this and other conservation tips, go to [sfct.org](http://sfct.org).*



Robert E. Hoyle



SFCT had three star party events in the course of 2011, collaborating with three different organizations. If you'd like to attend a star party, check our events page, or sign up to receive email updates at [sfct.org](http://sfct.org).

### Trails + Telescopes at the Galisteo Basin Preserve

Commonweal Conservancy and the Santa Fe Conservation Trust hosted their third annual Trails + Telescopes event celebrating the land beneath our feet, the skies above, and the trails that connect our communities.

### Celebrate the Night Sky

The Santa Fe Garden Club, hosted by Beverly & Don Clark, held a Star Party in June 2011 for their members and friends.

### Fiesta de Estrella

Thanks to Salazar Elementary Teacher Mollie Toll and the PTA for hosting this fantastic event for the students in October, 2011. Students listened to traditional stories about the stars followed by stargazing!

*Together, TAOSF and SFCT are exploring new trail opportunities for underserved populations, assisting public agencies with trail maintenance and promoting the benefits of community trails.*  
- Margaret Alexander, TAOSF Coordinator & SFCT Board Member

## WE PRESERVE TRAILS

SFCT is building a new trail connection in Santa Fe. The La Piedra Trail will provide approximately 2 miles of new recreational public trails connecting Dale Ball Trail North with the Little Tesuque Creek Trail. Thanks to funding from Sangre de Cristo Mountain Works, REI, the SI Gimball Foundation, the La Tierra Torture Mountain Bike Race Committee, and many individual donors, the La Piedra Trail and 54 acres of open space will be opened in 2012. We are continually exploring ways to keep our communities connected with trails and open space woven into the landscape. Collaborating with the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe (TAOSF), an all-volunteer group of advocates and Pulaski swinging experts, SFCT supports the maintenance of many local trails. In 2011, SFCT and TAOSF received a \$10,000 grant from REI to help cover various project costs of the La Piedra Trail.



The over-riding achievement of 2011 was the 1,813 volunteer hours that TAOSF organized with help from the following community and government organizations.

Santa Fe Conservation Trust  
U.S. Forest Service  
Santa Fe Fat Tire Society  
Santa Fe Botanical Gardens  
REI  
Bicycle and Trails Advisory Committee (City)  
Design Office  
Public Works Department (City)  
IMBA  
Arroyo Hondo neighborhood  
Convention and Visitors Bureau (City)  
Open Space and Trails Program (County)  
Sierra Club  
Parks Commission (City)  
Bureau of Land Management (Federal)  
Sangre de Cristo Mountain Works

