

CANYON ECHO

SIERRA CLUB



Newsletter of the Grand Canyon Chapter

Volume 20, No. 1

February 1984



"Not to have known, as most . . . have not, either the mountains or the desert is not to have known oneself."
-Joseph Wood Krutch

Catalina Mtns, 1983
photo by
John R. Miller

Can We Stop Trapping in 1984?

By Steve Johnson

Most Arizonans don't know that trapping wildlife for commercial profit is big business in the state. According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department (responsible for regulating trapping), about 2,000 trappers earned about \$2.75 million for the skins of bobcats, foxes, coyotes, badgers, raccoons, beaver, ringtailed cats, and skunks in 1982-83.

Market hunting for birds, in which barrels of wild waterfowl were shot and sold in America's cities, ended over 50 years ago. The practice was correctly perceived as being inconsistent with the principles of wildlife management, and a threat for the continued survival of the waterfowl populations.

Commercial fur trapping is the last vestige of market hunting that survives today. It is fundamentally different from hunting. Unlike the gun, the trap is set and waiting 24-hours a day, four months every year, and there is no limit to the numbers of the publicly owned wildlife that may be trapped. The hunter must pay to kill with his gun, but the trapper earns money by killing.

Commercial trapping pressure is a function of changing fashion. When furs are fashionable, prices are up, and so are the numbers of trappers. When the people of Germany, Italy, and France grow tired of bobcat and coyote coats, the demand falls, and the trapper numbers drop to a fraction of their former total. Since fur prices first increased in the mid-1970s, the number of Arizona trappers has fluctuated from about 1200 up to 2200. Prior to 1976, trappers were so few in the state that no licensing was needed.

Even with such extreme variations in trappers (and therefore the number of animals trapped), there have been no hordes of coyotes and bobcats loosed upon all of us. The lack of such population explosions makes it obvious that trapping is not a necessary tool of wildlife management. Trapping is a business, pure and simple.

While the absence of trapping will not cause predator populations to explode, it is not at all certain that the wildlife populations can withstand the high trapping pressures of the past 7 years in Arizona. Based on AGFD trapping reports, a total of 49,840 bobcats, 147,959 foxes, and 125,569 coyotes were killed by Arizona trappers in the 1976 to 1983 trapping seasons. The trapping reports, even though required, are never checked for accuracy, even on a sample basis. From a tax angle alone, it's difficult to believe that trappers would voluntarily list all of their catch.

NEW ECHO EDITOR

The Chapter Executive Committee has decided on Erika Schultz-Morgan as the new editor of the Canyon Echo, beginning with the March, 1984 issue. Erika is an experienced journalist who will be recruiting volunteers to act as advertising manager, distribution manager and volunteers to assist at the mailing parties.

The deadline for the March Echo is February 15 and all materials should be sent before that day. It should be typed, double spaced, and should have your phone number on it so that any clarifications can be handled easily.

Send materials to Erika Schultz-Morgan, 39 E. Hoover, Phoenix, Arizona 85004. Her home phone is 253-2335.

If you have ever been out hiking and come across a dead animal in a steel trap, the sight has probably ruined an otherwise perfect day. State law prohibits the disturbing of property of licensed trappers but there is a way to stop this evil.

At the last Chiricahua Group meeting one of our members who has lived in Alaska for many years gave us their solution. Urinate on the trap. Human scent is offensive to most wild animals and they will avoid it like we turn away from a skunk.

If this original form of protest, still practiced in many parts of the world is inappropriate, carry a bottle. Only a little is needed and it lasts til the next rainfall. You will prevent the agony of a slow and painful death and may discourage the trapper from returning.

Clyde McGoldrick

Because only about 10% of the state's licensed trappers are experienced to be called "professionals," and because the AGFD does not require licensing or adult supervision of anyone under 14, the number of non-target animals that stumble into a trap are very high. Because there is no requirement to report eagles, hawks, owls, ravens, javelina, deer, house cats or dogs, the level of non-target mortality is a complete mystery. The AGFD admits that 600-700 dogs are trapped each year, but calls the problem "minor." Anyone who has lost a dog from November through February might feel otherwise, however.

As Arizona continues to grow inexorably, wildlife habitat grows more scarce. The AGFD will lose much of its credibility if trapping continues as it exists today. With less habitat and smaller and vulnerable wildlife populations, we cannot afford such uncontrolled and unknown levels of exploitation. We simply do not have much room for error.

State Representative Peter Goudinoff (D-Tucson) has introduced into the legislature House Bill 2160 which would ban all trapping for profit, while still allowing predator control for the benefit of ranchers and farmers, and for disease control in the case of rabies or plague. With fewer than 2,000 trappers benefitting financially from an ever-decreasing wildlife base, it's time for Arizonans who value wildlife that is still alive and unskinned to speak up! This bill will need support if it is not to die in committee. Listed below is the chairperson of the influential Natural Resources and Energy Committee of the House, which must first consider this bill. Please write and let him know you want action to protect and preserve our wildlife.

