

CANYON ECHO

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona>

Grand Canyon Chapter

Summer 2020: Creating Healthy Communities

Rising Against Injustice

Sierra Club is calling on all members and supporters to join the Movement for Black Lives. As an organization dedicated to equity, inclusion, and justice, we understand that there will be no climate justice without racial justice.

Inside this issue (p. 9) you will find a guide including actions you can take to help dismantle white supremacy, educational resources, and groups to follow and support.

If you have not already, please consider reading the Sierra Magazine article quoted below; [“Racism is Killing the Planet”](#) by Hop Hopkins, Director of Strategic Partnerships for Sierra Club.

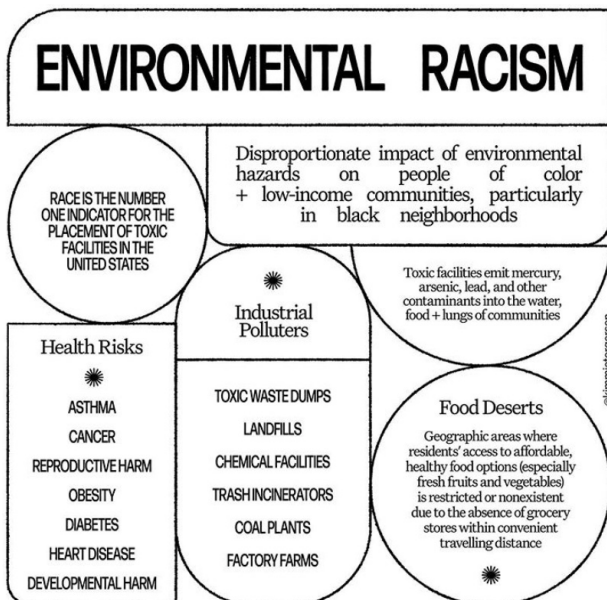


You can't have climate change without sacrifice zones, and you can't have sacrifice zones without disposable people, and you can't have disposable people without racism.

— Hop Hopkins, Director of Strategic Partnerships for Sierra Club



Graphic by Shirien Damra



Graphic by Kimmie Torgerson

Supporting Native Communities During the Pandemic

As you can see in the graph below, Native communities have a comparatively high risk of serious illness if infected with coronavirus. Tribes are struggling with infections nationwide, and in many cases are also facing a loss of income as tourism has stopped. The outbreak has been especially severe within the Navajo Nation—with the highest infection and death rates in the country. The White Mountain Apache shut down their reservation for two weeks in June when cases were spiking; about one-eighth of the 13,500 residents have tested positive. The Sierra Club community has been finding ways to help, and we hope their stories here and on pages 11–12 will inspire you to do what you can to help those in need.

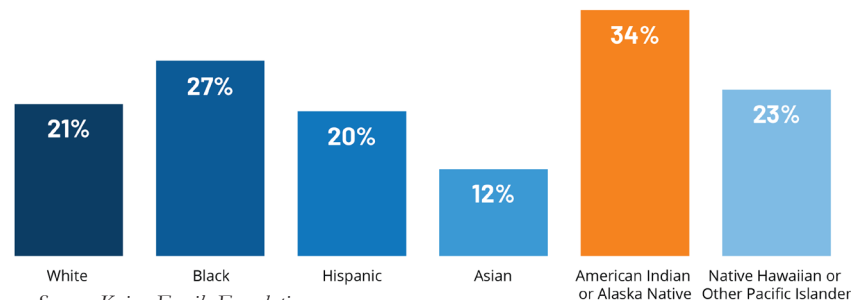
Running for Change ♦ By Sergio Avila

During the pandemic I have focused on financially supporting and donating to Native communities and groups who serve them. I have donated to Tribes in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and also some located in Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico. As part of my support, I share these fundraising opportunities in my social media networks, asking for donations (monetary or other) to Native communities and organizations.

continued on page 11

American Indians and Alaska Natives Have a Higher Risk of Serious Illness if Infected with the Coronavirus

Share of Adults Ages 18-64 at Higher Risk, by Race/Ethnicity:



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet





Arizona Chapter Action Directory

Canyon Echo

Summer 2020

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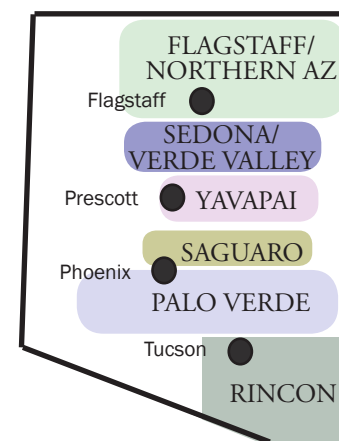
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Palo Verde:	Don Steuter	Saguaro:	Jo Sylvester		

Chapter Announcements

JULY, AUG, SEP (TBD) 6:30 p.m. Political Committee meetings (virtual). 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.

AUG 10, SEP 14 (MON) 6:30 p.m. Wildlife Activist Group meetings (virtual). Interested in making a difference for wildlife? Want to help protect habitat, gather important research data on wildlife, or watchdog the Arizona Game and Fish Commission? Please consider joining our Wildlife Activist Group. For more information, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

JULY 28, AUG 25, SEP 22 (TUE) 6:30 p.m. Energy Team meetings (virtual). Discussions and programs 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 sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

AUG (TBD) Publications Committee meeting (virtual). Have an idea? Help plan future issues of *Canyon Echo*! Contact Meg Weesner at 520-576-2083 or mweesner@att.net or Lydia Wilson at 602-253-9140 or lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org.

SEP 1 (MON) Copy deadline for Fall 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.

SEP 25 (THU) (tentative). 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?

Subscribe to Current News & Action Alerts

We send 2 **Chapter** email updates per month, including upcoming events and activities, action items, and more.



<http://bit.ly/gcchapter>

Borderlands email updates are sent once every month.



<http://bit.ly/borderemail>

Grand Canyon Protection Campaign email updates are sent once every other month.



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Arizona Water Sentinels email updates are sent once every other month.



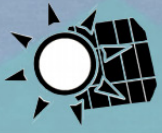
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Legislative email updates are sent weekly during the legislative session.



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For your Consideration...

