



# KSB eNews Today

*Celebrating Our First 50 Years*

April 12, 2022



Dear KSB Friends,

## **KSB PRESERVING THE WONDER™ SPEAKER SERIES**

**WHAT ABOUT WATER IN THE VERDE VALLEY?  
WITH DR. NANCY STEELE**

**WEDNESDAY, April 13, 2022 5:00 p.m.**

*Please Note, this is a LIVE and ZOOM presentation.*

**To print or read this article as a pdf Click Here.**

Join Keep Sedona Beautiful on Wednesday, April 13, at 5:00 p.m. for its monthly Preserving the Wonder™ Speaker Series. This event will be held both live at 360 Brewer Road in Sedona and virtual via Zoom. Please visit the KSB website, [www.keepsedonabeautiful.org](http://www.keepsedonabeautiful.org) for details.

Dr. Nancy Steele, Executive Director of Friends of the Verde River will speak about water issues in the Verde Valley. **A recent study published in Nature Climate Change** reported that the current drought in the southwest was the driest 22-year period since 800 CE. For the Verde, stream gage data shows summertime flows have declined significantly over the last thirty years. What about water quality? One finding from the 2020 Verde Report Card

was that we are lacking much information about water quality throughout the Verde system. This talk will focus on what we do know, what we don't know, and what we are doing to better understand water in the Verde Valley.

Dr. Nancy Steele is the executive director of Friends of the Verde River, which is dedicated to working collaboratively for a healthy, flowing Verde River system. Before joining Friends of the Verde River in 2018, Nancy was the Executive Director of the Council for Watershed Health in Los Angeles for ten years. She co-founded the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy in 2000, serving as President/CEO through 2011 and as Director of Conservation in 2017.

Nancy earned her doctorate in Environmental Science and Engineering from University of California, Los Angeles. She has a degree in zoology from Arizona State University; and a biology degree from Occidental College. Nancy was born and raised in Phoenix and loves being outdoors, especially in the southwest. She and her husband have operated an urban beekeeping business for 40 years.

Keep Sedona Beautiful's monthly Preserving the Wonder™ Speaker Series focuses on presenting a diversity of programs relevant to the unique environment of our region. For more information about Keep Sedona Beautiful, please visit <http://www.keepsedonabeautiful.org/>.

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## A direct and compelling headline



## APRIL IS WATER AWARENESS MONTH

**[To print or read this article as a pdf Click Here.](#)**

Water Awareness Month, as described by the Arizona Department of Water Resources, is not only dedicated to promoting Arizona's success in managing its water resources, it also is intended to encourage Arizonans to be conscious of every precious drop. After all, water is life to us all.

### DID YOU KNOW WE NOW LIVE ON BORROWED WATER?

Just what does borrowed water mean? In the past when the West was settled, precipitation that feeds our water resources could sustain the needs of Arizona's population and agriculture. We now borrow water from the reservoirs we built by damming rivers, and we borrow water from the Colorado river and from Arizona's few remaining rivers flowing year-round. We also borrow water from the aquifers below ground, sinking wells deeper and deeper to pump groundwater.

Arizona law recognizes two types of water: surface water (streams, creeks, rivers, lakes) and ground water. Most perennial streams and creeks no longer flow year-round and ground water levels have diminished considerably during the last 50 years. Use of surface water is adjudicated by the state, based on a seniority system: the water needs of the property owners who settled first along the surface water's banks have to be satisfied before the needs of those

who settled there later, regardless of whether those later settlers are upstream or downstream of the senior water claimant. In this way, surface water rights are quantified.

In contrast, ground water rights are not quantified except in special Active Management Areas (AMAs) and a few other special water districts. There are no AMAs in the Verde Valley. A property owner here has the right to sink a well to whatever depth they can afford, and pump unlimited quantity of water as long as it is used for a 'beneficial' purpose. The assumption has been that rain and snow would replenish these groundwater resources forever. This no longer is true.

### HOW TO BECOME MORE WATER AWARE

Water is life to us all. Please take a moment to read [The Water Awareness Month Tips](#) and choose how you use our most precious resource in your home and community.

[Click Here to view pdf and to print.](#)

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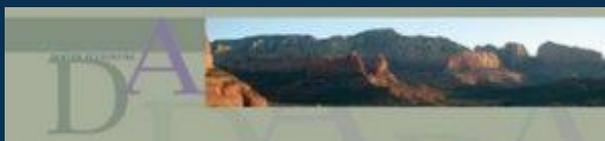
## WHAT WILL THE NEXT 50 YEARS LOOK LIKE?

- Will there be dark skies?
- Will there be uncontrolled development?
- Will the Verde River still flow?
- Will the roadways be free of Litter?



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