

Fountain Creek Water Sentinels

Our Community. Our Watershed.

[Like Us on Facebook](#)

May 2020

[Visit our Website](#)



Quote of the Month

Filthy water cannot be washed.

-African Proverb

Upcoming Events

All Fountain Creek Water Sentinels events have been suspended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to get back to cleaning the creek soon but the safety of our volunteers and public health must be the priority. Stay safe and we hope to see you soon!

Letter from Fountain Creek Water Sentinels Chair, Jamie Valdez

Hello Water Sentinels,

I regret to inform you that our Fountain Creek Water Sentinels team has lost a friend who also happened to be a close, personal friend of mine. Brian "Karmic" Brewer and I met through our mutual activism in economic and social justice movements roughly ten years ago. Over the course of the last decade, we've remained close even when we weren't



participating in activism together but in 2017, we would again have the opportunity to bring our community service and stewardship work together. Just as I was establishing myself as a leader in the Fountain Creek Water Sentinels, Brian got hired as the Southern Colorado Health Network's Syringe Access Program Manager and he was very excited to have this opportunity. They could not have picked a better person for the position, since helping the less fortunate and, specifically, drug-addicted and homeless people has been a passion of Brian's for as long as I've known him.

Soon after Brian was hired, I reached out to him to let him know we were finding a

significant number of syringes during our Fountain Creek clean-ups and invite him to join us, which he was happy to do. Although he could not be available for every clean-up, Brian did attend several of them to help ensure any syringes we might happen upon would be counted and safely and properly discarded. This worked out beneficially for the Syringe Access Program because Brian was able to begin putting together an idea of the various hot spots for needles along the Fountain Creek and it worked out well for our Fountain Creek Water Sentinels team because we could ensure we were doing the best we could to improve and protect the Fountain Creek watershed and doing so safely. It was great for me to have that time doing the stewardship work we loved so much as a team again and I could tell Brian really enjoyed it, too.



His passing was sudden and unexpected and it has hit me, Brian's fiancé, Adelita, who is also a friend of our team, and several of our other friends particularly hard. We will be reeling from it for some time to come. For me, Brian was one of the people I could always count on and I knew always supported and believed in me. He was very proud of all the activist and stewardship work I do and he let me know at every opportunity. Our greater Pueblo community will also feel this loss for a long time, as it has lost someone who genuinely cared about the community and especially the people he served at the Syringe Access Program.

I would like to take this moment to recognize Brian and express my gratitude for the great service he eagerly and proudly provided the Pueblo community and the Fountain Creek Water Sentinels and for the friendship and undying love and support he happily provided me. I'll never forget you, brother.

April in the Fountain Creek Watershed: Report from iNaturalist

The Fountain Creek Watershed Biodiversity Survey received lots of observations in April. From the 1st to the 28th of the month, there were 3308 observations, of 777 species, from 170 observers, of which 1268 are research grade! Birds represented 760 observations of 146 species! The 5 most frequent bird species were Canada Geese, American Robin, Yellow Rumped Warbler, Mallard, and Red-tailed hawk. Insects accounted for 469 observations, of 159 species. The highest in frequency included honey bees, painted lady butterfly, grasshoppers, and other bees. A few frogs and toads are venturing out. Plants won out in frequency of observations with 1790, of 389 species, many in bloom already, such as starlily, dandelion, and pasqueflower. The watershed is coming alive with Spring & is great for a walk, enjoyment of nature, and observations (don't forget to upload to the Biodiversity Survey at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fountain-creek-watershed-biodiversity-survey>).



PHOTO: codybear522



PHOTO: HarrietCamp

DO GET OUTDOORS!!! DON'T forget preventive precautions while outdoors: Avoid gatherings in groups. Keep 6 feet separation from those with whom you are not already sheltering. Wear a mask when others are in your area, even if 6 ft apart. Use hand sanitizer & wipes when touching public surfaces, gloves are OK but need to be changed properly (turn them inside out). Don't touch your face before washing your hands. I know that sounds like a buzz kill but believe me, just being outside is so great, you'll be glad you did it!

Velma Campbell, Vice Chair
Fountain Creek Water Sentinels

Updates & Important Information

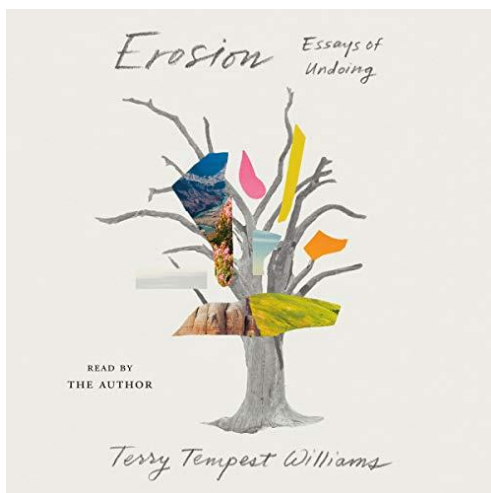
Book Review

By Patricia Nolan

Erosion: Essays of Undoing

By Terry Tempest Williams

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York 2019



Williams ponders how we are changing: the land is changing and being changed by development and the extraction industry. "How are we to restore and reconstruct some semblance of humility and humanity despite our extraordinary power to erase what has taken eons to create?" Williams asks.

"Our country's attempts and successes at committing cultural genocide of Native Peoples remain a shameful gaping wound in our history."

"The struggle of Bears Ears National Monument offers a path toward healing."

"We need not lose hope, we just need to locate where it dwells."

She addresses these thoughts and more in essays, poems, and prose while reviewing the Wilderness Act of 1964. "When it comes to wilderness 'the open space of democracy' drowns in the wake of greed."

Rebecca Solnit writes, "These are essays about the courage to face what is most brutal and monstrous by finding what is most beautiful and merciful."

Rick Bass said, "Terry Tempest Williams is our greatest activist laureate. She is rooted in juniper, yet ephemeral as a sand dune. The forces that have eroded her are rapture and grief. What remains is elemental beauty."

Doug Peacock added, "These are the most dangerous of all days for humans on Earth, and 'Erosion' is the book for our time. Writing on the edge of the sacred, Williams's message bears the power and emotional gifts of a close call with a charging grizzly. There are no stray words. I believe there is no more important writer working today."

If you only read one book during these days of self-isolating, this would be your best choice. Available on amazon \$27.00.

Keep in Touch

Follow Fountain Creek Water Sentinels on Instagram

Our new Instagram Account is active. Follow us to keep track of local events and news. <https://www.instagram.com/fountaincreekwatersentinels/>

Volunteer

Contact us at jamie.valdez@rmc.sierraclub.org or call Jamie Valdez at 720-933-6363 for a list of volunteer opportunities.

Contact Us

Stay up-to-date on our clean-up efforts, hikes and educational opportunities by liking us on Facebook and bookmarking our website. We would also enjoy hearing about your volunteer activities or events related to our mission. Send us pictures, comments and suggestions by hitting reply or emailing us at fcswater@gmail.com.

The Fountain Creek Water Sentinels Team

[FCWS Facebook](#) | [FCWS Instagram](#) | [Sangre de Cristo Group](#) | [Pikes Peak Group](#) | [Rocky Mountain Chapter](#)