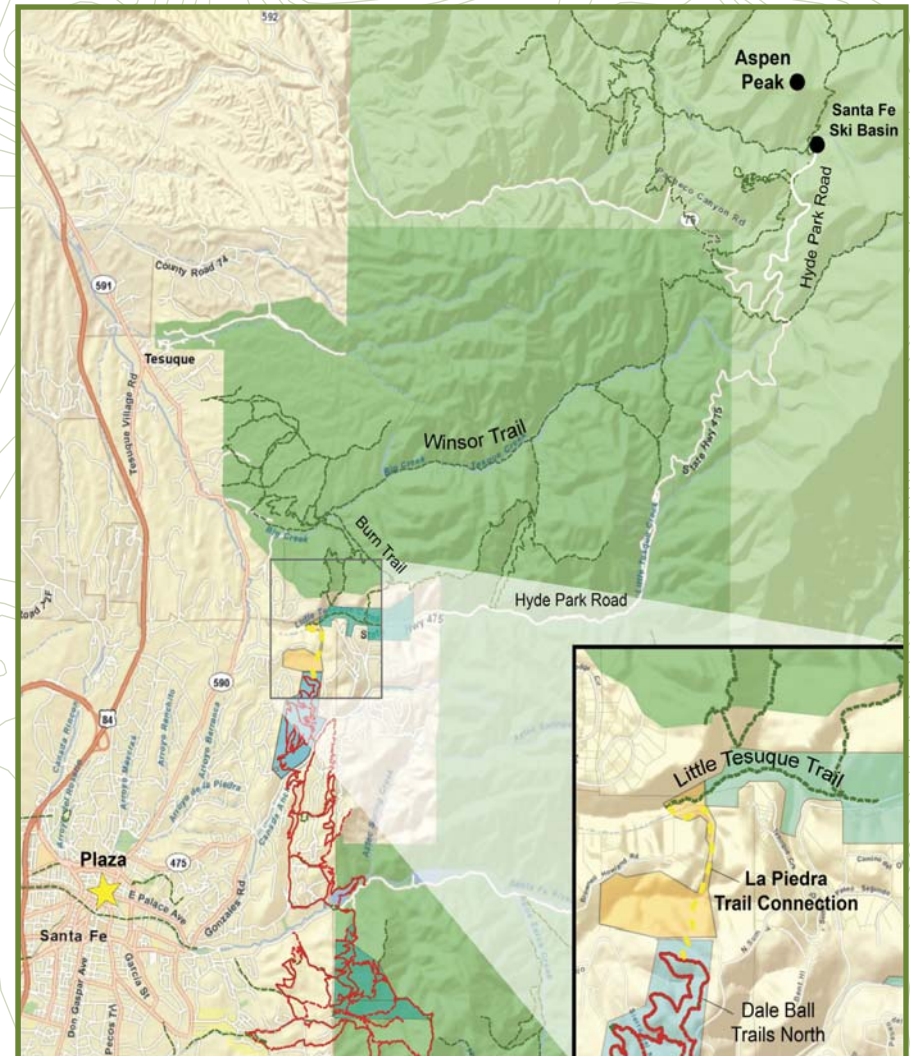


*Since the founding of our city over 400 years ago, trail access to the mountains – and nature – has been important to residents and visitors alike. However, with increased development, the paving of roads and fencing off lands, major trails have either been closed to the public or abandoned altogether. SFCT's goal is to reestablish this lost connection by constructing a new trail link: connecting the city to the sky.*

## A GIFT TO COMMUNITY

In response to the growing need for public access to more trails, SFCT set out to create a trail connection between Dale Ball North and Little Tesuque Creek. Beginning with the generous donations of 54 acres of land from an anonymous donor and from TBL Land, SFCT and Santa Fe County Open Space Program created the La Piedra Trail and Open Space.

The La Piedra Trail will provide several miles of new recreational public trails connecting Dale Ball Trail North with the Little Tesuque Creek Trail, increasing public access to trails from the city to the Santa Fe National Forest and the 13,000-foot peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains high above Santa Fe—connecting the city to the sky! The La Piedra Trail will allow hikers, runners and mountain bikers the opportunity to enjoy breath-taking views of the Tesuque Valley as well as shaded forests of piñon and ponderosa pines as the trail winds its way through diverse terrain and alongside a cool, running creek, enhancing the outdoor experience for thousands who utilize the trails each year. When completed, this trail promises to be one of the most important trail connections in the Santa Fe area.



*Evidence of human occupation of the Galisteo Basin goes back at least 5,000 years, according to a recent study by the Museum of New Mexico. One of the ways we know this is pottery sherds that are found by archaeologists. There are many different styles of pottery found in the Galisteo Basin, which represent over 700 years of Ancestral and Historic Puebloan and Spanish use of the area.*

## POTTERY OF THE GALISTEO BASIN

by Stephen Post

**W**e know that the Galisteo Springs, the only year round natural spring in the Basin, was of historical importance because of all the potsherds. We can begin to understand more about the people who used the spring, how long they were there, and in what types of activities they were involved. So if you are walking in the Galisteo Basin, enjoy the pottery you might discover. Then put it back where you found it for the next person or archaeologist to study and enjoy. Artifacts left on the landscape enrich everyone's experience of these ancient landscapes. Below are a few examples of pottery types found in the Galisteo Basin.