Representative Larry Hawke
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Also write to the chairperson of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee where a similar bill has been introduced by Sen. Luis Gonzales, and will need backing.

Senator John Hays
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Sierra Club takes position on hazardous waste regulations

The Sierra Club of Arizona has reviewed the new draft for hazardous waste regulations (Title 9, Chapter 8, Article 18), proposed by the Department of Health Services (ADHS) and believes the following additions to the regulations are required to provide for even minimum protection of the public health.

1. All hazardous waste disposed to the environment, either on land or into the water or air must be *detoxified*. If these regulations do not require the waste toxics detoxified before land disposal, they have failed to serve in their purpose.

2. As a minimum, annual hazardous waste reports must be required of *all* generators. Small generators need to be legally responsible for reporting their hazardous waste operations to the State.

3. No hazardous waste transfer, storage or treatment facility is to be located in *any* 100 year floodplain. Existing facilities should be physically removed from the floodplain.

4. All waste that is land disposed at the State Hazardous Waste Disposal Site must be *detoxified* (see no. 1 above). This facility may be in operation before State regulations take effect and should take the lead in setting standards for disposal.

5. State law must include an escape-proof liability clause for generators and their hazardous waste. Compliance with the regulations should not exclude the generator from liability to third parties.

6. State law must include a "citizen suit" provision to provide a means for citizens to enforce the law. A law similar to that in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act is suggested.

7. The ADHS should set up a formalized citizen participation procedure including a board that would review alleged violations of the hazardous waste regulations.

8. The State's ability to declare information "confidential," that which is in the best interest "to do so," is overly broad. The definition of this criteria should be substantially narrowed.

Regulations, though intended to be only minimum requirements, nearly always amount to the maximum effort exerted by the regulated parties. The proposed regulations, though an improvement in addressing the State Hazardous Waste Management Act, do not fully correct the problem. The Sierra Club of Arizona will consider these regulations and the Hazardous Waste Management Act inadequate unless the thrust of all of the above eight additions have been included.

Members of the activist list will be contacted in February and March to lobby our position with their State legislators. Additional volunteers are needed for the Toxic Substance Committee and should contact Alex Dely, 747-3188 in Tucson, or Jim Caterfeld, 990-2853 in Phoenix.

Lawsuit filed against Phoenix

Four Palo Verde Group members of the Sierra Club — Shermaine Celine and James Vaaler of Phoenix and Craig Caterfield and James Glennon of Scottsdale — filed a \$1.2 million lawsuit against the City of Phoenix which asks the U.S. District Court to enforce federal restraints on toxic wastes discharged into the Salt River from two sewage-treatment plants.

The suit culminates more than two years effort by the Sierra Club Toxic Substances Committee and the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest, lawyers for the plaintiffs, to reduce the plants' toxic discharges that threaten fish, aquatic life and ground water.

Effluent discharges from the 23rd Avenue and 91st Avenue plants have more than 100 violations of federal limits for cadmium, chromium, copper and cyanide since the Environmental Protection Agency issued permits for the plants in 1979.

The Sierra Club believes that existing plant limits should not be weakened as proposed by Phoenix before the Water Quality Control Council, but urge the EPA and Phoenix to crack down on industrial discharges into the sanitary sewer system. Twenty-one companies still do not meet Phoenix limits on toxic discharges, according to a city report issued in November.



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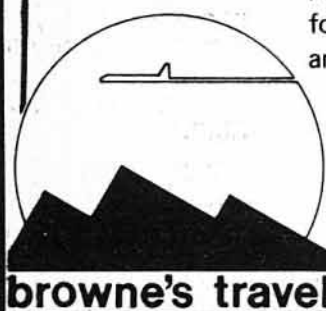
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browne's travel

Save the Phoenix Mountains . . . again!

On Tuesday, February 7, Phoenix residents will be asked to vote on a proposal which will vitally affect the North Phoenix Mountain Preserve. Proposition 200 would BULLDOZE 32nd Street through the Preserve to Paradise Valley and 40th Street.

This roadway would irreversibly damage the Preserve by introducing the noise and congestion of the city into one of the few spots within the city limits featuring tranquility and unaltered Sonoran Desert landscape. The proposed roadway would occupy land that has been designated for a Nature Study Center, a Nature Sanctuary and a Desert Museum.

Some of the Preserve land in the proposed right-of-way was donated by previous owners solely for Preserve purposes. Some of the land was bought with bond monies and Federal assistance. The bonds were passed by the citizens of Phoenix specifically for a Preserve. There is a moral commitment to the land donors and the citizens to use this land only for Preserves. To use the land for non-recreational purposes would require the city to repay the Federal Government the original assistance plus substantial penalties. That amounts to millions of dollars never mentioned by the proponents of Proposition 200.

