

ARIZONANS IN ACTION: MAKING CHANGE IN 2020



<http://sierraclub.org/arizona>

Grand Canyon Chapter

Fall 2019

Fighting Climate Change Complicity

By Tajinder Uppal



Climate change really tests me. Every day I struggle with it. I love plants, animals, and people, and I would hate to be the cause of their suffering. And yet almost every day I eat animal products, buy unnecessary consumer items, and further contribute to global emissions. I am a hypocrite to fight for the environment, while simultaneously and voluntarily engaging in activities to destroy it.

I don't have it within me to withhold water from a thirsting individual. I could never destroy a family's home and force

them to migrate elsewhere. Nor could I ever start a forest fire, dry out a river, eradicate species from this earth, or dismantle entire ecosystems. I would never impose extreme heat upon millions of people, or expose young children to poor air quality.

But I can eat dairy products with nearly every meal. I can fly from Phoenix to Chicago to vacation. I can buy an unnecessary amount of single-use plastic cups and t-shirts. I can use electrical appliances almost all day, knowing they're powered by coal-burning plants.

The only effective differences between withholding water from a drought-stricken city and jumping on an airplane, are a few intermediate steps, and some delay. My flight will burn fuel, emit greenhouse gases, contribute to climate change, and inevitably inflict drought upon millions of people.

But because the consequences are not so immediate, I can't seem to fully comprehend them. It's so very difficult for my brain to link everyday activi-

ties with the suffering of others. And yet they are so very connected.

I am choosing a lifestyle that will hurt others, and that is already hurting others. I can't keep living with the contradiction. I must fight myself.

It is this realization, this guilt, that motivates me to take public transit, choose vegan options, and mitigate my environmental footprint. Likewise, a constant contemplation of the climate crisis is what motivates me to stay politically active. We desperately need sweeping government action to combat climate change. And therefore any decision to not vote, to not call our representatives, to not protest, is a decision to be complicit in the suffering of others.

I think the main reason people don't care enough about climate change, is due to an inability to effectively comprehend the consequences. So I beg of everyone, live in constant awareness of the linkage between driving your car and driving countless species to extinction, between failing to participate in our democracy and failing to prevent needless misery.

Internalize this the best you can. Allow this awareness to guide your actions. Allow this to anger you, impassion you, scare you, and allow this knowledge to vitalize you. Allow it to provide you a greater sense of purpose, to inspire you to become a part of something far bigger than yourself, a movement to envision a brighter future.

Taj is a former intern for the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter.

The True Cost of Dark Money

By Benjamin Downer



As 2020 approaches, the presidential race is already front and center with many voters. Yet it is Arizona's local elections and ballot initiatives that are seeing an influx of interest and cash from anonymous organizations and donors. Anonymous funding, known as dark money, hides the original source of the donation and shields these entities from public scrutiny.

In a report titled Secret Spending in the States from the Brennan Center, former Arizona House of Representatives Republican Chris Herstem lays out the reality of anonymous contributions. "In my 33 years in Arizona politics and government, dark money is the most corrupting influence I have seen. Without adequate disclosure laws, Arizonans do not know for sure who is purchasing their elected offices."

Purchasing local elections has already yielded dividends. After years of speculation, Arizona Public Service Company (APS)

Dark Money continued on p. 15



Tajinder (middle) and volunteer lobbyists met with Rep. Debbie Lesko to discuss climate legislation. Photo courtesy of Tajinder Uppal.

Don't forget to vote in chapter and group elections! See p. 6 for ballot and instructions. Deadline is December 1.

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet





Arizona Chapter Action Directory

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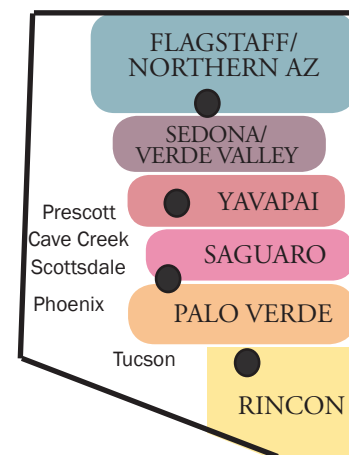
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GRAND CANYON CHAPTER

(xc) 2019 Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) members

DCPC: Diversity and Conservation Project Committee

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Flagstaff/N AZ:	Joe Shannon	Rincon:	Meg Weesner	Sedona/Verde Valley:	Brian Myers
Palo Verde:	Don Steuter	Saguaro:	Doug Murphy	Yavapai:	Tom Slaback

Chapter Announcements

OCT 5-6 (SAT–SUN) Chapter Conservation (SAT) and Executive Committee (SUN) meetings. Club leaders meet to consider matters related to statewide conservation efforts, share experiences across groups, and coordinate strategy to align our Chapter mission and goals with that of national Sierra Club. For more information, contact Don Steuter at 602-956-5057 or dsteuter@hotmail.com or Keith Bagwell at 520-623-0269 or kbagwell50@gmail.com.

OCT 9, NOV 13, DEC 11 (WED) 6:30 p.m. Political Committee meeting. Help us elect more environmentally-friendly candidates! If you are interested in helping improve the political climate in Arizona, consider being part of our Political Committee! All Sierra Club members are welcome to participate. For information, contact political.chair@grandcanyon.sierraclub.org.

OCT 22, NOV 26 (TUE) 6:30 p.m. Energy Team meeting. Discussions, programs, and field trips encompass renewable energy and energy efficiency campaigns nationally and locally. Everyone is invited to participate, no matter how much or how little you know about energy issues. For more information, please contact Karen Contos at kcontos84@gmail.com.

NOV 4 (MON) Publications Committee meeting. Have an idea? Help plan future issues of *Canyon Echo*! Contact Lydia Wilson at 602-253-9140 or lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org.

DEC 1 (SAT) Copy deadline for Winter 2020 Canyon Echo. Articles, art, photographs, poetry, essays, and brief epiphanies are welcome. Contact the editor before submitting at 602-253-9140 or lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org to discuss word count, photos to include, licensing, issue topics, and to request submission guidelines.

DEC (TBD) Canyon Echo Mailing Party. Volunteers save the Chapter hundreds of dollars by preparing *Canyon Echo* for mailing. Thank you! The job is easy to learn, and we all have a great time. Any amount of time that you're available is appreciated. Contact Jerry Nelson at 602-279-4668 or peakbagger2@gmail.com for details.

Grand Canyon Chapter – What's Going On?

Calling All Photographers!



We are trying to build our photo library and need your help! Do you have photos of a favorite place in Arizona? Local animals or plants? A Sierra Club activity in which you've participated? Images of environmental concerns affecting our state? Please send them our way!

Images must be high resolution (at least 200 dpi at 4x6 inches in size) with good contrast and clarity. Only submit images for which you are the photographer and that can be used in any Sierra Club publications or webpages.

For more information or to submit photos, contact Lydia Wilson at lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org

Mark Your Calendar:

Environmental Day at the Capitol

February 5, 2020

Arizona State Capitol
Rose Garden Area

Join hundreds of advocates for environmental protection and justice, climate action, lands and wildlife conservation, flowing rivers, democracy, and more, in meeting at the Arizona Capitol to let legislators know how much we care about these issues, as well as specific bills. We will be holding workshops this fall and in January to help people learn about the process and the issues and then on Environmental Day, we will hear from legislators and meet in teams with our own legislators. Various organizations will also have tables at the event.

The first volunteer lobby workshop will be on Tuesday, October 29th at 6:00 P.M.

For more information, contact Sandy Bahr
at 602-253-8633 or sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.



More than 375 people attended Environmental Day 2019. Photo by Gary Beverly.

Picnic Time!

Sunday, November 17

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

South Mountain Park, Phoenix

As a way to say *thank you* to all of our members and volunteers, we invite you to join us for this fun potluck and volunteer/member awards recognition picnic! Spend a day at Papago Park and meet and mingle with others devoted to Arizona's environment. FREE! All you need to bring are your friends and family and a dish you wish to share. Sierra Club will provide a main dish and drinks. Not yet a member? Please join us!

RSVP to 602-253-9140 or lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org.

Directions provided when you RSVP!

Sign Up for the Electronic Newsletter!

Help save resources and money by signing up for the electronic newsletter! Send an email with your full name and membership ID (8-digit number on your mailing label) to CanyonEchoESub@gmail.com or fill out the short form at http://bit.ly/e_echo. You will receive an email when issues are available online.



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NOTE: These lists include donations received from May 31 through September 17.

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Sierra Club Elections

Who can vote?

All current Sierra Club members in good standing (dues paid) who belong to the Grand Canyon Chapter.

How do I vote?

*NOTE: You can now vote online! Please go to sierraclub.org/arizona for details.

1) Review the candidate biographies on pp. 7–9.

2) Mark whether you have a Single or Joint (household) membership.

3) Vote by marking the box space(s) beside the candidates of your choice. Vote for no more than the number of candidates indicated for the Chapter or Group.

4) After voting, photocopy or cut out your ballot and place it in an envelope with your **name, membership number** (if not known, call 602-253-9140), and **address** as the return address. Your membership number is the 8-digit number above your name on your newsletter mailing label. **Deadline: December 1. Ballots postmarked later than December 1 OR without a name and address on the envelope will not be counted.**

Why are there two boxes following each candidate’s name?

The second vote column is for joint memberships (two people living in the same household who are members). If you fill in the “S” box, your vote will count **once**. If you have a joint membership, fill in the “J” box and your vote will count **twice** for one household. If you have a joint membership and the two members want to vote for different candidates, check two “S” boxes in the same section. **Do not check both the S and the J boxes.**

What do I need to remember when marking the ballot?

Do not put your name on the ballot. Before counting, names and joint memberships will be verified from your return address on the outside of the envelope. Ballots will be counted after the deadline (December 1). All members may vote for Chapter Executive Committee candidates, but members may only vote for the candidates in the Group in their respective residential location. If you are unsure of which Group you’re in, contact 602-253-9140 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

ELECTION BALLOT

Is your membership Single or Joint?

