

FIELD NOTES

FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN ARIZONA

CELEBRATING OUR 50TH YEAR

INSIDE

Wine & Water:
*Market Approaches to
Managing Our Water*

Ian Tomlinson:
Grassland Manager

The Nature
Conservancy 

Protecting nature. Preserving life.

FALL 2016



We All Have a Stake in Our Water Future

Dear Friends,

A few years ago, business and government leaders from around the world ranked the problems facing the world. Of all the things they considered, water ranked at the top. Water.

In a desert, water is even more precious. We should never take it for granted.

Arizona is facing shortages from the Colorado River. Many groups are working on a plan to get the system in balance. It will mean cuts in water allocation for some users.

The Salt and Verde rivers, which supply water for millions of Arizonans, have seen their flows cut by 35 percent over the last 20 years of drought. Large wildfires could pollute the water and further reduce flows. We can't take this water supply for granted.

Securing our water for the future will take cooperation, creativity and incentives. To that end, the Conservancy and our partners have organized a water fund that will allow communities, businesses, organizations and individuals to invest in the Salt and Verde rivers.

A related effort is a voluntary water exchange, which would allow those who want to reduce the impact of their groundwater pumping to acquire water "credits" from other

users who temporarily or permanently don't need the water. The Verde River Exchange is just getting started and offers real promise. (See "Wine & Water for the Future," page 4.)

These new approaches build on significant efforts already underway in the Verde Valley. Last winter, a farmer who was using flood irrigation installed drip irrigation. Now he uses 40 percent less water and has doubled his production of watermelons. And, no pollution runs back into the river. Makes me smile.

These efforts send an important message that our water supply is not endless and we need to find ways to manage it better.

We are meeting with cities that rely on the Salt and Verde rivers to determine their interest in investing in the water fund along with foundations and companies. And our members are stepping up in ways that really inspire us. (See "Investing in Arizona's Water," page 8.)

Thank you for your amazing support. We couldn't do this without you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Graham, *State Director*

FIELD NOTES

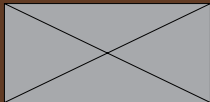
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COVER IMAGE Leaves on Oak Creek
© Paul Gill



DANIEL STELLAR

Finding the “Sweet Spot” in Arizona

This year, Dan Stellar joined The Nature Conservancy in Arizona as its deputy state director based in Phoenix.

Field Notes asked Dan to share his passions and what he hopes to achieve in his work.

FN. Tell us about where you grew up and about your family.



I grew up outside of Boston, Massachusetts. I have one sister who is 3 years younger. My family is concentrated in the Boston area — my grandparents, and all my aunts and uncles, all lived there when I was growing up. We have a fairly small family, but we are very close. When I was growing up, my grandparents, especially, were a big part of my life.

When I was in high school I started doing more outdoor activities, mostly in northern New England, particularly hiking and camping in New Hampshire and Maine. After I graduated from high school, I spent quite a bit of time in Vermont, which in many ways I consider my “second home.”

I’m not sure I’ve ever completely figured that out! At different times the list has included firefighter, professor of mathematics and philosophy, baker, police officer, chef, lawyer and professional outdoor adventurer.

However, in all seriousness, I focused on environmental policy in graduate school, and I’ve always been drawn to the nonprofit sector, working in management positions in environmental organizations.

I’ve always had huge respect for The Nature Conservancy, so I was thrilled to be able to join it earlier this year.

FN. What did you want to be when you “grew up?”



FN. What is the one thing about you that you are most proud of?



On a professional level, I’ve been able to work on projects that have had a real, demonstrable influence on people’s lives. When I worked for the Earth Institute at Columbia University, I was privileged to be part of sustainable international development projects that brought reliable, clean water to dozens of villages in rural Brazil. I was just one member of a large team, but I still feel proud of that work and the impact it continues to have on people’s lives. We worked closely with the state government in designing it so that the work could continue to evolve and have a much greater impact than just the original villages we worked with.

On a personal level, I am a new father, so I take inordinate pride in the fact that my 10-month-old son can now clap and wave.



FN. What excites you most about working for The Nature Conservancy in Arizona?



In many ways this is my dream job. It's the perfect sweet spot for me, working on issues I am passionate about for an organization whose values resonate strongly with me. I love working with the conservation team and being on the front lines of designing and implementing solutions to pressing conservation challenges.

I'm still new to Arizona, but I'm amazed by how environmentally and geographically diverse this state is. I'm excited about the challenge of working in this extreme environment, the hot, dry climate and minimal precipitation, and a large and growing population. If we can demonstrate sustainable solutions here that support both nature and people, I think we can do it anywhere.

My overall goal is to support the conservation and science teams in being as effective as possible. I think where I can add the most value is by facilitating communication and ensuring staff have the resources and tools they need to achieve results at the highest level. The chapter has such an impressive history, and I look forward to leveraging that great work as we seek solutions to some of the most pressing environmental challenges in our region.