Worse yet, Proposition 200 does nothing to solve the transportation mess we're in. Traffic will double by the year 2005 in the Squaw Peak Corridor (16th-20th-24th Streets). 85% of the demand is south of the Phoenix Mountains. This corridor has an existing high accident rate. If 32nd Street is forced through the mountain preserve, not one additional automobile trip will be added in the area of need. Moreover, with its 9 traffic signals, over 140 driveway access points, and peak traffic speed of 20 mph, the proposed roadway will contribute to our ever-worsening air pollution problem.

Now, if you will, visualize the Mountain Preserve. The splendid sweep of rocky ridges, the carpets of brilliant flowers in spring, the quiet opportunity for solitude and reflection. Picture a divided roadway, two ribbons of asphalt 70' wide, through the heart of it all. Picture a tunnel 700' long, or a 6 story deep cut in a pristine ridge. Too terrible to picture? Proposition 200 proponents don't think so.

The Sierra Club has joined in every fight to prevent mutilation of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. We cannot fail now. Go to the polls February 7. Vote NO on Proposition 200! (This article has been prepared with the assistance of several other groups all opposed to violation of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, and edited by Alma Williams, Palo Verde GRoup Chairperson.)

Update on Population Issues

1. The U.S. population is growing by about 2.5 million persons per year. (Natural increase - 1 million. Legal immigration - 500,000. Illegal immigration - 1 million (est.). Refuges - 50 to 90,000.)
2. The U.S. Border Patrol is severely under-equipped and under-staffed.
3. The proposed Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Reform Bill has been held up by Speaker Tip O'Neill.
4. A national poll taken by Hart Research Associates and V. Lance Torrance shows that both Black and Hispanic populations are in favor of immigration reform.
5. Anti-abortion legislation has been narrowly defeated although many inequities remain in federal and state laws.
6. The Hatfield-Ottinger bill to establish a national population policy aimed at population stabilization seems to be stalled.
7. The Bureau of the Census forecasts that Arizona's population will double by the year 2000.

All of this is not very encouraging. However, the general public is more aware of population issues and their effect on the environment than it once was.

I would be please to hear any ideas or suggestions you may have.

John E. Earl
4313 E. Hayhurst
Tucson, Arizona 85712
Member of the National Sierra Club
Population Committee



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Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Backpacking Cookbook

Yes! We are endeavoring to publish a cookbook. We know this idea has been bandied about and discussed for years. This year we would like to do it. To accomplish this we need everyone's help — please send your suggestions, recipes, hints and any other cooking ideas.

We want to include sections for backpacking, car camping, river trips, dayhikes, large commissaries, etc. Members of this committee include Shelley Mowry, Edith Reeves, Lynn Vaaler, Faye McIver, and Chris Trask.

Please send items to:
Shelley Mowry
3848 W. Lawrence Rd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85019

Conservation easements for Arizona?

By Patsy Waterfall

The Arizona Open Land Trust (AOLT), a Tucson-based group interested in the preservation of open space, is proposing legislation in the current Arizona legislative session that would provide a way for private landowners to protect the important natural, historical, and cultural values of their land through the use of conservation easements.

A conservation easement is essentially a legal document that serves as a guide for the future use of privately owned land. The property owner grants the easement either to a governmental body empowered to hold an interest in real property or a charitable corporation, association, or trust whose purposes and power include conservation and preservation. In granting a conservation easement the property owner has given up the right to develop the land. The easement runs in perpetuity with the land and is binding on future owners. Conservation easements contain provisions that are written to conform to the special characteristics of the individual properties and to the objectives of the individual landowners. Historically significant buildings as well as open space can be protected by conservation easements.

Conservation easements provide valuable ecological and economic benefits to the public. These include the protection of scenic beauty, historic sites, wildlife habitats, community water supplies, steep slopes, flood plains, and productive farm, ranch, and forest land. Further, conservation easements on land adjacent to public parks and sanctuaries are a useful tool for buffering these areas against too close development and commercialization.

Conservation easements contain provisions that are written to conform to the special characteristics of the individual properties and to the objectives of individual land owners. The extent to which the land is preserved depends upon the extensiveness of the development restrictions in the easement. Conservation easements provide for property protection in many ways. For example, an owner may include in the easement provisions that will set aside open space to increase neighborhood amenities in a soon to be developed area; state that the land remain "forever wild"; protect the land from industrial and commercial development; specify the maximum number of structures that may ever be located on the property; specify that the land may be used in the future for farming, aquaculture, wildlife management, or controlled timber harvest; or provide for views from dwellings, firewood collection, meadows, foot trail construction, or recreational activities for the particular property.

Easements provide a practical tool for the preservation of land. The private landowner benefits not only from continued use of the land, but also with respect to estate, income, gift, and property taxes. The act enables the structuring of transactions so as to achieve benefits made available under the Internal Revenue Code. The public's interest is preserved through the protection of valuable natural, historical, and cultural resources such as scenic vistas, wildlife habitats, farm land, and historic sites. The public also benefits economically because the cost of acquiring and maintaining the land does not fall on public agencies.

