

CANYON ECHO

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona>

Grand Canyon Chapter

Fall 2020

Creating a Healthy Democracy

Taking Action for the 2020 General Election

The importance of this election cannot be overstated. The difficult truth is that our planet is in crisis. We're living in unprecedented times. This summer saw Arizona communities experience record breaking temperatures while continuing to face extreme drought. Climate change is leading to the rise of massive fires, hurricanes, and floods worldwide. It is more urgent than ever to act on climate and vote for candidates who will appoint leaders and support climate legislation.

In November, we will make decisions about who will represent us as president, and leaders in federal, state, local, and county offices. We will also have the opportunity to support or reject ballot propositions and initiatives. The

Grand Canyon Chapter will be mailing our voter guide with endorsed candidates and ballot measures in early October. We also wanted to use this issue of *Canyon Echo* to ask our members and supporters to do everything they can now to fight for and protect our planet and democracy.

See below for key dates to mark your calendar. Also inside this issue (page 11) you will find more information about how to help. Sierra Club is calling on members and supporters to rally together to make calls, write letters, send texts, donate, and do everything you can to educate yourself and those around you to get ready for this election.

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Look out for our general election voter guide!

Our general voter guide with endorsed candidates will be mailed in October. Be sure to register to vote by October 5.



Make your voice heard

Don't forget to vote in Grand Canyon Chapter and group elections! See p. 6 for ballot and instructions.

Deadline is December 1.

Thoughts from a First-Time Voter

Written by Andrew Weesner, a Tucson native and University of Arizona student

I'm a first-time voter, and the only thing on my mind this election season is getting my peers to vote with me. There's a myriad of pressing issues facing our country, but perhaps the most imminent and apocalyptic threat is the climate crisis, and addressing it in time means getting more young people voting.

On my college campus there are several clubs, one of which I'm a member, whose purpose is to increase political engagement among the students. They think the problem is that young voters aren't interested in politics, so one of their strategies is to put "just vote" posters in the hallways. The problem is that we don't need to be convinced that we should vote. We know we should, and we have every inten-

continued on page 11

Mark Your Calendars and Get Ready to Vote!

Oct 5	Oct 7	Oct 23	Oct 27	Nov 3
Voter registration deadline	Ballots mailed	Last day to request a ballot in the mail	Last day to mail back ballot	Election day

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



Arizona Chapter Action Directory

Canyon Echo

Fall 2020

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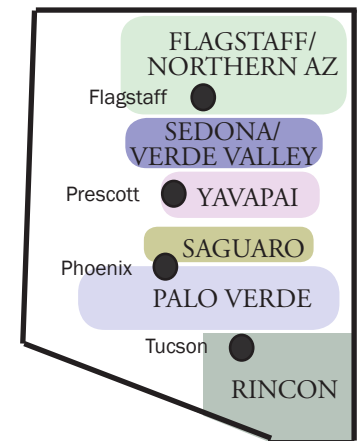
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(xc) 2020 Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) members

BIPOCC: Black Indigenous People of Color Committee

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2020 Group Voting Representatives to Chapter Ex-Com (see pp. 12–13 for contact information):

Flagstaff/N AZ: Joe Shannon **Rincon:** Marie Swanson **Yavapai:** Tom Slaback
Palo Verde: Don Steuter **Saguaro:** Jo Sylvester

Chapter Announcements

OCT 3 (SAT) 9 a.m. Chapter Conservation and Executive Committee meetings (virtual). 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, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

OCT, NOV (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.

OCT 12, NOV 9 (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

OCT 27, NOV 24 (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

NOV (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.

DEC 1 (MON) Copy deadline for Winter 2021 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.

Grand Canyon Chapter – What’s Going On?

Virtual Picnic and Awards

Virtual Volunteer Awards - Sunday, November 15th, 12pm
RSVP to sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org for the Zoom link.

Join us for a virtual picnic and volunteer recognition event November 15th at noon. You will have to bring your own picnic this year; due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be meeting in person. Grab your lunch and connect with us via Zoom for some brief comments celebrating our work this past year and recognizing some of our outstanding volunteers and partners. RSVP to receive the Zoom link. Please help us celebrate and recognize the 2020 work for equity, justice, and environmental protection.

Sierra Club Extends COVID-19 Response

On August 14th Sierra Club CEO Michael Brune announced that all Chapter and National offices will remain closed through at least February 28, 2021. Additionally, all domestic and international outings that begin between now and February 28, 2021 have been cancelled. You can find full details regarding Sierra Club’s response plan, including emotional and physical health resources, online at <https://bit.ly/2ZBEib8>. Please see below for outdoor safety tips from the Arizona Bureau of Land Management.

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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.



<http://bit.ly/grandcanyonemail>

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



<http://bit.ly/azwateremail>

Wildlife email updates are sent once every other month.



<http://bit.ly/wildlifeemail>

Energy email updates are sent once every other month.



<http://bit.ly/azenergyemail>

Legislative email updates are sent weekly during the legislative session.



<http://bit.ly/legislativeemail>



Recreate Responsibly

Some BLM Arizona sites are seeing heavy visitation. As we continue our response to COVID-19, you can do your part when enjoying public lands. We recommend visiting areas close to home. Avoid locations where physical distancing may be difficult. Toilets and trash removal may be limited.

Be prepared.

Avoid crowded sites



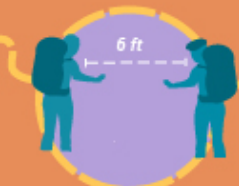
Pack out your trash



Bring your own toilet paper & hand sanitizer



Stay at least 6 feet apart



Stay home if you're sick



Learn more about COVID-19 at www.coronavirus.gov

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).