For the next issue, we would like to know this from our readers, submitted by Meg Weeser, Publications Committee Chair:

“At the beginning of this year, I would never have expected that billions of people around the world would quickly change their everyday behavior in the face of a significant threat to the health and safety of humanity. Yet in the face of a novel virus, they have done it. Another serious threat to the health and safety of humanity is climate change. Does the world’s response to the coronavirus pandemic suggest that people might be more willing than we think to modify their behavior to prevent catastrophic climate change?”

If you are inspired to respond, please do so in 150 words or less, and send your submission to mweesner@att.net for a chance to be published in the next issue.

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Be a Leader!

Chapter and Group Nominations

Do you want to get more involved with Sierra Club? Are you interested in helping create a vision, make policy, execute plans to protect and preserve our environment, and have fun while doing it? If not you, do you know someone else who might be? Submit a nomination for a chapter or group leadership position! See p. 12 for details.

Arizona’s 2020 Environmental Repord Card

By Sandy Bahr

Many wondered if the 54th Arizona Legislature, Second Regular Session, would ever end. It was not because legislators were at the Capitol hard at work, but because the majority in the House of Representatives refused to let go of some bills and adjourn sine die, the motion that officially ends the session. Finally, on May 21st the

continued on page 15

	SENATE	HOUSE
A+	Alston (LD 24), Bradley (LD 10), Contreras (LD 19), Dalessandro (LD 2), Gonzales (LD 3), Mendez (LD 26), Navarrete (LD 30), Peshlakai (LD 7), Quezada (LD 29), Steele (LD 9)	Andrade (LD 29), Blanc (LD 26), Butler (LD 28), Cano (LD 3), DeGrazia (LD 10), Engel (LD 10), Epstein (LD 18), Espinoza (LD 19), Fernandez (LD 4), Frieze (LD 9), Gabaldón (LD 2), *Jermaine (LD 18), Lieberman (LD 28), Longdon (LD 24), Peten (LD 4), Powers Hannley (LD 9), Salman (LD 26), Shah (LD 24), Sierra (LD 19), Teller (LD 7), Terán (LD 30), Tsosie (LD 7)
A		Rodriguez (LD 27)
B		Chávez (LD 29), A. Hernandez (LD 3), D. Hernandez (LD 2), Meza (LD 14), Pawlik (LD 17)
C	Bowie (LD 18), Otondo (LD 4), Rios (LD 27)	Bolding (LD 27)
D	Brophy McGee (LD 28)	
F	S. Allen (LD 6), Borrelli (LD 5), Boyer (LD 20), Carter (LD 15), Fann (LD 1), D. Farnsworth (LD 16), E. Farnsworth (LD 12), Gowan (LD 30), Gray (LD 21), Kerr (LD 13), Leach (LD 11), Livingston (LD 22), Mesnard (LD 17), Pace (LD 25), Pratt (LD 8), Ugenti-Rita (LD 23)	J. Allen (LD 15), Barto (LD 7), Biasiucci (LD 5), Blackman (LD 6), Bolick (LD 20), Bowers (LD 25), Campbell (LD 1), Carroll (LD 22), Cobb (LD 5), Cook (LD 8), Dunn (LD 13), Fillmore (LD 16), Finchem (LD 11), Grantham (LD 12), Griffin (LD 14), Kavanagh (LD 23), Kern (LD 20), Lawrence (LD 23), Nutt (LD 14), Osborne (LD 13), Payne (LD 21), Petersen (LD 12), Pierce (LD 1), Rivero (LD 21), Roberts (LD 11), Shope (LD 8), Thorpe (LD 6), Toma (LD 22), Townsend (LD 16), Udall (LD 25), Weninger (LD 17)
F	Governor Ducey	

**Excused vote on HB2686.*

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NOTE: This includes donations received December 1, 2019 through July 1, 2020.

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Diane & Bill Facinelli	Thomas Hulen	Lucy & Doug McCoy	Joann Schot	Hugh Wilson
Jack & Judy Feinberg	Marion Hunt-Kumm	Ann McDermott	Karen Schroeder	Melanie Winans
Bob Fischella	Dennis Isbell	Sharon McDonough-Means	Joseph Seelye	Gerald Wooldridge
Maureen Fisher	Nancy Jacobson	Diana McHenry	Barbara Seese	Tanya Wyman
Kimberly Fitzpatrick	Marc Janis	Anne McHugh	Philip & Kiisa Service	Donna Yoder
	Anne Jehle	Lynn McLaughlin	James Shea	Marie Yonkers

The Grand Canyon Chapter is also thankful for the generous support from those who chose to remain anonymous.

Cast of Characters

Stephanie Vázquez

Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee member Stephanie Vázquez is, despite her young age, a policy wonk. She wants public policy that effectively deals with climate change.

“We’re running out of time to address climate change and it still doesn’t get the attention it requires,” she says. “We’ve been talking about climate change since before the 2000s and in 2020 we aren’t doing at all enough about it.”

Despite her immersion in state politics—she works for state Senator Tony Navarrete—she has trouble understanding why climate change is a partisan issue, subject to conservative backlash. “It’s an obvious problem,” she says.

Stephanie got interested in environmental issues after she decided consuming animals was a bad idea six years ago and became a vegetarian. At Arizona State University she majored in political science but minored in sustainability.

Now, while working full time for Senator Navarrete, she is working on an ASU master’s degree in public policy. She intends to complete her studies in spring 2021.

While an undergraduate student, Stephanie was in a class with Professor Amanda McCoy, who told her about Chapter Director Sandy Bahr’s opening for an internship. She applied and was accepted. She got a taste of the 2018 Legislature, “hands on.”

Sandy inspired Stephanie and filled her in about the Sierra Club. “I wouldn’t be where I am without Sandy and the Sierra Club,” she says.

For the 2019 legislative session, Stephanie worked for the House of Representatives as a policy intern. She hopes to keep working at the Capitol, continuing to put her public policy skills and expertise to work.

A native of Morelos State in Mexico, Stephanie has lived in Phoenix since the age of 8. She is a U.S. citizen.

With work and school, Stephanie has a full plate. She has enough time to



Stephanie Vázquez. Courtesy of Stephanie Vázquez.

take care of her three dogs and squeeze in hikes, when the mercury is below triple figures. And to serve effectively on the Chapter Executive Committee, where her work is helpful and much appreciated.

