State Lands Protection Vital to Core of the Vision for McDowell Sonoran Preserve

By Carla

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve in northeast Maricopa County, when complete, will protect nearly one third of the 185-square-mile City of Scottsdale as natural, public open space. There will be 57 square miles of lush desert and wildlife habitat stretching from the McDowell, Fraesfield and Little Granite Mountains north to the Tonto National Forest to be enjoyed by everyone with passive recreational and educational opportunities.

The McDowell Sonoran Land Trust (MSLT) is a grassroots, volunteer-driven, non-profit advocacy and education organization. The MSLT has led the way in identifying the need for, then establishing, and now managing the Preserve in partnership with the City of Scottsdale. Many of you belong to our Friends of the McDowell’s support organization and have been a key part of our success.

The state trust land reform process (see article pg. 6) will be critical to completing the planned Preserve. Of the 36,400 acres within the voter approved Preserve boundary, Scottsdale has now acquired or is in negotiations to purchase all of the privately owned land. The remaining approximately 19,000 acres are state trust land—most of which has been reclassified as suitable for conservation under the Arizona Preserve Initiative and 3,543 acres that were not. Scottsdale is committed to acquiring all of this land—the reclassified and the non-reclassified—and currently has an Ad Hoc Task Force working on a recommendation for the final Preserve public funding vote tentatively planned for March 2004.

It is our hope—and has always been part of the Preserve acquisition strategy—that the state trust land reform will result in some of the remaining acres being protected automatically on the ballot. State trust land reform will also create tools to help with purchase of the remaining acres.

The acres we hope to see protected on the ballot have already been identified as Open Space on Scottsdale’s General Plan in cooperation with the Arizona State Land Department during the 2002 conceptual planning process that was mandated by Growing Smarter Plus. These acres include three and three quarter sections in the McDowell Mountains which are now surrounded by Preserve land. They also include Little Granite Mountain and the area surrounding it. Both of these parcels include sensitive wildlife habitat, multiple significant washes and historically used trails. More importantly, they are an integral part of the overall Preserve and absolutely crucial to maintaining the natural ecosystem of the area.

By protecting these acres, it will give Scottsdale extra incentive to ensure that the remaining planned Preserve acres are purchased and the vision completed. In turn this will contribute significant monies to the State Land Department Permanent Fund which mainly benefits education in Arizona.

Carla is Executive Director of the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust.

Gorgeous desert and a teeming slice of biodiversity. Pictured here, giant saguaros on the state trust lands north of Scottsdale. Photograph courtesy of City of Scottsdale.

The State Trust Land (STL) reform process will be critical to completing the planned Preserve.
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www.arizona.sierraclub.org
Viva Wildlife Diversity Madness!

@ By Sandy Bahr

S onora sucker (a native fish), Black-footed ferrets, Desert tortoises, Mexican gray wolves, and California condors. The Grand Canyon Chapter Wildlife Committee offers many outings and service trips that give you the chance to observe and marvel at adaptation in some intriguing animals, as well as to assist in their recovery.

We’d like to thank the volunteers who assisted the Arizona Game & Fish Department in fieldwork for their reproductive ecology study of desert tortoises. These researchers locate and monitor desert tortoises and track how many females lay eggs and how many eggs they lay. Thanks to Carol Birks, Martin Fried, Richard Rapp, Dave Smith, and Michelle Stewart for helping out on the July 11 service trip. Thanks to the following volunteers for helping out with the black footed ferret spotlighting work August 8-9: Raqma Honan, Kathy Roediger, Dale and Christine Volz, Claire Swain, Debbie Shaw, Peg Boyce, Mike, Jim Vaaler and Paula O’Brien. All of your efforts are most appreciated.

The spotlighting session was a tremendous success—a minimum of eight ferrets were observed. We helped identify two ferrets: one was born in the pens in 2000 and released in 2001, and the other was a wild born kit that the Sierra Club found in 2001. Both of these females were lactating, which is evidence that they whelped kits earlier in the year. The team trapped and tagged a total of three wild born ferrets, including two males (Merlin and Denali) and one female (Little White Dove).

We also want to thank the “The Ferret Crew” from the Arizona Game and Fish Department—Tiffany Volz, Zoe Hackl, and John Broecher—and their best volunteer Scott Springer. They do tireless and often thankless work to help bring back this endangered species.

If you are interested in helping out with the Black footed ferret project, here are the remaining spotlighting dates for the year:

- September 5-7, 12-14, 17, & 24
- October 10-11, 17-19, 22, & 29
- November 7-9, 14-16, & 19
- December 5-7, 12-14, & 17

To participate contact the Black-footed Ferret Project at the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (928) 422-0155 (azferret@gf.state.az.us).

Carol Birks holds a Desert tortoise, located by radio telemetry.

Chapter Cookbook is on the way……

Pre-Order your copies today!