Single ☐ Joint ☐

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
All Members Vote

<i>Vote for no more than 4 candidates</i>	Single (Membership Type)	Joint
Kathy Mohr-Almeida	☐	☐
Joshua Preston	☐	☐
Jim Vaaler	☐	☐
Meg Weesner	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐

Very Important!

Be sure to include your name and address on the envelope (not on the ballot). **Any envelopes without this information will be discarded and the ballot will not be counted.** Mail to

Sierra Club Elections
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85003

GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: *Vote ONLY for Your Group*

If you are not sure which group you’re in, contact 602-253-9140 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

PALO VERDE (Phoenix)
Vote for no more than 4

Korey Hjelmeir	☐	☐
Chris Gehlker	☐	☐
Kathy Mohr-Almeida	☐	☐
Jim Vaaler	☐	☐
Jason Zeikowitz	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐

RINCON (Tucson)
Vote for no more than 4

Keith Bagwell	☐	☐
Samira Farwaneh	☐	☐
G. Marie Swanson	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐

SEDONA/VERDE VALLEY
Vote for no more than 3

_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐

SAGUARO (N. Maricopa County)
Vote for no more than 3

Sue Barsky	☐	☐
Sally Howland	☐	☐
Jo Sylvester	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐

FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ
Vote for no more than 3

Marcia Burns	☐	☐
Sarah King	☐	☐
Joe Shannon	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐

YAVAPAI (Prescott)
Vote for no more than 3

Jenny Cobb	☐	☐
Steve Cook	☐	☐
Tom Slaback	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐
_____	☐	☐

Meet the Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Ph.D. (Membership Number: 43413679)

I would like to serve a third term on the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee because I am deeply committed to the conservation of Arizona’s resources and wildlife, and the mitigation of environmental issues in Arizona. Vigilance of the Rio Verde, the San Pedro, Fossil Creek, and Oak Flat must continue, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. I am particularly concerned with the protection of the Grand Canyon and its related resources and the potential for destruction and toxic waste inside our national treasure. The monitoring of state, federal and corporate activities are crucial to the protection of our natural resources and biodiversity. My continuance on the Grand Canyon Sierra Club Executive Committee will advance the coalition building I have created over my previous terms between our community and multiple local and national environmental communities outside of Sierra Club. I will continue to advocate for environmental projects and issues important in Arizona alongside these groups, and lobby at state and federal levels for our identified goals. I work closely with youth climate activists, am fully Spanish-English bilingual and possess an open mind.

Joshua Preston (Membership Number: 53660284)

My name is Joshua Preston and I am from the Tohono O’odham Nation. I am currently employed at the San Xavier Co-op Farm; where we grow traditional crops and promote traditional foods. Although I never seen myself in agriculture, I was always placed in a class with gardening since I could remember. When agriculture is talked about they only talk of food when it is so much more than that; it’s land, water, plants, meteorology, biology, astrology, and so much more. As a former student of Changemaker High school, I had several opportunities such as to travel to New York and being in the process of building garden beds and hoop houses on school campus. I also had the opportunity to speak at the Environmental Day at the state Capitol; where I talked about how we all have a responsibility to take care of the earth and its precious resources. I believe this to be true today that we must protect what we have for ourselves and future generations.

Jim Vaaler (Membership Number: 11880851)

I will continue in the future as I have in the past to lead outings and work on public land issues such as the Plan Revision for Tonto National Forest as well as other public land issues as they arise. I am a big supporter of our Lite Rail system and am happy to say I was able to do a bit of canvassing against Prop 105. I will continue to write articles for the Canyon Echo. However there is an overarching issue that has become of great concern to me recently and that would be the state of politics in our Country. In the past, it seems now many years ago, politics was something that worked towards finding solutions to our problems. But the problem now is politics itself. There is a potential solution to our political gridlock and that is to marginalize our two party system by registering as an Independent.

Margaret “Meg” Weesner (Membership Number: 13399492)

I have been a member of Sierra Club for 40 years, and a life member for much of that time. I have led outings since 2006, and have been increasingly active in chapter activities since I retired eight years ago. In 2013-14, I led our state’s effort to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and I received the chapter’s Conservationist of the Year Award in 2014. I have served on the Rincon Group ExCom for five years, and have been group chair for four years. I’ve worked with local conservation organizations on many issues that we share, and I lead the chapter’s Publications and Fundraising committees. With your support I would like to continue working for success on environmental issues in Arizona. Sierra Club is unique among national environmental organizations because of the opportunities it provides for grassroots members to become actively involved in conservation issues. Involving youth and non-traditional communities is important for the perpetuation of our 125+ year-old organization. I would be honored to serve on the chapter’s executive committee, to work to protect our air, water, wildlife, and public lands, and to improve sustainability in our state.

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d) Percent Paid		98.13	97.87

Meet the Group Executive Committee Candidates

RINCON GROUP

Keith Bagwell (Membership Number: 42044629)

Please vote for me to continue on the Rincon Group Executive Committee, of which I have been a member since the early 2000s. I am a dedicated and active Sierra Club member in southern Arizona and statewide. An ardent environmentalist, my scope of concerns is broad and deep. In addition, I believe in taking vigorous action to protect and enhance our precious but beleaguered planet. The Sierra Club stands out among environmental organizations in being broad, deep, and action-oriented. I embrace the Sierra Club's push to diversify its active membership in terms of ethnicity, race, age, and gender identification. If re-elected will strive to make such diversity a feature of the Rincon Group. Climate change, air pollution, water contamination and diminution, and tainted soil affect everyone in myriad ways. We need to enlist more people in our work. We need to collaborate with other activist organizations and help them with their efforts to create a more just and healthy society if we expect them to help us. Together we are stronger and we need the power of numbers to affect the significant change we require.

Samira Farwaneh, PhD (Membership Number: 42711404)

Relying on the sounds, smells, and "feel" of the World and Nature -- without the sights -- that is my personal daily approach to life and the World, and to Nature. Blind most of my life -- I am a Palestinian Muslim, born and raised in an immigrant community in Kuwait -- where my Father was the secretary to the Minister of Public Works. At age 27, I arrived in Iowa, to start my graduate studies -- later gaining my PhD in Utah. At UofA since 2001, I am a Professor of Linguistics, in the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies -- specializing in the nature and role of Arabic dialects. I am now eager to join the ExCom of Rincon Group -- to add my experience and voice, especially for the role of Nature within the blind community, locally. I am comfortable with that role, now -- having recently attended meetings of the ExCom/Conservation Committees (plus having helped at fun mailing parties). I enjoy and respect Nature -- whether in the wide desert, or in my backyard (with its birds, owls, hawks, rabbits, squirrels, and other creatures). With high appreciation for the efforts and results of the Sierra Club -- I want to help do more.

G. Marie Swanson (Membership Number: 23984490)

I have been a Sierra Club member for 43 years and a Life Member for 41 of those years. I am currently filling a position on the Rincon Group Executive Committee to replace a member who moved out of the area. I have enjoyed outdoor activities my entire life, beginning with foraging for wild mushrooms as a child, and enjoying wildlife on lakes and in the woods, and hiking in our mountains. I treasure the Sierra Club for its dedication to getting all ages outdoors, through local programs as well as local, national, and international outings. As a retired public health academic, I am dedicated to protecting our health through protecting our environment. Diversity is the key to protecting our planet; diversity of all forms of life and of the people dedicated to meeting today's challenges of climate change and environmental destruction. It would be a privilege to be elected to serve the Rincon Group as a member of its Executive Committee.

PALO VERDE GROUP

Chris Gehlker (Membership Number: 41385231)

When I ran last time I promised to try to instill in the group an appetite for visionary ideas. Better management of dying ecosystems just won't get the job done. I obviously did not succeed in totally transforming the Palo Verde Group but I think I moved the needle. What surprised me was how much fun it was. Please let me continue to do this work: it's a blast. I promise to bust my buns to get environmentalists elected at the local level and to take public transportation to Club meetings at least most of the time.

Korey Hjelmeir (Membership Number: 50097860)

For as long as I can remember I have loved the outdoors - if there was ever an excuse to be outside, I would find it. As such, I am a passionate environmentalist. With the increased threats to our environment in recent years I decided to narrow the focus of my activism, with the Sierra Club as my organization of choice. Currently I chair the chapter's political committee and participate on the fundraising, publications and wildlife committees. I've put my outings leader designation to use for service projects, fundraising and PAC hikes. I enjoy helping with events like tabling for Climate Action, organizing text banks and canvasses and planning Environmental Day at the Capitol -- to name a few. I'm also involved with other likeminded organizations and trainings, to help further environmental causes. While my main focus on the Political Committee is to try get people involved in activism, I've realized working on other committees we all have different goals. For the Sierra Club to be the best we possibly can, we need a strong executive committee working together to help all our different groups achieve their respective goals, and I would like to be part of that team.

Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Ph.D. (Membership Number: 43413679)

I would like to serve a third term on the Palo Verde Group Executive Committee because I am deeply committed to the mitigation of environmental issues across Arizona. My membership on the Palo Verde ExComm allows me to closely monitor state, federal and corporate activities, which is crucial to the conservation of Arizona's resources and biodiversity. I will continue to advocate for environmental projects and issues important in Arizona, and lobby at state and federal levels for our identified goals. Youth climate crisis leadership development remains a large part of my focus. Young people are incredibly resourceful, creative, and hold the moral authority to hold our governmental systems accountable. My professional background is in Education and Psychotherapy. I currently work with family and youth counseling, am involved in environmental coalition building, and am Executive Director of Kids Climate Action Network. I am fully Spanish-English bilingual, and believe that the inclusion of marginalized people in political processes is paramount and socially just. I have served on the GCSC Executive Committee, am involved with Moms Clean Air Force, and Rainforest Action Network, among other groups.

