

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Directing the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT) is exciting because it requires me to think holistically and consider the interconnectedness of land and people every day. Federal laws and regulations affect conservation agreements; local zoning ordinances direct divisions of land and its use. The cycles of nature must be considered, and the economic and health benefits of getting people out of doors and onto the land become more important by the day. In addition to these types of issues, it is of great importance to understand landowners' desires and challenges and their inherent responsibilities as stewards. It requires that we identify their connection to the land. At the SFCT we ask, where are our services needed most? How can our programs – land conservation, trails and dark skies – inspire a connection with nature?



Peter Ogilvie

While walking with a new acquaintance – but a longtime SFCT friend – we spied a rattlesnake under the man's porch in the shade of a windmill. "What will come of the land once I'm gone – and who will care for it?" Even with a conservation easement on record at the county and held by SFCT, there is still some unfinished business for this landowner who has become part of the landscape and the landscape a part of him. His connection to the land is undeniable.

These are questions for all of us. What is your connection to the land? How does it shape who you are as a New Mexican? Landowners are turning to us for advice on how to conserve land

in perpetuity. Trail users are asking us for help with access and safety issues. School teachers are requesting information about light pollution and the night sky. All play into SFCT's organizational mission. All of these issues involve our connection to the land – and how we grow together over time.

At SFCT we seek to promote the open space character of the land and protect conservation values not only by retiring development rights but also by encouraging landowners who feel a deep responsibility to tell their stories and provide opportunities for those seeking a stronger and lasting connection to the land. The result we are striving for is a renewed responsibility and respect for the natural world: a direct connection with nature. You - as a SFCT supporter - are critical to the conversations, strategies and progress we make to ensure that our lands remain natural and play a significant role in our lives for generations to come.

Charlie

Charlie O'Leary

P.S. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a gift to SFCT today!

IN THIS ISSUE:

Land Conservation pg. 2-3

For Landowners pg. 4-6

Dark Skies pg. 7

Trails pg. 8-10

About Us pg 11-15

OUR PROJECTS

One of New Mexico's oldest and well-established land trusts, SFCT conserves a variety of important lands throughout northern New Mexico – not only in Santa Fe. Whether it is a large ranch of nearly 10,000 acres in San Miguel County, or a five-acre hill-top in our nation's oldest capital city, we have a history of working on lands large and small. Our focal areas are organized and formed by watersheds and waterways, including the Los Pinos, the Gallinas, the upper Pecos, the Galisteo and the Santa Fe rivers.

CONSERVING LAND, WATER AND WAY OF LIFE

understanding the purpose of conservation agreements

Conservation agreements (also called conservation easements) are one of the most powerful, effective tools available for the permanent conservation of private land. The use of these agreements has successfully protected millions of acres of property in the United States - keeping land in private hands and generating significant public benefits.

Some of these benefits are trees and vegetation, which serve as critical filters for our air, food for wildlife and dazzling scenic views, wetlands that border our rivers, lakes and arroyos that filter pollution out of our drinking water and recharge the ground water. The security of locally grown foods, the economic benefits to tourism, film-making and real estate, in addition, conserving land increases property values near open space, saves tax dollars by encouraging development that is tailored to the landscape. Study after study has demonstrated the tremendous health and economic benefits of land conservation for people and communities.

When a conservation agreement is held by a land trust, some of the development rights associated with the land are retired forever. Each agreement is tailored to the specific property and the landowner's vision of the future uses of their property. Those conservation values or purposes that are protected under these agreements may be scenic, open space, agricultural, educational, wildlife habitat, unique natural or geological areas, recreational, or historic. An agreement on property containing rare wildlife habitat might prohibit all development, while an agreement on a farm would allow continued farming and the addition of agricultural structures. The land trust is responsible for working with not only the grantor of the agreements, but all future owners to make sure the agreement's terms are followed in perpetuity.



Photo: Mitch Tillison

PECOS RIVER

SFCT Focal Area

Conservation Easements 9
Acres Protected 1,504

Running down from the western slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Pecos River travels 926 miles before meeting up with the Rio Grande. Situated between Santa Fe and Las Vegas, the town of Pecos and the headwaters of the Pecos River form a gateway that has been utilized for centuries, from Pueblo and Plains Indians to Spanish settlers and U.S. travelers. The Santa Fe Trail, Route 66, and now I-25 have all taken the path through Pecos on their way to West, leading to the definitive phrase “West of the Pecos.” For hundreds of years, the first vision of the wild and scenic Pecos headwaters has greeted travelers on their way into “Wild West.”