Whether you’re looking for some new home cooking or backpacking food ideas, or whether you’re thinking already about holiday gifts, the Chapter’s inaugural cookbook is sure to delight you.

Recipes were donated by many of you (thank you!) and include a scrumptuous selection of appetizers, salads, desserts, side dishes, and meat, meatless and vegan main courses. Introduced by noted food writer (Coming Home to Eat and Songbirds, Truffles, and Wolves) ethnobotanist, and naturalist Gary Nabhan, the cookbook also includes no-nonsense culinary advice on wine-tasting and wine-pairing from columnist John Vankat.

You can reserve your copy of the 2003 Grand Canyon Chapter Cookbook by sending a check made out to the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter today with the following form.

Name ___________________________
Shipping Address ___________________________
Phone ___________________________
E-mail ___________________________
Number of cookbooks ($15.00 each; $12.00 each for 3 or more) ______
Amount included on check ______
I’d like my cookbook to go directly to the following person(s) as a gift: ______
Name ___________________________
Shipping Address ___________________________
I would like a gift card in each gift order ______
I would like you to wrap my gift(s) ______
Note: Cookbooks will ship the week of October 31st.

In this issue of the Echo, we focus on the timely subject of Arizona’s State Lands.

For more information on Wildlife Committee activities, contact Kathy Roediger (KROEDIGER@aol.com) or Sandy Bahr (grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org).

Chapter Action Network
grandcanyon.sierraclubaction.org

Sierra Club Home Page
www.sierraclub.org

Online News
www.sierraclub.org/news

Sierra Magazine
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The Planet
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www.arizona.sierraclub.org
Persistence Prevails
Forest Guardians wins grazing lease and will steward Arizona lands

By Tim Hogan

In November 2001, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled that the Arizona State Land Department had violated its duty as trustee of state trust lands when it rejected and failed to consider the application of Forest Guardians to lease grazing lands. Forest Guardians had submitted four applications for grazing allotments and indicated that it was willing to pay two to five times the amount that the rancher on those allotments had been paying to the state. Proceeds from the lease of state trust lands support Arizona’s public schools.

After the Supreme Court’s decision, the case had to go back through the Arizona Court of Appeals and Maricopa County Superior Court before it ultimately was remanded to the Arizona State Land Department for further action on Forest Guardians’ lease applications. In 2002, the Land Department requested that Forest Guardians and the ranchers submit “statements of equities” explaining why the Department should grant their applications for the grazing lease. The biggest obstacle for Forest Guardians was the fact that, under current Arizona law, Forest Guardians would be required to reimburse the rancher for the value of improvements such as fencing, stock tanks, corrals that exceeded $100,000. As it turns out, Forest Guardians’ bid had been opened and put in the Land Department file to which the public had access. The rancher’s original bid of $40 per head had been changed to bid an amount higher than Forest Guardians’.

All’s well that ends well, however, because the Land Commissioner rectified the problem and awarded the lease to Forest Guardians. For the first time in Arizona history, an environmental group holds a grazing lease on Arizona state trust lands. Once proceedings to determine the value of the improvements are concluded, Forest Guardians intends to take possession of the property and restore it to the condition it enjoyed prior to overgrazing.

Tim Hogan is Executive Director of Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest.

Arizona Grazing Buyout Campaign

Here is news about a campaign targeted at federal (not state) grazing leases. The Arizona Grazing Permit Buyout Campaign is a coalition of Arizona ranchers, conservation and environmental groups who agree that permittees on federal lands should be given the option to relinquish their federal permits in exchange for federal compensation.

The Campaign promotes pilot legislation for Arizona that:

1. Any Arizona permittee could volunteer to take a buyout in a short window of opportunity. The decision whether or not to take a buyout would be entirely at the permittee’s discretion.
2. The permittee would be paid a generous $175/Animal Unit Month of annual permitted use (averaged over the last 10 years of permitted numbers).
3. The payment would also cover all investment by the permittee in all range developments on federal land.
4. The grazing allotment of the permittee would be permanently retired from livestock grazing upon receipt of this payment by the permittee and be given over entirely to wildlife, hunting and non-consumptive uses as appropriate.
5. No private property of the permittee, whether land, livestock, rolling stock, or water diversion rights would be affected.
6. No property right in federal grazing permits would be created.

In a recent poll of Arizona permittees, an astounding 67% of those responding (26% of those contacted) gave their full support, and another 18% said they were still uncertain whether to support it. Only 19% were opposed.

For more information on the Arizona Grazing Buyout Campaign, visit www.azbuyout.org or contact Don Steuter, (donsteuter@aol.com).