Thank You to Our Donors!

NOTE: These lists include donations received from July 1 through September 1.

The Morning Stars Sing Together (500+)

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Thank you to James & Patricia Consolloy for donating in memory of Tom Lazzelle



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

Donors continued on p. 5.

Donors continued from p. 4.

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Thank you to all who donated to our March Appeal.

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Thank you to all who donated to protect our borderlands.

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Photo by Dan Millis.

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 leave a message), 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

Postmark deadline for ballots is Dec. 1!

Is your membership Single or Joint?

Single Joint

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
All Members Vote

Vote for no more than 5 candidates	Single (Membership Type)	Joint
Keith Bagwell	(S)	(J)
Gary Beverly	(S)	(J)
Oscar Medina	(S)	(J)
Anna Rose Mohr-Almeida	(S)	(J)
Stephanie Vazquez Salas	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

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.

SAGUARO (N. Maricopa County)
Vote for no more than 4

Bev Full	(S)	(J)
Doug Murphy	(S)	(J)
Urb Weidner	(S)	(J)
Peter Weinelt	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

YAVAPAI (Prescott)
Vote for no more than 2

Gary Beverly	(S)	(J)
Joe Zarnoch	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ

Vote for no more than 2

Emma Benenati	(S)	(J)
Kay Bordwell	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

RINCON (Tucson)
Vote for no more than 3

Russell Lowes	(S)	(J)
Meg Weesner	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

PALO VERDE (Phoenix)
Vote for no more than 5

Jim Dublinski	(S)	(J)
Rebecca Hinton	(S)	(J)
Don Steuter	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)



Meet the Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

Keith Bagwell (*Membership #42044629*)

Your vote is sought to give me another two-year term. I pledge, if elected, to continue to fight for clean water, clean air and healthy habitats for all living beings. I will strive to improve equity and inclusion among Chapter membership and leadership. Working in concert with partners on issues of mutual concern, and on electing diverse people who will protect the environment as well as promote a more equitable society, is important to me. Our labor-union sisters and brothers can be allies on many of our efforts. We need to maintain and strengthen our coalition with Indigenous people who share our concern for our environment and for protection of their sacred sites. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed the stark inequity we face in Arizona as Latinos, Indigenous people and others of color have suffered far more than have White folks – racism is a public health crisis and that must change.

I am involved in the Sierra Club because it is a grass-roots organization that elects its leaders. The result in Arizona is that we have a Chapter Executive Committee of excellent members with whom I enjoy working. Please give me a chance to serve with them for another term.

Gary Beverly (*Membership #11123716*)

I am seeking election to the Chapter ExComm as an at-large member. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for three decades and have been active in the Yavapai Group ExComm since 2006 as vice-Chair, Outings Chair, Publications, and currently as Chair. My primary project is to protect the base flow and riparian environment of Arizona rivers. I led a Sierra Club effort to write the “Citizens Proposal for the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River” and have participated since 2010 in the development of the management plan for the Fossil Creek WSR. My other interests are in air and water quality, the Grand Canyon, forest management, and in trails. If elected, I will continue my efforts with increased vigor. These are the most challenging times for environmental interests in the last century, so now we must redouble our efforts by speaking loudly and clearly to defend the earth that sustains us.

Oscar Medina (*Membership #49261829*)

Oscar has served on the Chapter Executive Committee since 2017. He founded the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) issues committee, which he chairs. Oscar believes in dismantling racism within the Sierra Club through decolonial pedagogy and externally advocate for grassroots community organizations that work on outdoor education and environmental issues in BIPOC communities. Oscar is a high school civics teacher and has traveled with students to D.C. and the state capitol to lobby for environmental sustainability and against the border wall construction. Oscar identifies as a cisgender brown Xicanx male that values equity and inclusion.

Anna Rose Mohr-Almeida (*Membership #43413679*)

I would like to serve on the Grand Canyon Sierra Club Chapter Executive Committee because I care deeply about the conservation of wild places throughout Arizona. Preservation of the Rio Verde, the San Pedro, Oak Flat and Grand Canyon must continue in tandem with the protection of Arizona’s threatened and endangered species. I am particularly concerned with water conservation and air pollution. I recognize that influencing and monitoring state, federal and corporate activities is extremely important to the environmental health of Arizona. As a member of the GCSC Executive Committee, I will help GCSC achieve our inclusion and equity goals, as I am an 18 year old Engineering student at Arizona State University. I have worked with multiple climate-focused organizations since age 11; I am very experienced with climate activist endeavors. As a member of the GCSC Executive Committee, I will continue to organize Arizona’s youth to advocate and lobby for Arizona’s environment and design and participate in activism projects with enthusiasm and commitment.

Stephanie Vazquez Salas (*Membership #73489428*)

It is with great honor that I seek re-election to the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee, as Sierra Club’s diligent work embodies the values people deserve to see in Arizona. My time with Sierra Club inspired me to dedicate my professional career to advocating for legislation that seeks to preserve and protect the environment. My goals, however, do not only include playing a role in the creation and implementation of environmental policy in Arizona. I also hope to inspire underrepresented members of our communities to use their voices to advocate for the environment. I recently completed a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Sustainability from Arizona State University, and I am currently working through a Master in Public Policy with an emphasis in Environmental Policy. My time as a member of the ExCom has allowed me to expand my knowledge of dire environmental issues in Arizona, and I hope to be given the opportunity to continue playing a role in the protection of our public lands.

