



"Congratulations. It occurred to me that what makes the guardian project unique is that these are really the Guardians' guardians. Selected by guardians themselves. Not by some politically correct committee. Insiders who have been there. There is a 'genuine' factor at work here that is unique. Proud to be part of it all." - Ed Carlson, Director Emeritus of Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

We invite you to participate in a unique and powerful tribute to the Guardians of the Everglades®.

- Portraits of the Guardians of the Everglades® in the style of the Old Masters by artist Nicholas Petrucci
- Clyde Butcher's immense landscape photographs
- Diaphanous banners of native orchids and other threatened species by photographer Connie Bransilver
- A documentary film that brings the art and its subjects to life
- Art, conservation, and human interaction art book published by ORO Editions

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The message is inescapable: the Everglades ecosystem is unique, necessary for our health, and important to people all over the world. It must be conserved. Join us in celebrating the lives of the Guardians of the Everglades® in an innovative, multi-media art, conservation and education exhibition.



Cynthia and David Fiber visited our reception at Museum of the Everglades and David wrote following his visit. We want to share his touching words.

“When you look at the Guardians of the Everglades® in Nicholas’ paintings you are suddenly brought aware of the human relationship to the environmental issues surrounding the Everglades restoration and preservation. The tendency so often is to see environmental issues only in the context of land, water, air, flora, fauna and forget about the human history entwined therein. You cannot look at the strength of the characters in the paintings without becoming directly aware that the Everglades is as much a human heritage as an environmental one. The paintings remind us that once we had great ties to this ecosystem, lived within its context and drew strength from it, and how much we have diminished ourselves by neglecting that heritage. Each Guardian, in the power of their representation, reminds us that to be human, we must respect, and protect, the natural forces that gave us birth and give us breath. Connie’s screenings remind us of both the beauty and the transparent fragility of the Everglades. The Guardians stand guard. The paintings stand guard over the screens. An apt and effective juxtaposition.” ~David Fiber

A Daily Joy - Our Year in the Land of Enchantment

December 13, 2018

A year ago we left Florida saying, in our year end newsletter:

"We began the Guardians of the Everglades® multi-media project with great hopes of reaching and educating a broad range of individuals in the benefits of Everglades conservation. . ." But forces of destruction were overwhelming, and clear-eyed, we had to move on.

Over the past year news on climate change has shifted from threatened species or habitats to one of international concern for the ecosystem of the entire planet. Yet Nero continues to fiddle.

Our year in the Land of Enchantment has proven to be the right move. New Mexicans understand that we share the planet with all creatures, threatened or thriving, and it is a daily joy. Share some of our beauty.

We wish you and yours and all creatures here below beauty and peace.

Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo.