*Written by Keith Bagwell,
Energy Chair*



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Sierra Club Wins Border Wall Case, but New Walls Continue Pending SCOTUS

By Dan Millis



The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on June 26 that the administration’s attempt to circumvent Congress and transfer \$2.5 billion in military pay and pension funds for border wall construction is unlawful. The ruling came in

a lawsuit, *Sierra Club v. Trump*, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the Sierra Club and Southern Border Communities Coalition. [See the decision here.](#)

Unfortunately, last year the Supreme Court stepped in after our similar victory at the District Court level, issuing a “stay” against the injunction that we won. This allowed the bulldozers to resume their destruction, which will continue until the Supreme Court acts. Walls will continue to be imposed until the Supreme Court’s “stay” is lifted.

Because of the waiver of laws and because Congress granted the Trump administration billions for this racist wall, projects being built with Congressionally-approved funds will also continue moving forward. These projects are mostly in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas, where many traditional Indigenous lands, wildlife refuges, and private properties are being seized by the administration right now in order to impose more walls.

However, there is a bit of good news from the Supreme Court: the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program can remain in place, providing DACA recipients and their families with temporary relief from the inhumane practices of family separation, detention, and deportation.

Cristina Jiménez of United We Dream says, “Immigrant youth can rejoice knowing that Trump’s attempts to strip them of their ability to work and protections from deportation have failed. The Supreme Court’s decision on DACA solidifies what we’ve known all along: Trump’s cruel decision to end DACA was motivated by his and Stephen Miller’s white supremacist plans to deport all immigrants.”

*Written by Dan Millis
Borderlands Program Manager*



Electronic Newsletter

To sign up for the e-newsletter, send an email with your full name and membership ID (8-digit number found on your mailing label) to CanyonEchoESub@gmail.com. You will receive an email when the new issues become available online.

Letters to the Editor

Do you have something to share with our Publications Committee? Please consider sending a letter to the editor at lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org. (Note: not all letters will be printed).

Sierra Club Volunteers Travel to Washington D.C. for Equity Workshop

By Jasmine Angulo



To speak out against injustice and to educate those around me has been my passion for as long as I can remember. My name is Jasmine Angulo, I am a 17-year-old Mexican-American that grew up in Tucson. Growing up in a border town meant that seeing border patrol trucks on your block was normal; of course, seeing border patrol was considerably fear-inducing... nonetheless it was completely normal. At a young age, I quickly

identified that this fear in the community shouldn't be normalized. When my history teacher gave me an opportunity to lobby in Washington, D.C. against further border wall funding, I quickly agreed to travel. Thanks to the Sierra Club, I was also able to attend a great equity workshop free of cost.

The morning after arriving at the Capitol, I met other Sierra Club members working together for a common goal: to stop border wall funding. We talked amongst each other listening to everyone's unique experiences with the border.

We then broke out into teams and met with different staff members for a number of politicians, sharing our stories. While some of them weren't even the slightest intrigued by what we had to say, we still took as much time of their day as we could.

This was the first time I had ever participated in lobbying, and let me just say, it won't be my last. The experience was empowering.

The very next day we attended an equity workshop in the Sierra Club office. While the workshop was based on workplace dynamics within various Sierra Club offices, I still took away many lessons. I was not only able to interact with people of color in the nonprofit world, but I was also able to interact with allies of communities of color. This was overall a positive experience. I love that the Sierra Club is working hard to create a space that both protects the environment and its people.

On the last day, I was able to visit multiple museums, one of them being the National Museum of African American History and Culture. I didn't feel comfortable speaking about my experience going to D.C. without speaking about what is going on right now. As I walked down

the halls and read through the exhibits, I found myself on the brink of tears. I couldn't fathom how horribly my Black brothers and sisters have been treated in a country that intentionally displaced their ancestors from their country only to be exploited and abused in this country. Near the end of the museum exhibits, social justice progress in the United States was highlighted but there is still so much work to do. Especially when most of the oppression people of color face is in the very institutions that should serve them.

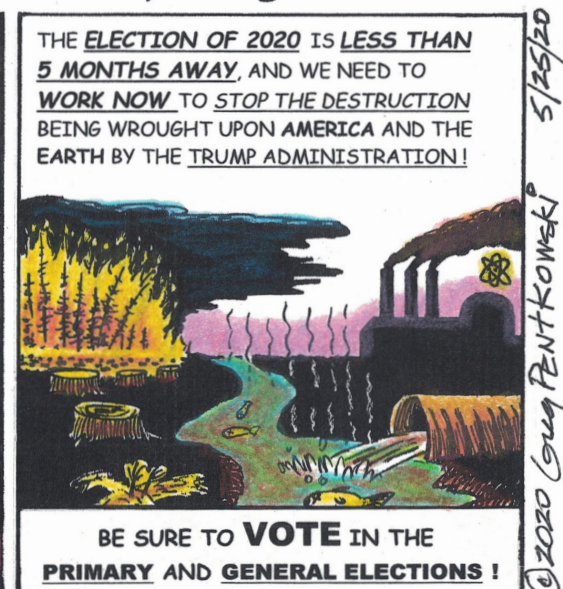
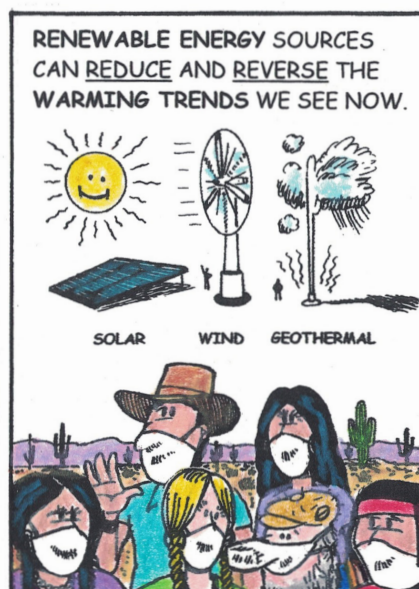
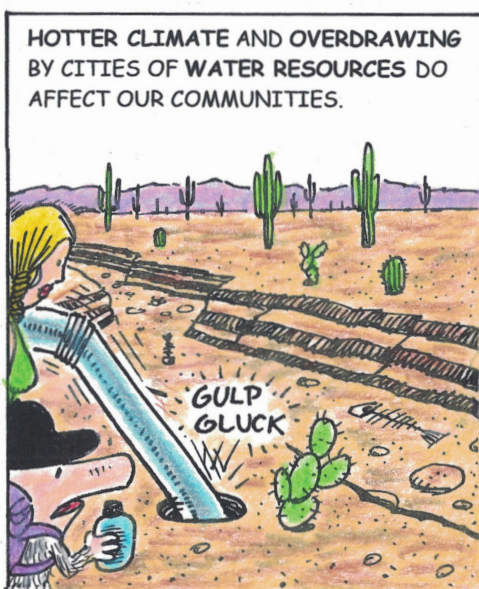
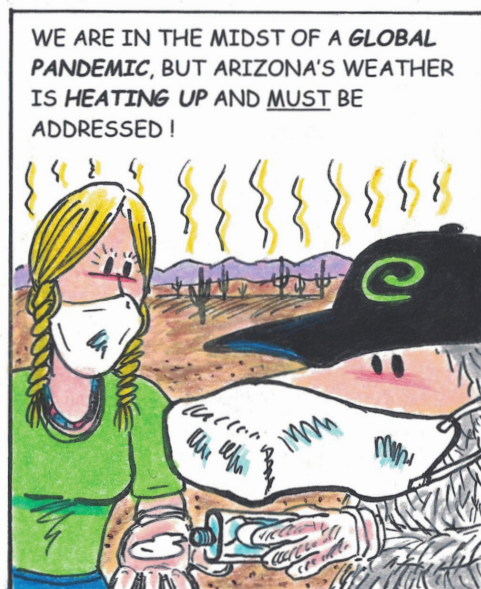
Overall, my biggest takeaway from this trip was, we still have a lot of work to do and we are capable of bringing about change. I was able to see people from different backgrounds, gather together with a common goal, and address it politically. People from all over the country came together to learn more about how to create a more equitable workspace. Now more than ever we need that same unity to create change for our people that are hurting the most. Now more than ever we need to have empathy. Now more than ever we need to fight for our black brothers and sisters and our environment.