### GALISTEO BLACK-ON-WHITE BOWL RIM SHERDS –

The main decorated pottery type in the Galisteo Basin between A.D. 1300 and 1400, Galisteo Black-on-white has linear and solid designs applied with a black vegetal paint that appears to soak into a well-polished, white crackly slipped surface. Its surface finish and light gray paste distinguish it from other black-on-white types made in surrounding areas.



### GLAZE WARE POTTERY – FROM A.D. 1325 TO 1725

Galisteo Basin potters made decorated pottery using a lead-based pigment. Changes through time can be seen in the profile of bowl rims, manufacture of bichrome and polychrome varieties, and a trend from well-controlled to runny application of the glaze paint. After 1598, glaze ware potters made European-style dish wares for use in Spanish homes and missions.



*Commonweal Conservancy's long and productive partnership with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust ensures permanent protection for the extraordinary cultural, ecological and recreational values of the Galisteo Basin. By this most recent collaboration, the Galisteo Springs' conservation easement deepens our collective understanding of the region's cultural history, as well as conserves a freshwater resource of critical biological significance.*

*- Ted Harrison of Commonweal Conservancy*



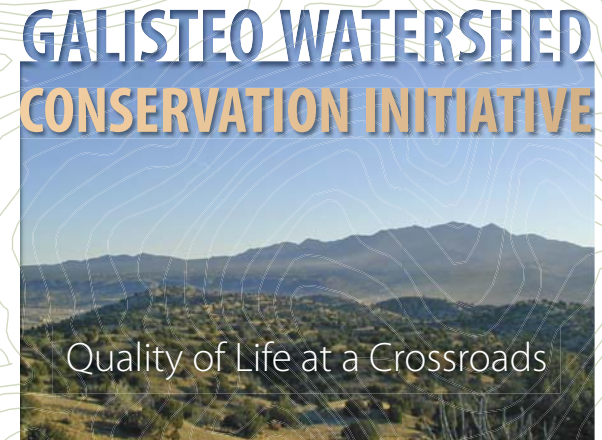
## HISTORIC POTTERY –

For the first 300 years of the historic period, an assortment of well-polished red, black, and gray and glaze and vegetal painted pottery was created. These vessels, which included serving and eating bowls, storage and cooking jars, made Spanish homes, missions and Pueblo household kitchens and tables colorful and distinctive. Sherds from a wide variety of forms and styles may indicate a residential occupation of an archaeological site. Less variety may reflect more temporary or seasonal use of an area, such as Galisteo Springs.

## GWCI REPORT

A new report, published in 2011, “Galisteo Watershed Conservation Initiative - Quality of Life at a Crossroads,” presents a thorough overview of the cultural and natural history and potential of the Galisteo Basin. Santa Fe Conservation Trust, Earth Works Institute, and EarthAnalytic, Inc. worked for many years with Santa Fe County and other public agencies, non-governmental organizations, residents, and the University of NM to produce the report with core funding from the New Mexico Legislature. The report describes in words, illustrations, and maps the potential for creating a “green infrastructure” - a mosaic and network of natural lands - in the Galisteo Basin and between the Basin and its surrounding ecoregions in New Mexico.

In 2008, the GWCI played a significant role in averting oil and gas development in the Galisteo Basin. Since then, the report has helped put the Galisteo Basin on the map of national conservation biologists as a critical linkage area for wildlife in a chain of core habitats between Mexico and Alaska. The study also supported Santa Fe County in its efforts to develop the Sustainable Land Management Plan; has leveraged hundreds of thousands of dollars of public funds for ecological restoration of the Basin's streams



and wetlands, and stimulated a rapid expansion of conservation easements and protected County Open Space across thousands of acres of land in the Basin. As residents and Santa Fe County officials continue to explore the most desirable regulatory provisions for the Santa Fe County Sustainable Land Development Code, the study may serve as an important source of background data as well as a method for evaluating the conservation potential of our land resources in ways that support local quality of life and livelihoods!