The Uniform Conservation Easement Act that is being proposed was developed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and has been passed in several states. This comprehensive legislation is necessary because some common law legal concepts threaten public-private contracts aimed at preservation. The restrictions and obligations of the act are immune from certain common law impediments which might otherwise be raised. By adopting the act the state legislature facilitates the enforcement of conservation easements serving the public interest. The act encourages preservation agreements between private and public entities by using simple language and concepts aimed at fairness and permanence.

Outings

1. Trip leader has absolute authority to question trip participants as to the equipment, conditioning and experience before the trip and also during the trip.
2. Red Cross course in first aid is required for all trip leaders. Equivalent courses are also accepted. Cards should be current.
3. No guns, radios or pets on Sierra Club outings.
4. Sierra Club liability covers leaders only.
5. Each person is responsible for their own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately.
6. If you leave the trip, with or without the leader's permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group.
7. Hikers are encouraged to car pool and contribute 3¢ per mile for the driver's fuel expense.
8. Outings are by reservation; call the leader early.
9. Donations are accepted from all participants at 50¢ a day per member, and \$1.00 a day per non-member. Money is collected by the leader and deposited with the sponsoring group treasurer.

OUTINGS RATINGS

Outings are rated for degree of difficulty and risk by the leader. As a guideline, outings are classified as follows:

- "A" More than 16 miles or more than 3,000 feet elevation change.
 "B" 8 to 16 miles and between 1,500 to 3,000 ft. elevation change.
 "C" Less than 8 miles and less than 1,500 ft. elevation change.
 "D" Less than 3 miles and less than 500 ft. elevation change.
 RT means round trip.
 OW means one way.
 Name of city after the date means city of origin of the group hiking.

Feb. 4-5 (SAT) Phoenix, "A" **Hassayampa River Gorge Backpack**. This is a series of deep narrow canyons and rugged terrain northeast of Wickenburg. We will hike up one canyon and down another possibly climbing some peaks along the way. Hike 21 miles round trip. Drive 70 miles from Phoenix. Trip limit 10. Call Bob Moore, 936-1739.

Feb. 11-12 (SAT-SUN) Phoenix, "C" **Potato Patch Cleanup**. We will spend some time cleaning up the area in this chaparral-oak woodland area of the Mazatzal Wilderness. Drive 50 miles from Scottsdale. Call Jim Vaaler, 840-3547.

Feb. 4 (SAT) Phoenix, "C" **Geronimo Cave: Superstition Dayhike**. Visit the not-so-mysterious Geronimo Cave. We will continue along the ridge for an impressive view of Weaver's Needle. This route involves a modicum of rock scrambling, but if the Don's Club can do it so can you. Suitable for novices in good condition. Call Slim Woodruff and Brad Houston at 897-2804.

Feb. 11 (SAT) Flagstaff, "B" **Cross Country Day Ski**. This will be full-day ski tour in the Hochderffer Hills, the western flank of the San Francisco Peaks. We'll meet in Flagstaff at 8:30 a.m. For more information and reservations call trip leader Dawson Henderson at 774-1571. Trip limit 12.

Feb. 12 (SUN) Flagstaff, "B" - "C" **Montezuma Ski Outing**. Assuming our prayers for snow are answered we'll be skiing the groomed trails at Montezuma Nordic Center at Mormon Lake. Trails for all abilities are available, but you'll be more comfortable if you are at least an advanced beginner. Mormon Lake Lodge is convenient for apres ski. For more information and reservations call trip leader Dan Daggett at 774-7537.

Feb. 12 (SUN) Phoenix, "C" **LaBarge Creek Dayhike, Superstitions**. This hike will provide great views of Canyon Lake as well as Weaver's Needle. This is a desert hike along a horse trail and has only about 700 feet of elevation gain. Hike five miles round trip. Drive 50 miles from Phoenix. No reservations. Bring lunch and two quarts of water. Meet at south side of Smitty's parking lot on Southern and Mill Ave. in Tempe. We will leave promptly at 8 a.m. Novice hikers and those having questions call leader Peter Curia at 254-5736.

Feb. 17-19 (FRI-SUN) Tucson, "B" **Gila Wilderness, New Mexico**. Cross-country ski/hike and then bathe in hot springs in the Gila Wilderness. Camp near springs for two nights. Trip leaves Friday night; approximately 5 hour drive. Trip rated as "B." Phone Jack Pigott 624-7288 or Jeanne Broome 296-2709 for reservations and more information. Space limited to eight people; cars needed.

Feb. 18 (SAT) Yuma "C" **Day Hike to Sugar-Loaf Mountain**, North Gila Valley. Bring water, sturdy ankle-supporting shoes, and lunch. The view of farmland, mountains and Yuma is excellent from the peak. Some loose rock, faint trails. Distance 15 miles OW from Yuma. Meet at Circle K, Avenue 7E and Highway 95, 7 miles east of Yuma. Leader, Pat Kenyon, 726-1347.

