

Santa Cruz RIVER RESEARCH DAYS

STORIES OF A MULTINATIONAL RIVER

APRIL 24–APRIL 26, 2024
Hybrid In-person and Virtual Event

Every year, Sonoran Institute's Santa Cruz River Research Days brings our community together to learn about new research, management, and conservation projects that are happening along the Santa Cruz River. It takes everyone's efforts to protect this river and surrounding watershed that is the foundation of our region's natural and cultural heritage. By coming together in person and virtually, sharing in English and Spanish, we coordinate our efforts and help unify the river community.

This year we have a special focus on the many stories the river can share. Stories may emerge from research or from personal connections and exploration. It is these stories that will offer new connections to the past and present and help inspire us for the future.

We look forward to hearing some of these stories. We also look forward to better understanding the plants and animals that contribute to the river's story near the border while we conduct Friday's River Bioblitz where we will help document the biodiversity of this important river.



Photograph by Charlie Alolkoy

PURPOSE

Santa Cruz River Research Days began in 2009 with the goal of sharing experiences and results across diverse institutions and disciplines. Our program is designed to:

- identify new research questions,
- expand the Santa Cruz River research community,
- foster awareness of each other's research and conservation efforts, and
- catalyze new collaborative projects

2024 STEERING COMMITTEE

Sonoran Institute

Michael Bogan, University of Arizona

Ben Lomeli, Friends of the Santa Cruz River

Tony Palmer, Tumacácori National Historical Park



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WEDNESDAY APRIL 24, 2024

all day schedule

12:40 PM	Check-in and Refreshments
12:50 PM	Zoom meeting opens
1:00 PM	WELCOME
1:10 PM	Austin Nunez , Chairman, San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation <i>Blessing</i>
1:20 PM	Phyllis Valenzuela , Council Member, San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation <i>Community River Story</i>
1:50 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Deni J. Seymour , PhD, Independent Researcher <i>"Gentlemen on Horseback" and Other Myths Surrounding the Coronado Expedition on the Santa Cruz River</i>
2:40 PM	BREAK
2:50 PM	Luke Cole , Sonoran Institute <i>The Santa Cruz River Urban National Wildlife Refuge</i>
3:10 PM	Matthew Lutheran , Pima County Regional Flood Control District <i>Meander Bend Natural Resource Park</i>
3:30 PM	Becky Fitzpatrick and Joaquin Murrieta , Watershed Management Group <i>Mejor Castor que Tractor for River Restoration: Beaver efforts in the Santa Cruz Watersheds (Cienega Creek) and lessons learned from the San Pedro River</i>
3:50 PM	BREAK
4:00 PM	MEDIA PANEL Discussion with local media experts who will share their favorite Santa Cruz River stories and provide tips and guidance.
4:30 PM	SOCIAL HOUR Come network with others working along the river. (in person only)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DENI J. SEYMOUR, PHD, Independent Researcher

Deni J. Seymour is an independent research archaeologist, ethnographer, and ethnohistorian with a four-decade personal and professional investment in knowledge about and interaction with the Indigenous tribes of the southern portion of the American Southwest. Her research focuses on Indigenous, mission, and presidio history during the Spanish colonial period. She has intensively studied the ancestral Apache, Sobaipuri O'odham, and lesser-known mobile groups of the American Southwest for 40 years and is the author of 8 books and over 120 articles. Recently she has discovered evidence of the Coronado expedition in Arizona.



MEDIA PANELISTS

IRENE MCKISSON, AZ Luminaria, Principal Executive, Co-founder

Irene McKisson is the co-founder and Principal Executive of Arizona Luminaria, a two-year-old nonprofit news organization dedicated to local news and community-centered journalism. Prior to this, she spent 18 years at the Arizona Daily Star, where she was the GM of niche audience development and co-founder and editor of #ThisIsTucson.



TONY DAVIS, Reporter, Arizona Daily Star

Tony Davis is the Arizona Daily Star's environmental reporter. Tony graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and started at the Star in 1997. He has covered environmental issues in the Southwest almost continuously since 1981, for the Star, the Tucson Citizen and the Albuquerque Tribune. He currently focuses on water supplies, climate change, the Rosemont/Copper World Mine and the endangered jaguar.



Photograph courtesy of Arizona Daily Star

DANIEL STOLTE, Senior Science Writer, University of Arizona

Daniel Stolte is a senior science writer in the Office of Communications at the University of Arizona. He generates earned media coverage and informs the public about scientific news and discoveries. A native of Germany, he obtained degrees in biology from the University of Freiburg and trained at the German School of Journalism in Munich. During a study-abroad year at NAU, he extensively explored the Southwest, and in 2005, landed a job with the university.



TONY PANIAGUA, Reporter/Producer, Arizona Public Media

Tony Paniagua is a reporter and producer for television's Arizona Illustrated and radio's Arizona Spotlight. Originally from Colombia, he joined Arizona Public Media in 2005. After graduating from the University of Florida in Gainesville, he worked at a cable television station in Miami, the Univision affiliate in Phoenix, KVOA in Tucson, and the NBC affiliate in Houston. He has won several awards for his work in television and radio.