FN. What goals do you have in your position?

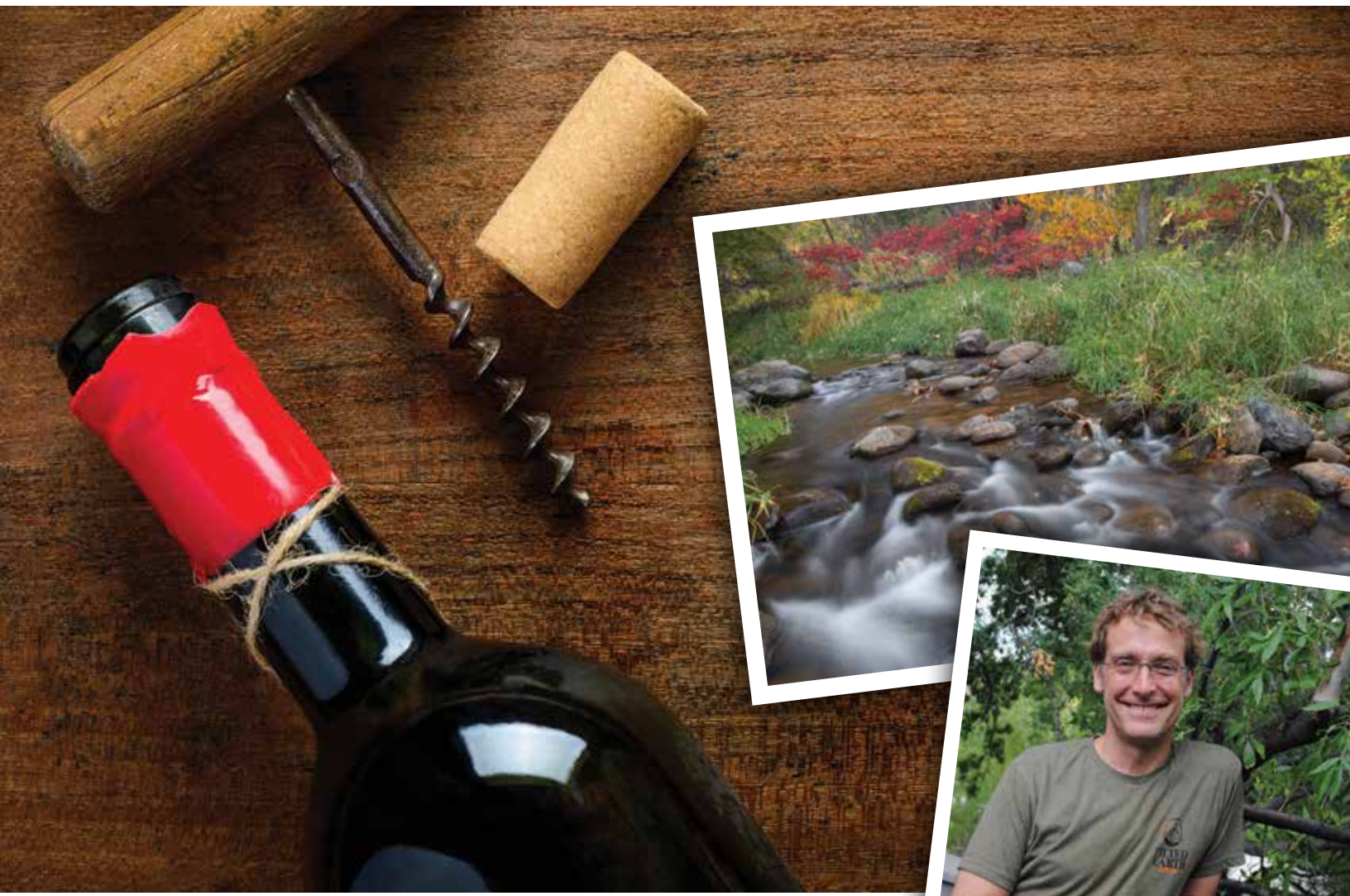


FN. What are the biggest challenges facing conservation?



It's an interesting question, because I think the answers are different at different scales. I think most conservation challenges have to do with expanding populations and growing economies putting pressure on natural resources. This manifests in all types of ways, from greenhouse gas emissions due to increased vehicle ownership internationally, to the loss of agricultural land and water flows here in Arizona due to increasing development. In my opinion, most conservation challenges are about finding ways for human populations to grow and thrive while also supporting nature.

On a different level, climate change is a challenge that can't be overstated. While the science is complex, the basics are clear and in a sense we know what we have to do to avoid the worst impacts. However, figuring how to implement those solutions from an economic, social and political perspective is enormously difficult, especially given the international dynamic of the challenge.



Wine & Water

FOR THE FUTURE

Market Solutions are Natural Solutions for the Verde River

The Verde Valley of north-central Arizona doesn't boast vineyards of the extent or tradition of those of the Napa or the Willamette valleys.

