



Rio Rico Historical Society

General Meeting on November 15, 2022, 2pm

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH US, by Connie Williams



Photos courtesy Connie Williams

We are very excited about our guest speaker for our November 15, 2022 General Meeting, our very own RRHS member **Connie Williams**, who will talk to us about the Santa Cruz River.

The Santa Cruz River has provided vital support for communities along its banks for thousands of years. Today, we barely give it a thought as we cross one of the three Rio Rico bridges, but it still plays an important role in recharging our aquifer, in supporting ecotourism, and especially for some of us, in providing a place to restore our sense of balance in a precarious world. Those of us who have lived in this area for many years may remember tree die offs along the river caused by toxins from factories across the line, or heard stories of deer and cattle dying after drinking the water. How much of this is still a concern? Connie will briefly review the history of the river, but the main focus of this talk will revolve around current challenges and successes in dealing with issues surrounding this bi-national waterway.

Connie Williams is a thirty-year Santa Cruz County resident, retired from the Rio Rico school district where she taught middle school math and science. She now volunteers her time to all things river-related. She is on the Board of Directors of both the Anza Trail Coalition and the Tubac Nature Center. She is Team Lead for RiverWatch, a program supported by both the Friends of the Santa Cruz River and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's WaterWatch program. She has organized nature outings along the river for local families and heads up a weekly rescued produce distribution near the Tumacàcori Post Office. Her late husband, Richard, the Australian, owned Rio Rico Homes and Land and was the original founder of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona. The RRHS Meeting will take place on **Tuesday November 15, 2022, at 2pm**, at the **Rio Rico Community Center** at 391 Avenida Coatimundi, Rio Rico, AZ 85648. Visit us at www.rioricohistoricalsociety.org