Jim Vaaler (Membership Number: 11880851)

I will continue in the future as I have in the past to lead outings and work on public land issues such as the Plan Revision for Tonto National Forest as well as other public land issues as they arise. I am a big supporter of our Lite Rail system and am happy to say I was able to do a bit of canvassing against Prop 105. I will continue to write articles for the Canyon Echo. However there is an overarching issue that has become of great concern to me recently and that would be the state of politics in our Country. In the past, it seems now many years ago, politics was something that worked towards finding solutions to our problems. But the problem now is politics itself. There is a potential solution to our political gridlock and that is to marginalize our two party system by registering as an Independent.

Jason Zeikowitz (Membership Number: 49527384)

Please accept my request to join the Sierra Club Palo Verde Group Executive Committee. The purpose for my request is to help with strategic initiatives by **(cont. on next page)**

(Jason Zeikowitz cont.) utilizing my experience within the local environmental justice and voter outreach communities. My strong passion for engaging and educating the public has familiarized myself with these many groups, but my appreciation for the unique value of the Sierra Club has driven me to promote it on many levels. When doing voter outreach, the Sierra Club is my ultimate reference point because I don't want people to just get registered to vote, I want them to vote with confidence. Voting is like making a school/work report: If you don't know it all, know where you can find it all. By being inclusive, informative, and involved, the Sierra Club becomes a perfect resource for voters. To promote the unique value of the Sierra Club, it would be my honor to develop strategies alongside the Palo Verde Group Executive Committee.

YAVAPAI GROUP

Jenny Cobb (Membership Number: 47163310)

I have served on the Yavapai Group Executive Committee for the past four years and am currently the Secretary and Outings Chair. I also serve as the Outings Chair for the Grand Canyon Chapter. For several years I have been helping the Water Sentinels monitor the upper Verde River every month. I am deeply involved in myriad environmental and conservation issues, including grazing, landscape restoration, mining, wildlife corridors, recovery of the Mexican Gray Wolf, wildlife in the Borderlands, climate change, supporting rights of indigenous peoples, air quality, continuing protection of the black-footed ferret, and stewardship of forest trails. I am also the Yavapai-Prescott Broadband Leader of Great Old Broads for Wilderness (environmental partners of the Sierra Club in Arizona), conservationists who are advocates, stewards and educators for wild lands. My truck is always ready for field work, packed with camping and back-packing gear. I am a retired college instructor. Thank you for your vote so that I can continue my advocacy and stewardship for our wild lands

Steve Cook (Membership Number: 47820542)

My intermittent membership in the Sierra Club dates to my UCLA student days in the early 1970s. I have been a continual Sierra Club member since 2015, and have served as a Yavapai Group ExComm member since mid 2017. In February 1978, financially supported by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (through the Ozark Headwaters Group -- Arkansas Sierra Club chapter), Tom McKinney and I flew to Washington DC and successfully lobbied the USFS and EPA to stop aerial spraying of herbicides in national forests, part of a continuing battle over national forest management. My interest in this topic continues today. My other interests are in air and water quality, public lands, energy and climate change issues. If reelected, I will continue to focus my environmental activist energy to help the Sierra Club with environmental protection efforts in Yavapai County and Arizona.

Tom Slaback (Membership Number: 12611684)

Sierra Club member more than 44 years, volunteer in Group, Chapter, and Water Sentinels leadership. In addition to the unquenchable thirst by the tri-city developer interests, the Verde River is now also threatened by a foreign company wanting to pump 27,000 af. from the Big Chino to create two pump storage lakes. Trump wants to gut the ESA that protects the plants and animals of the Verde River. The Prescott NF is in the process of removing 1/2 of its vegetation cover including the Verde uplands and spotted owl habitat, expanding livestock grazing, and allowing mining dredging in our south Bradshaw river drainages. AED not only threatens our Peavine and Iron King trails with at-grade road crossings, a resort, filling in riparian habitat with houses, privatizing open space, but also want to build in the iconic Point of Rocks which should be designated public open space as a condition of their annexation request. I ask for your vote so that I can continue to speak for our environment, against climate change, and for our right to clean air and water.

FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ GROUP

Marcia Burns (Membership Number: 47506490)

Greetings--i am running for an executive committee member position for the Flagstaff/N. AZ Sierra Club Group, where i have been an active volunteer for the past 3 years. During these troubling times, nothing is more important to me than working for preservation of our wonderful nature and wilderness here in Arizona and elsewhere. The Sierra Club is a very important and worthwhile organization and i am proud to be a member.

Sarah King (Membership Number: 28404590)

I would like to be considered a candidate for an executive committee publications person for Sierra Club's Flagstaff Group. I have been a Sierra Club member for many years, volunteering to help out at events, doing publicity and participating in tabling and organizing lobby visits with elected officials. As a former freelance writer for several publications, I have the necessary experience in writing and editing publications of many kinds and would like to use those skills to support the Flagstaff Group in its work in Northern Arizona.

Joe Shannon (Membership Number: 17616609)

It was as an easy decision for me to be candidate for the Flagstaff N AZ Group Executive Committee. Thinking about what our small but motivated group is doing to support Sierra Club values and improve environmental circumstances in N AZ, those members stepping-up to devote time and effort that have been the most enjoyable aspect of my volunteer work. My current roles within the FNAZ Group include; Chair of Executive Committee, Chapter Executive Committee representative, and Chapter Political Committee representative. Professional background has been centered around water, and will continue that focus if elected. Also, in many regards the 2020 election, at all levels of government, is of vital importance to N AZ and I would like to be certain that our endorsed candidates that are elected, follow through with their commitments to Sierra Club principles. Thank you for your consideration.

SAGUARO GROUP

Sue Barsky (Membership Number: 42611631)

My deep connection with nature started with family camping trips in the western U.S. and was deepened during summers as a seasonal park employee in Grand Teton National Park as a college student. Even as my career path as a librarian has kept me firmly rooted in the city, my passion for the outdoors has grown stronger. I am an active member of the Saguaro Group and I would like the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity. Thank you.

Sally Howland (Membership Number: 46901049)

I am Sally Howland and I am applying for Excomm. I have lived in Anthem, AZ for four years. During that time I have been active with the Saguaro Group of the Sierra Club. I have served as secretary and lead outings. I have also been responsible for finding and organizing speakers for our monthly meetings. I am a regular participant in testing water on the Lower Verde for the Water Sentinels.

Jo Sylvester (Membership Number: 45899045)

I am many things. Teacher, parent, ski instructor, park ranger, outings guide, gardener, in short an outdoors person. As a member for 7 years, I have joined the club in many activities from making a political statement to pulling weeds in the park. I am the Vice Chair of the Saguaro group and assist with the outings. Taking part in the energy, political and fundraising committees has been a great way to learn about how things can be changed. I am truly enjoying belonging to this organization and wish to serve in a greater capacity.

Older than 100 Years

By Sergio Avila

This year we commemorate the Centennial since the designation of the Grand Canyon as a National Park, and Sierra Club celebrated in a unique way. Over the summer we had the privilege of sharing the beauty and history of the Grand Canyon with 30 Arizonans, many of whom had never camped and/or visited the Grand Canyon, including myself as this was my first time on the South Rim.

The participants in this trip were staff, volunteer leaders, and guests of partner organization Chispa AZ -- an environmental justice group based in Phoenix, training and advocating for the Latinx community in the state (Chispa means 'spark' in Spanish). We also had three Sierra Club volunteers, all of them college students interested to learn more about our work, state, and partners.

Our visit was focused on acknowledging and learning from the people, history, and relevance of the Grand Canyon beyond the last 100 years. To that effect we invited local knowledge holders from Havasupai and Navajo Tribal Nations, as well as Grand Canyon Chapter staff, to talk about the people, stories, and threats to the Grand Canyon. The speakers provided us with an education and new perspective on this sacred land, and the process that took place before national park designation -- the removal of

Indigenous people from their own land by the U.S. government, which has been repeated across the country in the designation of many national parks, a history only a few know about.

To expand on the visit to the Grand Canyon and the need to address the history of 'public lands,' I had an interview with KNAU Radio in Flagstaff ("Celebrating Cultures of Grand Canyon Before National Park Designation") to describe our social and environmental justice goals, and change the narrative of environmental conservation that leaves Indigenous people, their knowledge and history out, as if they didn't exist.

Some of the most resonating words came from Erandi Maldonado, an ASU graduate student from Mexico who joined in the trip: "The most incredible event during my Fulbright adventure is that even though I'm further than 2,800 km (1,740mi) away from my home state Oaxaca, which hosts sixteen different indigenous groups, I learned about my connection with Native Americans when I met the Havasupai and Hualapai, the original inhabitants of the Grand Canyon. Now I see how we are one large community of indigenous people all along the Americas from Canada to Argentina." We explored. We enjoyed. And we learned how we can help protect the people and places we visited.

I thank the Grand Canyon Chapter staff, volunteers, and the Tucson Inspiring

See Grand Canyon continued on p. 15.



Carmen (far left) and Sergio (far right) heading to Grand Canyon. Photo courtesy of Sergio Avila.

Listening to the Borderlands

By Carmen Arredondo



I am certain that one cannot truly understand the power of the border until you have stood in its presence. I have lived through some aspects of the border coming from a Mexican-American household but even that didn't prepare me for what the border had to say to me.

It has been about a month now since I left the sunshine of Tucson, Arizona and completed my internship with Sierra Club Borderlands. A month, and I am still unable to fully describe the experience in its entirety. To say that I miss it is an understatement.

I had the privilege to travel, learn, and be mentored all in the span of two and a half

months. I was able to dive into real-life conservation work and social justice issues that occur every day along the southern border. I met with great organizations and individuals who are not only passionate about border rights but also excited to invoke a greater change in all of their communities.