Not yet, anyway. If Eric Glomski has anything to say about it, those growers will soon take notice of what he's up to on the banks of Oak Creek, making fine wines produced from water brokered through a new exchange.

A former instructor at Prescott College and longtime resident of the Verde Valley, Glomski has operated Page Springs Cellars for a dozen years. So he was intrigued, he said, when a group called Friends of Verde River Greenway approached him with an idea to offset the impacts of his groundwater use by reducing surface water use on a nearby agricultural site that now lies fallow: a water exchange, in other words.

“I was an easy sell,” said Glomski, who has had extensive experience in river restoration. “I’ve always loved the rivers of Arizona, and I’ve always recognized that we need to get a better handle on water use in order to keep those rivers flowing.”

Desert rivers like the Verde, of which Oak Creek is a tributary, suffer from an imbalance of supply and demand: Not enough water and too many people who want a share of it. In Arizona, water drives a huge body of law and contention, as people scramble to get what they think is rightly theirs,

giving rise to an old Western saying: “Whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting over.”

Kim Schonek with The Nature Conservancy and her colleagues at

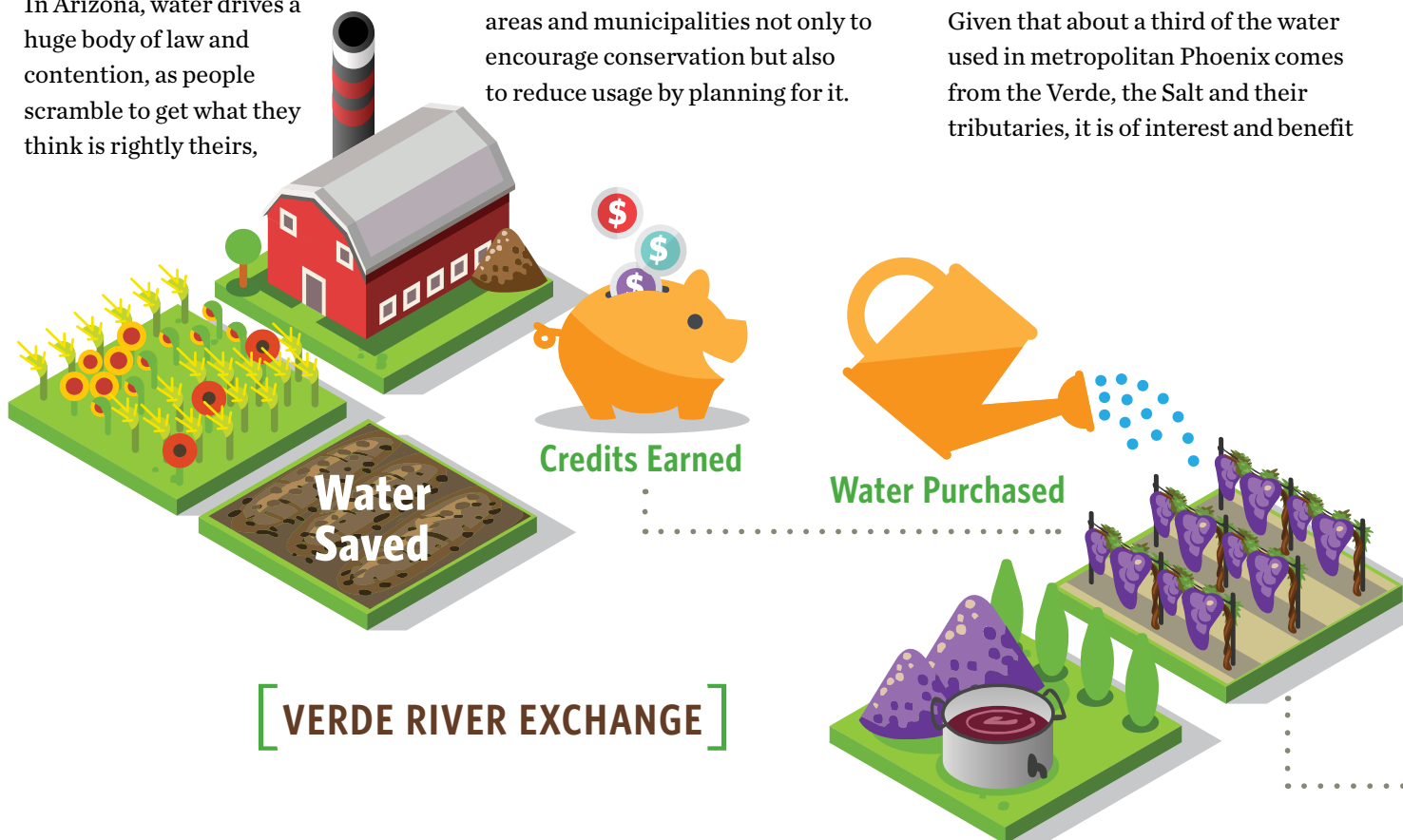
Through the Verde River Exchange, a surface water user can be compensated for using less water in a given year without giving up the rights to that water for the following year.

