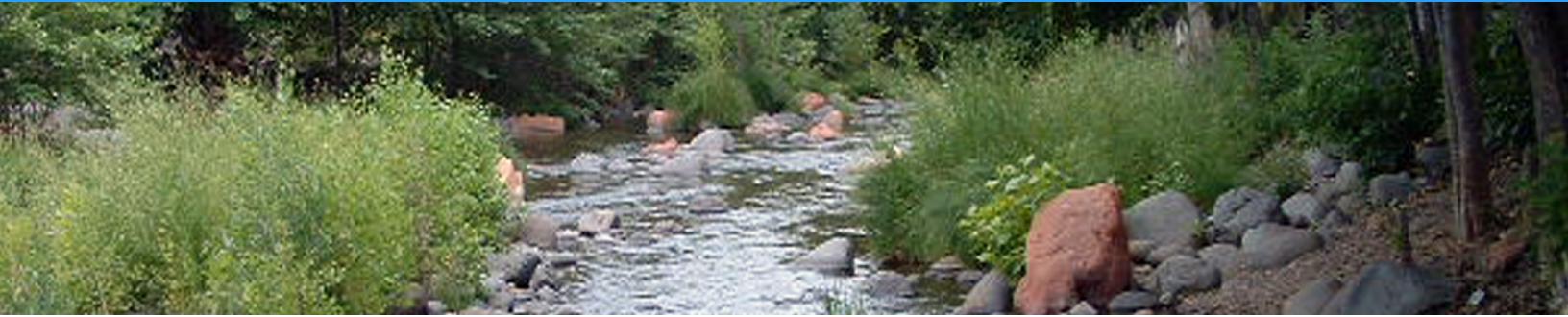




# Arizona Riparian Council Speaker Series

## Wetland Habitat Conservation in Southern Arizona



Andrew Salywon,  
Research Botanist and  
Herbarium Curator,  
Desert Botanical  
Gardens

Freshwater wetlands are one of the rarest and most endangered habitats in Arizona. Ecosystem services provided by wetlands include flood control, groundwater recharge, sediment and nutrient retention, and water purification, and also providing critical habitat for many rare species of plants and animals. Therefore, protecting and restoring wetlands results in significant water quality and ecological benefits. To monitor, restore and protect wetlands, essential baseline information must be gathered to provide quantifiable data to document change in these habitats. Data will be presented characterizing the basic hydrology and ecology of the wetlands of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area using GIS mapping, water stable isotope chemistry, and wildlife camera data. Also, recent restoration work funded with a grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Improvement Grant Program, to increase the wetland vegetation/natural filtering capacity of the O'Donnell Creek Cienega for the pollutants *E. coli* and sediment originating from active pastures upstream will be presented.

Andrew Salywon is a research botanist and the herbarium curator at the Desert Botanical Garden. His main research focus is plant systematics of agaves and cacti, but his interest in rare and endangered plants in Arizona, especially the Canelo Hills ladies' tresses orchid (*Spiranthes delitescens*), have driven his pursuit to conserve wetland habitats and the unique plants they contain. Andrew conducts basic and applied research on wetlands in southern Arizona with academic, governmental and non-profit collaborators.

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019**  
**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

RSVP to [cindy.zisner@asu.edu](mailto:cindy.zisner@asu.edu)

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