Jasmine is a student at Changemaker High School in Tucson



Photo courtesy of Jasmine Angulo.

Beyond the Slab -- CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS OF PUBLISHED ECO-AWARENESS !



5/25/20
©2020 Greg Pentkowski

Sierra Club in Solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives

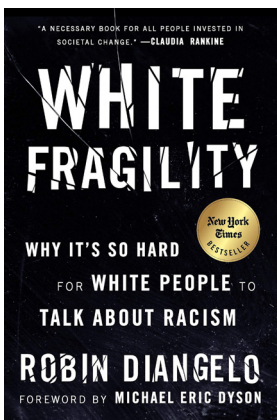
Resources & Actions

Sierra Club released the following statement: “It is important right now to focus on sharing and uplifting voices for racial justice, especially the voices of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in our communities. We ask our White colleagues to listen and hear, and not speak for, but instead center the voices of those experiencing racism.”

Show up & Donate

If you are able to, make the effort to seek out and attend city council meetings, protests, demonstrations, and other calls to action, many of which are being conducted virtually right now. Please remember to wear your mask, maintain social distance, and follow guidance for any activities that are not virtual.

The best way to find these events is by following local groups hosting opportunities for action. You can show support and see happenings by following them on social media, subscribing to their newsletters, or tracking state-wide calendars such as blogforarizona.net/calendar. Keep reading to find local groups we suggest following or supporting via a financial contribution if you have the ability to do so.



Educate Yourself

Institutionalized racism makes it harder for BIPOC to access affordable housing, education opportunities, health care, food, clean, safe environments, and more. The deeply-rooted, ugly reality of white supremacy can be difficult for us to fully comprehend and uncomfortable for us to face. It is necessary for us to address these challenging feelings head on and to confront our own internal biases that can form when living in a nation where white supremacy has thrived.

If you're looking for somewhere to start, we recommend this reading list by Business Insider: “[22 books on race and white privilege that will show you what's really happening in America right now.](#)”

One standout book from this list is *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. To quote Ms. DiAngelo, “I repeat: stopping our racist patterns must be more important than working to convince others that we don't have them. We do have them, and BIPOC already know we have them; our efforts to prove otherwise are not convincing. An honest accounting of these patterns is no small task given the power of white fragility and white solidarity, but it is necessary.”

Speak out

Hold your friends, family, and community accountable. Refuse to tolerate racism and micro-aggressions, which are defined as actions that include indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of a marginalized group. Black, Indigenous and People of Color have been speaking out about racism for hundreds of years. It is past time for white people to speak up in the fight for justice. It's ok if you're uncomfortable—keep going and growing. There are a multitude of educational tools that can help you in these conversations, including the digital resource guide “[Talking About Race](#),” published by the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Being a good ally is a constant learning process that requires us to be brave in defending what's right.

Listen

Listen to BIPOC and believe their experiences. Respect their perspectives and be grateful that they are willing to share when it could feel painful or laborious for them to speak on racial justice matters. Be open to changing your mind and opinions when presented with new information. Be open to changing your behavior that you may not have realized was problematic. Put your ego away and hold the greater good above all else.

Racial Justice Groups to Support



Arizona:

[Arizona Center For Empowerment](#)

[Arizona Dream Act Coalition](#)

[Chispa Arizona](#)

[Living United for Change in Arizona \(LUCHA\)](#)

[Mass Liberation Arizona](#)

[Mi Familia Vota Arizona](#)

[Poder In Action](#)

[One Arizona](#)

Phoenix:

[Black Lives Matter Phoenix Metro](#)

[Black People's Justice Fund](#)

[Black Phoenix Organizing Collective](#)

[Puente Human Rights Movement](#)

[Trans Queer Pueblo](#)

Tucson:

[Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund](#)

[Black Lives Matter Tucson](#)

[People's Defense Initiative](#)

Nationwide:

[Advancement Project](#)

[Black Lives Matter](#)

[ColorofChange.org](#)

[DoSomething.org](#)

[NAACP](#)

[National Urban League](#)

[Race Forward](#)

[Race Matters Institute](#)

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

**These are only a few of the groups working to promote equity and justice and to dismantle racism*

Rising Against Injustice: Outdoors for All

Equity in the Outdoors



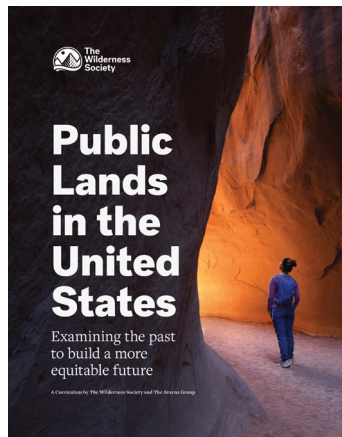
#OutdoorsForAll

Environmental justice cannot be achieved until the outdoors is truly a safe space for all. Studies consistently show that Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) spend time recreating outside at a rate comparable to white people. However, they are (on average) spending far less time visiting national parks, national forests, and national wildlife refuges. A few of the major barriers to participation that are thought to have a part in creating this gap include affordability and accessibility within these spaces for low-income individuals and/or hourly workers with limited vacation time, and fear of discrimination or concern for physical safety.