Cathedral Rock, overlooking Pecos River;
photo by Kirt Kemper

Evidence of human habitation dates back some 9,000 years, including arrowheads, pottery and fire pits. The Pecos Pueblo goes back to roughly 1100 A.D., and contained some 2,000 people when visited by Coronado in 1540. The Pueblo was inhabited until 1838. The pueblo structures, as well as the Spanish mission, are preserved today as part of the Pecos National Historic Park.

SFCT has made a commitment to protecting the wild scenic landscapes of the upper Pecos, for both its cultural and natural significance. Our protected properties in this area stretch along the riparian area around the river itself and the scenic corridor along the highways and byways that greet natives and travelers alike.



Pecos River Open Space along the Pecos River

SFCT PROTECTED LANDS

Santa Fe County

48 Conservation Easements
6,576 Acres

San Miguel County

15 Conservation Easements
21,009 Acres

Rio Arriba County

7 Conservation Easements
6,466 Acres

Taos County

1 Conservation Easement
22 Acres

New Mexico Total
71 Conservation Easements
34,073 Acres

NEW MEXICO LAND CONSERVATION INCENTIVES ACT

Charitable donations of land or a conservation easement to a qualified land trust, such as the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, for conservation purposes may be eligible for a state tax credit through the New Mexico Land Conservation Incentives Act. The maximum tax credit is 50% of the appraised value of the donation and a maximum of \$250,000 per individual donor.

Contact SFCT to learn more about this program and how you can help conserve important land for the benefit of the public.

PECOS RIVER RANCH

A Plan for Enhancement & Restoration

Article & Photos by James L. Overton

It was the peaceful solitude that first drew the Strickling family to the Pecos River Ranch.

First, came the sound of the river, echoing off towering limestone palisades carved through eons of time. Then, Ben Strickling and his son Kelly, a geologist, walked to the water's edge.

"I saw the river and heard its roar as it moved through the canyons. I knew then and there, if God let our family have this place, that we would do everything possible to keep it up and restore it to the way He intended it to be," Ben said, reflecting on their first visit to this special place.

The Stricklings, anglers all, had visions of the rainbow trout hiding in those sparkling waters. Ben's 10-year search for a "trout ranch" just steps out his back door had come to an end.

Located some thirty miles from the headwaters of the Pecos River, the Strickling Pecos River Ranch remains largely untouched, epitomizing the raw, stark beauty of the American Southwest.



A deer spotted on the Pecos River Ranch



A gentle river bend in the Pecos, exactly the sort of thing that needs to be encouraged

Especially unique in the high mountain desert of Northern New Mexico, some six miles of the Pecos River run through the ranch on the way down to the Rio Grande.

Strickling and his family wondered how they could improve what was already naturally near perfect.

As avid fly fishermen and outdoorsmen, the Stricklings developed a thoughtful plan to get more and bigger trout to call the Pecos home in conjunction with a game and land management plan that would attract the wildlife that once roamed the land in abundance.

A homegrown resource was already in place at the ranch. Phil Howes, a former state game warden with a master's degree in wildlife management, had been itching to put in play programs to help the natural environment help itself. As a disciple of Aldo Leopold, often recognized as the founder of the conservation movement in America, Howes began working on ways to implement the ideas that had been buzzing in his head for nearly a decade.

The Strickling family has also embraced Leopold's assertion in 1934

that "conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest."

Prior to the Strickling purchase from actor Val Kilmer in 2011, one of the ranch's most scenic venues – some 842 acres along the river and through the canyons – was placed with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT) by Bill Cowles, one of the previous owners of the property and a founder of the Trust.

During the Trust's annual inspection of its holding in October 2011, the inspector, Jim Jenkins, remarked that especially dense undergrowth and brush near the first river crossing were "a forest fire waiting to happen."

"Well, we don't want that, do we," Ben said emphatically. "Figure out what we need to do and let's get it done."

The Stricklings launched an ambitious plan to enhance the river, attract wildlife and launch a massive thinning of dense woodlands to manage and enhance multiple habitats.

Known as the "bread basket" of the Pecos Pueblo, large grasslands – "Los Trigos" or "the wheats" – once dominated the upper areas between Rowe Mesa and the Pecos River. But

fire suppression followed by heavy grazing allowed the piñon and juniper to take over. Some areas boasted over 3,000 trees per acre.