Friends of Verde River Greenway saw a better way than endless fighting. Along with other partners, they worked to develop the Verde River Exchange Water Offset Program. Two vineyard owners, including Glomski, participated in the exchange by purchasing the offset credits. Drawing on her experiences in her native Oregon, Schonek formulated a larger, encompassing plan for a network based on voluntary, flexible water use agreements that would incorporate shareholders from agriculture, industry, residential areas and municipalities not only to encourage conservation but also to reduce usage by planning for it.

Through the Verde River Exchange, a surface water user can be compensated for using less water in a given year without giving up the rights to that water for the following year. The unused portion of water is the basis

for an “offset credit” that can be purchased by a nearby groundwater user through the Exchange. In this way, groundwater users can mitigate, or offset, their impact on the river. The Exchange is completely voluntary but provides a mechanism for water users to make meaningful choices about river protection in their community.

The newly founded **Salt and Verde Rivers Water Fund** is a larger clearinghouse for this type of free-market, cooperative stewardship. It works from a simple principle: Given that about a third of the water used in metropolitan Phoenix comes from the Verde, the Salt and their tributaries, it is of interest and benefit



for the downstream Phoenix users to encourage good conservation measures upstream.

Some of those measures are starting to happen: Upstream farmers, with Conservancy support, are putting water-efficient irrigation systems in place and growing water-efficient crops. The Conservancy and local partners are working to improve the health of the riverside corridor. Communities have also stepped up to implement projects including water re-use, conservation and aquifer replenishment.

The Water Fund is in its beginning stages, helped along by seed money from PepsiCo, REI, Boeing and other major contributors. So far, the Fund has about \$600,000 in operating capital.

The Verde River Exchange, with its pilot water-for-wine exchange, supports the goals of the Water Fund. Water users in the upper Verde Valley can exchange “offset credits,” buying and selling credits created from agricultural properties that are lying fallow or have been retired, temporarily or permanently. Sellers are compensated near market level for relinquishing water, while buyers pay a little more than market level for their purchases, allowing the Verde River



virtues of the Verde River Exchange. So far, the Page Springs Cellars is making good use of the water offset through credits sold by a landowner who

did not irrigate a small pasture that he could afford to let sit out this year: Supply and demand, and local needs in perfect harmony.

“This is just the seed,” said Glomski. “We still have a large tree to grow.”

In the shade of that future tree lies the wonderful prospect that one day soon, in Arizona, wine will be for drinking, and water won’t be something we have to fight over.

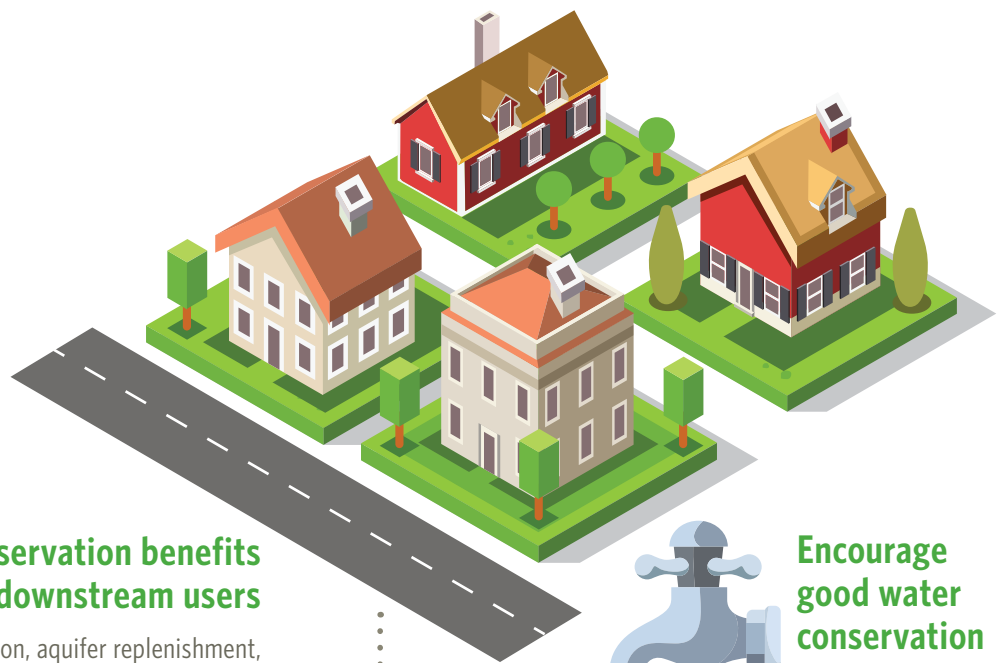
— Gregory McNamee

Exchange a cushion to cover a portion of transaction costs while doing its work. There’s much more to do.