The recent incidents of Christian Cooper facing racism and harassment while bird watching, and Ahmaud Arbery who was murdered while jogging in his neighborhood, are horrific examples of how much work still needs to be done to achieve equity in the outdoors. Sierra Club [published a guide](#) with links and educational tools on being anti-racist in the outdoors. Keep reading to find more resources we recommend and a list of groups working for equity in the outdoors that would benefit from our support.

Guide to Outdoor Allyship

Melanin Base Camp is a group working to increase ethnic minority and LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and more) participation in the outdoors. Last year they published a [Guide to Outdoor Allyship](#) in which founder Danielle Williams breaks down the ways in which white privilege exists in nature and what we can do to address it, including tips on how to talk about race and take action.



Public Lands Curriculum

The Wilderness Society and The Avarna Group recently released the curriculum *Public Lands in the United States: Examining the past to build a more equitable future*. It is free and available [online here](#). This helpful guide includes historical overviews regarding equity and public lands, case studies, activities, instructional materials, information on current issues, and more.

The Grand Canyon Chapter invites you to join us in participating in these lessons via Zoom. We will be working on lesson 1 on July 29th at 6:30 P.M. Contact Sandy Babr at sandy.babr@sierraclub.org for details.

Land Acknowledgements

Land Acknowledgements are starting to become more commonplace in the United States, but they have long been tradition in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, and they have been practiced by many Indigenous communities for centuries. Land Acknowledgements are formal statements or other expressions that pay tribute to the original inhabitants of the land. They are often practiced before gatherings and events and are intended to show respect for Indigenous people. These statements honor the sacred relationship between Indigenous people and land and can serve as a reminder of how systemic and institutional systems of power and colonialism have oppressed Indigenous people. The Public Lands Curriculum is a great resource for learning more about Land Acknowledgements, and they provide a few sample statements listed below:

- "We are on the ancestral land of the _____ (People)."
- "I respectfully acknowledge the _____ (People) of _____ (ancestral place name), who have been here since time immemorial."
- "We acknowledge that this is the land of the _____ (People) and perhaps others of which we are ignorant. Indigenous Peoples have lived, worked and traveled here since time immemorial. We are just visitors here. We respect their communities, past, present and future, and recognize them as the original peoples of this land."

Outdoor Equity Groups to Support

[The Black Outdoors](#)
[The Brown Ascenders](#)
[Camber Outdoors](#)
[Diversify Outdoors](#)
[Get Out Stay Out/Vamos Afuera](#)
[GirlTrek](#)
[Greening Youth Foundation](#)
[Latino Outdoors](#)
[Latinxhikers](#)
[Melanin Base Camp](#)
[Native Womens Wilderness](#)
[Out There Adventures](#)
[Outdoor Afro](#)
[Outdoor Asian](#)
[Pride Outside](#)
[Unlikely Hikers](#)
[Venture Out Project](#)

**These are only a few of the groups working to promote equity and justice in the outdoors*

BUILD AN INCLUSIVE OUTDOORS

Be an active part of making the outdoors safe and welcoming for all identities and abilities.

#RecreateResponsibly

#RecreateResponsibly



7/1/2020

Supporting Native Communities During the Pandemic

Running for Change

continued from page 1

On a beautiful Sunday morning in early May, I ran nine miles in a virtual running event to raise funds to aid the #HavasupaiTribe COVID-19 relief. I was in the middle of training for Spring races when these were postponed, cancelled, or moved to “virtual” runs, so this fundraiser presented a good opportunity to support the Tribe and continue my training. A few days before the run I posted details in my social media pages, I made videos and stories to ask people for their support, and I raised a total of \$610 dollars. Later, I learned that event organizers reached \$25,000, surpassing their original goal of \$10K. For me it was a great 9-mile run along the Rillito River park in Tucson, I saw a red-tail hawk chased by a kestrel; also saw a roadrunner, cottontails, ground squirrels, and tons of lizards and birds. I finished in 1:28:48hrs and I ran one mile longer than the symbolic 8 miles of the virtual run. It was a beautiful morning for a meaningful run.

Even though there are similar challenges experienced by all, I have noticed stark differences in the access and procuring of financial funds to communities, for those whose form of helping is monetary contributions. One of the challenges is the use of digital platforms to fundraise (GoFundMe or other fundraising platforms), which is a contrast with Tribes in the U.S. and Mexico. In Mexico, Tribes request donors to make bank deposits, including a transaction fee. This creates a barrier for donors who can’t send funds easily. In contrast, the Havasupai is an example of a Tribe that is remote and isolated, yet they were able to successfully fundraise electronically, which could not be done by other regional Tribes like Yaqui, Seri, and Tarahumara. You have an opportunity to support the Seri Tribe relief fund by donating on this link. The Seri or Comca’ac, as they call themselves, live at the edge of the Sonoran Desert and the Gulf of California. Read more about their needs and [how you can help, at this link](#).

— Sergio Avila is the Southwest Local Outdoors Coordinator for Sierra Club

By Sandy Bahr

I saw the Kahtoola Virtual Run to Benefit Havasupai Tribe COVID-19 Relief Fund posted on Facebook and my first thought was I should share this with the runners that I know. As I read it and thought about it, I decided it was something I could do. I am not a runner. It turns out, however, it was an easy way to help and to be part of a team, part of a community. COVID-19 has harmed Indigenous communities disproportionately. For the Havasupai, it has meant shutting down their economy. My run was slow, indoors, and with the support of Gizmo, Luna, and Houdini, our three cats. They encouraged snacking and naps. Seriously, though, we all can do something. This was part of an effort that raised more than \$25,000 from people from varied backgrounds and ages. Inaction and silence is what hurts. Action and speaking up does not.

— Sandy is Chapter Director

Mask up Arizona

By Toni Malcolm

This surreal global situation has put so many people in desperate need that it is hard to know where to focus your attention. When I found out about the plight of the Navajo Nation, I decided they would be my focus.