But by the end of September 2012, some 1,200 acres of woodland had been thinned to start the reclamation of shrinking meadows. For ten weeks, two masticating machines ate nearly 240 tons of wood a day. This was followed by prescriptive thinning with chainsaw and chipper to “soften the edges and cull less healthy trees,” Howes said. The results revealed hidden rock outcroppings and entirely new view sheds.

Deer feeders were then set up around the ranch with promising results: the critters are returning.

“When I finally saw the wildlife again, I felt such happiness,” said Roxane Strickling, Ben’s wife. “All the precious squirrels, the beautiful deer, the bears and raccoons have gathered around the feeders. They were there before; we just couldn’t see them because of the overgrowth.”

Thinning also enjoys the support of the U.S. Forest Service, as well as the Trust.

But, ultimately, it’s the water table in this unique ecosystem that benefits most.

“We leave the chipped wood on the ground to mulch and hold water,” Howes said. “In a year, new growth will produce a healthy forest floor. In two years, the land will have recovered itself.”

A healthy ecosystem and rangeland of meadows and woodlands attracts and supports native species -- from songbirds to wild game

Strickling likes the end result. “This is prudent land management. Reclaiming natural meadows with intentional firebreaks following the



Ken stocks the river with rainbow trout

terrain, combined with reseeding native grasses, protects the area from devastating fires and reduces erosion. This keeps the river clean.”

“Erosion is out of hand in places because only the big storms can penetrate the dense canopy,” Howes said. “Without existing floor vegetation, water just runs off the surface.”

The ongoing land management plan at the Strickling ranch also addresses roadways that too easily funneled sediment into the Pecos.

Old two-track ranch roads have been improved to check erosion, while some obsolete roads used during long periods of cattle grazing have been retired. Other trails will be designated bridle or hiking routes.

But ultimately, for a family of fly fishermen, enhancing the Pecos River as a fish habitat is the end game. The Stricklings have restocked the river with several hundred pounds of good-sized rainbow trout.

And restoring designated reaches in the Pecos River is underway after nearly a year of planning, design work and permitting from state and federal agencies. Joe Urbani from Urbani Fisheries, Inc. of Bozeman, MT, was

hired for the river restoration. Here, “soft engineering” is the special order of the day.

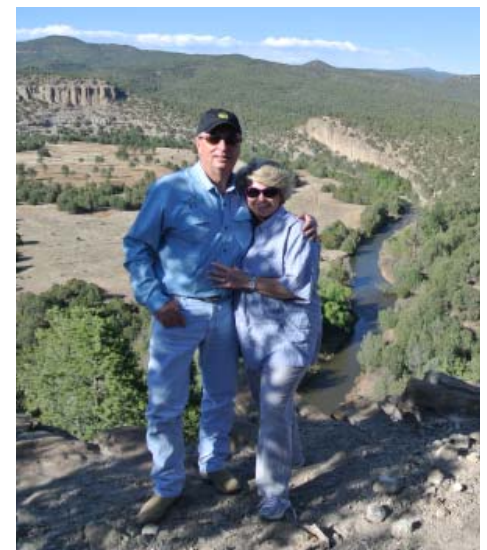
Urbani is known for his ability to make subtle changes and improvements by tweaking the riverbed with materials on hand. This reorganization of native elements in the stream increases the oxygen supply, while favoring trout and the organisms they like to eat.

“This allows the stream to reach its full potential as a trout fishery,” Urbani said prior to beginning work.

River work, done by permit and under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New Mexico Environmental Department, is expected to take several months.

While realizing a list of family goals, the Stricklings remain firmly committed to responsible stewardship of the land.

“We want to build a trout-fishing ranch second to none,” Strickling said. “But we recognize the river as well as the land are critical parts of this fragile ecosystem. We want to leave this special place better than we found it.”



Ben and Roxane Strickling

Editors Note: Jim Overton is a consultant to the Strickling family, a broker at Sotheby’s International Realty, and a retired journalist and network television producer.

REPAIRING THE PAST

Helping the land heal itself

By Adam & Sonya Berg, SFCT Landowners

After placing our land in a conservation easement, we received a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners for Wildlife grant. This is a cost-sharing program to enhance the biodiversity of property through physical creation of habitat and improvement of existing habitat.