“Paying people not to use water is easy,” said Kim Schonek. “Getting people to be real leaders in the watershed is harder—and revolutionary, and very exciting!”

Eric Glomski, enthusiastic from the start, is one such leader. He’s spreading the word to his neighbors about the

So far, Page Springs Cellars is making good use of the water offset through credits sold by a landowner who did not irrigate a small pasture that he could afford to let sit out this year: Supply and demand, and local needs in perfect harmony.



Water conservation benefits upstream and downstream users

Watershed Services: water purification, aquifer replenishment, increased river flows, erosion minimization



Encourage good water conservation



Investing in Arizona's Water

When Dale and Paula Keyes visited Arizona for the first time in the late '70s, they were “star-struck.”

“We camped near some Indian ruins in Canyon de Chelly, and we couldn’t go to sleep. The stars were so brilliant,” said Dale.

He and Paula were East Coasters. They grew up in New York, she in Brooklyn and he in upstate New York. High school sweethearts, they married in 1967 and Dale earned degrees in chemistry, biochemistry, urban and regional planning, and geography. Paula has degrees in both elementary and adult education. When they visited Arizona, they were living in Washington, D.C., where Dale was working in the energy and environmental fields.

Dale worked with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, part of the Udall Foundation in Tucson. “Like The Nature Conservancy, our focus with the Udall Foundation was collaborating with stakeholders, because people are key to maintaining a good environment.”

He served on several environmental advisory committees for Pima County and the Pima Association of Governments. He also was a member of the Catalina Foothills School District Governing Board, and is active in the current campaign for the Tucson School District.

Paula worked in education both as a teacher and an evaluator of federal education programs. She also owned and operated an elder-care facility.



Today, in retirement, the Keyes spend lots of time hiking, biking and exploring. They often visit their cabin on Mount Lemmon in the Catalina Mountains near Tucson.

Getting outdoors and living life to the fullest is paramount for Dale and Paula, especially as they cope with and manage Paula’s Alzheimer’s disease.

“My recommendation to others facing this illness is to not give up,” said Dale. “Keep doing the

things that you enjoy and that make you healthy for as long as possible.”

In part, facing these issues helped them think about their legacy and the world they wish to leave to their son and daughter and three grandchildren.

Dale and Paula have participated in Nature Conservancy trips in Arizona for those who are Legacy Club* or Silverleaf Society* members. They “immensely enjoyed” a recent excursion to the San Rafael Valley, where the Conservancy has worked to protect a large percentage of that valley’s ranchlands.

But those stars, and the Arizona landscape, maintained a hold on them, calling them West.

In 1984 they moved to Tucson. “We took a chance and bought some land in the Foothills. I had taken a home-building class in Maine, so we decided to build a home. Paula was the construction manager,” he said.

Education and the environment have long been a focus for the Keyes, who are 32-year members of The Nature Conservancy.

Another trip to the Verde Valley was particularly persuasive in reinforcing their support for the Conservancy's work. They visited the Conservancy's Shield Ranch and Hauser Farms, an important collaborator with the Conservancy. The Hausers use efficient irrigation and are part of a ditch conservation effort aimed at reducing water use to keep more water in the Verde River.

"We came home with corn and watermelon" from Hauser Farms, said Dale. "We were pleased to support folks who are working to reduce water use. It sold us completely."

They also learned about the Conservancy's launch of the new Salt and Verde Rivers Water Fund, which involves getting support from downstream water users to fund water-efficiency and conservation efforts upstream. The fund is seeking businesses, governments and citizens to support conservation efforts, such as those by the irrigators along the Verde River who are reducing their water use.

"We came home with corn and watermelon" from Hauser Farms, said Dale. "We were pleased to support folks who are working to reduce water use. It sold us completely."

"This is such a great concept," said Dale. "The Verde and Salt river watersheds allow Phoenix to exist. It's great to work with folks on the ground, who are using new technologies to reduce water use."

Upon learning more about the water fund, the Keyes made a substantial contribution to the effort by making a distribution from their IRA to the Conservancy. A federal provision signed last year by President Obama allows individuals ages 70 and a half and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRAs tax-free.

In so doing, the Keyes fulfilled a portion of the match for the recent federal grant to the Verde River collaborative effort focused on conservation and land protection.

"We want to leave a legacy to do those things we believe in, to support this innovative model. We were able to donate our IRA distribution, and move it forward. It was a wonderful opportunity."

— Tana Kappel

Put Your IRA to Work for Nature

The IRA Charitable Rollover provision permits distributions from traditional or Roth IRAs to qualified public charities and private operating foundations. There is no income tax penalty for such charitable gifts.

Learn more by contacting Mark Ryan at The Nature Conservancy. 520-547-3429 or mdryan@tnc.org.

*Legacy Club members have The Nature Conservancy in their estate plans.

*Silverleaf Society members have been Nature Conservancy members for at least 25 years.