For more information about the report or to purchase a CD, please contact Santa Fe Conservation Trust at 505-989-7019 or [info@sfct.org](mailto:info@sfct.org). It can be downloaded on our website: [sfct.org](http://sfct.org)

## MONITORING & STEWARDSHIP

The protection of each of the 34,000 acres of land entrusted to SFCT to help conserve began with a conversation - often around a kitchen table - about a landowner's desire to keep the land they cherish in its natural state. SFCT ensures that these goals are fulfilled by working with the landowner (who continues to own and manage the land) to extinguish the right to develop the land in favor of protecting its natural resources.

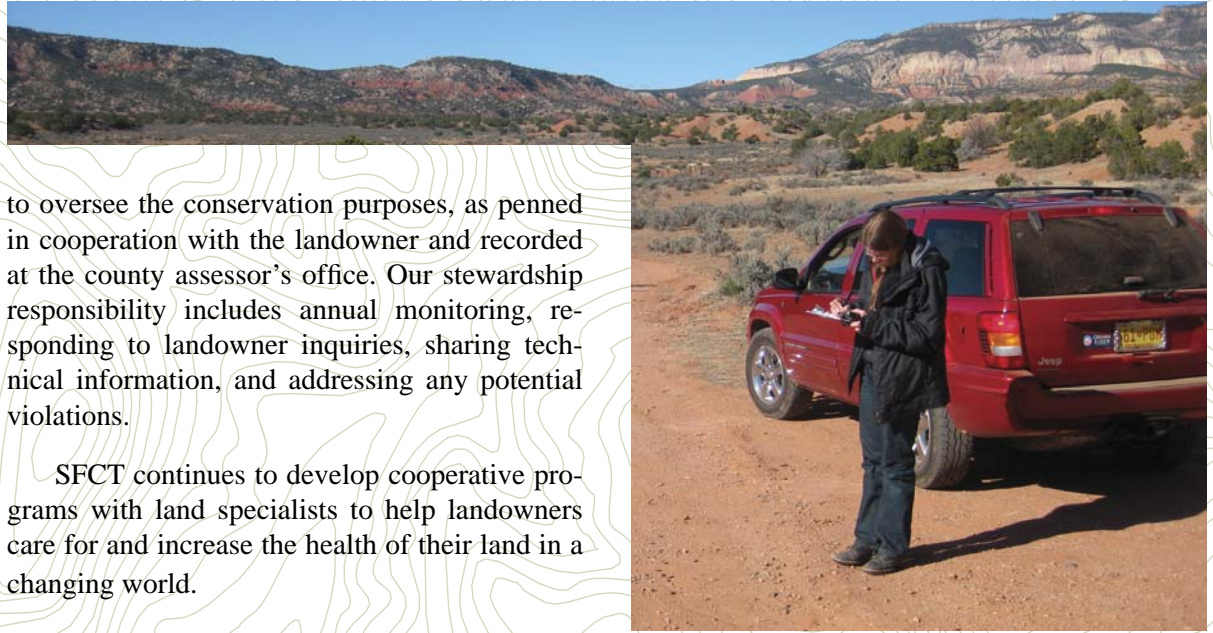


Our greatest duty as a land trust is to these conserved lands. Once the conservation easement is in place, SFCT begins performing its unique function - to monitor the terms of the agreement for the long term.

With each new conservation easement agreement comes a deep and permanent responsibility:

to oversee the conservation purposes, as penned in cooperation with the landowner and recorded at the county assessor's office. Our stewardship responsibility includes annual monitoring, responding to landowner inquiries, sharing technical information, and addressing any potential violations.

SFCT continues to develop cooperative programs with land specialists to help landowners care for and increase the health of their land in a changing world.



## THE LONG VIEW - CONSERVATION PLANNING

SFCT has been creating a scientific GIS (Geographic Information System) tool to help map important natural resources (streams, wildlife habitat, etc.) and establish priorities for conservation in northern New Mexico. This important tool allows us to share information with different organizations and make your donation go further by making critical objective decisions on which projects to pursue.