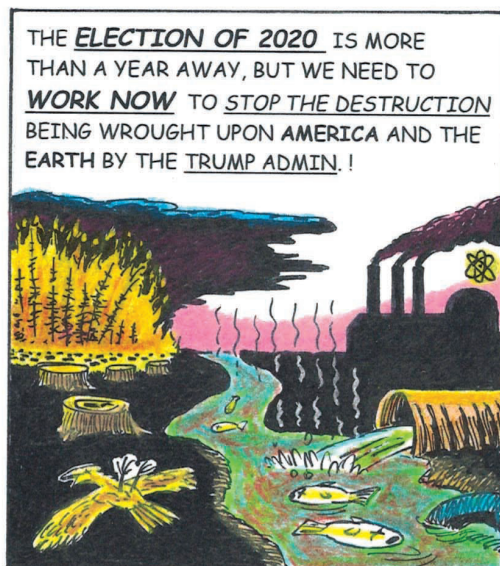
Having the opportunity to intern with Sierra Club Borderlands taught me so much about the border, its communities and, surprisingly, about myself. This internship helped me understand who I am, my own privilege, and what I can do with it to help others on a greater scale.

The dynamic of the internship allowed me to be exposed to different areas, some of

See Borderlands continued on p. 15.

Beyond the Slab

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SO—LET'S WORK HARD !---BUT ALSO---GET OUT THERE AND ENJOY !!

Phoenix Voters Protect Light Rail and City Services

By Rebecca Hinton



On Tuesday, August 27th, the city of Phoenix voted on two ballot propositions in a special election. Proposition 105 would have halted all light rail construction, killed light rail plans which had already been approved by voters (three times already!), and made any future light rail expansion impossible. Proposition 106 was designed to limit the city's funding to essential services until the pension debt was reduced. These services include those that residents rely upon such as senior services, libraries, parks, and educational programming.

Reports show that much of the effort to kill public transportation across our country has been funded by Charles Koch and his late brother David, so it came as no surprise that they were involved in the efforts to block light rail expansion in Phoenix too. Thankfully, this was reported on by Phoenix New Times' Steven Hsieh a few weeks prior to the election, helping to spread awareness.

The Sierra Club has long supported improvements to our regional mass transit, including light rail. Light rail provides low-cost

transportation to residents who need to travel for work, education, health care services, and other purposes. Valley Metro light rail and all Valley Metro vehicles are mobility aid accessible, increasing access to resources and services for those with disabilities who rely on public transportation. With the poor air quality and high pedestrian death rate in Phoenix, more and better transit, including light rail, is needed.

Sierra Club's Palo Verde Group (PVG) took the lead on opposing Propositions 105 and 106. The Sierra Club was a part of the coalition of organizations, businesses, unions, elected officials, and activists working to ensure that both ballot measures were defeated.

The PVG submitted an Argument in Opposition that was included in the city's publicity pamphlet, which was mailed to every voter. The Group also donated money to Invest in Phoenix, one of the leading organizations working to defeat these measures. Chapter Director Sandy Bahr and volunteers from the Palo Verde Group were involved



Sierra Club members canvass against Props. 105 & 106. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Hinton.

in multiple campaign activities including tabling at Phoenix libraries, communications to Club members and supporters, text banks, phone banks, delivering yard signs, and multiple canvasses including a joint canvass with Promise Arizona in Action.

Phoenix had the highest voter turnout ever for a city special election. Voters defeated both Proposition 105 and 106 with 63% and 67% of the votes cast in opposi-

tion, respectively. The Sierra Club is proud to be a part of the effort to continue to support essential services and keep the light rail expansion on track. Thanks to all our members and supporters who joined Sierra Club in this effort – we couldn't have done it without you!

Rebecca is the Political Chair for the Palo Verde Group.

The Art of Water in the Desert: Intelligence & Consequences

By Marilyn French-St. George

I am a relatively new immigrant (British and Canadian associations) to the area and have been focusing on the water cycle for the last couple of years as I consider whether or not to return to Canada. My sculptures are a capture of my understanding of the socio-economic-environmental tensions that currently exist.

The first sculpture "Intelligence" is on display at the Presidio in Tubac and will be part of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Waterways." The title is captioned with a quote from Piaget: "Intelligence is not what we know, but what we do when we don't know."

The second sculpture, "Consequences" will be shown at the Rio Compartido/Shared River Santa Cruz Binational Waterways Exhibit in Tubac from Oct 15 – Nov 30.

Here is my artist's statement for "Consequences." This desert area of Southern Arizona has been home to mankind since the beginning of the holocene. The Tohono O'odham and their ancestors trace their presence back to this area through vestigial rock carvings, land workings and arrow heads. The upper disc represents the Holocene time line. The Tohono O'odham 'Man in the Maze' basket illusion is overlaid with a representation of the Santa Cruz river together with the irrigation channel dug by Juan Bautista De Anza in the late 1760s. The arm uplifting from the center represents contemporary man's voracious quest for water while the hand thrusting below into the ground is grasping minerals laid bare by open pit mines that characterize this area.

Marilyn is an Artist who recently moved from Canada to Arizona.



(Left) Intelligence and (Right) Consequences: sculptures by Marilyn French-St. George. Photos courtesy of Marilyn French-St. George.

Why Should I Care & What Should I Do?

By Eduardo Sainz 

Why should I care? That is a question that we often hear when we speak with others about climate change. It is not easy to answer but it must be answered. The truth is that climate change impacts every single one of us, daily. It is hard to grasp the idea of climate change if one does not see the impacts directly; however, this is far from the truth.

Climate change is happening every day. Temperatures are increasing at dangerous rates this summer not only here in Arizona but all over the country. We have heard some people also ask, 'Well, what does this mean?' This means that every single person must constantly worry about their health. It means that people must spend less time outdoors and more time indoors with the AC blasting increasing the use of energy which results in higher utility bills.

This also means that as temperatures increase, places like Arizona will experience more days where the air quality is dangerous. Environmental regulators in Phoenix and Tucson have issued ozone pollution advisories many times this summer; ozone is formed when vehicle exhaust emissions and other pollutants react with sunlight. These types of advisories are not only dangerous to everyone but even more dangerous to those who have respiratory problems, children, and the elderly. Who wants to continue to live like this? We don't think many people would say yes.

We must combat climate change. We can do that not only individually by taking

public transportation, carpooling, recycling and reusing, and tree planting, but also at the city, state, and national level with policies. We can do this by holding our elected officials accountable and advocating for the support of climate change bills, such as S.1743 the International Climate Accountability Act. This bill will direct the President to develop a strategic plan for the United States to meet its commitment and standards as required under the Paris Climate Agreement. This bill is important because the U.S. is responsible for about 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is the primary cause of global warming. If the U.S. officially leaves the Paris Agreement, it is reported that this will have devastating impacts on our economy, costing billions of dollars.

S.1743 was introduced in the U.S. Senate and Senator Kyrsten Sinema has co-sponsored this bill; however, Senator Martha McSally has not. This is where everyone can make an impact to combat climate change. People in Arizona must contact Senator McSally to advocate for this bill and to support a 100% Clean Economy. Everyone can do this by contacting Senator McSally's Phoenix office at (602) 952-2410 and asking her to support S. 1743 and everyone can sign Mi Familia Vota's online petition called Stop Trump's Attacks on Climate Action at bit.ly/ClimateActNOW.

Eduardo is the Arizona State Director of Mi Familia Vota.



Eduardo (far left) joined members of Mi Familia Vota, Sierra Club, and Ecomadres to call on Senator McSally to act on climate change. Photo courtesy of Eduardo Sainz.

Buntings, Sage and Bristlegrass

By Michael Gregory

Delightful. At the end of nesting season a blessing of Lazuli Buntings, a dozen or more in the garden among the clumps of blossoming Autumn Sage the curving stalks of Bristlegrass heavy with seed. Young and old, adult males in tropical colors, females and young in earth tones.



Have Your Say in Sierra Club Endorsements

By Korey Hjelmeir 

For those readers who are members, you have likely seen our guide with endorsed candidates sent out prior to elections. While those mailings look so professional and well put together, the process to get to that point is complex and involves a fair number of steps. Ever wondered just how we choose the candidates? Read on!

It all begins with a group of dedicated volunteers with a passion for politics and the environment. Lots of patience doesn't hurt either. From there we move to the process of early endorsements – the easy part where we get to lean on the hard work of our Chapter Director Sandy Bahr and hours of staff time invested to produce that other informative document, the Sierra Club's annual Environmental Report Card. Here is where we get to separate out the environmental champions from the toxic polluters based on a candidate's voting history.

For races without a stellar incumbent, which are far too many in AZ, we get to go through the time consuming process of vetting the rest of the candidates for you. We begin by creating the standard by which we initially vet all candidates, our questionnaires. After much discussion, debate, and many revisions, we produce the list of questions on which every candidate considered for endorsement will be evaluated. These questions are all related to environmental or environmental justice issues and cover an array of topics such as water, endangered species, climate change, and more.

From there we send the finalized questionnaire to all candidates who have filed to run in a race, regardless of party. This requires lots of time looking at election websites, filling in spreadsheets, and tracking communications – in other words, bleary-eyed data tracking in the wee hours of the night, perhaps in a poorly lit room.

To tackle the sheer volume of responses, the Political Committee forms endorsement teams, each evaluating responses for their designated races. The endorsement teams do a preliminary evaluation using the questionnaire responses and researching a candidate's background, affiliations, positions on issues, and more to decide whether further vetting, in the way of an interview, is needed to determine if an endorsement is warranted. These decisions often do not come easily, and as each decision to endorse must be approved by multiple separate entities within the Sierra Club, there may be many a heated debate and revisiting of our compliance guidelines by the time you see a candidate featured in the endorsement mailer you receive.

While there is so much more that goes on in our endorsement process, and trust me, it really is very interesting and fun, it is all done for the purpose of providing our membership a resource that they can confidently use to cast their votes for environmentally-friendly candidates.

If you want to join our adventures, email political.chair@grandcanyon.sierraclub.org for more information.

Korey is the Political Chair of the Grand Canyon Chapter.

Clear, Dark Skies for Cave Creek

By Bev Full

On July 22 the Town of Cave Creek sponsored a town meeting to discuss the Dark Skies Initiative; a movement to encourage Cave Creek to adopt policies that allow people to enjoy the night sky free from light pollution.

An overflow crowd packed the meeting room of the Desert Foothills Library to hear proposals and information about the process of achieving this goal.