Candidates continued on p. 8

Meet the Group Executive Committee Candidates

SAGUARO GROUP

Beverly Full (*Membership #10337194*)

I have served as chair and organizer of the Group since 2004. I lead canoe outings on sections of the Green and Colorado Rivers as well as local hikes. I would be happy to serve another term on the Saguaro Excom.

Doug Murphy (*Membership #43160855*)

I have served as Chair of the Saguaro Group, as well as vice-chair, service outing chair and publicity chair over the past 16 years. I feel the work we do is important and I would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving on the Saguaro Group's Executive Committee.

Urb Weidner (*Membership #41397461*)

Urb has been an active member of the Saguaro Group for over 12 years. Having served as Group Treasurer for ten years and Service Projects Coordinator for the past two years, Urb continues to expand his role in the Saguaro Group.

Pete Weinelt (*Membership #52260708*)

I've been a Sierra Club member for 9 years. I've been an outings leader for 6 years. I support most all of the Sierra Clubs environmental and political positions. I have enjoyed the company of most all of the people I've met through Sierra Club events.

YAVAPAI GROUP

Gary Beverly (*Membership #11123716*)

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for three decades and have been active in the Yavapai Group ExComm since 2006 as vice-Chair, Outings Chair, Publications, and Chair. My primary project is to protect the base flow and riparian environment along the Verde river, which can in part be achieved through Congressional designation of the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River. My other interests are in air and water quality, the Grand Canyon, forest management, and in trails. If re-elected, I will continue my efforts with increased vigor. These are the most challenging times for environmental interests in the last century, so now is when we should redouble our efforts by speaking loudly and clearly to defend the earth that sustains us.

Joe Zarnoch (*Membership #30189140*)

I have been a long-term Sierra Club member, including serving as a former outings leader for the biking group in southern California. My career, as an environmental specialist and investigator, consisted of overseeing remediation proposals and cleanup actions at contaminated military sites, managing hazardous materials/waste and regulating underground storage tanks for a fire department, investigating environmental crimes in conjunction with a District Attorney's Office and then later employed as an environmental fraud investigator for the California EPA. I am currently the Yavapai Group Treasurer and involved on Prescott National Forest management issues and protecting the Verde River, the only remaining Arizona perennial river and a paramount concern for ecological diversity in our state. I am seeking re-election to the Yavapai Group Executive Committee.

FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ GROUP

Emma Benenati (*Membership #17616609*)

I have been involved in national forest recreation and environmental issues for the past eight years, serving on committees and meeting with forest supervisors to question, as well as, persuade them to manage and preserve our forests more effectively. I have many years of experience in teaching at all levels and management of projects and large groups. Our earth desperately needs the values and mission of Sierra Club and I would like to be a part of this important movement.

Kay Bordwell (*Membership #47200591*)

I have been involved in wildlife issues for many years in northern Arizona. I was a volunteer for 5 years and board member of the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project and served in that position for 2 years. I also participated in prairie dog capture and relocation several times in and around Flagstaff with Habitat Harmony. I am presently part of the Wildlife Activists Group. I have spoken before the Arizona Game and Fish, written letters and advocated for positions that encourage scientific management of the Mexican Gray Wolf. Living at the Grand Canyon for ten years as a teacher, I worked with the Park Rangers in promoting and developing programs for students and youth particularly the Grand Canyon Youth River Trips of which I took middle and high school students with guides, down the Colorado and San Pedro Rivers to encourage outdoor experiences and interests that last a lifetime. I believe in the goals of the Sierra Club and particularly in this time of threatened ecological disruption in so many areas, feel we all should help to make a commitment to strengthening our lands, water and wildlife for future generations. I ask for your vote so that I can help our northern Arizona group stay vigilant in protection of our valuable outdoor assets.

RINCON GROUP

Russell Lowes (*Membership #43781677*)

The realm of energy has taken a turn to the better over the last few years in some ways. Solar, wind and battery prices have come down dramatically. However, globally and in the U.S., the energy sector still produces over 60% of the total impact of global warming. The "solar blend" is in the process of replacing the old 19th and 20th Century options of coal, gas, nuclear and oil. My recent analysis is that if we replace nuclear and fossil fuels with this solar blend, then we can reduce our carbon output by 96%! My environmental work has been mostly focused on energy over the last several decades. I have also been involved in Wilderness Area advocacy since high school, with our Wilderness Area review process. Additionally water conservation, mining issues, and

Rincon Group candidates continued on p. 9

Meet the Group Executive Committee Candidates

RINCON GROUP

an abundance of ecological issues grab my attention. I have been given many dozens of presentations on energy issues and on wilderness issues. It has been a pleasure and an honor to be on the Rincon Group Executive Committee, and as the RG energy chair. I would like to again be elected to the RG ExCom, and hope to have your vote.

Margaret “Meg” Weesner (*Membership #13399492*)

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for more than 40 years, and a life member for much of that time. I was elected to the group ExCom six years ago, and have served as group chair for five years. Since 2006, I have been an outing leader for the Rincon Group. In 2013-2014, I led chapter activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and received the chapter's Conservationist of the Year Award.

I believe that the Sierra Club's success on a wide range of environmental issues results from its numerous volunteers who are willing to devote their time and energy to work on conservation issues. With your support I would like to continue this work in southern Arizona. Sierra Club is unique among national environmental organizations because of the opportunities it provides for grassroots members to become actively involved in conservation. Involving youth and non-traditional communities is important for the future of our efforts. I would be honored to continue serving on the group's executive committee and working to protect our air, water, wildlife, and public lands for all our residents and to improve sustainability throughout our community.



