

# HISTORIC SANTA FE

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE OF THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION MARCH, 2015



# INSIDE HISTORIC SANTA FE

In March we interview Pete Warzel, no longer the “New” Executive Director of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation, having been here for a year later this month. We ask him what he thinks about progress and problems, what is important to the Foundation and what is frustrating. We also look at our Preservation Easement Program, and a dilemma that has arisen in the last month. Finally we get ready for the Vernal Equinox with a look at art, art, and more art at El Zaguán.

## WELCOME

I am quickly approaching a year’s anniversary as Executive Director of HSFF and as a full-time resident of Santa Fe. There have been many surprises in 12 months, mostly wonderful, some not so. The momentum we—Board, Committees, volunteers, staff, and members—have generated is exciting as we see progress in collaboration with other groups in educating and evangelizing the need for historic preservation. Reaching for financial stability and the involvement of more members is gratifying. The surprise of waking up to graffiti on the Hydroelectric Power Plant 1895, a Property on the HSFF Register of Resources Worthy of Preservation, is not so gratifying. Nonsense is a danger, always, and not only affects the brilliant cultural landscape we enjoy, but sends a message to visitors that this may not be the promised land we purport it to be. This kind of vandalism is ugly, intrusive, but in the end, petty and banal. Hats off to the City of Santa Fe who washed and painted out the graffiti effectively in quick time. —**Pete Warzel, HSFF Executive Director**

Art sidelights:

- The deadline for entries for watercolor or gouache paintings of Historic Structures of Santa Fe is over and the submissions are numerous and outstanding.

An opening exhibition of the submitted art will be held at the Gallery at El Zaguán on Friday, May 29. Subjects are buildings/places on the HSFF Historic Register and landmarks in the Santa Fe area.

- The exhibition of oil paintings by Charles Coffman and photographs by Pete Warzel, both working stiffs at HSFF, continues through March 19. Any sales go directly to the Foundation.



# UPDATE: THE HSFF PRESERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation many years ago established a Preservation Easement program with owners of significant properties in Santa Fe. What this simply means is that a legal contract is entered by the owner describing what elements of the property are protected regarding renovation or demolition, the rights and responsibilities of the owner, and the responsibilities of HSFF in protecting the elements of the easement.

The program is an effective means of emphasizing the importance of protecting our history and maintaining our cultural landscape through mutual cooperation. One of the properties covered by an easement held by HSFF is the Shuster/Mian House, where only three elements are governed by the agreement—two interior doors painted by Will Shuster and an exterior gate carved by Shuster.

Recently we were informed by a potential new owner that one of the interior doors was missing. He had met with us previously that day to discuss our assistance and involvement in preserving the doors and further restoration. The home had been in foreclosure and we had a

difficult time locating any current owner in several previous attempts. We have no idea what the circumstances are in the disappearance. We would ask that our readers be aware that an important piece of cultural history (pictured below) may be lost and please inform us if it surfaces somewhere for sale or other. It is a sad day when history is lost. Hopefully, this will not be the case here.



PHOTO: HSFF ARCHIVES



## **INTERVIEW: PETE WARZEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION**

**Interviewed by Alan Peters**

**Q: What is the biggest preservation issue in Santa Fe now?**

PW: Involvement. Engagement by citizens of Santa Fe at the Historic Design Review Board meetings, participation in planning and discussion by business and government that balances historic preservation and business development, and the commitment by young people that our work is worthy of their time and effort. We have a dedicated core of folks who do all the above, but only in a few instances are those people young professionals.



I know from my own kids that they are interested in maintaining the cultural landscape of wherever they live. They care. The trick it seems is creating the spark of their involvement. As Jeff Pappas, SHPO for New Mexico says, “We as Preservationists do not speak their language, and need to find out how to do so.”

**Q: What is the greatest challenge that the Foundation is currently facing?**

PW: Financial, no question. I think that is a function of the still lackluster economy here as well as the proliferation of non-profit foundations just in the city of Santa Fe, all worthy, all in need. Our job is to re-engage with the community and make support of HSFF a fun, educational, energizing commitment that can make a difference in maintaining our incredible cultural landscape.

The Board has set a budget goal to be cash-flow positive this year and that is a challenge given the times. But, we can achieve it.