The town aims to follow the lead of Flagstaff, Fountain Hills, Sedona, Camp Verde, Grand Canyon National Park, and

Oak Creek in achieving Dark Skies status, designated by the International Dark-Sky Association.

Astronomy is an important industry in Arizona. Cave Creek would join only 23 cities worldwide in this category according to Bruce Arlen and Robert Hugs, co-authors of the initiatives. Hughes pointed out the benefits dark skies would have on our nearby national parks and national forests. Businesses in those areas would in turn benefit.

Local astronomers Dr. John Argentine and Dr. Jeffery Hall showed stunning photos of the Milky Way and constellations that are not visible from most areas because

of light pollution. The initiative and efforts like this have a positive economic impact in making our communities, parks, and natural features more livable places.

One startling satellite photo shows excessive lighting over the entire eastern half of the U.S., making the Milky Way and astronomical features invisible. Darker skies would save energy and would help wildlife who rely on a natural cycle of light and dark to maneuver and survive.

Just one century ago most all sky around the planet Earth was dark. Dark skies have now become a limited resource. People travel miles to observe the wonders

of our universe in favorable settings. Many national parks offer programs to observe and learn about our planetary neighbors and the universe.

Dark sky conditions can be achieved in many ways, including shielded lighting, illumination limits, managing the color of lighting fixtures, and regulation of lighting in city zones, to name a few. These changes in lighting codes would not affect the ability of residents to move around safely or to protect their homes. Please join Sierra Club in supporting dark sky initiatives to protect our natural resources.

Bev is a member of the Saguaro Group Executive Committee.

Museum Fire; Revitalization or Disrepair?

By Sarah King & Joe Shannon

On July 21st, just around noon, a fire started on Dry Lake Hills within the Peaks Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. The fire, dubbed the "Museum Fire" due to its proximity to the Museum of Northern Arizona, burned 1961 acres in several days and was finally pronounced fully contained on August 12th. Luckily, the Flagstaff area had a couple of showers that allowed for control in just a week.

Today, as we write this article, the forest is drying out and "stump fires" have ignited within the containment lines. Although the fire will not spread, locals can smell and see the smoke, which has made for an uneasy feeling among residents in nearby areas.

In addition, we are now experiencing the threat of flooding within the Spruce Watershed section of the land devastated by the fire. Over 500,000 sand bags and dozens of Jersey Barriers have been strategically placed within the flood zone in an effort to protect an estimated \$303 million in real estate. These will be in place for the foreseeable future. Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER) worked to mitigate run-off for several days as about 50% of the soils were mineralized or turned to glass from the heat -- not the best soil for growing grass to prevent erosion and subsequent debris flows.

Both the Museum Fire and the Chimney Springs Fire (located just to the east, burning 7 acres on July 4th) occurred within

the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project that was funded by Flagstaff taxpayers with a \$10 million bond. The project is in progress and has a couple more years to go. Roads and trails were closed off and on during the past year to accommodate the helicopters, feller-buncher rigs, and haul trucks used in the operation.

Many questions remain, including the most important: was this fire human-caused? To date, no official statement has been released. The blazes began on a clear day with no lightning reported in the area. Also, closures were in place when each fire started so access to the locations was limited.

Also, how much did the logging help? Did slash piles contribute to the growth of the fires? Researchers are examining the data to help the community and the Forest Service understand all the factors involved in this disaster in Flagstaff's back yard. The city was fortunate that heavy aircraft and helicopters were available on short notice to drop water and retardant for several days while the fire raged close to homes and property. Altogether, about 600 fire response personnel worked to contain the Museum Fire.

Unfortunately, this will likely not be the last fire-flood scenario for the greater Flagstaff area and the Peaks. Mt. Elden and Dry

Lakes Hills make up approximately 10% of the Peaks Ranger District, where tree density is very high. Fallen timber is prevalent in the remaining 90%. We can only trust that the city, county, and federal agencies will continue to do the work required to keep us safe.

Update: September 12th - the United States Forest Service announces the fire was likely caused by an excavator striking a rock during logging operations.

Sarah is a member of the Flagstaff - Northern AZ Group Executive Committee, and Joe is Chair of the Flagstaff Group.



Photos courtesy of Joe Shannon.

Grand Canyon Chapter's Book Corner

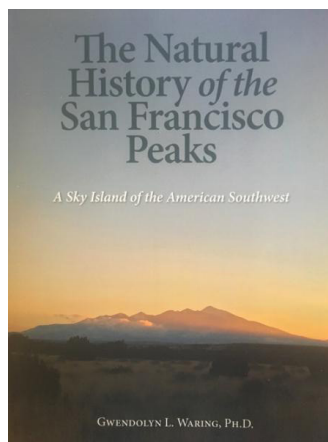
*The Natural History of the San Francisco Peaks –
A Sky Island of the American Southwest*

By Gwendolyn L. Waring. Published by Gwendolyn L. Waring, 2018. 205 pp.

Reviewed by Emma Benenati & Joe Shannon



Dr. Gwendolyn Waring is an artist, scientist, and musician based in Flagstaff, Arizona, located at the base of the San Francisco Peaks. Gwen uses all of her skills in this comprehensive book about the highest peak in our state, Mt. Humphreys, 12,633 ft, and surrounding environs. We are treated to a complete ecological, geological, and historical review of the “The Peaks,” as the locals call them.



Gwen's style of writing makes one feel they are in a fascinating conversation with her. She explains the geology and various plants and animals that inhabit the region in well written segments, supported by many tables and diagrams of scientific information and wonderful photos.

The last few chapters explain current topics like Snowbowl Inc. expansion and climate crisis impacts on The Peaks. Yes, this book would be a fine addition to anyone's southwest book collection. You can order at <http://sanfranciscopeaksnaturalhistory.com/> or at the listed shops that carry it around Flagstaff.

Emma is a member of the Flagstaff – Northern AZ Group, and Joe is Chair of the Flagstaff Group.



View of Humphreys Peak, San Francisco Peaks. Photo by Deborah Lee Soltesz, U.S. Forest Service.

*Coming Back to Life:
Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World*

By Joanna Macy & Molly Young Brown. New Society Publishers, 1998. 240 pp.

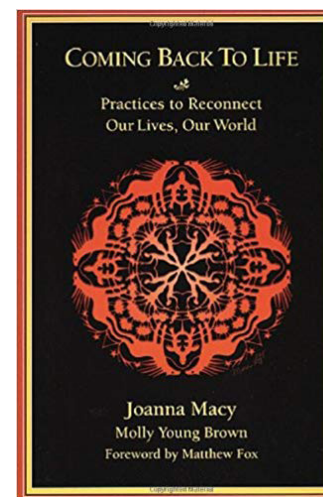
Reviewed by Kathy Mohr-Almeida



“Coming Back to Life” by Joanna Macy focuses on maintaining hope in the face of the climate emergency. The book dives into Deep Ecology and how to become motivated by the grief many of us feel for our ailing planet. Macy posits that people being self-aware and non-reliant on the viewpoints of others as related to what is happening to our world is paramount to helping the Earth recover. This is because being in this mindset helps people trust their own experience and become truth-tellers about the climate emergency and associated loss of species.

Macy suggests that now is the time for public monitoring and outcry, rather than remaining a truth-deprived and fearful people. Public conversation about the grief we are collectively experiencing will motivate us to care for the planet. Much of Macy's book is dedicated to the facilitation of such conversations, which are akin to group therapy.

Macy calls reactions to the climate emergency “The Great Turning,” which includes actions to slow the damage done to the Earth and its beings by transforming the foundations of our common life. Macy asserts that we need to understand the dynamics of corporate capitalism, including the



structures of law and governance that support it. She suggests that we must create structures based on the inherent authority and the rights of people to govern themselves and to protect the grounds of common life. Macy proposes that we must also shift our perceptions and values and rely on scientific breakthroughs and ancestral teachings for solutions

to the climate emergency.

People who are doing direct actions in defense of the planet need to remember that self-care must be closely attended to. Macy believes that people who are activists take a lot of punishment, as violence is often the response of indifferent corporate empires. Macy advocates for the activist occasionally taking a break from activism and not feeling guilty about it. After all, when the head goose in flying formation becomes tired, another takes her place and she repositions herself to fly in the wind stream of the others. So must the climate activist be.

Kathy is the Membership Chair for the Palo Verde Group and the Chapter.

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Missing

By David Chorlton

The jaguar is missing from the wind
that sweeps the grasses low
and turns cottonwood leaves
along the river where it came to drink beneath
a full moon on nights
overflowing silver with scented trails
leading off into brush.

Its tracks
are missing from the mud
where after the rains they were printed
with authority and left to harden
for a season until the next
storm washed them out.

The pelt is missing
from the skeleton from which
the bones are falling away and the stealth
is missing from its walk.

In the wake
of the jaguar's disappearance even
the tooth by which the sky
bit into the Earth
is missing.



Jaguar. Photo by Ian Lindsay.

Letter to the Pubcom

Do you have something to share with our Publications Committee? Send a letter to lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org. (Note: Not all letters will be printed in the newsletter.)

Classified Ads

To inquire about advertising, contact 602-253-9140 or lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org

Dark Money continued from p. 1

finally recently admitted to contributing \$10.7 million in dark money toward electing Arizona Corporation commissioners in 2014. The Commission is the entity that regulates utilities. This was nearly 160 times the amount of dark money spent in 2012 and coincided with changes made by the commission to renewable energy policy. Elected officials returned the favor inferred from dark money contributions and voted for a yearly electric rate increase of \$95 million. Not a bad return on investment for APS.

Against this backdrop, the non-partisan Outlaw Dirty Money Initiative aims to end the influence of dark money in Arizona's elections. The initiative will require groups spending more than \$20,000 in state races or \$10,000 in local races to report the original source of their funding. Organizations must also disclose all original contributors who give \$5,000 or more during an election cycle.

The ballot measure falls squarely in line with campaign finance reforms previously supported by the Sierra Club. "The Outlaw Dirty Money ballot measure is another attempt to ensure the public knows who is spending big to influence elections," said Sandy Bahr, chapter director of the Grand Canyon Chapter. "Dark money in politics impedes democracy and our ability to address the climate crisis, protect water resources, and limit development."