PALO VERDE GROUP

Jim Dublinski (*Membership #43920689*)

Like many Sierra Club members, my passion for the outdoors is evident from a lifetime of hiking, backpacking, canyoneering, and enjoyment from our public lands. I'm involved with the Tonto National Forest Management Plan Revision and a trip leader looking to get outside once it is safe.

I want to continue to serve because I believe there is much we can do to build strong support for two areas I am especially interested in – preservation of our public lands and outings.

Arizona residents participate in outdoor recreation at a higher rate than the national average. Some of the most iconic landscapes in the world happen to be in our back yard. We have a significant opportunity to leverage up our like-minded voices, drive membership engagement, and protect the lands we love. I hope to count on your support.

Thank you for being a part of the Sierra Club.

Palo Verde Group candidates continued top right

PALO VERDE GROUP

Rebecca Hinton (*Membership #47513854*)

I am a current member of the Palo Verde Group (PVG) Executive Committee. I am an active member of our Chapter's Political Committee. I help organize the monthly programs for the PVG. I volunteer for Sierra Club events including Environmental Day at the Capitol, canvasses, text banks, postcard writing, and tabling.

Don Steuter (*Membership #23812444*)

My main interest with the Sierra Club since joining in the late 1980's has been protection of public lands, in particular fighting to stop irresponsible mining across our most special landscapes and preventing destructive cattle grazing in our hot desert and riparian areas.

My history with the Sierra Club includes chairing the Palo Verde Group Conservation Committee (1990 to the present) and the Chapter Conservation Committee (2001 to present). I have worked on several campaigns and projects over the years including organizing with others the Conferences on Conservation of State Lands (COSTL – 1998-99) and as a steering committee member for the Citizen's Growth Management Initiative in 2000. I also worked on the Grand Canyon Campaign Protection Committee, am on the steering committee for the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, represented the Chapter at Council of Club Leaders, and serve as secretary for the Chapter Political Committee.

Working with the oldest and most influential conservation organization and its many hard working and committed members has been an honor. With your vote I'll continue the effort to keep our air and water clean and our wild places wild.

Support Your Local Sierra Club


When you make a donation to the Grand Canyon Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our efforts to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, to curb global climate change, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. If you haven't already, please also consider signing up to become a monthly, recurring donor to support local Chapter efforts!

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support the Sierra Club's citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Donate online at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/donate> **or by mail to:**

Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Canyon Echo Honored with Sierra Club Communications Award

By Meg Weesner 

The *Canyon Echo* newsletter has received the national Sierra Club Communications Award for its 2019 issues. This award honors the best use of communications by a Sierra Club group, Chapter or other entity to further the club's mission.

The award citation mentions innovative use of themes and sub-themes for each year and issue, as well as inclusion of diverse authors and articles, pictures, poetry, art, book reviews, and a cartoon. The goal of the newsletter is to inform Chapter members about Chapter activities, to inspire members to action, and to provide a record of Chapter activities.

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



Members of the Chapter's Publications Committee celebrate the recognition *Canyon Echo* received in winning the Sierra Club's Communications Award for its 2019 issues. From top left, Benjamin Downer; Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director; Meg Weesner, Publications Committee Chair; Joe Shannon, Flagstaff/Northern AZ Group Chair; Urb Weidner, Saguaro Group Service Projects Chair; Lydia Wilson, *Canyon Echo* Editor; Keith Bagwell, former Chapter Chair (2019).

Other Chapter Publications Committee members who volunteered and helped create the 2019 issues of *Canyon Echo* include Gary Beverly, Jon Findley, Kurt Florman, Chris Gehlker, Amelia Hirsch, Korey Hjelmeir, Toni Malcolm, Jerry Nelson, and Tiffany Sprague

You can see current and past issues of *Canyon Echo* at www.sierraclub.org/arizona/canyon-echo-newsletter-previous-issues.

Cast of Characters Cary and Nancy Meister



Cary and Nancy Meister. *Courtesy of Cary and Nancy Meister.*

California bird-watchers Nancy and Cary Meister moved to Yuma in the late 1970s and quickly were immersed in Arizona environmentally-oriented political activism. The years since have not slowed them down.

Nancy is chair of the Yuma Audubon Society and Cary is Conservation Chair of the Yuma Audubon Society. They are long-time participants in the Grand Canyon Chapter's Environmental Day at the Legislature. They are precinct committeemen for the political party of their choice.

They monitor with the Chapter Arizona's creation of surface water regulation in the wake of the Trump administration's Clean Water Act deregulation. Cary works with grassroots national Sierra Club network entities: the Western Water Sentinels Subcommittee and the Native American Land Rights Subcommittee.

These folks were part of the Chapter's Kofa Group and worked with leaders in the 1980s to get precious Arizona public lands protected with wilderness designations.

Cary and Nancy and other Chapter leaders worked with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition to scout areas

to be included in an eventual designation bill. They lobbied Mo Udall, sponsor of the eventually successful bill, and other congressmen and women for the cause.

After that effort, the couple worked on issues associated with creating and expanding wildlife refuges and joined efforts to oversee and reform the dubious practices of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Nancy and Cary remember one battle they fought that divided Arizona environmental interests. Electric utilities wanted to run a 500-kilovolt power line through a portion of Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.

Bureau of Land Management Director Dean Bibbes concocted a land swap that would create Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge and give Arizona land for Catalina State Park north of Tucson, in exchange for carving up the Kofa Refuge for the power line.