Nicholas and Connie



View from Sandia Crest over Albuquerque



Viga shadows on adobe



Young buck in velvet



Balloon dip in the Rio Grande



Rio Grande in summer



International Hot Air Balloon Festival - When Pigs Fly



Acoma valley



Valles Caldera National Preserve



Jemez River bosque in the fall



Buddy the Cockatoo in his favorite cottonwood



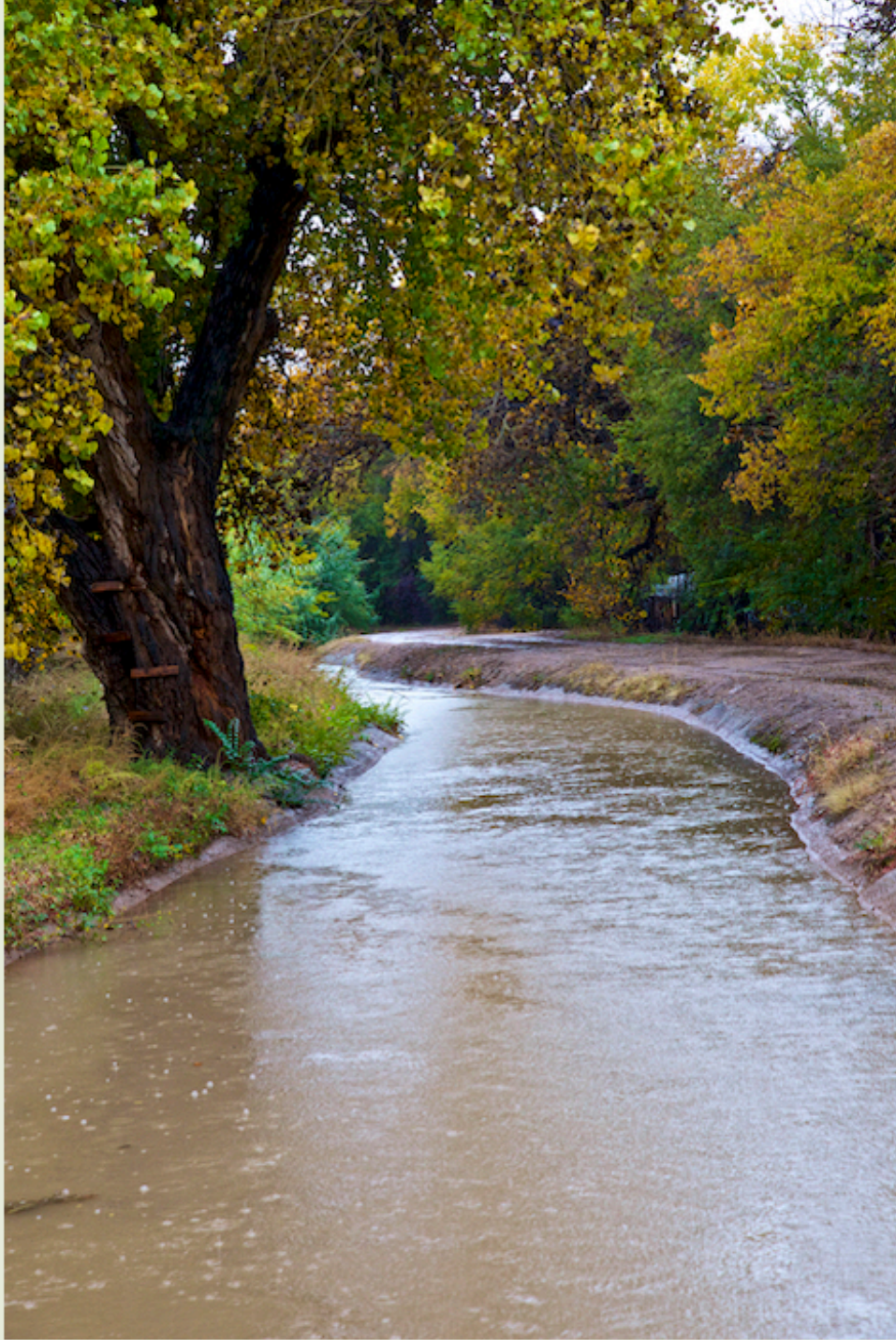
NM State Fair Rodeo grand entry



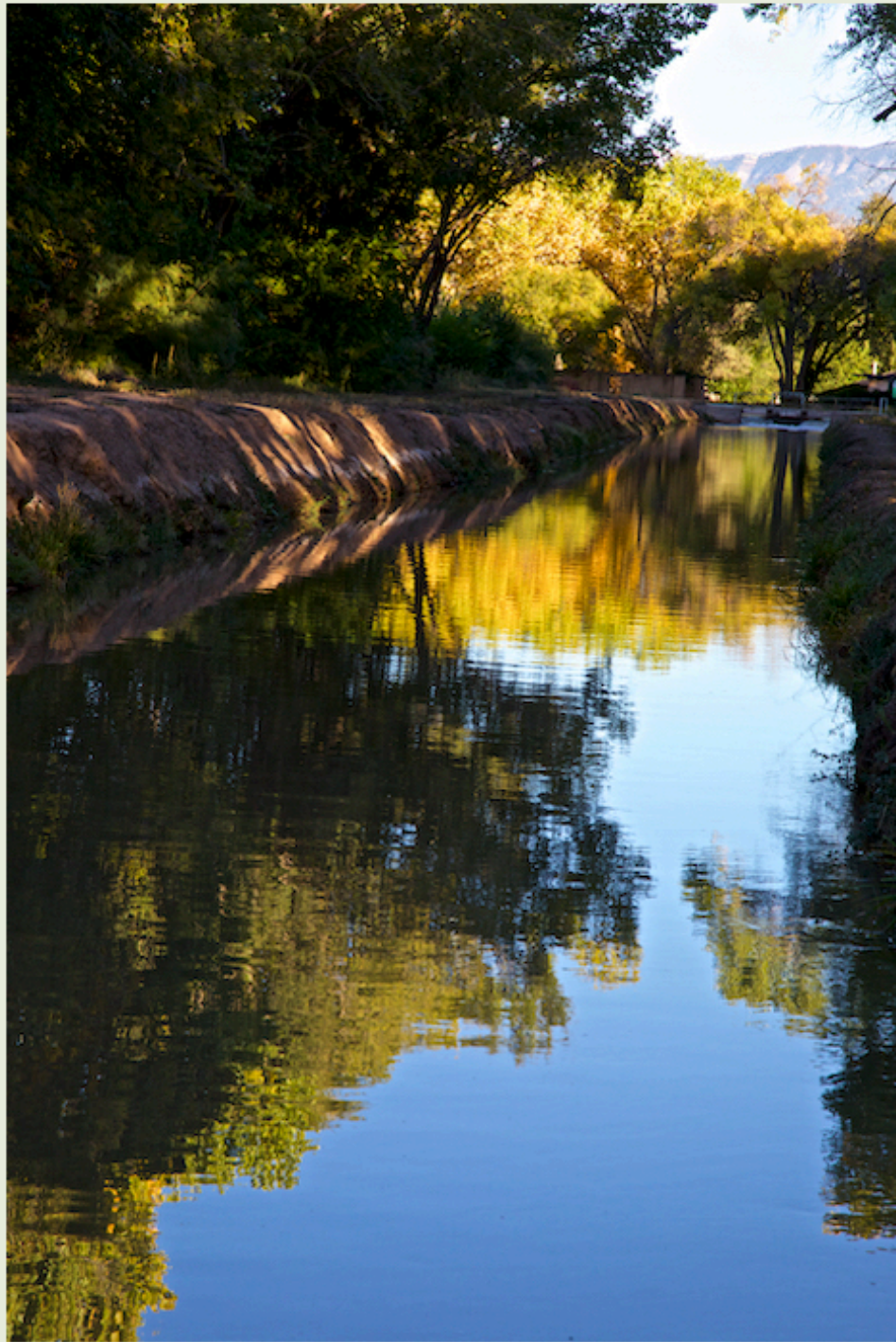
Maximilian sunflowers



Ladder-backed woodpecker



Acequia looking west



Acequia east



Fireplace in the living room



Our garden in snow

From Paradise to Enchantment

January 02, 2018

An Exit and an Entrance

We began the Guardians of the Everglades® multi-media project with great hopes of reaching and educating a broad range of individuals in the benefits of Everglades conservation. We are very grateful for the eleven Guardians who, together, stand as role models for various ways of serving conservation.

As you know, and as our web site states, the purpose was "To introduce the public to the fragile beauty of the Everglades and its unique ecosystem; to honor today's leadership in conservation and restoration through great art and compelling human stories; and to encourage the public and policy makers to participate in the protection of the Everglades." GuardiansoftheEverglades.com

Sadly, our efforts to secure financial support to bring the project to the public through exhibitions, a documentary film and book, or even any of those, were insufficient. Thus, we have had to conclude that we must abandon the project, at least for the time being, and focus our efforts elsewhere.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss with you what efforts we have made to raise funds through grants, auctions and individual donors. If you want to know more or offer other sources, please contact us. We will always be open to bringing the Guardians' extraordinary stories, and our love of the Everglades to the public.

We will be moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 17. We will be living in an adobe by artist Nat Kaplan, big enough to embrace us, our cockatoo, a studio for each of us, and plenty of room for friends. If you plan to use the mails or visit us, contact us and I will send you the street address in the village of Los Ranchos, NM. Phone numbers and emails will remain the same.