Feb. 18 (SAT) Phoenix "C" **Half Moon Trail Dayhike**. A very pleasant stroll through the eastern foothills of the Mazatzal Mountains. Large open meadows offer unrestricted views of the central Mazatzals. This is a "stop and smell the roses" hike. Our purpose is to enjoy the surroundings, not to cover distance. Bring your binoculars and field guides. Hike 8 miles round trip. Drive 60 miles from Scottsdale. Trip limit 20. Call leader Rose Weitz at 946-9016. Meeting time 8:00 a.m.

Feb. 18-19 (SAT-SUN) Phoenix "A" **Kino Peak Backpack**. We were rained out in December so we will try once again to explore one of the most remote areas of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Included will be a climb of 3,917 foot Kino Peak. Hike 14 miles, RT. Drive 126 miles from Phoenix. Trip limit 10. Call Bob Moore at 936-1739.

Feb. 25 (SAT) Tucson "C"- "D" **Tucson Mountains**. This will be a slow paced hike suitable for all ages. In the southern part of the Tucson Mountains we will visit a small pond and an old well. Those who want to do little more can climb Little Cat Mountain. 5 miles RT, bring lunch and water. Meet 9 a.m. First Interstate parking lot, Speedway and Stone. For more information call Gayle Hartmann 325-6974. No reservation required.

Feb. 25-26 (SAT-SUN) "B" **Burro Creek, Kaiser Canyon Backpack**. We will travel through the heart of this former WSA by way of Kaiser Wash, visiting Hell's Hole enroute. Camping above Kaiser Spring, we will have ample opportunity to enjoy this well mineralized area. Return by way of Kaiser and Warm Spring Canyons. Anticipate wading in Burro Creek. Hike 16 miles round trip. Drive 100 miles from Phoenix. Trip limit 20. Call Chris Trask in Apache Junction at 982-7350.

Feb. 17-20 (FRI-MON) Yuma "A" - "D" **Mormon Lake Cross Country Ski Trip**. The early snow gives promise of another quality ski season. 19 miles of trails through varied terrain offer opportunities for all ability levels. Plan on either a Friday night or Saturday morning arrival. Overnight facilities for trip participants are filled, however, a waiting list exists. Skiers may make individual arrangements for accommodations in Flagstaff. Mormon Lake Lodge offers dinners and breakfasts, or you may prepare your own meals. Music nightly at the lodge. Ski lessons and rentals are available. Small trail use fee. Limit is 16, age, limit at leader's discretion. \$10.00 deposit required to confirm overnight reservations. Call Elana or Hal Hallett at 726-8135 for reservations deadlines. Driving distance 30 miles OW southeast of Flagstaff.

Feb. 25 (SAT) Phoenix "C" **Robber Roost Dayhike, Superstitions**. The hike will take us to a secluded spot in otherwise heavily used area. There will be some cross country travels coupled with a well used trail. Hike six miles round trip. Elevation gain 1,600 feet. Drive 50 miles to trailhead. No reservations. This hike is not suitable for novice hikers or those who are out of shape. Bring lunch and two quarts of water. Leave from southside of Smitty's parking lot on Southern and Mill Ave. in Tempe. Leave promptly at 7:30 a.m. Any questions, call leader Peter Curia at 254-5736.

Feb. 25 (SAT) Mesa "D" **Family Snow Recreation**. We'll spend an afternoon at the Cinchook Snow Recreation Area atop the Mogollon Rim. Bring innertubes and warm clothes. Afterwards we'll stop in Strawberry for a warm snack. Drive 100 miles from Mesa. Trip limit 20. Call Bether or Bob Flores at 839-3403.

March 4 (SUN) Phoenix "C" **South Mountain Dayhike**. We will climb from the eastern end of the South Mountain Range to the towers at its top. Fat Man Pass and Hidden Valley will be visited on our return. Suitable for novices in good condition. Hike 6 miles RT. Trip limit 20. Call Jerry Nelson at 279-4668 or 274-4367.

March 10 (SAT) Phoenix "B" **Cottonwood Creek Dayhike**. Cottonwood Creek is part of the eastern boundary of the Four Peaks Wilderness Study Area. We will boulder hop and possibly wade down Cottonwood Creek to Saguaro Lake. Hike 10 miles RT. Drive 52 miles from Phoenix. Trip limit 20. Call Dave Mowry at 249-2625.

March 17-18 (SAT-SUN) Scottsdale "A" **Barnhardt/Rock Creek Dayhike**. Starting at the Barnhardt Trailhead we will proceed on a very scenic tour of the east central Mazatzal Wilderness. Saturday night camp will be pitched along the west fork of Deadman Creek in the vicinity of a spectacular double waterfall. Expect cold temperatures and possible snow covered ground. We will return via the Rock Creek and Half Moon Trails. Water will be plentiful. Hike 21 miles round trip. Drive 70 miles from Scottsdale. Trip limit 20. Call Chris Trask in Apache Junction at 982-7350.