## SFCT PROTECTED LANDS COUNTY BREAKDOWN 2011

County	No. of Acres	No. CE Held
Rio Arriba	6,466	14
Santa Fe	6,572	48
San Miguel	21,009	15
Taos	66	2

Other Water Resources: Abiquiu Reservoir, Galisteo Spring, Acequia del Molino

# 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

*The Santa Fe Conservation Trust has submitted to an independent audit every year from 2008 to 2012. Audited Financial Statements and our IRS Form 990s are available upon request. email us at [info@sfct.org](mailto:info@sfct.org).*

## Statement of Financial Position

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents  
Receivables  
Other Current Assets

Dec. 31, 2011

Dec. 31, 2010

374,487  
86,500  
94,976

354,657  
6,000  
8,667

Total Current Assets

555,964

365,926

#### Property & Equipment

Fee Land  
Fixed Assets  
Accumulated Depreciation

7,947  
11,113  
-10,765

0  
11,113  
-9,706

Total Property & Equipment

8,295

1,407

#### Other Assets

Stewardship Fund  
Monitoring Fund

213,918  
66,184

243,705  
71,788

Total Other Assets

280,102

315,493

### TOTAL ASSETS

844,361

686,224

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

#### Liabilities

Accounts Payable  
Other Current Liabilities

Dec. 31, 2011

Dec. 31, 2010

5,545  
11,080

12,166  
2,234

Total Liabilities

16,625

14,400

#### Net Assets

Permanently Restricted  
Unrestricted  
Net Income

280,102  
391,722  
155,912

315,493  
338,301  
18,030

Total Net Assets

827,736

671,824

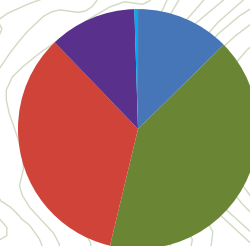
### TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

844,361

686,224

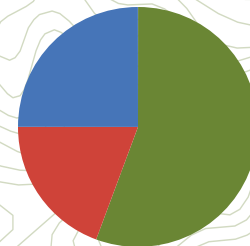
## Activities

### Income



Program Services (42%)  
Individual Donors (34%)  
Events (13%)  
Grants (12%)  
Investments (~1%)

### Expense



Mission (56%)  
Development (19%)  
General & Administrative (25%)

*The Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner is the Santa Fe Conservation Trust's single largest fundraising event of the year. Proceeds from the dinner support the ongoing efforts of the organization's mission—ultimately to protect the land of Northern New Mexico in perpetuity. Over the past ten years, honorees have included Stewart Udall, Jane Hocker, former Land Trust Alliance President, Mark Michel, former president of the Archaeological Conservancy and such local luminaries as Dale and Sylvia Ball, Sallie Wagner, Nancy Wirth, Bill Cowles and, most recently, aural historian and 2009 Santa Fe Living Treasure, Jack Loeffler.*

## CONNIE BRIGHT

### A Shining Star on the SFCT Board

Each year the Santa Fe Conservation Trust relies not only on the generosity of its donors, but the altruistic support of its volunteers. While each and every one is appreciated for the role they play in the success of the organization, we want to take this opportunity to celebrate Connie Bright.

Connie first became involved with SFCT in 2004 through her close friend, Janie Bingham who coerced her into co-chairing the Annual Stewart Udall Legacy dinner. She did just that from 2004-2006. It soon became evident that she knew how to organize and throw one of the best attended fundraising events in Santa Fe. In 2007, Connie took over the reins of the event and since that time has enlisted the help of volunteers, new and old, to assist her. "She's the most conscientious person I know—and the nicest!" Janie Bingham told the Trust in a recent conversation.

She is tireless in her pursuit of sponsors to underwrite the event and in her recruitment of volunteers who attend to the details. From the first planning meeting when the honoree is selected until every last leaf is back in place in the National Parks Service Building courtyard, no



Connie Bright at Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner

aspect of the event is overlooked under Connie's direction. Under all this pressure, it is her sense of humor that keeps everyone going. As a result, she has helped raise more than \$370,000 for SFCT through the Udall dinner since 2004!