IAN TOMLINSON

Managing the Grasslands of the Historic Empire Valley

An hour south of Tucson, the rolling, curving foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains give way to swales of grass, newly green from prolific monsoons. A great valley spreads out in the distance, flanked by the sway-backed Mustang Mountains in the southeast. A highway sign proclaims this a “scenic byway.”

The Empire Valley is iconic ranch country immortalized in several John Wayne movies. These days the leading man is rancher Ian Tomlinson, burly, blue-eyed and tall in the saddle. On any given day you might see him riding herd on his cattle, accompanied by dogs and hired hands.

“We’re always happy to be on horseback,” said the father of two young daughters. But that’s not all there is to ranching.

A big part of his day is spent as an ecosystems manager of almost a quarter of a million acres of grassland — home to threatened and endangered wildlife and the watershed that cleanses and filters water for the city of Tucson.

At a time when some in the ranching community view government agencies and conservation groups as enemies of ranching, Ian embraces collaboration and conservation. He

works closely with a group of scientists, agency reps and conservationists – including The Nature Conservancy – that evaluates management of the 45,000-acre Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, where he holds grazing leases with the Bureau of Land Management. He is also taking steps to keep his family ranch from ever being subdivided or developed.

“We’re all adapting to a changing marketplace and changing programs. I think it’s smart to collaborate and to do things the right way,” he said.

None of this – being a rancher or a conservationist – was in Ian’s life plan. He spent part of his childhood on his grandparents’ Vera Earl Ranch in the valley, but at age 6 his family moved to Seattle. He spent years there going to school and college, where, he said, he got “over-educated,” and received his law degree.

“I never thought I’d be a rancher,” he said. But in 2001, after Ian’s grandmother passed away, he and his wife Kristin moved back to the Vera Earl. Ian became a part-time rancher and hung up his shingle as a lawyer.

In 2007, they became full-time ranchers. “We felt we needed to expand. So, we acquired the lease on the Empire Ranch, then entered into a partnership with the Sands Ranch.”

He also manages another ranch in the San Pedro River watershed, the Four Spear Ranch, as well as ranch operations in Texas and Wyoming.

Ranching, said Ian, is as much about managing risk as it is about being a cowboy.

A major risk is the weather, and in southern Arizona that often means drought. “You can make the best management plan and if Mother Nature doesn’t cooperate, well, you need to have contingencies in place.”

This year’s monsoon rains have given the grassland a nice boost. In recent years, warmer falls have extended the growing seasons, which has meant more grass for his cattle.

Another uncertainty for ranchers is whether they can keep their land in ranching. What if the other ranch owners want to sell out – given financial pressures to develop the land?

The Vera Earl is owned by Ian’s family, his mother and several siblings who live in Oregon and Colorado. “When you have an extended family with an ownership interest in the ranch, there is always a risk that they will want to divide it up to sell their portion or sell it outright.”

To keep the ranch intact, while compensating his extended family, he worked with the Conservancy on conservation easements, which pay the Tomlinsons for giving up the ranch development rights. Funding came from the Army’s

“Conservation easements are a great tool to manage inter-generational ranching,” Ian said. “And they’re flexible to meet the needs of both the buyer and seller...”

Compatible Use Buffer program, which is interested in maintaining airspace for its drone testing program.

The first conservation easement, which covers 800 acres, is one of several he plans to do with the Conservancy, ultimately protecting 80 percent of the ranch’s deeded acreage, about 6,500 acres.



“Conservation easements are a great tool to manage inter-generational ranching,” he said. “And they’re flexible to meet the needs of both the buyer and seller. A lot of people think conservation easements are something you’re forced to do. That’s not the case.”

The easement also accomplishes a public goal: that of limiting development in a valley whose intact grasslands are an important watershed that filters groundwater for the city



of Tucson. The Vera Earl is a long rectangular property that connects National Forest land to the BLM property. The property crosses Highway 83 just north of Sonoita, where homes, businesses, ranchettes and wineries dot the horizon.

“This and future easements on the ranch will significantly curtail development on the south end of this exceptional grassland, and protect an important wildlife corridor,” said Peter Warren, who negotiated the deal for the Conservancy.

A big chunk of that grassland, Las Cienegas NCA, is also important to those who enjoy our public lands. Las Cienegas is home to prairie dogs, pronghorn antelope and many bird and fish species.

It is also home of the Empire Ranch, whose buildings and history are being preserved with help from the Empire Ranch Foundation.

When Ian saddles up and rides, he brings to life the ranching history of the land. A potential downside is that his cattle management is always under the public microscope. A tricky dance for many ranchers is showing they are grazing cattle in a way that is not harmful to the land.

To that end, Ian works with a collaborative group convened by the BLM that tracks grassland health within the framework of a resource management plan. A goal of the plan is to maintain 70 percent ground cover dominated by native grasses.

When there is drought, Ian has to match the numbers of his cattle with the grass growth. He also works with the group to evaluate erosion, wildlife and other land issues.