I had been making masks for my department at work and quickly discovered that my sewing machine did not like pleats. So, I looked online for an alternative. The bandana mask is perfect for me (see graphic on right). It is simple and very adjustable. The way the bandana is folded also means there are, in the end, about six layers of cotton.

I have sent about 150 masks to date and have a neighbor adding to my collection. Instead of buying material, I have been

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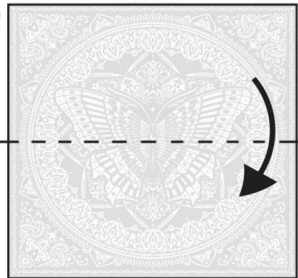
Improved Face Covering (As per CDC Instructions)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

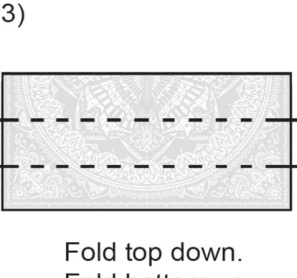
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2)

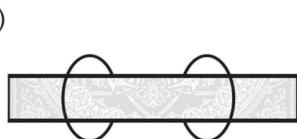


3)



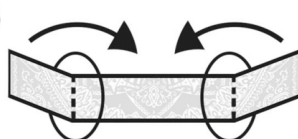
Fold top down.
Fold bottom up.

4)



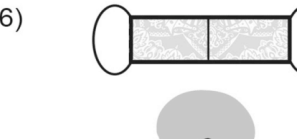
Place rubber bands or hair ties about 6 inches apart.

5)



Fold sides to middle and tuck.

6)



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>
Not a substitute for medical PPE. Stay safe, Adventurers, love, Gametee Girls x

Supporting Native Communities During the Pandemic

Mask up Arizona

continued from page 11

reusing cotton from unused sheets. A perfect thread count and 100 % cotton. As COVID isn't going away anytime soon, my neighbor and I will continue sewing and distributing masks. It is a mindful activity and makes me feel I am making a contribution during this crisis, however small that contribution is.

— Toni is a volunteer with the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter

*Note: if you are interested in making your own masks to support Native populations, contact grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org or leave a message at (602) 253-8633 to make arrangements.

Working Together

By Rebecca Hinton



Democrats in Legislative District (LD) 18 have a group called Dems Give Back (DGB) which is committed to giving back to our community. DGB is involved with a variety of volunteer efforts including adopting local parks and supporting local community organizations like Go With The Flow, Threadz2, Lost Our Home pet shelter, and the Kyrene Family Resource Center.

LD18 Representative Jennifer Jermaine, a member of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Caucus, worked with Sierra Club & LD18 member Rebecca Hinton and DGB to provide support to two Arizona Indigenous communities that have been severely impacted by COVID-19. Rep Jermaine worked with Tribal leaders including Representative Arlando Teller to determine how to best help these communities. She vetted donation links, arranged transport of donated items to Tribal distribution centers, and spread the word about these efforts in meetings and on social media.

LD18 DGB held two donation drives to collect items including food, water, and hygiene and cleaning products. In May we collected items for the Navajo Nation, and in June we collected items for the White Mountain Apache Tribe. DGB set up no-contact donation sites in each of the four cities in our district: Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, and Ahwatukee.

In addition to donating products and cash directly to the Navajo Nation and White Mountain Apache Tribe, LD18 held a virtual concert organized by Robert Doyle, president of Canyon Records, which raised over \$4,500. Grammy nominee flutist Aaron White performed and shared perspectives from his Navajo-Ute heritage.

These efforts were successful thanks to the many volunteers and community members who provided support and donations.

Donate to Navajo Nation: nndoh.org/donate.html

Donate to White Mountain Apache Tribe: tinyurl.com/WMATdonate

— Rebecca is Program Chair for the Palo Verde Group

The Sierra Club donated to the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund, which has now raised more than \$5.5 million to support families struggling during the COVID19 lockdown on the Navajo Nation and Hopi.

You can find the link to the GoFundMe campaign here: gofundme.com/f/NHFC19Relief



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Hinton.

HELP LEAD THE GRAND CANYON CHAPTER

YOU ARE SIERRA CLUB

Chapter and Group executive committee elections are coming up. Become a candidate to serve on your group or chapter executive committee!

Candidacy isn't about winning or losing. It is about stepping up and saying I am willing to help.

No experience is necessary. If you want to help create a vision, make policy, execute plans to protect and preserve your environment, and have fun while doing it, please nominate yourself. If you know of another good person, let us know.

Volunteer leadership positions within the Grand Canyon Chapter are an ideal way to deepen your involvement in the issues important to you, meet new people, learn new skills, and become a more active member of the Sierra Club family.

There are many opportunities and activities, from advocacy for air, water, and wildlife, to leading hikes, and more. (Look through this newsletter to see how other members have gotten involved.)

If you would like to learn more about what would be involved, please contact:

Chapter Chair Jim Vaaler at 602-553-8208 or jimvaaler@msn.com, or your group chair (see your *Echo* newsletter page 16), or Sandy Bahr at 602-253-8633, sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org or Nominations Committee Chair Ken Langton at 520-749-3829, kplangton@msn.com.

Guidelines for chapter and group executive committee elections: 1) To be listed on the ballot, candidates must submit their names and membership numbers. If you aren't sure what your membership number is, see your *Canyon Echo* label or contact the chapter office at 602-253-9140. Be sure to include contact information with your submission.

2) Submit a candidate statement (recommended but not required) indicating the chapter or group executive committee for which you are running to sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org and lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org by no later than August 20, 2020. Candidate statements are limited to 200 words and must be submitted by email. You will receive acknowledgement within a few days of submission. (Because much of the executive committee's business is done by email, candidates must have email capability.)

The official ballot will appear in the Fall 2020 *Canyon Echo*. So, go ahead, nominate yourself or someone else you think would be a good leader.

Thank you for stepping forward!

Spotlight on Chispa Arizona:

Climate Activists Must Join the Fight for Racial Justice

By Gloria Montañó Greene

At Chispa Arizona, we work to build Latino political power to fight for clean air and a healthier future for Arizona.

In the last few weeks we've witnessed a global reaction to police brutality and the need to end systemic racism. As environmentalists we fight corporate polluters and hold decision-makers accountable—we should channel that same energy and strategy to end the great plague of racism.