Members can add their name as one of the 357,000 signatures required to place the initiative on the November 2020 ballot. Let's put an end to Arizona's foray into dirty money for good. Large donors are paying attention to local elections and ballot initiatives. Are you?

*Benjamin is a volunteer journalist and
Sierra Club member in Globe, AZ.*

Grand Canyon continued from p. 10

Connections Outdoors (ICO) group, for allowing us to borrow gear for 30 people: sleeping bags, pads, tents, chairs, kitchen supplies, etc, and working to make this an unforgettable experience for all. Thanks to volunteers Carmen Arredondo (Borderlands Summer Intern), and Erandi Maldonado and Efrén Lopez, ASU graduate students for their help in setting up camp. And thank you to Chispa AZ for their trust and ongoing partnership with Sierra Club, and more importantly, for their work to bring solutions to the table and cultivate new grassroots leaders in Arizona. Gracias!

*Sergio is the Southwest Local Outdoors
Coordinator for the Sierra Club.*

Borderlands continued from p. 10

which were new to me. I directed and updated social media platforms, conducted interviews, created a video biography, and even had the opportunity to travel the beautiful locations of the Grand Canyon and Sedona, Arizona.

A significant moment that stands out in the experience is my first trip to the Southern border, in Nogales, Arizona. To learn of the border, its existence and its impact from afar cannot and will not compare to the looming presence and wired-fence crown it wears. The gaps it holds as a window into the other side can only be felt when you are looking through them. As a Mexican-American, daughter of an immigrant, I felt and still feel a mix of emotions. Feelings that cannot be fully encompassed in books or in words. I thank this internship for allowing me to hear what the border has to say.

I also want to thank Dan Millis, Sergio Avila, Catalina Ross-Watson, Sandy Bahr, and the many great mentors for their diligence, commitment, and their patience. Because of it, I was able to explore my potential as a social justice activist, intern, and student. It is because of these individuals and the experiences that I had that I am able to continue exploring my passions and invoke a different tone to the narrative of the border.

*Carmen is a former borderlands
intern for the Grand Canyon Chapter.*

Happenings Around the State

Six groups make up the Grand Canyon Chapter. All events and meetings listed below are open to members interested in learning more about Sierra Club. You can find out more at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>. Schedules are subject to change.

(x) Group ExCom members

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix)
<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/palo-verde>

Chair/Membership:	Kathy Mohr-Almeida (x)	480-329-8503	kathylynn626@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	Chris Gehlker (x)	602-370-0128	canyonrat@icloud.com
Secretary:	Bettina Bickel (x)	602-246-5739	bbickel08@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Jerry Nelson	602-550-0282	peakbagger2@gmail.com
Outings/Wilderness:	Jim Vaaler (x)	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
ICO:	Lisa Vaaler	602-468-4158	lvaaler1@gmail.com
Conservation:	Don Steuter (x)	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
Political/Programs:	Rebecca Hinton (x)	602-405-1779	rahinton@hotmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Tom Krepitch (x)	602-625-2087	tkrepitch@cox.net
	Jim Dublinski (x)	480-532-2285	jdublinski@icloud.com
	Michael Brady (x)	480-990-9165	az.brady@gmail.com

The Palo Verde Group meets **6:30 p.m. most Thursday evenings**. Our Conservation Committee meets on the first Thursday, Executive Committee on the second Thursday, and we have monthly programs, followed by our Political Committee meetings on the fourth Thursday. Check the Grand Canyon Chapter online calendar for more details. For the most up-to-the-minute details and information, register on our Palo Verde Group Meetup page at <https://www.meetup.com/paloverdegroupp/>.

Contact Rebecca Hinton for more information.

Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group
<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/plateau>

Chair:	Joe Shannon (x)	928-380-9537	jshannon278@gmail.com
Secretary:	Amelia Hirsch (x)		amelia.josephine.h@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Marcia Burns (x)	928-853-3132	swtropicals@yahoo.com
Policy:	Carie Steele	217-778-8457	steeleca@gmail.com
Conservation:	Bob Baldwin (x)	928-607-7256	rtbatlmm@gmail.com
Outings:	Debbie McMahon (x)	928-707-0610	debbie_dsb@hotmail.com
Wildlife:	Kay Bordwell	928-779-3517	kbordwell4@gmail.com
Publications:	Sarah King	602-576-6054	garbageldy@hotmail.com

Contact Joe Shannon for information about events in Flagstaff/Northern AZ.

Flagstaff Group programs are from **6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** on the **second Thursday** of the month. They are in the JCM Adult Center Thorpe Park, **245 N Thorpe Rd, Flagstaff**. They are free and open to the public.

Thursday, October 10th: Membership mixer at the JC Montoya Community Center from 6-7:30pm. Come meet your fellow members, we can talk about our projects, and enjoy a buffet of Mexican food.

Yavapai Group (Prescott)
<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/yavapai>

Chair/Web:	Gary Beverly (x)	928-308-1003	gbverde@cableone.net
Vice-Chair/Conservation:	Tom Slaback (x)	928-778-4233	theprescottkid@cableone.net
Secretary/Outings:	Jenny Cobb (x)	928-925-1320	cobbssrun@msn.com
Treasurer:	Joe Zarnoch (x)	928-273-9092	sjzar2@gmail.com
Political:	Stephen Cook (x)	575-418-9027	scook@projectworldview.org

Yavapai Group Executive Committee Meetings will be held **on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.** All members are encouraged to attend and participate in our discussions and planning decisions about our local issues. We meet at the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation Education Center, 885 Sunset Ave., Prescott.

For additional information contact Gary Beverly. For an up-to-date listing of events, see our calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/yavapai>.

Additionally, we always need volunteers to help in monitoring the flow in the upper Verde River (contact Tom Slaback). We also need help on the ground monitoring of the Prescott National Forest's plan to "manage" (remove) vegetation on more than half of their 1.2 million acres (contact Jenny Cobb).

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)
<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/saguaro>

Chair/Website:	Doug Murphy (x)	602-329-3690	dbmurphy@cox.net
Vice-Chair:	Jo Sylvester (x)	602-292-6806	stitchinjo@yahoo.com
Secretary/Programs:	Sally Howland (x)	602-663-2889	sally_howland@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Ehrick Howland	602-663-4479	ehrick3@hotmail.com
Membership:	Bev Full (x)	480-221-2554	bfull@cox.net
Outings:	Peter Weinelt (x)	623-388-2209	vitalpaw@yahoo.com
Service Projects:	Urb Weidner (x)	602-595-3301	northwoods@cox.net
Political:	Jim Wilkey (x)	480-649-2836	nvrgvup@gmail.com

Saturday, October 5, 8:15 a.m. Monthly meeting. Join us for breakfast and learn how to create visual impact by capturing still photos that show motion using digital camera techniques with Tom Klare, professor of photography and professional photographer. Holland Community Center 34250. N. 60th St. #B, Scottsdale. Following the meeting hike to Jewel of the Creek "D" easy 1.5 miles with Tom.

Saturday, November 2, 8:15 a.m. Monthly meeting. Join us for breakfast and enjoy a talk and photo exhibit with Michael J. Hoogendyk a member of the Friends of Agua Fria National Monument and Cultural Resources Committee. Holland Community Center 34250. N. 60th St. #B, Scottsdale. Following the meeting an easy 3 mile "D" hike on a new part of the Maricopa Trail in Cave Creek which our group helps to maintain.

Saturday, December 7, 8:15 a.m. Monthly meeting. Join us for breakfast and watch Meetup for announcement about planned speaker or discussion. Holland Community Center 34250. N. 60th St. #B, Scottsdale. Following the meeting hike a 3 mile easy loop "D" trial at the Fraesfield Trailhead in Scottsdale.

For more information on Saguaro Group happenings, see the online calendar or contact Sally Howland at sally_howland@yahoo.com or (602) 663-4479.

Sedona/Verde Valley Group
<http://www.reliablescribe.com/svvg>

Chair:	Brian Myers (x)	928-300-7734	ibisalliance@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Anne Crosman (x)	928-284-9252	annecrosma@aol.com
Secretary:	Tina Myers (x)	928-204-1703	ibisalliance@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Paul Rauch (x)	928-821-4215	sequoia.tree55@gmail.com
Webmaster:	John Sheffield	928-204-1517	jsheffield40@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Rebecca Hydock (x)		rebecca1now@yahoo.com

For information about activities in the Sedona/Verde Valley area, contact Brian Myers.

Rincon Group (Tucson)
<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/rincon>

Chair:	Meg Weesner (x)	520-576-2083	mweesner@att.net
Treasurer:	Ken Bierman	520-882-2708	kbierman1@gmail.com
Communications:	Susan Thomas (x)		stthomaswrites@aol.com
Conservation:	Keith Bagwell (x)	520-623-0269	kbagwell50@gmail.com
Energy:	Russell Lowes (x)	520-321-3670	ruslowes@gmail.com
Membership:	Thomas Hatfield (x)	802-448-0753	thomas.hatfield@gmail.com
Outings:	Mitch Stevens	520-991-1199	mitchstevens@stevensloydgroup.com
ICO:	Kyle Kacerek	520-878-7191	kyle.kacerek@gmail.com
Political:	Lee Oler	520-791-9246	cloler@cox.net
Newsletter:	Joy Herr-Cardillo	520-622-1752	joiellen@cox.net
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Marie Swanson (x)	520-977-0678	gleemarie@icloud.com
	Samira Farwanah (x)		

Contact Keith Bagwell for information about the following events.

The Rincon Group Conservation Committee meets at **6 p.m.** in the first floor conference room of the **Historic YWCA, 738 N. Fifth Avenue**, in Tucson. The Rincon Group Executive Committee meets at the end of the Conservation Committee meetings, at about **7:15 p.m.** The meetings are open to the public. Sierra Club members, in particular, are urged to participate in the Conservation Committee meetings. The meeting dates this quarter are **Thursday, October 24, and Thursday, December 5.** Please join us!