In 2005, Connie became a Santa Fe Conservation Trust Board member, lending further support to the organization. She has served on various committees, including communications and development, and for the past three years has been a member of the Executive Committee in her capacity as Board Vice Chair.

Her spirit, extraordinary work and her dedication are an inspiration to all. We are very fortunate to have her.

## PROGRESSING TOWARDS ACCREDITATION

In our 2009 Strategic Plan, we indicated that plans were underway to achieve Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Accreditation. As an integral part of this long-range strategic plan, we are pleased to report that we significantly moved forward towards this goal in 2011. We were awarded grants from both the Land Trust Alliance and from the Wells Fargo Foundation to support this effort.

As we move forward into 2012, we will begin the pre-application process, gathering final documentation for all of our conservation easements and other conservation work that we have done since our inception. Once all these preparations have been completed, we will submit our application for accreditation in 2013. This official endorsement by the LTA will provide our community with the assurance that the Santa Fe Conservation Trust meets the highest ethical and legal standards for the responsible operation of a land trust. In short, this process will make SFCT an even stronger organization.

*For more information on the LTA and the accreditation process, visit [www.landtrustalliance.org](http://www.landtrustalliance.org)*

## DONORS 2011

### Benefactor (\$5,000+)

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*in memory of David Duckworth*  
Commonweal Conservancy  
Jim & Ann Jenkins  
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*in memory of Sallie Wagner*  
Ira & Deborah Schildkraut

### Patron (\$1,000-\$4,999)

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Tom & Susan Simons  
Kimball & Sharyn Udall

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Academy for the  
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*in honor of Nancy King*  
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Tom Higley  
Sara Hiner  
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Katrina Holder  
David & Elizabeth Holland  
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### Stewart Udall Legacy Fund

Charmay Allred  
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\*We strive for accuracy. If we have overlooked your gift, please let us know.



Laura Shields



## 2011 SFCT EVENTS

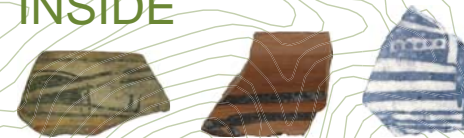
- Mar 22 Banff Mountain Film Festival  
hosted by Sangre de Cristo  
Mountain Works
- Apr 21 Green Fire movie showing  
with New Mexico Land  
Conservancy
- Apr 22 Earth Day: *Botanica*  
Arroyo gallery
- Apr 30 SynergyFest, Las Vegas  
with Pecos River Open Spaces
- Apr 30 - May 1 La Tierra Torture Race
- May 5 Better Living through Trails  
IMBA and TAOSF
- May 7 Trail Building Workshop  
IMBA and Trails Alliance of Santa Fe
- Jun 1 SFCT Presentation  
for the Santa Fe Garden Club
- Jun 4 National Trails Day  
hosted by Sangre de Cristo  
Mountain Works
- Jun 9 SFCT Star Party  
with the Santa Fe Garden Club
- Jun 16 Sun Mountain Trail Work Day  
with the Trust for Public Land



Executive Director, Charlie O'Leary with La Piedra Trail workday volunteers

- Jul 24 Annual Pecos River Picnic Celebration  
with Pecos River Open Spaces
- Sep 18 10th Annual Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner
- Oct 1 Trails + Telescopes Party  
with Commonweal Conservancy
- Oct 2 Greenhorn Film screening  
with the National Young Farmers Coalition
- Oct 26 "Fiesta des Estrellas" Star Party  
SFCT and Salazar Elementary

## INSIDE



Archaeologist Steve Post gives an overview of the pottery sherds that can be found in and around the Galisteo Basin.

*"There are many different styles of pottery found in the Galisteo Basin, which represent over 700 years of Ancestral and Historic Puebloan and Spanish use of the area."*  
(See page 6)

## SAVE THE DATES!

### Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner

*September 16, 4:30 – 8 PM*

### IMBA World Summit & Southwest Trails Conference

*October 8 – 13*



**Santa Fe Conservation Trust**

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Santa Fe, NM 87502-3985

(505) 989-7019

[www.sfct.org](http://www.sfct.org)