Welcome to Michelle Pulich Stewart!
Michelle Stewart has recently joined the Grand Canyon Chapter staff as our administrative assistant and newsletter editor. Michelle brings lots of enthusiasm, a commitment to environmental protection, and experience with environmental advocacy, teaching, and publications. Until accepting the position with the Chapter, Michelle served as our volunteer wilderness chair. Please contact Michelle for newsletter submissions—photos, articles, poetry, etc.—or if you have any membership questions. She has also volunteered to help transition the wilderness committee, so if you have an interest in that, please get in touch with her as well. And please join us all in welcoming her aboard. —Sandy Bahr

Beyond the Slab
by Greg Fantauzzo
As a member of the Sierra Club, have you ever had a “burning” environmental question that you wanted an expert to answer? In each issue, the Echo will feature questions focusing on environmental concerns from our members that will be researched and answered by one of our committee chairs who focus on that particular issue. If we don’t know the answer, we will find someone who does. You do not need to include your name. If you feel you have a question that you think other members would benefit from and want to learn more about, please send your question to:

Sierra Club—Grand Canyon Chapter
Editor, Canyon Echo
202 E. McDowell Dr. Ste. 277
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Won’t valuing the land’s ecological integrity through considering conservation in state trust land management, in the end benefit our public schools and the children?

Yes, definitely. Because “highest and best use” of state trust lands in urban areas has generally been viewed as development and because development puts enormous burdens on the schools—with it comes the need to build more schools, hire more teachers, and provide other additional services. Current state law does not allow requiring any kind of impact fee from developers for schools. Limiting the development in ecologically significant areas can help ease the burden on the schools and also protect areas that are important to the future of all Arizonans, including schoolchildren. These lands can provide enormous educational opportunities for children and adults alike and will provide cleaner air and cleaner water for the next generation of Arizonans. Protecting these lands also protects our quality of life and the tourism that also protects our quality of life and the tourism that also protects our quality of life and the tourism that also protects our quality of life and the tourism that also protects our quality of life and tourism.

Echo Response

The rock walls framing this desert canyon consist primarily of dactie, a soft volcanic rock with a hard outer surface. In geologic history, erosion (mainly water) has cut deeply through the entire dactie layer. For millions of years water has been dissolving minerals and washing away the softer portions of rock. Joints and cracks widened and cavities formed along zones of weaknesses. As overlaying material eroded, a new set of horizontal joints formed in response to the decreasing overlying weight. Expansion and contraction due to temperature changes and the wedging of ice and plant roots in cracks also contributed to the breakdown of the rock. These interacting agents of erosion have sculpted the awesome columns, pinnacles, and balanced rocks characteristic to the area.

Below the confluence with the Oak Creek drainage, the canyon suddenly turns to the east and begins to plummet into the Five Pools. The Five Pools is a narrow section of canyon that drops several hundred feet in less than a quarter of a mile, and is aptly named for the five big, deep plunge pools here. Each pool may have a waterfall ranging from 12 to 60 feet in height, and the pool range from 40 to 120 feet in diameter. Although the waterfalls are dry most of the year, the pools always have water. An adventurous hiker may be able to get past the first pool if they have a rope or sling to use for a handhold, and don’t mind a bit of swimming, but be able to see all five pools requires ropes, harnesses, and rappelling gear.

Unfortunately, this area’s geology gives cause to its greatest threat: copper mining. The secondary faults that cut through this area serve as channels for copper-rich mineral solutions. The Tonto National Forest recently allowed Kennecott Copper Company to close the Lower Devils Canyon Road from late 2001 until early 2003 so that Kennecott could drill thousands of feet deep to explore for copper in the area. For a glimpse of one possible future, look about 10 miles east of Superior, on Highway 77, where Asarco’s open pit Ray Mine has made a wasteland of the area south of Devils Canyon — 250,000 tons per day, silicate leaching, sulfide dump leaching, solvent extraction, mountains of tailings. Not a pretty picture.

Devils Canyon has intrinsic values that are worth far more than its copper ore. It is a natural treasure that is deserving of the highest level of protection. Future generations deserve to receive this priceless legacy intact. Please support us in our efforts to change Arizona’s Constitution and laws to create stronger tools for preserving state trust land, so that the “crown jewels” of trust land, the truly special places, are guaranteed protection.

Ted Gartner is Palo Verde Group Chair.

Make the mountains glad ($100-$199)
James & Sara Gibson

Keep close to Nature’s heart ($50-$99)
Rudolf & Kathryn Dankwurt

Hitched to Everything else in the Universe ($20-$49)
Michelle & Ann Moynihan

Friends ($1-$19)
Richard Nagy

Thank you for your donations

Connect to Condor Conservation

On Saturday, September 27, we will be joining Chris Parrish from the Peregrine Fund for an educational and informative outing on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon to view the California condors and to find out more about what we can all do to help them survive and recover. Julie Sherman will also talk to us about what is happening with the northern Arizona monumets—Grand Canyon-Parahant and Vermillion Cliffs—and what we can do to better protect these areas.