March 17-18 (SAT-SUN) "A" **Sheridan Mountain Backpack**. This is an area west of Prescott where the mesas break away into a series of canyons and buttes. It was a RARE II area dropped from wilderness consideration. We will explore as much of this remote region as we have time for. Hike 16 miles RT. Drive 120 miles from Phoenix. Trip limit 15. Call Bob Moore at 936-1739.

Herbicide Workshop

On February 11 at the Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 E. Washington in Phoenix, the Palo Verde Group will present an all-day workshop, **HERBICIDES AND YOU: ECONOMIC POISONS ON PUBLIC RANGELAND**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mike Gregory, Chapter Pesticide Committee Chairperson and Chiracahua Group conservation chair has coordinated this event and will moderate.

Unlike the wilderness issue, which is easy to understand, the herbicide/pesticide issue is often couched in highly technical language, loaded with words we can barely pronounce, much less comprehend. This workshop is designed to educate at the novice level, to remove some of the mystery, and equip volunteers with enough knowledge and outrage to be able to join the fight against the insidious poisoning of our water, air, earth, and food, to name just the basics.

Speakers for the workshop will include:

- Jane Kay, investigative reporter for the Arizona Daily Star on "Arizona's Own Vietnam: the Government Said It Was Safe"
- Dr. Robert Dixon with the Southwest Rangeland Watershed Research Center, a division of Science and Education Administration, USDA on "Land Imprinting as an Alternative to Herbicides"
- Frank Barry, Tucson attorney on "Recent Developments in Pesticide Law"
- Steve Johnson, southwest regional representative for Defender's of Wildlife on "The Paper Cowboy: Rangeland Costs and Benefits"
- Gary Nabhan, researcher at the University of Arizona's Office of Arid Lands Studies on "Mesquite: What's It Good For?"
- Fred Miller, a founding member and former director of the National Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides on "Pesticide Reform: Mandatory for the '80s"

A very modest registration fee (\$5.00) will be charged to partially offset the cost of materials and lunch. As this issue goes to press, we are looking for a location for an evening reception so that the opportunity for networking goes beyond the luncheon. Please plan to arrive at the Pueblo Grande between 9 and 9:30 a.m. to register. This is an event not to be missed! See you there, Saturday, February 11.

Red Cross First Aid Course

A Red Cross first aid course will be offered soon for Sierra Club members. This will be open to anyone and is REQUIRED of new outings leaders and leaders who need their cards updated. Call Roberta Delany in Phoenix at 944-8744.

"The love of wilderness is more than a hunger for what is always beyond reach; it is also an expression of loyalty to the Earth, the only home we shall ever know, the only paradise we ever need . . . if only we had the eyes to see."

—Edward Abbey
(from a trail plaque, Saguaro Nat'l Mon.)

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WILD
IN
YOUR
STATE
TAX FORM



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Junior (through 14)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	

All dues include subscriptions to *Sierra* (\$3) and chapter publications (\$1).

Mail To: **Sierra Club**, Dept. G224
P.O. Box 7959, San Francisco, CA 94120

PALO VERDE group news



Feb. 7 (TUES) Election Day. Vote NO on Proposition 200 and save our Phoenix Mountain Preserve! (See article elsewhere in paper.)

Feb. 7 (TUES) 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee meeting. Call Alma at 841-4969 for meeting place. Everyone is welcome.

Feb. 11 (SAT) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 E. Washington, Phoenix. All day workshop, Herbicides and You: Economic Poisons on Public Rangeland. Registration fee of \$5.00 covers materials packet and lunch. Please refer to article in this issue for additional information.

Feb. 16 (THURS) 7 p.m., Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 E. Washington, Phoenix. General meeting, open to all. In anticipation of a glorious desert spring, our speakers will present a program on wildflowers and photography how-to's. Come at 7 for refreshments and socializing; the program will begin at 7:30.

Feb. 23 (THURS) 7 p.m., Pueblo Grande Museum. Regular conservation meeting. Remember: Wilderness still needs Adopters, our water and air still need cleaning up, and everywhere legislators, congressmen, bureaucrats, and editors need to hear from you. Come and see where you fit in.

March 1 (THURS) Outings meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Dave Mowry, 3848 W. Lawrence Road, Phoenix (249-2625 for directions and information). We will plan outings through May. Bring slides of recent trips. New leaders needed and welcome.

PLATEAU group news



For information about Plateau meetings please contact Dawson Henderson in Flagstaff, at 774-1571.

CHIRICAHUA group news



The next group meeting will be in late March or early April and is planned for the Portal area. The time, date and place will be announced in the next issue of the Canyon Echo.

For information on the Sierra Club activity in Portal, contact Alice Chew at 558-2312. For information in the Bisbee area contact Natalie Danforth at 432-2683 or Mike Gregory at 432-7340, for the Pearce/Sunsites area, Enid Howard at 826-3800. Enid is the new Chiricahua Group Chair and her address is P.O. Box 505, Pearce, AZ 85625.

