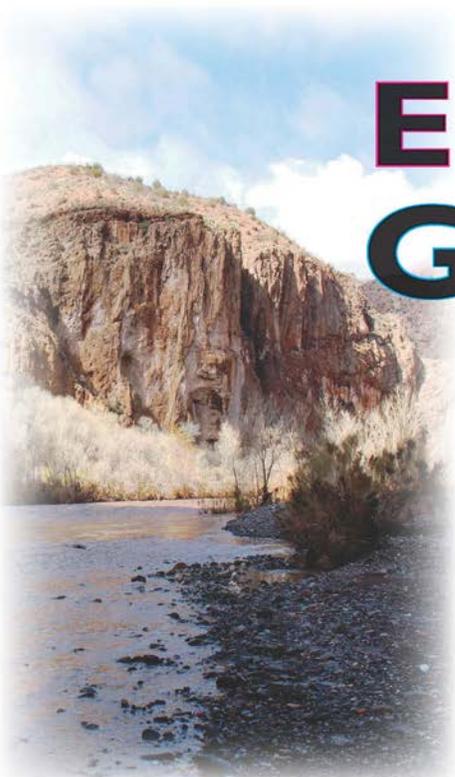


The Watershed Assessment is a two-year project funded by the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative program. The project has two primary phases. Throughout 2013, the WRRRC, in cooperation with its partners in the watershed, will develop an assessment of baseline watershed conditions for the entire Upper Gila River Watershed. The baseline assessment is a starting point. It will present key information about existing watershed conditions at the landscape scale – current land uses, trends in precipitation and stream flow, current runoff and erosion patterns, etc. A stakeholder committee will provide advice on important resource issues and concerns that should be included in the baseline assessment.

The second phase of the project, beginning in late 2013, will look beyond current conditions

to potential future watershed conditions. Through stakeholder engagement, we will identify several scenarios of future water use, land use, and management changes. The WRRRC will evaluate stakeholder-generated scenarios for their impact on water resources in the watershed.

The project is designed to be driven by the community – several local partners have agreed to provide in-kind contributions of time and expertise. GWP is taking a leading role bringing stakeholders to the table to participate in both phases of the project. A primary goal of the project is to respond directly to the issues and concerns of those who live in and depend upon the Upper Gila River Watershed. We are excited for the opportunity to work with you over the next two years!



Enroll today for Spring 2013 in Eastern Arizona College's

Ecology of the Gila River

Short-term BIO 130, section #5776, 3 credits
with instructor **Bill Brandau** and visiting instructors from U of A

This course meets the training requirements of the Arizona, Graham County, and Greenlee County Cooperative Extension Master Watershed Steward Programs.

The study will be of biotic and abiotic functions of a watershed, the benefits and uses of natural resources, and the impacts of the socioeconomic concerns and activities of the community.

Class meets on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Circle D Ranch Barn at Discovery Park Campus. Class also meets on the following Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: January 26, March 9 and April 5.

To register, call the EAC Records and Registration Office at 928-428-8270, or reach us on the web at www.eac.edu.

Course begins January 17th—enroll now! Tuition is \$160. There is no tuition charge for students age 55+. Limited scholarships are available—call 928-428-2611 for info.

Funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality



Project and Program Status Report

AWPF and USFW Partners Eagle Creek Riparian Restoration at Filleman Crossing Project – Souder, Miller & Associates completed the 404 permit application and submitted it to the Army Corps of Engineers in November of 2012. They have also completed the field surveying and they are completing the topographic drawing of the site. In addition, they have started work on the design drawings for the riprap crossing.

ADEQ Education Master Watershed Steward Program, Phase II – Preparations are being made for the next semester's class, which starts January 15

The AWPF Gila River Water Conservation Education Program –

As the holidays approached it was time to suspend the Water Counts program as we did not wish to interfere with families focus for the season. We have great plans for moving forward and project early March as a good start time as people will no longer be focused on freezing pipes and will be planning on spring planting.

The BOR Graham County Fairgrounds Project –This project included the replacement of inefficient toilets, sinks, and urinals, as well as updating the aging sprinkler system. Fairground project is proceeding. The bids came in at a much lower cost than anticipated and for less funds we were able to purchase water efficient toilets, urinals and automatic-shutoff faucets. They should arrive next week and installation will begin immediately. Bids are now being taken for the sprinkler system needs and we anticipate a decision shortly.

The Walton Family Foundation Upper Gila Watershed Riparian Restoration Project – The project manager, Marguerite Rodriguez, is on board, and we will be advertising for a plant propagation manager in the next few weeks. We will be working with Eastern Arizona College to install the greenhouse and native plant nursery at EAC's Discovery Park Campus. We intend to employ EAC students to work in the nursery facilities.

Syfert Wildlife watering Facility

Work on the pond is continuing. The float valve is still not working satisfactorily to keep the pond filled. The contractor will be modifying the existing configuration until the issue is solved. As it has been very overcast for a couple of weeks this may play a part in the problem. We will give an updated status in the next newsletter.

ADEQ Clifton Restroom Facility - We applied for funding for a restroom facility to be located at the gateway to the recreation areas on the San Francisco River. The grant appeared to have been favorably received and we are hoping that the grant will be awarded in April.

The AWPF Apache Grove Project - The day after our last month's meeting, we took Arizona Senator Gail Griffin on a tour of the Apache Grove project. She seems to be impressed with the project, and appreciative of the gravity of the water situation that we are encountering in our watershed.



Robert Porter, GWP newsletter editor, is an Engineer with Souder Miller and Associates, and is a past board chair.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We are starting 2013 with great hopes and plans to improve the health of the Gila Watershed through teamwork and insightful discussions. I have proposed to focus on planning since that is one of the strengths of our organization."

See the photograph on the next page of the Gila River and a portion of the City of Safford waterline. This waterline has served the City of Safford for approximately 75 years, through good planning, engineering, construction, and maintenance.

Robert L. Porter, Editor

**Plan your progress carefully; hour-by hour, day-by-day, month-by-month.
Organized activity and maintained enthusiasm are the wellsprings
of your power.**

- Paul J. Meyer



Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 13 2013 at 7 p.m. – Bruce Orr and Glen Leverich will be talking about their company, Stillwater Sciences, and their unique approach to understanding rivers through the integration of geomorphic and biological processes.

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 7 p.m. – Rob Spath, from the Southwest Conservation Corps will talk about new opportunities for youth in our community.

Our partners include:

Arizona Department of Agriculture	Eastern Arizona College
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Farm Bureau
Arizona Department of Transportation	Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc.
Arizona Department of Water Resources	Graham County
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Greenlee County
Arizona Geological Survey	Gila Valley Irrigation District
Arizona State Land Department	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Bureau of Land Management	University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
City of Safford	University of Arizona NEMO Project
Town of Thatcher	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Town of Pima	U.S. Forest Service – Apache Sitgreaves and Coronado Forests
Town of Clifton	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Town of Duncan	And many community members
Gila Valley NRCD	

Get involved in your watershed

For more information, contact Jan Holder at the Gila Watershed Partnership, 711 S. 14th Avenue, 85546, 520-419-0374, email-watershedholder@gmail.com