The Yuma and Maricopa Audubon Societies, and several other organizations, opposed the deal, but the Tucson Audubon Society and other local group favored it. Eventually the

continued on page 13

One Planet, One Future. Climate Justice Now!

Join us for our first ever virtual Environmental Day at the Capitol

Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Join hundreds of advocates from throughout Arizona in meeting with state legislators to promote environmental protection and justice, climate action, lands and wildlife conservation, flowing rivers, democracy, and more, as well as to lobby on specific bills. Due to COVID-19, our 2021 lobby day will be virtual as we put the health of our participants and communities first.

We will have team leaders to set up meetings with legislators virtually and to assist with logistics. We try to make sure most participants meet with their own legislators. We will provide training and background information on the issues we are addressing. Our first volunteer lobby workshop will be in November. Check our calendar for details.

This is a coalition event involving more than 20 organizations and schools. For more information and to get involved, contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 999-5790 or sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.



Environmental Day at the Capitol 2019. Photo by Gary Beverly.

Taking Action for the 2020 General Election

continued from page 1

How & Where to Vote

Arizona allows any voter to request a ballot by mail. You can also vote early in person at designated early voting locations or on Election Day. On Election Day, voters must go to their assigned polling place to submit their ballot.

Go online to my.arizona.vote to verify your registration, request a ballot by mail, check your ballot status, and view your polling location.

Who to Vote For

Sierra Club endorses candidates at local, state, and national levels. Chapter endorsements will be mailed in our general voter guide in early October.

Groups to Support

One Arizona
(onearizona.org)
Stand Indivisible AZ
(standindivisibleaz.org)
Rock the Vote
(rockthevote.org)
Election Protection
(protectthevote.net)
Brennan Center for Justice
(brennancenter.org)

How to Help: Volunteer

The groups above and many others are hard at work doing voter outreach, registration, and more. Follow the links or check out the websites above to see more about what volunteer opportunities are being offered and how you can get involved. Groups are coordinating text and phone call campaigns to reach voters and assist with

registration. Many are also organizing letter writing campaigns, canvass events, and more.

Consider signing up to be a poll worker online at azsos.gov/pollworker. Groups like Election Protection are also seeking volunteers to be poll monitors on election day. If you have a special skill such as video editing or graphic design, consider reaching out to groups or candidates you'd like to support and offering your services. If you have the

First Time Voter continued
from page 1

tion of doing it. The real issue is the follow-through on that intent, and a poster won't solve that. Rather than trying to convince young people of what they already believe, we need to remove barriers for first-time voters and engage them in politics at school.

Nationwide automatic voter registration would go a long way in setting up young voters for success, and reforming civic education to focus more on debating contemporary issues would help create space in their cluttered lives for engaging in politics. By making voting more accessible and current events more relevant, we can turn intention into action.

The message I'd like to get across to the readers of this newsletter is that in order to get progressive legislation passed before it's too late, young people need to vote. It's more important now than ever, and the current strategy for engaging them isn't cutting it. The intent is already there. We don't need to be convinced that we should vote, we need the space to do it.

means to donate please consider the previously listed groups working to protect our democracy.

Spread the Word

Make sure your family and friends are registered and have a plan to vote!

JOIN ME!

BE A CLIMATE VOTER



This year, the planet is on the ballot. Climate voters can make the difference in this election

Energy Matters: How Arizona Utilities are Responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic

By Benjamin Downer   

COVID-19 has strained communities and forced us to transform our homes into schools, office spaces, day-care facilities, and places of refuge. With each of us asking more of our homes, we are also asking more from our utilities. However, this additional ask could be too costly for those facing financial difficulty because of the pandemic.

In March, Governor Doug Ducey, along with Arizona Public Service (APS), Salt River Project (SRP), Tucson Electric Power (TEP) and six electric cooperatives agreed to moratoriums on power shut-offs through October 15 for those unable to pay; halt penalties, late fees or interest; and provide flexible payment options for unpaid bills.

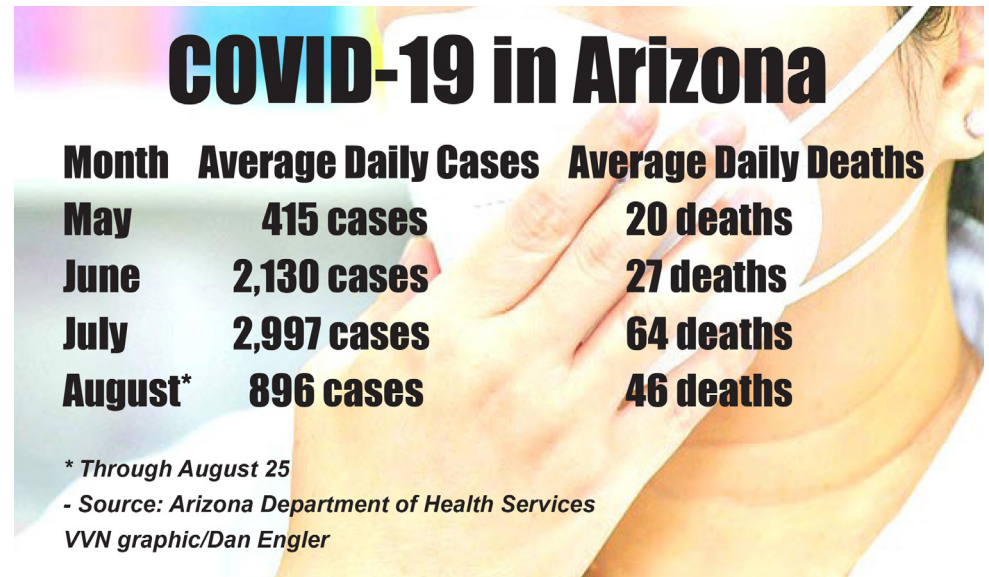
Yet, many think APS and others should do more to help consumers. “APS has seen record profits and last year, a consultant’s report suggested they over-earned,” explains Stacey Champion, a long-time Arizona community advocate. “APS has

the ability to offer longer payment plans to those who can’t meet their bills. We are talking about a multibillion-dollar utility monopoly in a state that is in the bullseye of climate change.”