KOFA group news



Feb. 2 (THURS) 7:30 p.m. Kofa Group Ex-Com and Conservation Meeting at the home of Hal Hallett, 14269 Verde Avenue, Yuma. Call Pat Kenyon at 726-1347 to submit agenda items or obtain further information. For directions to the Hallett house, call 726-8135.

Feb. 16 (THURS) 7:30 p.m. Kofa Group general membership and public meeting at the Yuma City-County Library, 350 South 3rd Street, Yuma. Arizona Game and Fish Department Regional Habitat Specialist Bill Werner will present a slide program illustrating environmental impact on animal habitats in the Yuma area. Call Pat Kenyon at 726-1347 for more information.

March 1 (THURS) 7:30 p.m. Kofa Group Action Meeting. Call Pat Kenyon 726-1347 for meeting location.

RINCON group news



Rincon Group Priorities for 1984

By Gayle Hartmann

At its first meeting of 1984, the Rincon Group decided its priorities for the year — which environmental problems concern us and which ones we plan to work on.

We ended up with the following list, clearly overly ambitious but also clearly made up of problem areas needing attention.

1. Air Quality
2. Water Quality
3. Hazardous Waste
- 2 & 3 at the state and local levels
4. Urban Growth
5. Local Elections: promoting environmentally concerned candidates.
6. Neighborhood Coalitions
7. City and County Committees
- 6 & 7 working with this coalition and with local committees on environmentally oriented problems
8. Arizona Open Land Trust: promoting state conservation easements.
9. Campbell Cliffs: helping obtain a prescriptive easement
10. Arizona Wilderness Bill: working toward its adoption
11. Coronado Forest Plan
12. BLM Wilderness Issues
13. Public Watershed Issues
14. Central Arizona Project

We sometimes forget, in our environmental zeal, that we are a group of volunteers who should enjoy the out-of-doors as well as work toward the solution of environmental problems. Therefore, our final priority, suggested by Jeanne Broome, our Outings Chair, was **HAVE FUN**. That probably should be our first priority.

Chapter Volunteer of the Month

By Diana Decker

Dr. John Ricker

Phoenix

The Sierra Club's Walter A. Starr Award hangs on one wall of Dr. John Ricker's office. The award commends Ricker for "continuing support of Sierra Club ideals through his work as director, outings leader and chairman of the outings committee" and for actively furthering outings "by helping others know the wilderness and value its preservation." Arizona members of the Club also have reason to recognize Dr. Ricker for his instrumental role in organizing the group that became the Grand Canyon Chapter in 1965.

Dr. Ricker, 70, a noted hand surgeon, has been camping, backpacking, hiking and fishing since the age of 12. He's also the best local Sierra Club historian. "As a boy, I spent a lot of time at my family's cabin near Lake Tahoe and a lot of people up there were Sierra Club members. So I've known about the Club for over 50 years."

He chose not to join the club when he lived in California, because he didn't like the way the club ran outings. "There was only high trips then — they'd take 100-200 people into the wilderness at a time."

After graduation from the University of California in Berkeley, Ricker attended medical school at McGill University. He moved to Arizona in 1940 for an internship at St. Joseph's Hospital and "to get warm after five years of snow and ice in Montreal." He stayed on to do a residency and started his practice here.

The outdoorsman changed his mind about joining the Sierra Club after hiking for a week in the Sierras with Club members in 1948. "They convinced me that the Club was a good organization to belong to." He began going on national outings in 1951, became an assistant leader in 1952 and a trip leader in 1960. Ricker wanted to start a local group in the '50s. "It just seemed like a good idea. I got a list of members living in Arizona then, but there were only 49, so I decided to wait."

He tried again in 1964, with a list of over 100 Arizona members. "The best way to start a chapter was to begin as a group that was part of an existing chapter. The Riverside (CA) Chapter (now San Geronimo) took us in as the Arizona Regional Group and we had our first meeting in the ASU gym in the spring of 1964. We held monthly meetings and outings twice a month. Our newsletter was a one page mimeographed list of activities typed by my secretary."

In December, 1965, the board of directors granted chapter status to the group, which then boasted over 200 members. The Grand Canyon Chapter was the 20th in the country.

Ricker is quick to give credit others who helped get the young chapter going. Still active in the Club are John McComb, the Club Conservation Director, Edith Reeves, local and national outings leader, and Betsy Barnett, a board director.

"The board was happy to have a chapter in Arizona," Ricker remembers, "because of the imminent danger of damming the Grand Canyon." In order to finance the Central Arizona Project, the Bureau of Reclamation wanted to build two dams in the Grand Canyon, in Marble Canyon and Bridge Canyon, for selling hydro-electric power. Chapter

Feb. 8 (WED) Rincon Group Ex-Com meeting at the home of Gayle Hartmann, 2224 E. 4th Street, 325-6974. All members welcome.