California condors (Gymnogyps californianus) are North America’s largest birds with a wingspan of up to 9.5 feet and a body weight of 16-24 pounds. Their original range spanned from British Columbia to Baja California. Because the bird has a naturally low reproductive rate, additional impacts from poisoning (especially lead), pesticides, collisions with power lines, shooting, etc. helped put the species on the endangered species list. The population of California condors is currently up to more than 200 from a low of only 22 in 1982.

We will meet in Flagstaff on Friday evening and will camp, then drive to the rim in the early morning. We will make arrangements to meet those who do not want to camp. To find out more about this trip or to sign up, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 or (grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org).

US Fish and Wildlife photo courtesy of Geekphilosopher.com

Call & Echo
Friends ($1-$19)
Gymnogyps californianus

Thanks to our members who support our conservation work through your membership contributions and donations.

Thank you for your support.

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Thank you for your donations

CONNECT TO CONDOR CONSERVATION

US Fish and Wildlife photo courtesy of Geekphilosopher.com
By Sandy Bahr

The good news is that Arizona retains 9.2 million acres of state trust land, the remainder of what was originally given to the state by the United States government upon statehood and entry into the union. The bad news is that there is still no effective way to conserve these lands. As development pressures increase, and Arizona communities continue to sprawl, more and more is likely to be developed unless state trust land management is reformed.

Background

State trust lands are held in permanent trust, with the “Common Schools” or state public school system as the primary beneficiary. Universities, state hospitals and other state institutions are also named as minor beneficiaries. The trust lands must, in accord with the Arizona State Constitution, be managed to produce the maximum economic benefit for the beneficiaries of the trust.

Despite that mandate, much of the land—8.4 million acres—is under grazing leases and only generates between 25 and 30 cents per acre. Arizona’s grazing fees are among some of the lowest in the west. Until recently there has been almost no competition for these grazing leases. Now, after the Forest Guardians decision (see article by Tim Hogan, pg. 4), there is opportunity for competition and for restoration of lands that have been overgrazed.

In addition to grazing leases, state trust land is held for commercial leases, oil and gas leases, use permits, rights-of-way, and agricultural leases. Approximately 3,000 to 5,000 acres of state trust lands are in commercial use. Some of these sales include Arizona Preserve Initiative (API) purchases by counties or municipalities for conservation purposes. The API allows for limited conservation of certain state trust lands, but it has recently come under fire and been questioned on constitutional grounds, so its future is on shaky ground.

Revenues from state trust lands go into two separate funds: Permanent and Expendable. The Expendable Fund consists of lease revenues, penalties and sales interest, and investment income generated by the Permanent Fund. The Expendable Fund revenues are then divided among the beneficiaries and distributed. The revenues from sales, royalties on minerals and natural products, etc. go into the Permanent Fund, which is invested and managed by the State Treasurer.

State trust lands currently provide a very small percentage of the annual funding for public education. It is however, a dedicated source of revenues, and therefore important. After recent changes, any dollars that are generated above the FY2001 levels (about $72 million) go into the Classroom Site Fund, which helps with teacher salaries and other programs.

Need for Reform

As Arizona’s population grows and development sprawls on private lands, these state lands become more and more important as open space and recreational land, as well as habitat. At the same time, they come under increasing pressure for development, through lease or sale to the private sector. Even lands that are far from urban infrastructure can be threatened by development as is evidenced by the South Fork proposal (see article by Don Steuer, pg. 8) and an abandoned proposal to develop lands near Paulden.

Conservation advocates have been looking for ways to reform the state land department and its mandate for more than a decade. From trying to work with the Legislature and former Governor Symington on the Arizona Preservation Initiative, to seeking a decent Growing Smarter proposal (a measure to provide funding for state trust land acquisition), to sponsoring Conservation of State Trust Land Conferences, to rejecting the Legislature’s measure that would have capped conservation at 3% of the state trust lands and only allowed for conservation of mountain tops and some washes (Proposition 10W), conservation interests have sought to move protection of key state trust lands to the top of the agenda.

Following the defeat of Proposition 100 in November of 2000 and numerous attempts to get the legislature to effectively deal with conservation of state trust lands, conservation interests and later a broad-based group of stakeholders began working to develop a comprehensive state trust land reform measure. The participants’ goal was to develop ballot initiative language for 2002. The target date later shifted to 2004 when it became clear that critical issues could not be addressed in time for the 2002 ballot. It remains to be seen if a 2004 goal will be reached and whether or not it will be a measure that promotes conservation.

The current proposal ties preservation to development in the urban areas through conceptual planning—the value of the conserved land would be reaped in nearby state trust lands that are developed. Key to whether conservation interests can support this will be recognition of conservation in the Arizona Constitution, ability to conserve lands outside the development process, protection of some lands immediately including some important urban lands (see article by Carla, pg. 1), and doing no harm to the conservation work in rural areas, such as that being pursued by Forest Guardians and others via competitive bidding on grazing leases.