Desert Rose

New Mexico is the Land of Enchantment — big sky, embracing mountains, supporting earth in soft greens and tans, clear air, multiple cultures, comfortable and familiar. We chose a home near the bosque, alongside a major acequia with walking trails through our cottonwood forest. When we first arrived at the house a covey of quail scattered through the yard, sandhill cranes rattled as they lifted off, and robins scolded from a big cottonwood. We saw a road runner, too, and each day a plethora of balloons.

The magical light is eternal.



Balloon Capital of the World



Land of Enchantment

From Connie: In NM, we embrace our varied cultures completely. When you come from a place whose history is as rich as New Mexico's, as I do, you can't deny it or hide from it. Who we are in relation to this place compels us to move forward, somewhat exposed, regardless of our personal circumstances. And that makes for some serious creative energy. New Mexico allows — encourages — eccentricity. Aldous Huxley chose New Mexico for his maybe-not-so-fictional non-conformists in 'Brave New World'. Yea!



El Rancho, Santa Fe County

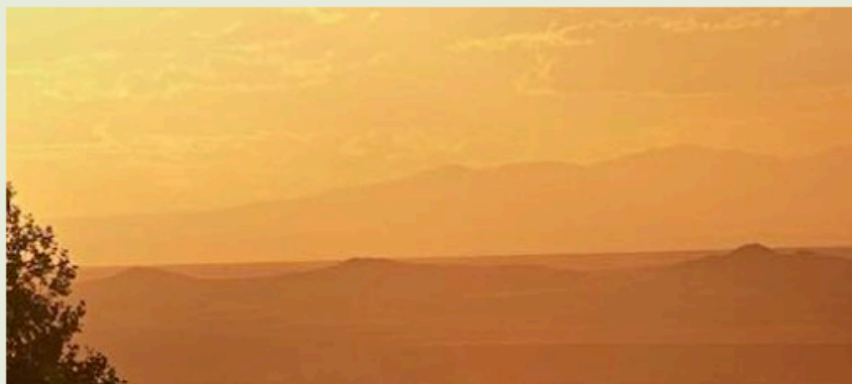


Devotion at Chimayo



Navajo Code Talkers

Nicholas "got it" first visit, years ago. We hit the ground, visited my parents' graves, then headed straight up the tram to Sandia Crest to have a look — 100 miles west across the valley to Mt. Taylor. The Sandia Mountains are named for the watermelon color they wear reflecting the setting sun. He loves the space, the freedom, the painter's light, and the changing seasons.



Sunset across the valley and volcanos to Mt. Taylor



Chile Capital of the World

This may seem sudden. It is not. For five years or more we invited friends, colleagues and strangers to visit and to help bring Guardians of the Everglades to a greater audience. We wrote dozens of grant applications, proposals, and knocked on many doors. Several stepped forward to help and we thank: Sandy Cannon-Brown, The Mamdani Foundation; Lighthawk; Puffin Foundation; Franklin Adams, Deb Jansen, Mary Barley, Lee Tiger, Ed Carlson, Nat Reed, Clyde and Niki Butcher; local newspapers, NPR, Naples Illustrated, Gulf Shore Life, and most recently and exuberantly, éBella Magazine for its Arts Edition feature of Guardians of the Everglades. There were many, many, many others who offered support, guidance and encouragement. Thank you.

In my opinion, it matters not whether you "believe in" climate change or have drunk the Kool-Aid of denial. For 20 years I have seen, photographed, talked about, written about and understand that the changes are well underway all over the world, with south Florida especially vulnerable. It is not a pretty picture. We are moving from flood to drought, but we all live in the extremes. We see it coming. With great regret we leave a fractured more violent world to our children and grandchildren.

My dear friend, Amb. Cinnamon Dornsife, has the last word: "Keep upbeat, dear Connie - the negativity is intense, but all that you are doing is too important to let languish - or to allow circumstances and political climate to make you feel like it is too hard to succeed. The negative forces win, if you let that happen...hard as it is to keep positive, you must challenge yourselves to do so."

We will.