Staff of the Partners program visited our land, and we submitted a draft of the project for approval. The objective of the project was to restore the ephemeral drainages running through the property. This land varies from 7,700' to 7,900' in elevation. There are fifty acres of terraced pasture and the remainder of the property is considered Ponderosa Pine Forest or Transition Life Zone with a mix of oak, ponderosa and piñon pine, Douglas and white fir, and aspen. Years of overgrazing and farming had a negative effect on the land. Building rock structures to slow the water flow and increase meandering are the key to restoring and healing abused land. Bill Zeedyk designed the project, and Tierra y Montes Soil and Water Conservation District was engaged to supervise the project.



Bill Zeedyk & Richard Reichert building structures with heavy equipment

In the existing 6,000 feet of drainages, 82 rock structures were built using 450 cubic yards of rock. The structures built included baffles, weirs, one rock dams, and Zuni bowls. These structures slow the water flow, collect sediment and over time induce meandering. Slowing and meandering allow water to soak in both horizontally and vertically. The sediment increases vegetative growth and raises the bed of the incised drainages.

There is a small intermittent pond on the property that would not hold water for an extended period of time. Bentonite clay was used to seal the pond so that it now holds



A herd of elk discover the newly rejuvenated pond

water and is an oasis for many species of plants and animals. A solar pump was installed on an existing hand dug well to supply water in an elongated water trough for wildlife during periods of drought.

Following the completion of this project, the area has experienced less than average rainfall. One of the drainages did have an above-normal bank water flow from a thunder storm August 6 that dropped heavy rain. The rock structures performed as designed, preventing incising of the drainage.

This project is not one where we expect to see immediate results but something we can watch evolve over many years to come as the land begins to heal itself. We expect to see improvement in habitat to provide food, shelter, water and space for wildlife and an increase in biodiversity. We hope to see more land in our area protected in order to create corridors for exchange of genetic material among species members. This will produce healthier, stronger individuals in both plant and animal populations.



Our grandson helping move rocks

For Landowners is a guest column written by and for our conservation partners. If you would like to contribute to future publications, please contact us at info@sfct.org



Vincent van Gogh
"Starry Night"
1889

BEAUTIFUL, INSPIRING, ENDANGERED

The night is even more richly coloured than the day. . . . If only one pays attention to it, one sees that certain stars are citron yellow, while others have a pink glow or a green, blue and forget-me-not brilliance. And without my expiating on this theme, it should be clear that putting little white dots on a blue-black surface is not enough. — Vincent van Gogh, letter to sister, September 1888.

The magnificent Starry Night painting by Vincent van Gogh seems a product of a fanciful imagination more today than in the past due to modern humans relationship with electric light. The night sky most of us see now is a lot less dark than it was in even the recent past. If light pollution continues to increase at its current rate, no dark skies will remain in the continental United States by the year 2025, says Chadwick Moore, the program manager of the National Park Services' Night Sky Team, based at Colorado State University. Light Pollution does more than just spoil the view of the stars. Light pollution affects animals by disrupting sleeping cycles, breeding cycles, migration cycles and feeding cycles. Light pollution can affect people, too. Artificial light during evening hours decreases melatonin levels, which is linked to wide-ranging impacts on many bodily processes, including metabolic activities, immunological responses and other hormonal functions. Light pollution also wastes money and generates large amounts of carbon pollution.

The International Dark-Sky Association recently published a study showing how nighttime lighting wastes upwards of \$1.5 billion dollars every year in electricity costs. Producing all that energy also accounts for the release of more than 12 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Here in New Mexico, we are still fortunate to have dark skies throughout much of our state, but we are rapidly losing what stars we have in our urban centers – one outdoor light at a time. The good news is we can bring back the stars!

**"Unlike losing a species to extinction, topsoil to erosion, or virgin lands to development, the night sky is 100% recoverable."
– Dan Duriscoe**

Good lighting allows us to meet the basic intent of lighting - safety, security, visibility, comfort - while having very little negative impact on our skies and our health. Good fixtures direct all the light where it is needed, and do not scatter it wastefully into the night or through the neighbor's window. Good lighting incorporates modern, high performance optics that aim light in a defined pattern to reduce glare and light pollution.

By taking a few simple actions, you can practice night-sky friendly lighting, conserve energy, save money, be a better neighbor, and reap the rewards of a beautiful, starry night sky.