At deadline, those discussions continue with many issues yet to be resolved. The hope is that an agreement can be reached by the end of September and that this will go on the ballot in time for voters to change the Constitution, Congress will have to change the Arizona Enabling Act, but that action after the voters have passed the measure.

For more information on how you can help protect critical state trust lands, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 (grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org).

Sandy Bahr is Conservation Director for the Grand Canyon Chapter.

Did you know you are required to have a permit if you hike or otherwise recreate on State lands?

Remember, State Lands are not public lands in the same sense that Forest Service, BLM, and National Parks are public lands. For now, the sole mission of the Land Department is to maximize revenues for its beneficiaries, primarily public schools. To hike, camp, or bird-watch, you need a Recreational Permit.

Annual permits for individuals are $15. A family permit costs $20. For additional information call (602) 364-8SLD (2753) or visit the State Land Department at 1616 W. Adams in downtown Phoenix.

Provide additional resources to SLD for efficient management of state trust lands.

Reform Needed to Conserve State Trust Land

SANDY Bahr is Conservation Director for the Grand Canyon Chapter.
While current attention is focused on land conservation on state trust lands, another state-run program has been systematically preserving key parcels of Arizona’s most sensitive and threatened ecosystems.

The Natural Areas Program, administered by Arizona State Parks, has in the past 13 years purchased outright or protected through conservation easements nearly 30,000 acres along the Verde River in Yavapai County, Sonora Creek in Santa Cruz County, at Spur Cross near Cave Creek in Maricopa County, and in the San Rafael Valley along the U.S./Mexico border.

First conceived in 1976 as a registry to recognize examples of ecosystems holding unusual or endangered species or outstanding geological or hydrological features, the Natural Areas Program took on life with the 1990 passage of the Heritage Fund. The voter-supported initiative directed that up to $10 million of revenues from lottery sales be distributed to the Arizona State Parks Board for certain purposes—local, state and regional parks, historic preservation, environmental education, and the acquisition and management of natural areas.

Seventeen percent of the annual distribution to Parks is dedicated to purchasing natural areas. Another five percent may be spent on maintaining and operating those natural areas. That could mean up to $1.7 million a year for acquisition dollars, but legislative tinkering over the years has diverted Heritage Fund distributions to the General Fund, so that Parks received only $1.5 million for natural area acquisition in fiscal year 2003.

The Heritage Fund legislation defined natural areas as “parcels of land or water that contain examples of unique natural terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems, rare species of plants and animals or unusual or outstanding geologic or hydrologic features.”

Advisory Committee Formed

To aid in determining whether land parcels contain these features, the Parks Board created a seven-member Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee (NAPAC), composed of volunteer citizens with experience and training in botany, ecology, hydrology, urban planning, wildlife biology, and preserve management. NAPAC reviews potential acquisitions for natural values and then makes recommendations to the Parks Board for program acquisitions.

During the past decade, the Natural Areas program has concentrated its efforts on protecting natural areas in four geographic locations: Sonora Creek between Nogales and Patagonia, Sonoita Creek in Santa Cruz County, at Spur Cross near Cave Creek in Maricopa County, and in the San Rafael Valley along the U.S./Mexico border.

Sonoita Creek

The most recent acquisition occurred this past June with the purchase of a four-mile long riparian corridor straddling Sonoita Creek from its juncture with the Santa Cruz River at Rio Rico east to the Sonoita Creek State Natural Area (SCSNA), a 259-acre addition.

The 5,025-acre SCSNA, the first natural area created with Heritage Funds, comprises one of the richest riparian habitats in Arizona. Cottonwood, Willow, Black walnut, Velvet mesquite, Velvet ash and Canyon hackberry provide homes for hundreds of species of birds, including Gray hawks, Common black hawks, the Thick-billed kingbird, and the Violett-crowned hummingbird. The perennial waters of Sonoita Creek are also a sanctuary for native fish species such as the endangered Gila topminnow, Longfin dace, Desert sucker, and Sonora sucker.

The SCSNA is managed in zones that limit uses based on the presence of key species and habitats. Off-road vehicles and hunting are banned in the Natural Area.

Verde River Greenway

The Verde River Greenway, the brainchild of then-Governor Bruce Babbitt, runs “in concept” from the Tuzigoot Bridge, near Tuzigoot National Monument, to the Bridgeport Bridge on Highway 89A. Since the concept’s inception in 1986, Parks has purchased 35 parcels, totaling about 580 acres, of riparian habitat along the Verde River as it snakes through the burgeoning city of Cottonwood.

San Rafael Ranch

In 1999, Parks used natural areas money to purchase title to 3,557 acres and a conservation easement over another 17,500 acres in the San Rafael Valley in southern Arizona. Once part of a Spanish land grant ranching operation, the San Rafael Ranch contains the only short-grass prairie landscape remaining intact in Arizona.