Our organization stands strongly against police brutality. We are also working to fight the environmental racism that manifests in the poverty, pollution, and health disparities impacting communities of color—the same communities that are on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated these existing disparities. For Black and Latino communities the pandemic is hitting families hard. According to research from the COVID Tracking Project, African-American deaths from COVID-19 are nearly two times greater than would be expected based on their share of the population. In four states, the rate is three or more times greater.

Additionally, in 42 states plus Washington D.C., Hispanics/Latinos make up a greater share of confirmed cases than their share of the population. In eight states, it's more than four times greater. White deaths from COVID-19 are lower than their share of the population in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

Before this pandemic, studies have told us that Latinos and Black children are two to four times more likely to visit the emergency room for complications with asthma and are twice as likely to die from asthma as their white peers. For low-income communities of color, the inequities are even greater. Poverty, lower

rates of insurance, historic housing discrimination, and exposure to pollution all come together to create grave risks to community health and well-being.

Last month, 14-year old Chispa Arizona promotora Crystal Vega testified at the Environmental Protection Agency. In her testimony, she stated: "I'm from Phoenix, AZ where there are millions of people living in low-income communities that are impacted by unhealthy levels of pollution, just like mine. In my neighborhood alone, there are more concrete pathways than there are parks. I'm surrounded by industrial machines and big factories."

As part of an environmental movement that fights to protect our future, we have a critical role to play. Part of that includes acknowledging the history of the environmental movement, our lack of diversity, and the legacy of our absence in the fight for environmental justice. We lose on climate change if we do not proactively address systematic racism and violence our Black brothers and sisters face every day. We need every voice,

particularly those most impacted, to be leading the calls for change.

True environmental justice will fight to dismantle the systems that protect polluters and oppressors. It will look like just transition efforts and support for working families and communities of color. And it will look like an intentional investment in communities and leaders on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

There is no environmental justice without racial justice.

Gloria Montañó Greene is Deputy Director of Chispa Arizona.

**“
True environmental
justice will fight to
dismantle the systems
that protect polluters
and oppressors.**

— Gloria Montañó Greene

Volunteers Enjoy Virtual Outings

By Meg Weesner

Numerous Sierra Club outings had to be cancelled while we stayed at home to stay safe this spring. While walking in Saguaro National Park in early April, I enjoyed the flowers blooming and had the idea that I would advertise a “virtual outing” to focus on our beautiful Sonoran Desert wildflowers.

I listed the outing on Rincon Group's MeetUp page with the explanation that individuals can hike on their own and in small groups of family or close friends, if they can do so safely, and take pictures of the flowers that they see. On returning, they post their best pictures to the MeetUp, and we all enjoy a virtual wildflower hike. The “outing” was open for about 10 days, ending on Earth Day, April 22. In the end about 10 people signed up for the virtual outing and more than 70 photographs were contributed. Some of the best ones are displayed here.

Meg is Chair of the Publications Committee and the Rincon Group.



Top and bottom right photos by Norma Miller. Bottom left photo by Meg Weesner.

In the Face of Extreme Heat

By Leslthe Rendon 

Arizona is known for its scorching heat and desert scenery. Our temperatures often reach into the 100s. It's important that you stay informed of heat-related information to keep you and your loved ones safe. Not only is our health at risk but the environment we care so much about is also affected.

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, between 2000–2012, 1,535 deaths were heat related in the state of Arizona alone. Heat exceeds other natural disaster mortalities. Typically, it's younger children and older adults that are more at risk. Heat exhaustion and

heat stroke occur when you are exposed to extreme heat for a prolonged time. Confusion, dizziness, and nausea are all symptoms of heat stroke. In order to prevent this, it's crucial to have a plan and know your resources. You can use [211 Arizona](#) as a resource to find more on this matter.

In recent years leaving children and pets in a vehicle has become a big issue—it does not take long for cars and anyone in them to overheat. Remember to check your cars before you walk away.

Rising temperatures are exacerbated by the heat-island effect which occurs in cities due to the excessive amounts of

pavement, concrete, and other impervious materials that hold the heat. Heat islands result in much higher nighttime temperatures and make it more challenging to cool off after the sun goes down.

What can we do to mitigate the situation? We can drink lots of fluids and stay inside cool refrigerated areas as much as possible. Check on your loved ones to ensure they are staying safe during these rough times. If you decide to go out, do so early in the morning or later in the afternoon when temperatures are cooler. Limit how much you use stoves and ovens as they cause houses to get warmer. There are organizations all over the valley that provide air-conditioned shelter to the homeless. The CDC website (CDC.gov) has more resources available to the public.

When heat increases so does our energy consumption. The demand for cooling services goes up by 5%. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that because we require more energy,

more fossil fuel is burned. This means that more pollutants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury, as well as carbon dioxide are released into the air, contributing to acid rain, smog, and climate change.

And that's not all that happens when temperatures rise. Another phenomenon is that our water sources temperature changes. Once again, the EPA explains how our pavements become heated and can elevate the temperature and amount of storm water. This runoff water then makes its way to the sewers which ends up in streams, rivers, and lakes. When a body of water has sudden increase in temperature, it can cause harm to aquatic life. That is just one more reason to work to reduce climate change and urban heat effects.

Leslthe Rendon is a student at Maricopa Community College.



Graphic by Leslthe Rendon.

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 – <http://bit.ly/rinconfb>
Flagstaff/N AZ Group – http://bit.ly/flagstaff_fb
Yavapai Group – http://bit.ly/yavapai_fb
Saguaro Group – http://bit.ly/saguaro_fb





Tom Lazelle, a passionate advocate

Written by Kathy Roediger, Sierra Club volunteer



Tom Lazelle (left) volunteering at a tabling event.

When I was on the Chapter Ex Comm about 15–20 years ago we held a weekend quarterly meeting at Brown Canyon in the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. We used the ranch house and there were several bedrooms and balconies that folks could share or you could sleep outside if you preferred. The first night we could hear a mountain lion scream somewhere nearby, so most of us decided to sleep inside. Not Tom. He just spread his sleeping bag near the ranch house and slept under the stars. He was up and hiking around before most of us rose.

Tom was really involved with the Sierra Club and volunteered for many different events and issues. But above all he was a nice guy. I mentioned once that I wanted to plant some native trees around the condo complex I lived in and the next thing I knew, he brought me six tree seedlings—three palo verde and three mesquite. He had started them himself from his own trees. I ended up planting some where I live, but gave one to each of three other friends. So Tom's trees now reside in Phoenix, Tempe and Chandler Heights—they are still going strong.