DARK SKY RESOURCES

- International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)
www.ida.org
- National Park Service
www.nature.nps.gov/night/index.cfm
- New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance
www.nmheritage.org
- Dan Duriscoe, "Preserving Pristine Night Skies in National Parks and the Wilderness Ethic," The George Wright Forum, 18:4, 2001.
www.georgewright.org/node/387
- Jonathan Amos, "City lighting 'boosts pollution,'" BBC News, San Francisco 14 December 2010
www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11990737
- Candice Gaukel Andrews, "Is Stargazing an Endangered Species?," Good Nature Blog Jun 14th, 2011
goodnature.nathab.com/is-stargazing-an-endangered-species/

LA PIEDRA TRAIL

Officially open to the public

Hiking the new La Piedra trail from the Dale Ball trailhead at Sierra del Norte and Hyde Park Road up and over the hills and down into Little Tesuque Creek represents a journey of great collaboration. On June 1, 2012 the day before National Trails Day, we gathered at the same trailhead to celebrate the official opening of this new trail; Dale Ball, the father of one of the city's most beloved trail systems, was on hand to help cut the ribbon. His actions came full circle on this day as our desire to link the city's lower trails with the higher elevation trails in the national forest became reality.



Aseri heads up to the newly opened trail

The completion of the trail connection and dedication of over 50 acres of associated open space is a real boon to the community. The success of this conservation project would never have been possible if it were not for the generosity of many community-minded individuals coming together both privately and professionally for a common goal that was bigger than any of us; in this case the outcome was far greater than could have been achieved by individual action. Plus it can be a lot more fun working with one another!



Volunteers ready themselves for a hard days work on La Piedra Trail; photo by Billy Johnson



People gather at the La Piedra opening ceremony, June 1, 2012

THANK YOU LA PIEDRA TRAIL VOLUNTEERS!

Margaret Alexander
Steve Bassett
Don Begley
Kevin Brennan
Mary Pat Butler
Dean Buzbee
Judy Costlow
Brandon Dasher
Sandra Deacon
Paula Eastwood
Scott Ernst
Faith Garfield
Shari Heier
Kerry Helke
Melissa Houser
Jan-Willem Jansens
Billy Johnson
Nick Knorr
Carlie Lines
Lynn Lown
Eileen Loy
Kira Luna
Preston Martin
Spencer Martin
Sean Mcconville
Mike Mellon
Brian Nelson
Lily O'Leary
John Parker
Thomas Patton
John Peach
Stephen Post
Larry Prescott
BC Rimbeaux
Shelley Robinson
Peggy Rudberg
Charles Scott
Steve Sherr
George Simon
Steve & Cath Washburn
Larry Werner
Brooks White

a very special thank you to:

Trails Alliance of Santa Fe
Work Hard. Do Good. Feel Great.

www.trailsallianceofsantafe.org

SUN MOUNTAIN

The new trailhead opens



The foothills property near Old Santa Fe Trail made headlines in 2009 when concerns about a proposed development plan prompted “Save Sun Mountain,” a citizens’ movement to purchase and protect the iconic 22 acres. Working with the Trust for Public Land and garnering financial support from throughout the community, the \$3.2 million purchase was completed in 2010 – thanks to this citizen movement.

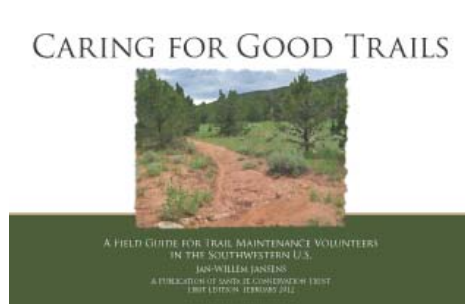
Just in time for the summer hiking season, the City of Santa Fe completed trailhead amenities, volunteers and the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe defined the footpath and the trail and today Sun Mountain is open for public enjoyment. Until now, people wishing to gain access to the mountain top had to use a rustic informal trail.

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust holds an easement on the property, ensuring that land lying at the base of Santa Fe’s Sun Mountain received permanent legal protection and will never be developed. Public access has been preserved and the trail will forever remain a part of the City’s open space program. This land conservation success story was a real community effort by several groups and private donors including Save Sun Mountain, The Trust for Public Land, The City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe Conservation Trust and the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe.

CARING FOR GOOD TRAILS

New publication now available

This technical field guide was designed primarily for volunteer hiking trail stewards in the southwestern United States. The practices described are the result of many years of work on watershed restoration and open space management in northern New Mexico. After an extensive collaborative effort between Jan Willem Jansens, Cynthia Lovely and the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, this field guide was completed and published earlier this year, along with a generous grant from REI.