Rincon Group programs are from **7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** on the second Thursday of the month, except for a July and August break. They are in the **Ward Three Tucson City Council Office, 1510 E. Grant Road.** They are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

Thursday, October 10. Sunrise Movement vs. Climate Change. Representatives from Sunrise Movement Tucson hub present information on the 2017 founding of Sunrise, and background on the Green New Deal. The presentation focuses on the principles of the youth-led movement against climate change and the actions that have been taken and will be taken to ensure a just transition from fossil fuels. The interconnectedness of many of the problems society faces today necessitates that we take bold action that will facilitate sweeping changes to benefit all people, and this presentation will point out the relationships between climate change and issues like racism, corruption, and wealth inequality. Sunrise is a youth movement, so kids and teens especially are encouraged to attend and engage in our discussion!

Thursday, November 14. Pushing Tucson Electric Power toward a clean future. Tucson Electric Power, which serves all of Tucson and other areas in southern Arizona, is undergoing a Rate Case and crafting an Integrated Resource Plan. Both of these proceedings, in concert with changes at the overseeing body Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), are going to greatly impact our clean-energy future. Efforts to keep strong standards for renewable energy and energy efficiency are underway in ACC rule-making, benefiting from persistent local involvement, community partnerships, and a burgeoning climate mobilization in Tucson, Phoenix, and throughout Arizona. Residents interested in moving Tucson and Arizona “Beyond Coal” to clean energy can learn how, and about upcoming opportunities to take action.

Thursday, December 12. The Many Critters of the Santa Catalinas. Did you know the Santa Catalina Mountains are home to a marsupial? That all three members of the raccoon family and four of the five species of skunks found in North America live in the Catalinas? That they are home to two of the top-tier predators found in North America? We are fortunate to live with such diverse animal life virtually in our back yard. From tree squirrels to bears, David Dean uses motion-activated cameras to give us an up-close and personal (and often humorous) look into the lives of these fascinating animals.

An Afternoon Art Exhibit and
Concert by ProMusica Arizona

Sunday, October 20, 1:30 p.m., Black Canyon City



The concert will feature Women in Song and a mixed voice chamber ensemble providing a choral performance of American folk songs of the southwest. The concert will be held in **Black Canyon Community Health Center, 19251 Oasis Drive, Black Canyon City.** The walls of the Center's lobby will also be adorned with the 2017 Water/Ways Black Canyon Heritage Park Contest winners along with specially selected entries from the upcoming November 22-23 "Art in the Canyon".

For details go facebook.com/BlackCanyonHeritagePark, email waterways@blackcanyonheritagepark.org or call Lani Lott at 602-738-8381.

Keep Up to Date with Our Chapter!

Chapter – bit.ly/gcc_meetup
Palo Verde Group – bit.ly/pvg_meetup
Rincon Group – bit.ly/rincon_meetup



Chapter – bit.ly/gc_insta
Borderlands Campaign – bit.ly/scb_insta
Grand Canyon Campaign – bit.ly/protectgc

Chapter – twitter.com/SierraClubAZ
Sandy Bahr – twitter.com/SLBahr
Borderlands Campaign – bit.ly/scb_twitter
Grand Canyon Campaign – bit.ly/protectgc_twitter



Chapter – bit.ly/gcc_fb
AZ Water Sentinels – bit.ly/azsentinels_fb
Borderlands Campaign – bit.ly/border_fb
Grand Canyon Campaign – bit.ly/protectgc_fb
Rincon Group – bit.ly/rinconfb
Flagstaff/N AZ Group – bit.ly/flagstaff_fb
Yavapai Group – bit.ly/yavapai_fb
Saguaro Group – bit.ly/saguaro_fb

Explore and Enjoy Arizona

Find more events and opportunities on our online calendar at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/outings>.

OCT 5 (SAT) “A+” Window Traverse (14.5 mi, 4850’ AEG). The famous “Window” that can be seen from many locations in Tucson will be the destination for this challenging hike. Starting from the parking lot at Loew’s Ventana Canyon Resort, the hike will follow the Ventana Canyon trail up into the Pusch Wilderness to the famous window, where we will have great views of Oro Valley and the high peaks in the Catalinas. After a lunch break in the window arch, we will hike around Window Peak and down Esperero Trail to Sabino Canyon. A car shuttle will be set up there at Sabino Canyon to return everyone to their vehicles at the Loew’s resort. Participants should plan on a full day of hiking and be in excellent physical condition. Contact Donald Smith at 520-591-9938 or donsc@the3smiths.com **Tucson**



New and returning Sierra Club outings leaders attended an outings training in Tucson this September. *Photo courtesy of Sergio Avila.*

OCT 6-9 (SUN-WED) Canoe Kayak the Colorado River. We’ll travel through Black and Eldorado Canyons. Stay at Hoover Dam Hotel on Sunday (or camp at nearby Lake Meade campground). Shuttle to launch Monday at 7 AM, paddle to Arizona Hot Springs for lunch and on to camp area Monday afternoon. On Tues. paddle through Eldorado Canyon and camp on a beach. Wed: paddle to Nelson’s Landing to be picked up and returned to cars parked safely at the hotel parking lot. Cost of trip is approx. \$200. THIS TRIP IS BEING WAITLISTED. To get on the waitlist and receive further information please contact Bev at bfull@cox.net or 480-221-2554.

OCT 12 (SAT) “B” Butterfly Trail (10.4 mi, 3,746 feet AEG). This hike will feature an out and back high up on Mt. Lemmon. The outing features beautiful wild flowers, lush vegetation and far reaching views. We will plan on a full day of hiking. participants need to be in good physical condition. Contact Mitch Stevens at mithcstevens@stevenslloydgroup.com or 520-991-1199. **Tucson**

OCT 12 (SAT) “C” Pueblo Canyon Overlook Dayhike, Sierra Ancha Wilderness (7 miles, 900 ft. elev. change) We will hike the Murphy Trail #141 and Rim Trail #139 for expansive views of the Cherry

Creek Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) and the farther high peaks of the White Mountains. As we approach our destination of Pueblo Canyon, the Rim Trail will provide excellent views into the steep and narrow drainage of Cold Springs Canyon. The leader will discuss the wilderness history of this area as well as its fire history. We will start at 7,200 feet and gradually descend to 6,300 feet. Restaurant dinner afterward in Globe or Miami. For reservations and other information contact Jim Vaaler, at jimvaaler@msn.com or phone 602-553-8208. **Phoenix**

OCT 14 (MON) “C” Thunderbird Park Sunset Hike (3.5 miles [loop trail] 500 EC). Cholla Loop and part of the Coach-whip trail. This hike loops around and then up to the top of a hill on the east side of the park. The last 2 miles is a gradual downhill, and offers nice elevated views of the sunset over the west valley. Contact Pete Weinelt at 623-388-2209 or vitalpaw@yahoo.com. **Phoenix**

OCT 26 (SAT) “C+” Reynolds Creek Canyon Dayhike, Sierra Ancha Wilderness (6 mi., 1400 ft elev. change) We will hike on Reynolds Creek Trail #150. Reynolds Creek has been proposed by Tonto National Forest as an eligible Wild and Scenic River. We will stop at Upper Reynolds Creek Falls, then ascend a short series of switchbacks for a very scenic view down Reynolds Creek Canyon. Farther up the



The training ended with an outing to Mount Lemmon. *Photo courtesy of Catalina Ross Watson.*

trail we will enter a very pretty grove of aspen trees. The leader will talk about the wilderness and fire history of the area and also explain exactly what an IRA is as it relates to public land. We will start at an elevation of 6,100 feet and ascend to 7,500 feet. Restaurant dinner afterward in Globe or Miami. For reservations and other information please contact your leader, Jim Vaaler, at jimvaaler@msn.com or phone 602-553-8208. **Phoenix**

NOV 2 (SAT) “C” Upper Verde Fall Color Hike (4 miles bushwacking) We will be talking about grazing in and near the river as we enjoy the fall colors. The Upper Verde River is in danger from pumping by our cities and International Transmission Corporation, a potential stored power project. For details contact Jenny Cobb at cobbsrun@msn.com or 928-925-1320. Co-Leader Tom Slaback. **Prescott**

NOV 8 (FRI) 9AM to Noon - Hassayampa River Preserve Naturalist Guided Hike Meet at McDonald’s on Carefree Hwy. to carpool approximately 30 minutes to the preserve south of Wickenburg for the guided tour and short easy hiking. Bring \$5.00 for park entrance fee and box lunch to enjoy after tour. This is Maricopa County’s newest Park. Contact Bev Full bfull@cox.net 480-221-2554. **Phoenix**

NOV 9-11 (SAT-MON) “B” Galiuro Wilderness Backpack (22 mi RT). The rugged and mountainous 76,317 acre Galiuro Wilderness is located 35 miles NW of Wilcox. Starting from the High Creek trail-head we will backpack in 7 miles and set up camp at Holdout Spring. The next day we will learn about the rich history of the area and day hike to various points of interest including Power’s cabin which was the site of the infamous 1918 Power’s shootout that left 3 lawmen dead. On the final day we backpack out and have the option of climbing a nearby peak. The trip involves hiking or backpacking 7-9 miles each day. Contact Donald Smith at 520-591-9938 or donsc@the3smiths.com **Tucson**

NOV 9 (SAT) “C” Coon Creek Abyss, Sierra Ancha Wilderness (7 miles, 600 ft. elev. change) We will start from the top of Parker Creek Trail #160 and then pick up Rim Trail #139. The Parker Creek Trail will provide expansive views toward Mt. Turnbull and perhaps even the Penaleños. On the Rim Trail we will pass scenic Trailside Spring and then have level hiking to our destination. We will be walking through burned areas along the Rim Trail. The leader will discuss fire history, geology, wilderness and road history during breaks on the hike. We will start at 7,100

Explore and Enjoy Arizona

Find more events and opportunities on our online calendar at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/outings>.