Sierra Club also has joined several groups in calling for APS to put people over profits and forgive about \$30 million in debt from customers with unpaid bills during the coronavirus pandemic and extreme heat this summer. The letter was signed by Chispa Arizona; Our Voice, Our Vote; Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA); Mi Familia Vota; Arizona Interfaith Power and Light; and the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter.

Many are also asking for long-term relief via greater investments in energy efficiency. This investment equates to reductions in energy waste, job creation, lower bills for rate-payers, and positive impacts to local economies. Data compiled by the Southwest Energy

Get Involved!
Want to learn more about energy issues in Arizona? Consider joining the Grand Canyon Chapter energy team! We meet monthly via Zoom and will meet again Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 p.m. You can join via webcam, computer, or telephone. Discussions encompass renewable energy and energy efficiency campaigns nationally and locally. See page 2 for more details.



COVID-19 in Arizona

Month	Average Daily Cases	Average Daily Deaths
May	415 cases	20 deaths
June	2,130 cases	27 deaths
July	2,997 cases	64 deaths
August*	896 cases	46 deaths

* Through August 25
- Source: Arizona Department of Health Services
VVN graphic/Dan Engler

Efficiency Project (SWEEP) also points to meaningful CO2 reductions.

Between 2010 and 2018, energy efficiency programs helped APS, SRP, and TEP cut their CO2 emissions by about 5.6 million metric tons. The amount equates to removing about 1.15 million passenger vehicles from the road.

Arizona needs relief. However, we do not need to choose between assisting those affected by COVID-19 and moving towards a more sustainable future. They are one in the same. Continuing to push for energy efficiency means push-

ing for long-term reductions to utility bills for those that need it most.

“Energy efficiency makes sense all the time as it is the cleanest cheapest energy resource and it means we all can be more comfortable in our homes,” said Sandy Bahr, Chapter director for Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon Chapter. “During this pandemic, it makes even more sense and can really help those who are struggling the most and for a longer period of time.”

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

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

By Greg Pentkowski

THE **ELECTION OF 2020** IS ONLY **WEEKS AWAY**, AND WE NEED TO **STOP THE DESTRUCTION** BEING WROUGHT UPON AMERICA AND THE EARTH BY THE **TRUMP ADMINISTRATION!**



Our Country and the Earth are At A Crossroads !

VOTE !


TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3

MAIL YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOTS BEFORE OCT. 24 !

AS IF YOUR LIFE AND AMERICA DEPEND ON IT !

FOR MORE VOTING INFORMATION CONTACT:
ARIZONA SECRETARY OF STATE
azzsos.gov/elections
OR CALL: 1-877-THE-VOTE
OR: 602-542-8683

WE ALSO VOTED AT EARLY LOCATIONS AND DROPPED OFF OUR EARLY BALLOTS EARLY!



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Words for an Annual Gathering

By David Chorlton

Our need for ritual brings us back
to cactus, sun and desert water
where the memory of a friend is waiting
as we speak to the hawks
and listen to the leaves newly greened
beside the creek. Each of us brings a vision

for the better world we describe
but cannot find. It could begin
as the flower on a barrel cactus
behind the mountain in its coat of spring
or in the nest a wren has woven
into undergrowth. It might be so close

we could touch it, or far away
as the planets on which
tiny machines roll and bounce
and send photographs back
for viewing on Earth between those

showing devastation wrought by bombs
or industry so heavy
the planet cannot bear its weight.
We say our names and plead not guilty,
pass a staff of wisdom hand to hand

hoping some of it rubs off
to fortify us until we circle again
beneath the eye of a raptor
admiring the grace by which
it takes only what survival demands.

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d) Percent Paid		98.29	100

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Cast of Characters continued from page 10

deal was killed and the Kofa Range was kept intact. In the end everyone was happy as the Buenos Aires was established and Arizona got land for Catalina State Park, without Bibles' deal.

Cary and Nancy now are retired—Cary from a job in information technology for the Yuma County Courts and Nancy after 22 years of teaching nutrition classes at Arizona Western College. Cary has enjoyed hosting jazz on the Yuma National Public Radio station since 1992.

The couple's son, William, for whom they served as soccer coach and soccer mom for a number of years, is a certified public accountant for a green firm in San Francisco. They now have a two-year-old grandson in the Bay Area. At home, they take care of a pet finch and two desert tortoises

-Written by Keith Bagwell, Energy Chair

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Spotlight on the Desert Tortoise

Asking a Sierra Club member: what is it like to adopt and own a desert tortoise?

By Kay Bordwell



Desert tortoise photos courtesy of Sergio Avila.

Sierra Club member, Mary, of Clarkdale, AZ adopted a desert tortoise in 2016. I recently spent time with her and asked her several questions about her tortoise and how she came to adopt one.