This guide will be useful for workshops and field events that are intended to increase the public’s knowledge of trails and reduce trail maintenance by making trails more sustainable. For this guide to be useful, we assume that trail managers have evaluated trail purpose, use, and management, and will lead and communicate trail repair and maintenance work accordingly.

The Caring for Good Trails pdf can be downloaded at www.sfct.org/newsandmedia, or come by our office at 316 E. Marcy St. to pick up a hard copy for \$5.

“Trails bring people closer to nature. In addition, they may instill in people the desire to protect the environment and seek ways to play a role in hands-on care and protection of the splendid backcountry of the Southwest.”
– Jan Willem Jansens

LA TIERRA TRAILS

Refurbishing a Santa Fe favorite

The La Tierra Trails offer a unique addition to the City of Santa Fe’s already diverse and sought-after outdoor recreational opportunities. Located on 1,500 acres of public land within the city limits and only two miles from downtown, the 25+ miles of recreational trails allows for a wide diversity of trail users including hikers, dog-walkers, trail-runners, mountain bikers and equestrians. Three technical areas provide locations for BMX riders, freeride mountain bikers, and ATV / MX riders to recreate in designated areas. New signs and the release of a detailed map will help guide users. New trailheads and trails will be installed by the end of 2012.

PROJECT UPDATES

The following 2012 La Tierra Trails Improvement Projects are in various stages of planning, design and construction:

- new trail signage, kiosk signage at trailheads, and trail Maps
- new La Cuchara Trailhead (near Unity Church) and Frijoles Trailhead (near Pipeline Road and Camino de los Montoyas)
- improved multi-use trail (from La Cuchara Trailhead to Frijoles Trailhead)
- new NM-599 underpass connector trail (from Camino de los Montoyas - south of NM-599 - to La Cuchara Trailhead)
- new access road to ATV/MX Park (Buckman Track) via NM-599 including signage, fencing, and a hiker/biker trailhead



SOUTHWEST TRAILS CONFERENCE

Part of IMBA's 2012 World Summit in Santa Fe

SFCT hosted the first Southwest Trails Conference in October at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center to promote trails and the benefits of human powered outdoor recreation. Charlie O'Leary opened the day-long conference by presenting important findings from a recent study the SFCT commissioned from Land and Culture Consulting titled Trails for the People and Economy of Santa Fe. Ernie Atencio, the author of the report, identified some strong connections between trail use, outdoor recreation and their direct health and economic benefits. **The summary is presented here; to download the full report, go to www.sfct.org/newsandmedia.**

inspiring. Representatives from Cuba and Gallup gave examples of how trails are transforming their communities. **For a full listing of speakers and to download copies of the presentations from the SW Trails Conference please visit www.sfct.org/trails**



Biking in the Cerrillos Hills;
photo by Michael DeYoung



"Trails for the People and Economy of Santa Fe"

Community, Health, and Economic Benefits of Trails

This special report, prepared for and presented at the Southwest Trails Conference, illustrates the importance and benefits of trails. A few of the key findings of the report:

Trails

- Trails are part of the human experience and our history in New Mexico
- Trails are part of our legacy of a unique natural and cultural landscape
- A majority of trail users say well-maintained trails affect their travel decisions

Health Benefits

- 36% of all American adults and 26% of New Mexican adults are obese
- Annual medical costs associated with obesity are \$147 billion
- Annual medical costs associated with cardiovascular disease are over \$400 billion each year
- Regular exercise could reduce annual national medical costs by as much as \$76.6 billion
- **Every \$1 investment in trails led to almost \$3 in direct medical benefit**

Economics

- Outdoor recreation contributes \$730 billion a year and 6.5 million jobs to the U.S. economy
- Biking alone contributes \$133 billion to the U.S. economy and supports 1.1 million jobs
- Outdoor recreation contributes \$3.8 billion and 47,000 jobs to New Mexico, 4.6% of our GDP.
- Biking in New Mexico contributes \$308.5 million annually
- Other trail sports contribute an additional \$634.2 million to New Mexico



Lindsey Mapes of Zia Rides
Presenting at the Southwest Trails Conference

The trails conference was the fourth in a series that SFCT has hosted over the last several years, but it was the first time that it was opened to a larger geographic audience that included participants from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, California and Montana. One of the pre-conferences to the larger multi-day International Mountain Bike Association's (IMBA) World Summit that ran the remainder of the week, Santa Fe had the opportunity to showcase some of its most popular trails including Dale Ball, La Tierra, and the Winsor Trail in the Santa Fe National Forest. Both conferences hosted a series of presentations that were not only educational, but highly

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL



Through the generosity of SFCT Board member Kent Little, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust was the beneficiary of a portion of the proceeds of the Banff Mountain Film Festival held in March at the Lensic Theatre. Sell-out crowds were treated to two nights of short films on climbing, skiing, kayaking, biking, culture, the environment and high adrenaline, heart-stopping base jumping.