Feb. 9 (THURS) Rincon Public meeting and Conservation meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The program will be "Glen Canyon: Before and After," by Tad Nichols and Peter Kresan, a slide show. Place will be the PAS Building on the U of A campus, Fourth and Park, room 201.

March 8 (THURS) Rincon Public meeting at 7:45 p.m., conservation meeting at 7:00. Call Judy Reynoso for information about the program, 887-9645.

Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair Success!

By Mike Cease

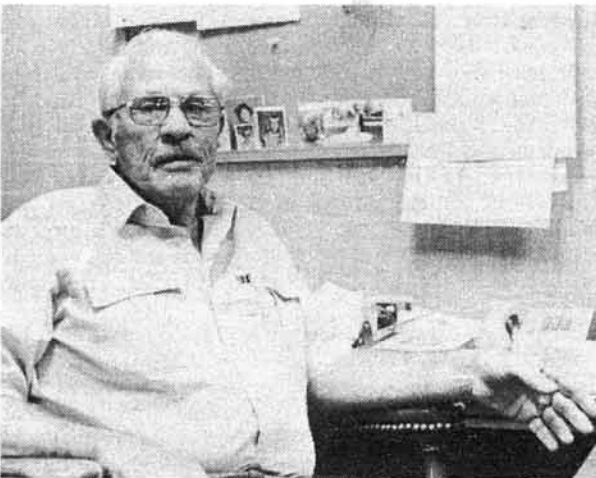
Our booth at the fair on December 9, 10 and 11 was a success thanks to many helpful volunteers. I would like to thank Judy Reynoso, Blythe Hudgens, Carol Plankers, Sarah Roberts, Tres English, Gayle Hartmann, Paul Hirt, Garlynn Johnson, Jeanne Broome, Mary Lewis, Marty Ralph, Ralph Wrons, Jim Notestine, Pamela Hathaway, Glen Young, Marie Kearney, Bill and June Olmstead, Brian McCarthy, Carolyn Cooper, John Earl, Candy King, Doug Stevens, Dan Hoffstoder, Kenny Scott, Marilyn Lane, Arleen Kendrick, Alexis Yopp, and John Leonard.

There were 918 petitions for Wilderness collected. We also sold T-shirts and calendars to help raise money for the Rincon conservation activities.

RINCON RECYCLING REPORT

On Nov. 5, stalwarts Brian McCarthy and John Leonard spent a pleasant morning toting back to the recycling center for rehabilitation, 814 pounds of glass and aluminum. These bottles and cans had been hoarded by a dozen Tucson families. We'll be happy to tote yours this spring, so start saving NOW. We hope to be able to put steel and "tin" cans back to work, too, although there has been no purchaser for such for the past year. If you have room and patience, save these cans, too.

You can recycle your *Sierra* magazines, too. They are too handsome to discard, but what to do? One suggestion — bring them to a public meeting (or give them to a group officer) where they serve as an excellent recruiting device. Or share them with friends, a hospital or an office.



Dr. John Ricker

photo courtesy of Diane Decker

members helped make the campaign a success by writing letters of the editor, appearing on television and attending Congressional hearings.

The Chapter then focused its energy on wilderness, specifically getting wilderness designation for Sycamore Canyon Primitive Area, Mount Baldy and Pine Mountain on the Verde Rim.

Ricker has kept track of club growth. In the '50s there was little motivation for the general public to belong to the Club. National membership was about 5,000. "It was just a bunch of hikers in California." The Club started growing when it began tackling major political issues, according to Ricker. "I once figured out that if the Grand Canyon chapter grew at the same rate by the year 2000, everyone in the state would belong to it and we wouldn't have to worry about wilderness."

Ricker was Chapter Chairman from 1966-70 and chapter council rep "off and on during the '60s." The council serves in an advisory capacity to the board, relaying chapter needs to the board which then sets policy. He was a director from 1972-78. During his tenure, "the Club went on record against nuclear power and took on a lot of other conservation things such as pure water, clean air and population control."

From 1976-80, Ricker served as National Outings Chairman. And, "off and on since '67," he's been chairman of the Southwestern regional subcommittee. The committee members are national trip leaders and "we plan and organize all kinds of national trips in the Southwest, about 20-25 a year. We also plan the service trips."

Ricker believes in recruiting new hike leaders, but "I like to tell outings people that I don't train leaders, I breed them." Two of his four sons, Rodney, 37, and Jimmy, 32, each lead 2-3 national trips a year. A third son, Dick, 36, and his wife lead an occasional family outing. Ricker hopes to turn the outings subcommittee chair over to Jimmy.

He still finds time to lead 2-3 national trips a year. His favorite spot is the Sandstones Canyons of the Navajo Country.

Dr. Ricker is also an avid reader/collector of the *Echo*, but he won't be reading this issue until March. He's on a four week backpack-river rafting-camping trip — in Chile!