1. What made you want to adopt a desert tortoise? We always had a tortoise in the family as kids in Phoenix. When one moved on another seemed to take its place. Then, as a teacher, I was helping a student with her project on the desert tortoise. The more we researched them, the more interested I became. I learned that Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has 100–200 tortoises up for adoption every summer, so I began to look into the adoption requirements.

2. What did you have to do to prepare for the adoption? First, I made sure that Clarkdale was in the desert tortoise's native range. Then I began to build a safe enclosure with at least 324 square feet of area for an adult. With the help of my husband and my son we started with 12-inch concrete block footings underground to prohibit digging out, then we built

a three-foot gabion wall on top. Inside, I created two burrows facing different directions following the AZGFD measurements. Two burrows allow the tortoise to find a comfortable space depending on the sun's location. I also have two areas of grass, several shade trees and two large water saucers. Once I was finished with the enclosure, I filled out the forms, took pictures, and waited to be notified.

3. What was the hardest part of adopting? Building the enclosure and constructing the burrows took me almost three months. Luckily I live on a dry wash so there were plenty of rocks for walls and housing.

4. Did you learn anything about tortoises that you weren't aware of? I learned that you can't return them to the desert. They may carry a disease or not be able to transition back into that location. I also discovered that during drought a tortoise can survive over a year without drinking water. They store water in their bladder. If you pick one up in the wild it will urinate, which may use up the stored water they need to survive. I also discovered that the female can store sperm up to five years. Females lay eggs during monsoons and use up much of their food storage during birth. This means that they must come out to feed often during hibernation. Because of this their burrow

Get Involved!

If you're passionate about protecting Arizona wildlife, please consider joining our wildlife activist group. We meet monthly via Zoom and will meet again Monday, October 12. See page 2 for more details.

may only be ten feet whereas the males are burrowed down much deeper. Unfortunately wildfires have killed off many female tortoises in these shallower burrows. Urban sprawl has wiped out thousands of acres of habitat and continues to be a major threat to the survival of the desert tortoise. With the sprawl comes more human waste, increasing the population of ravens that feast on baby tortoises and eggs.

5. Does your tortoise have any interesting characteristics that make it unique? He seems to like human interaction. On hot days he enjoys the sprinkler and paces back and forth under it. He loves to eat roses and almost wiped out one bush before I caught him devouring every new leaf. Prickly pear fruit is his fa-

vorite treat. The best part is that he sleeps seven months in a box in the garage and is only awake for the summer.

6. Is there any advice that you have for others who might want to adopt a desert tortoise? Tortoises require care. I make sure he gets plenty of fresh dark greens with a mixture of moist tortoise pellets. You must be willing to assume vet costs should the animal get sick. Since

desert tortoises can survive 80–100 years, it's a good idea to have a plan for its future if you are no longer around. Otherwise AZGFD will take them back and find another adoptive family for them. For more information go to:

www.azgfd.gov/tortoise.

Kay is a member of the Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group

US Fish & Wildlife Reconsiders listing of Desert Tortoise as Endangered Species

By Roz Switzer



Sonoran Desert Tortoise, *Gopherus morafkai*: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must go back and reconsider its 2015 decision not to protect the Sonoran Desert tortoise under the Endangered Species Act. USFWS will request additional information from the public and biologists, then issue a new decision in 18 months. The tortoise's "Candidate Species" status has been restored while the new decision is pending.

This solitary terrestrial animal, inhabiting the Southwest U.S and Northern Mexico desert ecosystems, uses a burrow to shelter itself from the extreme heat or cold of the desert. These shelters typically occur below rocks and boulders or in wash banks. They are most often seen during monsoon season when they emerge from their shelter to mate and eat. This tortoise acquires almost all of its water from the desert plants it eats. It is able to store water to use during a drought, in

drinking. When handled the tortoise may empty the water in its bladder as a defense mechanism. This may cause its death, if it is unable to restore what it has lost.

Survival from hatchling to adulthood is low, as young tortoises have many predators. They do not reach maturity to reproduce until a minimum of 12 years of age. Large tortoises are 30 or more years old. They may live 60 to 100 years.


They are particularly susceptible to an upper respiratory tract disease caused by a bacterium, *Mycoplasma* spp. It is illegal to remove tortoises from the wild or to release a captive tortoise into the wild. The Sonoran Desert tortoise is threatened by habitat destruction and fragmentation due to landscape development, construction of roads, drought, wildfire, and overgrazing. With decreasing population and connectivity, genetic diversity is diminished. The Sonoran Desert tortoise requires protection.

Roz is a Sierra Club member and leader for Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Grand Canyon Chapter's Book Corner

How to Talk to Your Kids about Climate Change: Turning Angst into Action

By Harriet Shugarman, 2020, 210 pp.

Reviewed by Kathy Mohr-Almeida 

Every parent wants a viable climate for their children. At this juncture in human history, where the future of humanity hangs in the balance, we must collectively work to mitigate the worst impacts of the climate crisis and stabilize the planet. Harriet Shugarman, author of “How to Talk to Your Kids about Climate Change: Turning Angst into Action,” provides tools and strategies for parents to help young people understand the climate crisis and instigate positive climate action. Hers is an excellent primer regarding how families can start and maintain a climate crisis campaign.

Shugarman’s book reviews what are age appropriate conversations to have and actions to take through a lens of human development. She offers age appropriate conversation suggestions along with information and actions children and young adults can adopt in their climate

activism. This book provides both hope and practical ways to engage children in pursuit of a better world that is still possible. Shugarman suggests that a good starting point toward achieving climate stability is to encourage children to be deliberate on behalf of the planet and integrate climate solutions in their life goals. This is great advice for everyone!