With this captive audience, Little was able to draw attention to the ongoing work of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and to highlight the highly anticipated La Piedra Trail. His creative “\$3 buys a foot of trail” promotion generated excitement among this group of outdoor enthusiasts and garnered a significant amount of support for the project—both in monetary donations and volunteers willing to perform trail work.

“For seventeen years I have had the great opportunity to bring the Banff Mountain Film Festival to Santa Fe. It has always been my hope to utilize this event to the betterment of our outdoor community as well as raising awareness about our incredible natural and open spaces in Santa Fe,” said Little. “I’m proud to use these exciting two evenings of film for the advancement of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust.”

A program of The Banff Centre, The Banff Mountain Film Festival is one of the largest, and one of the most prestigious, mountain festivals in the world.

The Festival returns to Santa Fe March 18 and 19, 2013.

A LIGHTHAWK ADVENTURE

With ear to ear grins Jackson Buscher and Petra Zeiler, two of SFCT’s young supporters, disembarked from Merry Schroder’s sleek Cessna after an aerial tour of the Galisteo Basin. As part of SFCT’s Mission to protect Lands in Perpetuity we take to the sky annually with the generous support of the LightHawk Volunteer Pilot program to get a bird’s eye view of our protected properties. A heartfelt thanks to LightHawk and Merry Schroder for the donation of the flight.



**Merry Schroder, Petra Zeiler, Jackson Buscher
SFCT LIGHTHAWK FLIGHT 2012**

LightHawk flights afford SFCT a rare opportunity to monitor conservation properties from the air for potential violations. They also aid us in identifying important lands for future conservation. They allow us to make connections between important lands that can be missed if only working from the ground.

To learn more about LightHawk and their work, visit their website at: www.lighthawk.org



A TOUR OF THE GALISTEO SPRING

On a warm October day, we headed out to the Galisteo basin with a small group of curious people, archaeologists Wolky Toll, Steve Post and geologist Kirt Kempter. After a geological synopsis of the area courtesy of Kirt Kempter, we set out to the grid gardens, rock and gravel constructions from around 1200 A.D. that showed amazing innovation, as narrated by Wolky Toll. Along the way to the spring, we encountered what is colloquially known as “The Shrine,” a large rock outcropping inscribed with petroglyphs and stones worn smooth from the sharpening of stone tools and implements. Next we were on the spring itself, a short walk into an astounding oasis. Nestled in the hillside by the spring is a more modern ruin than those we had seen so far, a territorial period farmstead taking advantage of the nearby water source. What followed was a treasure hunt for the milieu of potsherds and other artifacts strewn about, narrated by Steve Post, who was able to tell us the when, where and how of every sherd we found.



Galisteo Spring. Photo: Gina Phillips-Lohne

The conservation of the Galisteo Spring area is a joint project between Commonweal Conservancy, the NM Department of Cultural Affairs and SFCT. A conservation agreement retired all the development rights from this 280 acre parcel in 2011 and will be protected in perpetuity.

11th ANNUAL STEWART UDALL LEGACY DINNER

honoring Janie Bingham and Rina Swentzell

A hard-working, determined woman dedicated to the Santa Fe Conservation Trust since its inception. A thoughtful, dynamic Native American author, architect and philosopher. Janie Bingham and Rina Swentzell were honored at the 11th Annual Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner held September 16, 2013. Former SFCT Board member Terri Smith, and last year's honoree, Jack Loeffler, introduced Janie and Rina, respectively, amusing the crowd with their anecdotes about the women they have come to know and admire over the years.

Joined by family and surrounded by friends spanning several decades of local conservation support, Janie acknowledged the many individuals who helped create and sustain the Santa Fe Conservation Trust since 1993. Among those recognized was Dale Ball, founder of SFCT and the driving force behind the creation of the Dale Ball trail system in Santa Fe. She also wistfully recognized the pivotal role that her close friend, the late Stewart Udall, played in the formation of the Trust.