“He’s flexible and engaged, and he sees value in the process,” said Karen Simms, the BLM’s Las Cienegas project manager. “He participates in collecting data about grass and is very open about working with the group to adjust cattle numbers and their movements.”

Ian and the group also work to improve the wildlife habitat. For the water-dependent species, Ian erected fences and separate watering systems for his cattle. Those efforts help protect native fish including Gila topminnow and desert pupfish, Chiricahua leopard frogs, Mexican gartersnakes and a rare plant, the Huachuca water umbel.

“Our job is to be a good tenant,” said Ian, of his arrangement with the BLM. “And it’s very helpful to have this active working relationship involved in maintaining a healthy landscape.”

The Conservancy’s Gita Bodner, who provides science guidance to the collaborative, adds: “Open, science-based problem-solving enables others to learn from what’s working here.”

Among those learning what’s working are area high-school students in the Youth Engaged Stewardship program, now in its third year. The students are designing conservation projects at Las Cienegas. Ian has helped the group by building exclosures — areas fenced off to determine the impacts of grazing on the restoration areas.

“Our job is to be a good tenant,” said Ian, of his arrangement with the BLM. “And it’s very helpful to have this active working relationship involved in maintaining a healthy landscape.”

“I come over and speak to the group every year about what I do here. They’re all very engaged and eager to learn what I do as a rancher and what things are occurring here on the land.”

About his role as a conservationist: “I have a great working relationship with The Nature Conservancy, the BLM, the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies.”

“I believe in collaboration. I think that makes me a better cowman, rancher and land steward.”

— Tana Kappel

CONSERVATION BRIEFS



Bighorn Sheep Like the Muleshoe Burn

One indication of the benefits of fire on the landscape is when wildlife flock to newly burned areas. In early 2016, after a 22,000-acre controlled burn mostly within the Muleshoe Ranch Cooperative Management Area, desert bighorn

sheep were attracted to newly burned areas.

The burn was part of a FireScope plan to burn 137,000 acres of the Coronado National Forest within the Galiuro Mountains over the next nine years. The Nature Conservancy helped draft the plan, the goals of which are to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, enhance wildlife habitat, protect private property and restore the natural fire regime to the land.

software that enables them to “digitally mark” treatment areas with site-specific prescriptions. Harvesters upload these maps into their own tablets in harvesting equipment.

The Nature Conservancy found, as part of pilot tests at two sites, that digital marking was faster than painting by five-fold and reduced per-acre costs from \$40 to \$16. Also, the results provided clearer representations of tree groups and openings.

Forest Restoration Goes Digital

In with computer tablets, out with paint! This year, the U.S. Forest Service will send its restoration crews into the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests with tablets equipped with mapping





The Conservancy is sharing this technology with other northern Arizona forests as well as large forest restoration collaboratives across the country. Use of this technology will accelerate the pace and scale of forest restoration in the country.



Fishy Business on the Lower Colorado

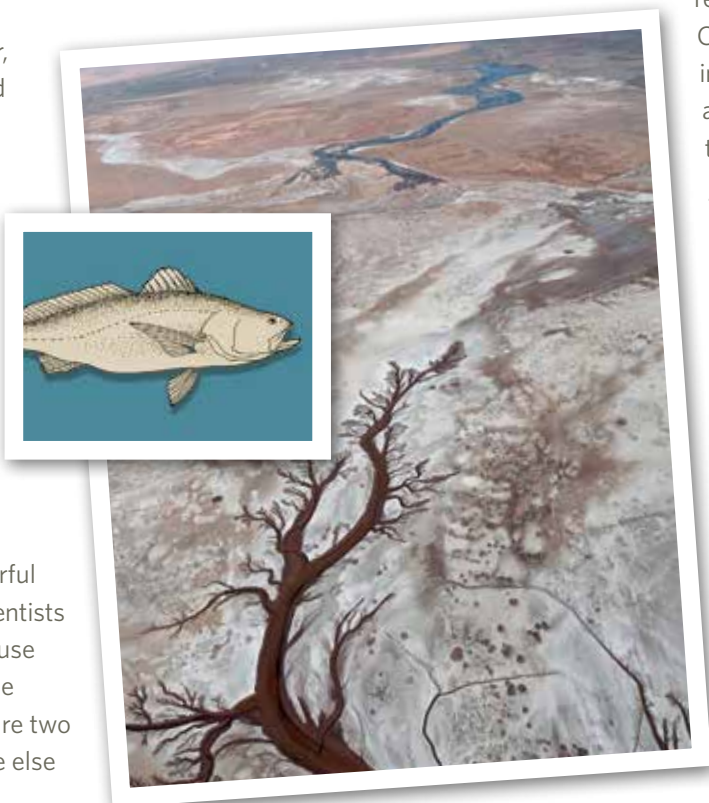
In 2014, a “pulse flow” of Colorado River water reached the sea for the first time in decades. That pulse flow, combined with follow-up releases of water, helped produce cottonwood and willow seedlings in areas of restoration along the lower river.