feet and drop down to about 6,600 feet with a little up and down along the way. Restaurant dinner afterward in Globe or Miami. For reservations and information contact Jim Vaaler, at jimvaaler@msn.com or phone 602-553-8208. **Phoenix**

NOV 11 (MON) "C+" Hike Vulture Peak Near Wickenburg (4 miles RT, 940 EC) The first 1.3 miles of the trail follows a pleasant path through a hilly desert floor area, with an approximate elevation gain of about 300 feet. The last 0.7 mile up to the saddle is a challenging almost non-stop uphill of nearly 700 feet over a number of rocky surfaces and high stepping parts. The planned route is to the saddle. Nice views of the far northwest valley from the saddle. Elevations above sea level are; start - 2,480, saddle - 3,420. Contact Pete Weinelt at 623-388-2209 or vitalpaw@yahoo.com. **Phoenix**

NOV 23 (SAT) "C" Hike in the Prescott National Forest northwest of Prescott (4-5 miles <500 ft EC). We will hike in deep, eroded washes viewing sheet erosion and the difference between National Forest land and private land around grazing pastures where landscape restoration is scheduled. There are some spectacular views, including Williamson Valley and Granite Mountain. Contact Jenny Cobb at cobbsrun@msn.com or 928-925-1320. Co-Leader Tom Slaback. **Prescott**

NOV 30 (SAT) "C" Devil's Chasm Day-hike, Sierra Ancha Wilderness (5 miles, 800 ft. elev. change) We will start on the Murphy Trail #141 and then pick up Rim Trail #139 before hiking out on the Moody Point Trail #140. There will be a short car shuttle involved. As we walk down the Rim Trail we will see part of the Cherry Creek Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) in the foreground and the White Mountains in the distance. About half-way along the Rim Trail we will be able to look down into a part of Devil's Chasm. The leader will talk about the wilderness and fire history of this scenic area on breaks and over lunch. We will start at 7,200 feet, drop down to 6,400 feet and then climb back to 7,200 feet. Restaurant dinner afterward in Globe or Miami. For reservations

and other information please contact your leader, Jim Vaaler, at jimvaaler@msn.com or phone 602-553-8208. **Phoenix**

DEC 1 (SUN) "C" Saguaro National Park: Hope Camp Trail (6 miles RT, 500 ft EC). Work off your turkey dinner and shopping anxieties by visiting this quiet part of Saguaro NP in the Rincon Valley. During a snack break, we will discuss local actions that resulted in adding this area to the park more than 25 years ago. Limit 18. Contact Meg Weesner at mweesner@att.net or 520-576-2083. **Tucson**

DEC 9 (MON) "C+" White Tanks Park Hike (6 miles RT, 1,000 EC) We'll hike part of the Mesquite Canyon trail onto the Willow Canyon trail out to the spring. Hang there for a snack and head back. Nice hike with some good up-hills (but not too steep) and many good elevated views. Contact Pete Weinelt at 623-388-2209 or vitalpaw@yahoo.com. **Phoenix**

DEC 11 (WED) 10 AM-Noon Southwest Wildlife Conservation Tour. Meet the many species of wildlife rescued and now being cared for at this facility. A docent will introduce us to animal residents that include Mexican Gray wolves, bears, mountain lions and many more. The facility is asking for a \$25 donation from each guest, and we are limited to 20. To be included please contact Bev Full, orga-

nizer, at bfull@cox.net or 480-221-2554. **Phoenix**

DEC 14 (SAT) "C" Crooks Canyon in the Bradshaw Mountains (5-6 miles minimal EC) Weather and road conditions permitting, we will carpool out into the Bradshaw Mountains to Palace Station. Mining claims abound in this area, especially Crooks Canyon where we will inspect placer stream claims that are scheduled to be worked on in the near future for as many as 20 years. For details contact Jenny Cobb at cobbsrun@msn.com or 928-925-1320. Co-Leader Tom Slaback. **Prescott**

MAR 8-11 (SUN-WED) Canoe or Kayak the Colorado River - We'll travel from Walter's Camp to Fisher's through Imperial Wildlife Preserve, and camp in Picacho Peak Nature Preserve. Cost of trip is approximately \$200. Contact Leader, Bev Full for details and information at bfull@cox.net or 480-221-2554.

APR 13-17 (MON-FRI) Camp and Hike in Arches National Park. Camp and hike on Monday and Tuesday. Guided kayak (rubber duckie) on Colorado River on Wednesday. Camp and Explore Canyonlands National Park on Thursday and Friday. Cost of trip is approx. \$225. Contact Bev Full, Leader, for information and reservations. bfull@cox.net 480-221-2554



Rafters on the Colorado River. Photo by Sandy Draus.

Hiking Guidelines

The Sierra Club is a nationwide organization with active local outings for members and non-members. Please join us as we make friends and explore life-enriching interests. Simply find an outing by date and contact the leader for directions, reservations, time, and additional information. **RESTRICTIONS:** NO FIREARMS, RADIOS, OR PETS (unless noted otherwise). Outings are by reservation. Call early (group limit 20). Each hike is rated for degree of difficulty and risk by the leader.

"A" >16 miles or >3,000 ft. elevation change (EC)
"B" 8-16 miles and 1,500-3,000 ft. EC
"C" 3-8 miles, 500-1,500 ft. EC
RT Round Trip
"D" <3 miles and 500 ft. EC
OW One Way

The trip leader has absolute authority to question trip participants as to their equipment, conditioning, and experience before and during the trip. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources> or contact the National Outings Dept. at 415-977-5528 for a printed version. Sierra Club liability covers leaders only. Each person is responsible for his/her own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately. 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. Hikers are encouraged to carpool and share the driver's fuel expense. Donations are accepted from all participants at \$1 (member) and \$3 (nonmember). Money is collected by the leader and deposited with the group treasurer. For more information, contact the Sierra Club Grand Canyon office at 602-253-8633. Hikes and outings are also listed online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Sierra Service Opportunities

Get involved and make a difference!

Give Burrowing Owls a New Home!

Saturday, October 12 - 9am - 2pm

Contact Sandy Bahr at sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org or (602) 999-5790

We will be helping Wild at Heart, a volunteer organization dedicated to preservation of Arizona's native wildlife, erect release tents for burrowing owls that have been relocated out of the path of development. We will be working on farm lands near Pearce, Arizona in Cochise County. Carpooling from the Phoenix area is available. All tools are provided. Gloves will be available, but if you have a favorite pair of your own you may want to bring them along.



Burrowing owl. Photo by Scott Mittelsteadt.

Hands-on Assistance as Stewards of a Section of The New Maricopa Trail

Saturday, October 19 - 8:30am

Contact Urb Weidner at 602-300-8505 or northwoods@cox.net

Join us as we serve as stewards of a northern section of the newly completed Maricopa Trail. The trail winds through Maricopa County, connecting the county's regional parks with a 315-mile scenic and diverse route. Assistance will take the form of the assessment of necessary work, clearing of water runoff channels, removal of some rocks, and erosion prevention. The work will be light with no bush-whacking required. We will cover no more than 1 1/2 miles coming from the East side. Bring drinking water, sunscreen, work gloves, and a hat. Tools will be provided. The activity will run approximately 3 hours. For carpooling, email northwoods@cox.net. Or, you can go directly to the trail, located as follows: From Carefree Hwy, go 3.4 miles North on 24th St. (becomes 26th St.) Turn right (East) on Saddle Mtn Rd, which curves around to become 32nd St. Go North on 32nd St. until it ends at Rockaway Hills Rd. (about 1/2 mi.). Park where convenient. Trail is behind white barricade.

Water Sentinels Monitoring

Verde River: October 26 & San Pedro River: October 28

Contact: Jennifer Martin, 602-254-8362, jennifer.martin@sierraclub.org

Get your feet muddy and your hands wet with the Arizona Water Sentinels! These are great opportunities to help protect our important rivers. Volunteers are needed to take water samples and to make field observations. A group also monitors shallow groundwater levels in wells in the Murray Springs Clovis Site and near the San Pedro River near Sierra Vista. These data help track impacts to the rivers and to advocate for their protection.

Rio Salado Habitat Restoration

October 27, November 3, December 8

Contact: Jennifer Martin, 602-254-8362, jennifer.martin@sierraclub.org

Help us restore habitat! Join us for an invasive weed pull and clean-up at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, just south of downtown Phoenix. Once a dump site, the area is now a lush riparian corridor that supports a variety of wildlife and recreation opportunities. We need help removing trash and buffelgrass, a non-native, invasive species that alters habitat and increases fire risk. Snacks, drinks, gloves, and tools provided.

Wild at Heart Raptor Rescue

Friday, November 15 - 9:30am

Contact Urb Weidner at 602-300-8505 or northwoods@cox.net

Join the Saguaro Group as we provide hands-on assistance to Wild At Heart. This organization is a rescue, rehabilitation, and release center for birds of prey. Its primary purpose is to rescue injured owls, hawks, falcons and eagles; rehabilitate them, and release them back into the wild. Assistance will take the form of landscaping, and/or general maintenance. We will also tour the facility and get a first-hand view of their activities. Bring drinking water, sunscreen, work gloves, and a hat. Tools will be provided. Plan on approximately 3 hours. If interested in carpooling email northwoods@cox.net. Or you can go directly to the facility, located at: 31840 N. 45th St. Cave Creek, AZ.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Trail Maintenance

Saturday, December 14 - 8:30am

Contact: Urb Weidner, 602-300-8505 northwoods@cox.net

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area needs some help in maintenance of the trails. This scenic park is home to archeological sites, Sonoran Desert, and riparian areas along Cave Creek. Bring drinking water, sunscreen, work gloves, and a hat. Tools will be provided. Please plan on approximately 3 hours. If interested in carpooling, email northwoods@cox.net. Or you can go directly to the park, located at: 44000 N. Spur Cross Rd., Cave Creek. Park in the large parking lot, then walk about a city block up the road, past the park entry cabin, to the shelter near the porta-potties. We will assemble at the picnic tables for the 8:30am start.

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