**Q: You have been at the Foundation for one year. What accomplishments are you most proud of?**

PW: Helping to coalesce a team of staff, volunteers, other groups and associations. We enjoy doing the work, and creating the ideas of what and how we can improve that work.

Given the energy generated we have to pace ourselves, and implement events, education, and outreach at a measured pace. The fact that we all want to do a lot, now, and get the public involved, tells me we are doing something right.

**Q: What do you see as the most significant task that you will face in the coming year?**

PW: Engaging new people in our work to add to the incredible core of folks in place now. New members, donors, volunteers, partners, city and state agencies...anyone who can commit to taking HSFF forward in any number of ways. This Foundation is a community resource for architecture in the buildings we have preserved and own, for history in our archives and access to experts, and for embracing new ideas about community participation.

**Q: What is your biggest headache (backache) as it relates to the Foundation?**

PW: I think the inability to do and implement programs and events at the time we want to, or to dedicate resources to a specific property rather than maintaining balance overall. We are resource strapped—staff and capital—as is most everyone these days, and that slows the pace of advancement.

The headache related to this is the rental/leasing market in Santa Fe.

Most of our current revenue is generated by the buildings we own and the fluctuation and vacancies are difficult for budgeting. We are historians, archeologists, lawyers and architects trying to be landlords.

We do a great job of maintaining the properties to a standard that is worthy of their importance, but we are journeymen property managers when it comes down to it.

**Q: What do you consider to be the most profitable fundraising activity of the Foundation?**

PW: One or two we have not done as yet—focused on business partnerships in Santa Fe, and on a group of Stewards who own or are interested in historic properties, coming together for education and events that get deeper than what we can offer on a daily basis.

**Q: In your opinion, what changes does the Foundation need to make in order to best prepare for the future?**

PW: I don't think a change is the approach now. Instead we need to maintain our momentum. That again is a participation issue. Our Board members serve with term limits, so we are in the process of replacing several this year.

This current Board brought this Foundation a good way in the past two years as they jumped in during the vacancy between Executive Directors and worked, hands on, like no Board I have ever been involved with. That energy and commitment is the key going forward and finding the right mix of new members is critical to keeping our momentum.

Outside volunteers have stepped up the game and our staff is totally engaged, but we need to keep this all fresh in order to accomplish what we have set as future goals.

**Any last thoughts to share?**

Simply that I am excited as I look forward to another productive year working with all who sustain this Foundation.

**Thank you for your time, Pete.**

*To contact Pete Warzel email him at [pete.warzel@historicsantafe.org](mailto:pete.warzel@historicsantafe.org)*

# OUR MISSION

Our mission is to preserve, protect, and promote the historic properties and diverse cultural heritage of the Santa Fe area, and to educate the public about Santa Fe's history and the importance of preservation.

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Credits: Photos by Anna Yarrow (except where noted), edited by John Muller, and designed by Dominic Cappello—El Zaguán artists in residence.

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# HSFF STAFF

*Executive Director*  
Pete Warzel

*Office Manager*  
Bonney Hughes

*Administrative Assistant*  
Jacqueline Hill

*Restoration Specialists*  
Charles Coffman  
Bobby Wilson





# MARCH 2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

## **Through March 18: El Zaguán Gallery.**

"Off Hours"—Oil Paintings by Charles Coffman, HSFF Preservation Specialist and photographs by Pete Warzel, HSFF Executive Director.

## **March 20-April 20: El Zaguán Gallery.**

"Color Us Caring: A Coloring Book for Make-it-Happen Humans"—by El Zaguán resident artist Dominic Cappello  
Open during regular HSFF office hours.

## **Saturday, March 21, 10:00 AM. Equinox Hike at Cerrillos Hills State Park.**

\$5 per vehicle admission.

**Tuesday, March 24, 3:00 PM. Members Only. Salon El Zaguán presents Jerry Rogers,** former keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and NPS Southwest regional director, lecturing on the history and status of the Old Santa Fe Trail Building as well as its future.

*To check your HSFF membership status and to renew or become a member, contact Jacqueline or Bonney at 505-983-2567.*

*Please send us information about Foundation-related events in Santa Fe: [info@historicsantafe.org](mailto:info@historicsantafe.org).*