Perhaps the most significant motivator in climate crisis work is being able to maintain a strong sense of hope for humanity’s future. Shugarman speaks to the importance of maintaining hope and provides her reader with hope-inspiring, practical climate actions families can take to help create a just and sustainable future. Shugarman suggests that there is good news about the climate crisis, as “so many more people are engaged, aware, and taking action. And they are demanding that those who can go big to protect our species—and

all species—do so with the urgency that our crisis demands. People all over the world are finding ways to be more thoughtful and deliberate with actions that will impact the planet, at the same time as more and more are waking up to the emergency we face.” (p. 128) Shugar-

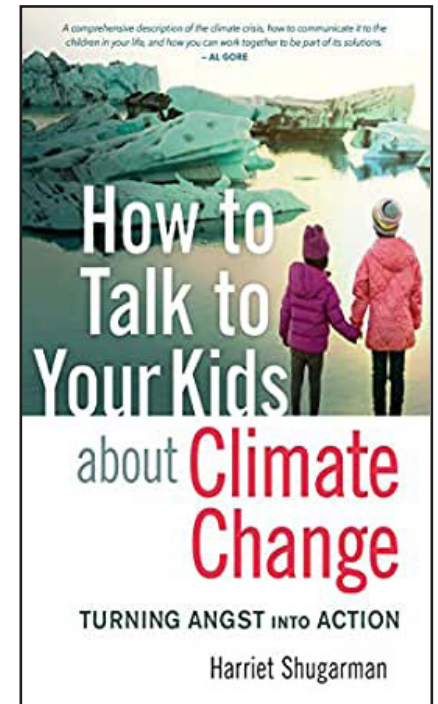
man encourages her reader to “internalize...the power of many ripples. I have done so, and my climate hope remains active and is constantly renewed. Knowing that there is no one answer or one path forward; there are billions—at least as many paths as there are people on our planet. Letting our passions guide us is the way forward” (p. 10).



My climate hope remains active and is constantly renewed. Knowing that there is no one answer or one path forward; there are billions—at least as many paths as there are people on our planet. Letting our passions guide us is the way forward.

— Harriet Shugarman

I recommend Shugarman’s book for people who want to know where and how to start climate work with their families. This book offers equally compelling hope and guidance for parents of young people who want to take the lead in climate work. Shugarman offers practical advice, hope, and encouragement about climate crisis endeavors in an engaging and accessible writing style. This publication belongs in the library of individuals who love and want to support young climate activists.



Kathy is Palo Verde Group Chair and Chapter Membership Chair.

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

Happenings Around the State

Five groups and one regional conservation committee 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:	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
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 Hjelmeir (x)	480-734-0926	khjelmeir@hotmail.com
Membership:	Jim Dublinski (x)	480-532-2285	jdublinski@icloud.com

Contact Rebecca Hinton for information about Palo Verde Group events

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

Contact Sally Howland for information about Saguaro Group events

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
Outings:	Debbie McMahon (x)	928-707-0610	debbie_dsb@hotmail.com
Wildlife:	Kay Bordwell	928-779-3517	kbordwell4@gmail.com
Publications:	Sarah King (x)	602-576-6054	garbageldy@hotmail.com

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

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

For information about activities in the Prescott area, contact Gary Beverly

Rincon Group (Tucson)

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

Chair:	Meg Weesner (x)	520-576-2083	mweesner@att.net
Treasurer:	Ken Bierman	520-661-7555	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@stevensloydgroup.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):	Oscar Medina (x)	520-903-8005	oscardmedinagomez@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Vacant		

The Rincon Group Conservation Committee meets at **6 p.m.** via Zoom during the coronavirus pandemic. A Zoom link will be sent out before each meeting to the Rincon Group listserv and to anyone else who requests it via kbagwell50@gmail.com or mweesner@att.net. The Rincon Group Executive Committee meets there 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. Meeting dates this quarter are **Thursday, Oct 22, and Thursday, Dec 3**. Please join us!

Rincon Group programs are from **7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** on the second Thursday of the month. They will be conducted via Zoom video and audio. They are free and open to the public. Zoom links will be sent before each program to the Rincon Group listserv. Anyone else who wishes to see and hear these presentations can get the Zoom link if they email kbagwell50@gmail.com or mweesner@att.net.

Thursday, Nov 12. Islands in the Sky and the Southwest Monsoon. Each summer thunderstorms ring the Tucson valley with winds of hurricane speeds and half the region's annual rainfall in an exciting burst of natural energy. The southwest monsoon creates a web in this most bio-diverse desert in the world. One sees animals from coatamundi to the majestic big-horn sheep, from the iconic saguaro to ferns in the desert, and desert floors and high mountain valleys carpeted with flowers. Mitch Stevens and Russell Lowes present on the wildlife connectivity between mountain ranges and show off in dramatic photos our sky islands and monsoon region.

Thursday, Dec 10. Monitoring the Health of Key Rivers and Restoring Riparian Habitat. Arizona Water Sentinels, a program of the Grand Canyon Chapter, has been gathering water quality data on the Verde and San Pedro rivers since 2006 and 2011, respectively. The program also conducts habitat restoration, with a focus on the lower Salt River in South Phoenix. Jennifer Martin manages the program and speaks about these on-the-ground activities as well as current issues in water management and riparian health in Arizona



Photo courtesy of Heather M. Spencer