The breathtaking vista supports more than a dozen special status species, including Gila topminnow, Gila chub, the Huachuca water umbrella and Madrean ladies tresses.

Brokered by The Nature Conservancy, Parks operates its parcel as a natural area and historic site. The 1900s-era ranch house on the parcel has been the setting for a number of Hollywood movies. The larger land grant parcel continues to be operated as a working ranch under the conditions of the conservation easement designed to protect the area from subdivision and grassland degradation. Parks holds and monitors the conservation easement. The Nature Conservancy consults independently on management issues.

Forest Guardians

In 2002, the Forest Guardians, a group of conservationists, developed a plan to protect the riparian and pristine waters of Cave Creek, the only perennial stream in Maricopa County. The land is operated as a conservation area by Maricopa County with funds generated by gate fees and a Town transaction privilege tax. A County and Town-formed planning committee is currently drafting a master plan for the area.

Parks holds a conservation easement over the entire area, limiting recreational uses and providing permanent safe guards for the area’s natural and cultural values.

Siphon Draw Trail—An Amazing View

At the base of the Superstition Mountains, Lost Dutchman State Park provides the gateway to a system of trails into the Superstition Wilderness. Any ranger on duty can give you information on the views each trail provides and there is a great map in the Ranger Station. The park is 6 miles north of the Old West Highway on the Apache Trail. Take the Idaho Road Exit north off the Superstition Freeway (US 60).

Recommended Beginner’s Best

Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park offers long and short walks through a spectacular property established as a living plant museum. The park is east of the Phoenix area on the Old West Highway ( Hwy 60) near Superior.

Breathtaking Colors

Red Rock State Park sits in the heart of red rock country. Your camera won’t do it justice, but binoculars will help you identify the hundreds of birds. Lower Oak Creek runs through the park and the trails wind, around and through ridges of red rock for a total of over 6 miles. To reach Red Rock State Park take AZ 89-A about 3 miles south of downtown Sedona then turn on Lower Red Rock Loop Road.

Current status of state trust lands

Arizona retains 88% of the original federal land grant or about 9.2 million of the original 10.8 million acres.

Under API, there have been 31 petitions for reclassification. The State Land D ep't. has received 182 proposals and closed one petition file without action. Five applications to purchase have been received although one was withdrawn.

0ver the past ten years the average annual land sales for the D ep't. has been about 5,000 acres statewide.

In 2004, there will be yet another land exchange measure on the ballot.

The Legislature passes the Arizona Preserve Initiative (API), then-Governor Fife Symington signs it into law. The API provides for conservation of some urban state trust lands.

The Legislature amends the API to expand the amount of eligible land in Maricopa & Pima Counties and to add specific Pinal & Cochise County lands.

The Arizona Republic runs a series of editorials on state trust lands, drawing need for comprehensive reform of state trust land management.

Land exchange proposition is introduced to the legislature as part of the Large State Trust Land Acquisition Act of 1998.

Land exchange proposition is referred to the voters, 1.150 acres per year for 11 years to provide a match for state trust land acquisition for 1998 preservation.

A portion of the Growing Smarter Act is referred to the ballot and passed by the voters. It allocates $20 million per year for 11 years to provide a match for state trust land acquisition for 1998 preservation.

Land exchange proposition is referred to the legislature as part of a large state trust land acquisition package and again rejected by the voters.

Voters reject a land exchange proposition referred to the legislature.

Forest Guardians becomes first environmental group to win a bid on a state grazing lease.

The Arizona Republic runs a series of editorials on the need for reform of trust land management.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

Parks partnered with Maricopa County and the Town of Cave Creek in 2001 to purchase the 2,154 acres of Spur Cross Ranch in northern Maricopa County. Natural area funds were used for part of the purchase to protect the riparian habitat and pristine waters of Cave Creek, the only perennial stream in Maricopa County. The land is operated as a conservation area by Maricopa County with funds generated by gate fees and a Town transaction privilege tax. A County and Town-formed planning committee is currently drafting a master plan for the area.

Parks holds a conservation easement over the entire area, limiting recreational uses and providing permanent safe guards for the area’s natural and cultural values.

Public Use

These natural areas are open to limited public use. For more information about any of these areas, the natural areas program, or requests to visit an area, contact Arizona State Parks at (602) 542-2138.
Rural State Lands Need Attention

By Don Steuter

Across Arizona, state lands with high conservation values are in danger of being developed. Most of us are familiar with efforts to preserve certain urban state lands such as those near the Superstition Wilderness, parts of the McDowell's and other lands in North Scottsdale, and lands adjoining the White Tanks west of Phoenix. But ecologically important rural state lands are also at risk. Here is a snapshot of two such rural areas.