Richard Elías, Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, advocate for social & environmental justice

Written by Keith Bagwell, Energy Chair

Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias was a consummate politician, but of the type there are far too few: he was a steadfast and consistent progressive who strove mightily for social, economic, and environmental justice for all, including immigrants and severely disadvantaged.



He was a champion of the environment, ensuring that Pima County's landmark Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan was fully implemented and strictly enforced. He fought for full adherence to the Clean Water Act, including its all-important protection for usually dry tributary waterways that feed our desert rivers. He testified in the U.S. Senate on that issue.

He detested and fought the proposed Rosemont Mine. His opposition to the border wall, on environmental and human-rights grounds, was fervent. He ensured that the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe were consulted and supported on issues that crossed artificial boundaries to impact them.

Richard Elias was a unique and remarkably good politician. He is sorely missed.

Scott Mittelsteadt a warrior for wildlife

Please see the last
(Spring 2020)
issue of Canyon
Echo for our
memorial piece
remembering
Scott.



2020 Environmental Report Card

continued from page 3

House adjourned and on the following Tuesday, the Senate did so as well with three Republicans joining all 13 Democrats to provide the 16 votes needed to adjourn without further action on bills. This meant that many of the bills died due to lack of action in one house or the other. While the session was not a long one in actual days of action, it was long enough for the legislators to do harm and to again demonstrate they have no interest in taking action to protect public health or the environment, address Arizona's significant water issues, to act on climate, or to promote justice and equity.

Two damaging bills reached Governor Ducey's desk and he signed them. That is enough for him to earn a failing grade on the 2020 report card. He signed HB2686, a measure that pre-empts local action on climate change relative to utilities within cities and counties. The Governor also signed HB2749 which allows any data collected about endangered species on private lands to be kept from the public.

A big issue again this year was the attack on democracy: voter suppression and efforts to make it even more difficult to put a measure on the ballot through the initiative process. Most of these bills died due to the abbreviated session.

This year's report card split even more along partisan lines than last year's report card with all Republicans receiving a failing grade, including Governor Doug Ducey. Several members received lower grades due to missed votes, but the failing grades were due primarily to partisan votes in favor of weakening water laws, anti-democracy measures, and a bill to keep information from the public regarding endangered species.

— Sandy is Chapter Director

Happenings Around the State

The Grand Canyon Chapter is made up of five groups and one conservation committee. All events and meetings listed below are open to members interested in learning more about Sierra Club. Schedules are subject to change. You can find out more at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>.

(x) Group ExCom members

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/palo-verde>

Chair:	Kathy Mohr-Almeida (x)	480-329-8503	kathyllynn626@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
Programs:	Rebecca Hinton (x)	602-405-1779	rahinton@hotmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Tom Krepitch (x)	602-625-2087	tkrepitch@cox.net
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Korey Hjelmier (x)	480-734-0926	khjelmeir@hotmail.com
Membership:	Jim Dublinski (x)	480-532-2285	jdublinski@icloud.com

Palo Verde group programs are **on the fourth Thursday every month at 6:30 p.m.** Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and are open to the public. Contact Rebecca Hinton for more information, or check <https://www.meetup.com/paloverdegroupp/>

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	swtropical@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

Virtual Flagstaff Group programs are held via Zoom Meeting **from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month.** There will be no July meeting. Contact Joe Shannon for more information about events in Flagstaff/Northern AZ.

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/saguaro>

Chair:	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:	Peter Weinelt (x)	623-388-2209	vitalpaw@yahoo.com
Outings:	Bev Full (x)	480-221-2554	bfull@cox.net
Membership:	Sue Barsky (x)	623-561-2514	sue.barsky@dvusd.org
Service Projects:	Urb Weidner (x)	602-300-8505	northwoods@cox.net
Agua Fria NM Liason:	Ehrick Howland	602-663-4479	ehrick3@hotmail.com
Programs:	Harry Lumley	480-474-4993	lumleyhw@gmail.com

For information about Saguaro Group events, contact Sally Howland.

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
Conservation:	Keith Bagwell (x)	520-623-0269	kbagwell50@gmail.com
Energy:	Russell Lowes (x)	520-321-3670	russlowes@gmail.com
Membership:	Thomas Hatfield (x)		thomas.hatfield@gmail.com
Outings:	Mitch Stevens	520-991-1199	mitchstevens@stevenslloydgroup.com
ICO:	Al Bellavia		AlBellavia@hotmail.com
Newsletter:	Joy Herr-Cardillo	520-622-1752	joiellen@cox.net
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Marie Swanson (x)	520-977-0678	gleemarie@icloud.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Samira Farwaneh (x)		samirafarwaneh3@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Oscar Medina (x)	520-903-8005	oscarmedinagomez@gmail.com

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, August 27, and Thursday, September 24.** Please join us! NOTE: If the coronavirus prevents in-person meetings on these dates, they will be on Zoom.

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 at the **Ward 3 Tucson City Council Office, 1510 E. Grant Road.** They are free and open to the public. Refreshments served. NOTE: If gathering is not possible at this time due to the coronavirus, the program will be electronic and call in, probably on Zoom.

Thursday, September 10. The 2020 Legislature - Lasting Harm from a Short Session. Join the Rincon Group and Grand Canyon Chapter director Sandy Bahr to learn more about the 2020 legislative session and the bills the governor signed to preempt local climate action and promote secrecy for important endangered species data. Find out about water bills that would have helped better protect rivers and streams, but were never heard, and the measures that we helped defeat that would have suppressed voter turnout, weakened Clean Elections, and made ballot measures more difficult. Most of all, join us in sharing good company and ways we can all work together to ensure a better brighter future for all Arizonans.

For information about Rincon Group events, contact Meg Weesner.

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	cobbstrun@msn.com
Treasurer:	Joe Zarnoch (x)	928-273-9092	sjzar2@gmail.com
At-Large:	Stephen Cook (x)	575-418-9027	scook@projectworldview.org

Virtual 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. For more information contact Gary Beverly.

Sedona/Verde Valley Conservation Committee

<http://www.reliablescribe.com/svvg>

Conservation Leader:	Brian Myers	928-300-7734	ibisalliance@gmail.com
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For information about activities in the Sedona/Verde Valley area, contact Brian Myers.