The Nature Conservancy, the Sonoran Institute and others are continuing efforts to increase Colorado River flows and restore the estuary where the river meets the Gulf of California.

This year brought a wonderful surprise when Mexican scientists found that native fish, still use the existing remnants of the historic estuary. Included are two fish species found nowhere else

on the planet. In addition, two of the most important commercial fish species in the northern Gulf of California, totoaba and corvina, that historically grew much faster in the low-salinity conditions of the estuary, were also found in the area.

Successfully restoring the estuary, by returning at least a portion of the Colorado River’s flows to the ocean, could revive the fisheries for human communities around the Gulf, in addition to rebuilding this ecosystem of global significance.



Hassayampa: Partnering to Enhance a Gem in the Desert

By the end of 2016, The Nature Conservancy’s Hassayampa River Preserve will have a new partner and part owner: Maricopa County’s Parks and Recreation Department.

The Conservancy is transferring ownership of approximately 77 acres, which encompass the Visitor Center and Palm Lake, to Maricopa County. The County will lease most of the remaining 700-plus acres. The Conservancy will continue its involvement at the preserve through a conservation agreement with the County.

“The Nature Conservancy will continue to be involved in protecting this preserve’s amazing natural values,” said Patrick Graham, the Conservancy’s state director. “By working together with the County we can offer so much more to the nature-loving public.”

The Conservancy purchased the preserve near Wickenburg in 1986 because of its unique ecological features, the main one being the Hassayampa River, which flows underground for around 100 miles before surfacing at the preserve.





Ultimately, Hassayampa will serve as the gateway to the Bureau of Land Management's 71,000-acre Vulture Mountains Recreation Area, which is west and south of the preserve. In the future, that recreation area will be cooperatively managed by Maricopa County and the BLM.

"Our team has been working closely with Nature Conservancy staff for

the past year to ensure that we have an in-depth understanding of the Hassayampa River Preserve's ecosystem, and a clear understanding of the experience preferences of preserve visitors. We are looking forward to a smooth transition as

we begin overseeing the daily operations and management of the preserve, and believe we can continue to enhance both the environment and visitor experience," said R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director.

50TH ANNIVERSARY POSTERS FOR SALE:



The Conservancy is selling posters based on Shonto Begay's painting of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. The Conservancy commissioned the painting to mark its 50th anniversary this year. Posters are for sale for \$20 plus \$5 for postage and handling.

Shonto, a professional artist since 1983, resides in Flagstaff. His award-winning

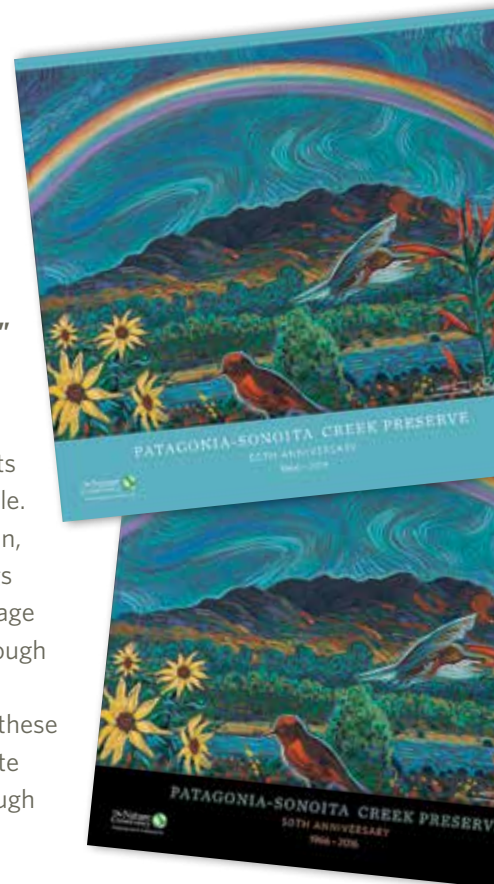
work has been featured in more than 50 shows in galleries and museums, including Phoenix Art Museum, the Museum of Northern Arizona, Heard Museum in Phoenix, The Smithsonian Institution and Arizona State Museum.

Shonto, who holds fine arts degrees from California College of Arts and Crafts and the Institute of American Indian Arts, worked as a National Park Service ranger for 10 years at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming and Navajo National Monument in Arizona.

"I have always had a love for art. From a very young age, I found excitement in the experience of drawing," said Shonto.

"I was born in a hogan in Shonto, Arizona. My parents are traditional Navajo people. My father is a medicine man, and my mother weaves rugs and herds sheep. My message is simple. Build bridges through the arts and stories of your culture, validate and share these visions and voices. Celebrate your personal identity through the arts."

To order your posters, please contact Laurie Nez-Butler at 520-309-4813 or laurie.nez-butler@tnc.org.



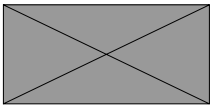


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