Willow Springs Ranch

Located north of Oracle Junction and east of Highway 79, this 180,000-acre ranch is predominately state land. As open space the area provides wildlife habitat and visual relief from man-made landscapes between Tucson and Phoenix. Within the ranch are approximately 20,000 acres of scattered private land that are currently being planned for development. The monetary value created by building on these private lands will cause adjoining state lands to increase in value, making them ripe for development where they could then be sold to the highest bidder. A petition drive to halt development on private lands gathered sufficient signatures for a referendum. However, due to late filing, the referendum was ruled invalid. Willow Springs Ranch owner Anam Inc., a private Canadian company, plans to use ground water for the project. Golf courses are also planned.

South Fork of the Little Colorado

Developer George Johnson of Johnson International has his eye on 3 sections of state land west of Eagar just south of Highway 260. The area is along a watercourse that is critical for many wildlife species. Plans include a 500-site RV resort, 200 vacation homes, and a winter wonderland park with snowmaking capability. A zoning has also been proposed.

Don Steuter is Chapter Conservation Chair.

The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP), Pima County’s multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan, is now in the hands of County staff. The 80-member Steering Committee of citizens has made recommendations for balancing the needs of developers, ranchers and neighborhoods with the needs of the threatened and endangered species that will be protected under the SDCP. Now the County must come up with the specifics.

One need is clear—there is a lot of land, most of it rural, that will have to be permanently conserved in order to protect habitat. Fortunately much of that land is already under government jurisdiction—BLM, Forest Service, National Park and Wilderness Area. There are also large areas, though, that are state trust land.

State trust lands can’t be counted on as open space, because the assumption is that at some point they will be opened for development in order to raise money for Arizona schools. (Of course, when the lands are developed, the school systems incur huge costs serving the new populations that move in.)

With many of the State lands that the SDCP would seek to preserve, the chance that they would be developed is slim—

the land is too far from Pima County’s development infrastructure. There are areas on Pima County’s Northwest side, however, that were once rural but are now in the path of rapid development. This area, the Tortolita Fan, is a wildlife corridor between the Santa Catalina and the Tucson Mountains—a crucial link between desert sky islands. On the Southeast side, where development is beginning to shift, the link between the Santa Rita Mountains and the Rincon (“the Missing Link”) also needs to be protected.

The Arizona Preserve Initiative (API), a mechanism designed to help conserve open space near urban areas, sought to balance conservation with development. It allowed jurisdictions to apply to purchase state trust lands, even providing matching funds to help pay for them. API applications were filed for parcels in the Tortolita Fan area. Unfortunately, no API applications were acted upon during the last governor’s administration.

Much interest is focused on a better way to administer state trust lands’ disposal, and currently a group—including conservation, development, ranching and education interests—is meeting to discuss reforms. Representatives of conservation organizations are meeting separately to agree on proposals to bring to the larger table. The two main elements the Conservation Partners are working on are constitutional reform and up-front conservation.

The Arizona Constitution currently only allows state trust lands to be sold for the highest price—development. A constitutional amendment, put before the voters as an initiative, would add conservation as an acceptable use for state trust lands. In addition, the Conservation Partners hope to reach consensus with the other stakeholders in identifying a set of lands that would be given immediate conservation status under the initiative. Language on the proposal should be finalized by September in order to move forward for the November 2004 ballot.

Conservation Partners from Pima County are advocating that the lands specified for conservation include the highest priority conservation areas identified in the recent SDCP Steering Committee recommendations. We will need all the strategies we can find in order to preserve Pima County’s unique habitat—bond money, federal grants, mitigation and more. State trust land reform will be crucial for preserving lands we would not be able to conserve any other way.

For more information on the reform process, contact our hardworking director, Sandy Bahr.

Rich Genser is Chapter Fundraising Chair. He would like to thank Lisa Stage and Susan Shobe for their help on this article.

North Maricopa County Group Under Consideration

The Sierra Club is made up of chapters like the Grand Canyon Chapter, which includes all of Arizona and its 12,000 members. Chapters in turn create groups, which focus on environmental issues in their geographic areas. The Chapter is exploring the possibility of organizing a new group for the approximate area north of Bell Road in Scottsdale, North Phoenix, Cave Creek, Carefree, Anthem, Sun City, Surprise, and Peoria. This area has experienced tremendous growth in recent years and is home to many Club members.

The Grand Canyon Chapter has active groups in Maricopa County, Tucson, Sedona, Prescott, and Flagstaff. A new group is also being considered for the Lake Havasu City area. The Palo Verde group currently represents all of Maricopa County, 52 percent of the chapter, and meets in Phoenix. Another group in Maricopa County would allow members to meet and have outngs closer to where they live. It would encourage members to be more environmentally active in their area. The new group would have a voting representative on the Chapter executive committee.