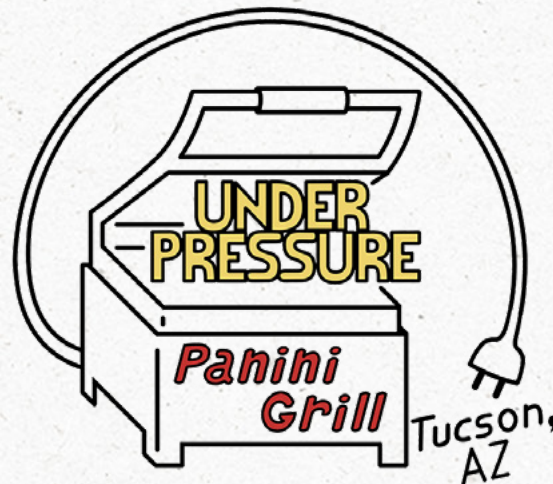


Photograph Courtesy of Arizona Public Media

THURSDAY APRIL 25, 2024

morning schedule

9:15 AM	Check-in and Refreshments
9:30 AM	Zoom Meeting Opens
9:45 AM	WELCOME
9:50 AM	Claire Zugmeyer , Sonoran Institute <i>Highlights from the Living River</i>
10:10 AM	Julia Fonseca , Madrean Resources <i>G.E.P. Smith and the Santa Cruz River</i>
10:30 AM	Hunter Claypatch Pima Community College and Binghamton University <i>The Archaeology of Ambos Nogales: Youth Participatory Action Research Along the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands</i>
10:50 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM	Ernest Sinohui , GIS Consultant for Santa Cruz County <i>Santa Cruz County Acquisition and using watershed data from Santa Cruz County PW/FCD, Arizona</i>
11:20 AM	Janice Hughes and Chelsi Remme , Pima County Regional Flood Control District & PSOMAS <i>Santa Cruz River Cortaro Narrows Training Structures—Stakeholder Input</i>
11:40 AM	Lisa Shipek , Watershed Management Group <i>Innovative Funding and Finance Solutions to Restore Shallow Groundwater Areas and Surface Flows in Sabino Creek, Tanque Verde Creek, and Upper Rillito River</i>
12:00 PM	BREAK LUNCH Under Pressure Panini Grill will be back this year with tasty lunch options for purchase.



THURSDAY APRIL 25, 2024

afternoon schedule

1:10 PM	Stephanie Winick , University of Arizona <i>Results of a student-run trash study in the Santa Cruz River—Spanish presentation</i>
1:30 PM	Katerina Sacoman , School of Natural Resources and the Environment, UArizona <i>Riparian plant community responses to flow volume and groundwater depth along the Santa Cruz River</i>
1:50 PM	Tony Figueroa , Tucson Audubon Society <i>Stewards for our Saguaros—Conservation and Restoration</i>
2:10 PM	BREAK
2:20 PM	Alanna Fulkerson , Texas A&M University <i>Fish surveys of the Mexican side of the Santa Cruz River and the neighboring Rio Concepcion with environmental DNA—Virtual Presenter</i>
2:40 PM	Melissa Van Kleeck-Hann , Pima County Office of Conservation and Sustainability <i>Using community science to inform amphibian conservation and management</i>
3:00 PM	Michael Bogan , School of Natural Resources and the Environment, UArizona <i>Population status of native and non-native turtles along the Santa Cruz River in Pima County, AZ</i>
3:20 PM	BREAK
3:30 PM	Rocío Guzmán , School of Natural Resources and the Environment, UArizona <i>Diversity of dragonflies and damselflies in urban and non-urban reaches of the Sonora River</i>
3:50 PM	Cheryl Mollahan , Bobcats in Tucson <i>Radio collared bobcat use of the Santa Cruz River in Tucson</i>
4:10 PM	Sarah Truebe , Sky Island Alliance <i>Preliminary results from 1,400 surveys of Sky Island Springs</i>
4:30 PM	Youth Poetry and Art of the Santa Cruz River
4:50 PM	Wrap up and reminder about River Bioblitz

FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2024



Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*) by Bruce D. Talbert



Green heron (*Butorides virescens*) by Katie Iverson



Blue dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*) by Thomas Brown

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

RIVER BIOBLITZ



**Border
BioBlitz**

The River Bioblitz will help kick-off the annual Border Bioblitz coordinated by **Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers** (N-Gen) that is happening in May. We'll travel to a private property on the Santa Cruz River just north of the U.S./Mexico border and work together to document as many plant and animal species as possible. We'll contribute our observations to the larger Bioblitz effort through iNaturalist. If participating in the Bioblitz, please be sure to have **iNaturalist** downloaded on your phone prior to the event as cell reception will be limited on site. Some transportation will be provided and a carpool coordinated for additional participants.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MAC HUDSON FOR AGREEING TO HOST THE RIVER BIOBLITZ ON HIS LAND, AND TO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND RUDY SEPTIC SYSTEMS FOR PROVIDING A PORT-O-POTTY.



CONSERVATION DIVISION

Our land conservation division provides expertise in conservation transactions that protect important land and water resources, with an aim towards balancing needs of the built and natural environment

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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**Restore
the Future**



SONORAN INSTITUTE, a non-profit organization, is working to make the Santa Cruz River a living, flowing river and the foundation of community health and prosperity from Mexico to Marana. Since 1990, the Sonoran Institute's mission has been to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them.

JOIN THE REFUGE COALITION

WE IMAGINE A PROTECTED CORRIDOR OF OPEN SPACE ALONG THE SANTA CRUZ. THESE ISLANDS OF LAND WILL BE CONNECTED AS THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER URBAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.



www.SantaCruzRiver.org

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