Not even a leaf rustled in the courtyard of the National Historic Parks building when Rina spoke passionately of her love for and respect of Mother Nature and of a vital physical and spiritual connection to the earth. She explained the blowing wind - life's breath - is in all of us and in every thing.

2012 HONOREES



Janie Bingham

Rina Swentzell



"I grew up in Santa Clara Pueblo, and was told continuously that walking, moving, talking carefully was very important... because every step we take and every word that we speak has an impact on the whole of existence." - Rina Swentzell



Charlie O'Leary (Left) and artist Peter Hagen at the 2012 Udall Dinner

Local American landscape painter Peter Hagen created a work specifically for the event. Titled "Too Early to Swim," the oil on linen painting depicted one of SFCT's conservation projects on the Pecos River. The final bid far exceeded Hagen's expectations.

Proceeds from the dinner are used to support SFCT's programs dedicated to protecting open space, night skies and creating trails.

The 2013 Stewart Udall Legacy Dinner will be held Sunday, September 15, 2013.

HIGHER STANDARD

progress on the path to accreditation

In May, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust successfully registered to secure one of the limited slots available to apply for accreditation in 2013. SFCT is currently in the midst of preparing preliminary materials that will be evaluated in June 2013, with the final application materials due in September.

When accreditation is finally achieved, SFCT will be among the top ten percent of land trusts from Alaska to Florida to have been awarded this distinction, and the assurance that SFCT meets the highest standards for quality and that our conservation work is indeed permanent.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Five New Members Joined Santa Fe Conservation Trust in 2012



Bill Johnson is back on the Board after a five-year hiatus; he previously served from 1998-2007, including 2 terms as board chairman. He is a local family psychiatrist dedicated to serving lower income families through his work at Teambuilders-Zia Behavioral Health. His interests include trails advocacy, perennial & vegetable gardening & mountain biking.



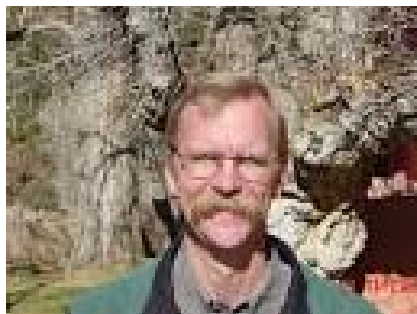
Joanna Prukop During her career in conservation, Joanna has worked for the NM Department of Game and Fish as regional supervisor and first female division chief; served as Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources; senior executive with the conservation organization Freedom To Roam. Joanna currently serves as one of two women in the Obama Administration's new 18-member Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. She is also on the National Conservation Leadership Institute Board of Directors, a life-time member of the Mule Deer Foundation, and a member of The Wildlife Society, the Wilderness Society, and the Boone & Crockett Club.

Joanna has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife Biology from Texas A&M University (summa cum laude) and a Master's of Science degree in Wildlife Science from Colorado State University.



Kim Udall grew up in the Phoenix area, and graduated from college at Arizona State University in 1968 and completed law school at Arizona State University in 1971. Kim and his wife, Sharyn, moved to Santa Fe in 1972. He is currently an attorney at Sommer, Udall & Sutin Law Firm. Kim's legal career consisted of civil litigation until the mid-90s, and since then he has limited his practice to mediation and arbitration. He has mediated over 3,400 cases, and has been the arbitrator in more than 280 cases. Kim is a former member of the Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe, the Sol y Lomas Homeowners Association, and the Arroyo Chamisa-Sol y Lomas Neighborhood Association.

Kim admits that Sharyn is the hiker in the family and that his "hiking" is usually limited to treadmills at local gyms, but loves getting out with the family when time permits. Kim and Sharyn have a married daughter and two wonderful granddaughters, ages two and four. Kim is looking forward to retirement in a few years, after which he hopes to return to his favorite "hobby"—teaching and tutoring reading to third and fourth graders at Carlos Gilbert Elementary School.



In Memory

David Henderson, 1952-2012, passed away in August of this year. A former staff and board member of SFCT, he was also an Audubon employee for 25 years, acting as Executive Director of Audubon New Mexico from 1985 to 2007. His life and his work in conservation will be sorely missed.

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La Piedra Workday. Photo: Billy Johnson

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Galisteo Spring Tour: Wolky Toll, Archeologist

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



Galisteo Spring Tour: Steve Post, Archeologist

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