

the Rainmaker



WINTER 2009 HAPPY HOLIDAYS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! There is much to celebrate this holiday season. Agricultural families in the watershed have worked closely together and with partners to move big projects ahead and manage the challenges of drought and several large wild fires. We're pleased to share news and thank you for your support!

RESTORATION Coordinator David Seibert and volunteers completed two arroyo restoration projects on the Anvil and Elkhorn Ranches and began a third on the Sierra Vista Ranch, with support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program. Funding is in place for more arroyo restoration on three new project sites on the Running N Ranch, Arivaca Boys Ranch, and on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge – funded by the Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Charitable Giving Program, a partnership initiated by David. His outreach to the Friends of Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Arivaca Watershed Education Task Force, and University of Arizona's Tierra Seca Club promises to bring new volunteers and partners into the fold.

FIRE was a hot topic in 2009, beginning with completion of the long awaited fire plan in the spring, a watershed based plan to guide use of prescribed fire as a management tool. Sierra Vista Ranch conducted a spring season prescribed fire in cooperation with the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. We are proud to announce that the Alliance received a major grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that will fund preparation of detailed burn plans for more prescribed fires.

SCIENCE in the watershed will be encouraged in 2010 by a new collaborative project with the University of Arizona – the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance Scientific Research Scholarship. An annual \$5000 scholarship award will encourage and celebrate the merger of science, education, and problem solving within the working landscape of the Altar Valley watershed -- to use the watershed as a working laboratory, and extension of the classroom.

WWW.ALTARVALLEYCONSERVATION.ORG will evolve over the course of this next year. We will send smaller more frequent versions of The Rainmaker via email – so please help update our mailing list using the form below. If you prefer old fashioned mail let us know!

Here in the Altar Valley we see nothing but opportunity before us. What we lack in rainfall we make up for in enthusiasm and dedication. We hope you will continue to serve as a partner and steward of the Altar Valley watershed. All of your contributions – time and travel, brain power and brawn, and donations – are gifts that will help advance The Alliance mission of *leaving the next generation with a healthy productive watershed, a thriving agricultural community, and rural life enriched by the culture and history of the Altar Valley.*

With great thanks and appreciation,

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance and
Agricultural Families of the Altar Valley Watershed

Many thanks to generous Altar Valley Stewards!

Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Charitable Giving Program .. Anonymous donors .. King Family .. Henckler Family .. Harder Family .. Cindy Perin .. Carol Davidson .. Cynthia and Kevin Devine .. Mike and Kay McCarthy .. Walt and Nancy Taylor .. Deanne and Tom Urmy .. Samuel and Laura Payson .. John Schnittker and Joan Davidson .. Aubin Ames .. Dan Robinett .. Susan Small .. Dave and Mary Parnell .. Cherry Provost .. Betty duPont .. Rebecca Valette .. Pat and Hudson Stoddard .. Jack Baker .. Frank Toupal .. Joellen O'Neil .. Fern Barushok .. Buckelew Farms .. Alexandra Coe .. NancyBell and Bill Burke .. Anne Richards and John Coolidge .. Carolyn Graham .. Ann St. Goar .. Paula Klingensmith .. Paul and Argyro Michelson .. Peter and Gail Wilson .. Judy and Tony King .. Elizabeth Wright .. Myke and Pat Kanis .. Gene and Charky Tucker .. Elizabeth Davis .. Fred and Ellie Silverstein .. Richard and Johanna Simpson .. JT and Gay Coe .. Al and Hilary Creighton. We greatly apologize for any errors or omissions!

Altar Valley Conservation Alliance Mailing List Update!

Please return to the Alliance in the enclosed envelope.

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I prefer to receive watershed news by () email or () traditional mail.

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