Interested members in the north Maricopa area should call Bev Full, a north Scottsdale Club member, and Chapter executive committee member. She can be reached at (480)595-2306 or at (bfull@cox.net). You may also call the Chapter office for information at (602)253-8633.
State of Arizona’s Wildlife

Agency Responsibilities, Advocate Responsibilities, & Opportunities for Action

Saturday, October 25, 2003
8 a.m. to noon
ASU Downtown Center
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wildlife Service Fieldtrip

Please join us for this fun and informative workshop. In the morning, representatives from Game and Fish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and citizen activists will share information on the state of Arizona’s wildlife and what you can do to help. In the afternoon, we will grab our sack lunches and head out into the field where there will be a hands-on opportunity to help out with a wildlife service project. There is a nominal charge for the workshop of $10 per person to help cover the cost of lunch and materials. For more information or to sign up for the workshop, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 or (grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org).

Dear Friends,

We think your voice counts.

We welcome submissions of articles, drawings, photographs, poems, essays, and brief epiphanies to Canyon Echo, your Grand Canyon Chapter newsletter.

Tell your story, appear in print, communicate with other Club members. The theme for the next (Nov./Dec. ‘03) Canyon Echo is Wildlife. Deadline for the next issue: Friday, Oct. 3, 2003. See writer guidelines on pg.2 or contact Michelle Pulich Stewart: michelle.pulich@sierraclub.org or (602) 253-9140.

Want to join the race?

Enthusiastic about helping the environment? Are you a self-starter, a leader, or do you know of another member who fits the bill? Chapter and Group Executive Committee elections are imminent, and it’s time to get involved! With continuing challenges to our environment over sprawl, clean air, wildlife habitat and water issues, to name a few, we need strong leaders who are willing to commit some time and energy to further our mission to protect, preserve and enjoy our environment—our home.

Two ways you can get involved

1. Group and Chapter nominating committees are actively looking for candidates who are enthusiastic about the environment and want to take a leadership role in planning, policy-making and executing plans to protect and preserve our environment. Executive Committees meet on a regular basis to discuss conservation and environmental issues, develop a strategic plan for the Chapter and Groups, make local and state policy decisions within the scope of Club policies, and determine ways to carry out objectives.

2. Members are needed to serve on nominating committees at the Group and Chapter levels, to assist with recruiting candidates, to review candidate statements, to verify membership standing, to approve nominations, to report candidate names to the Group and Chapter Executive Committees, and to review the ballot prior to mailing to members.

Candidate Guidelines for Chapter and Group Executive Committee Elections

1. To be listed on the ballot, candidates must submit their name and membership number. Membership numbers appear on the Echo mailing labels. Be sure to include your contact information with your submission.

2. Submit a candidate statement, indicating the name of the Executive Committee you are running for, to the Nominating Committee, at (kroediger@aol.com) or Kathy Roediger (kroediger@aol.com) 602-266-6358.

3. Candidates may submit their name and membership number only via email to (kroediger@aol.com).
You are invited! The Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter is composed of five groups (see page two for listings). Conservation, political activism, and administrative work are just a few areas which offer diverse opportunities for activism. All are open to members interested in learning more about the Sierra Club. We are working to make this world a better, more livable place. We need your help! For more information and meetings/events near you, please check out our website: www.arizona.sierraclub.org - click on meetings.

Chapter Announcements

Oct 3 (Fri): Copy Deadline for Canyon Echo, Theme: Wildlife See writer guidelines on pg. 2. Contact: Michelle Pulich Stewart before writing (602) 253-9140 or michelle.pulich@sierraclub.org.

Oct 11 (Sat): Wilderness Committee Service trip to erase illegal roads within the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness. For information and to sign up contact Michelle Pulich Stewart (602) 253-9140 (michelle.pulich@sierraclub.org).

Oct 29 (Wed): Canyon Echo Mailing Party, 2-6 PM (stop by anytime). Help us save money and join us as we swap stories and paste on labels. Thank you.

Nov 15 (Sat): Volunteer Recognition Luncheon A great and delicious opportunity to dine and visit with Sierra Club members from across the state. See back page for a clip-and-send coupon to get your ticket today!

Making a difference in 2004

Evenings with the Chapter Political Committee

Please join us for one or all of the fun evenings we have planned to socialize and discuss the 2004 elections and how each of us can help to make a difference and help better protect our piece of the planet and the planet as a whole. These fun and informative events are sponsored by the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Political Committee. We promise good conversation, good food and drinks, and great information on what we are planning for the 2004 elections. Come be part of making a change for the better. Make a difference in 2004.

Tucson
On Wednesday, September 24th from 5:30 until 8 pm, we will gather at La Indita in Tucson to enjoy their patio, the food and drinks and to discuss the 2004 elections and how we can be most effective. Please come! Call Oler (520) 791-9246 for more information and to r.s.v.p. You can also call the Chapter office at (602) 253-8633 or email grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Flagstaff
On Friday, October 3rd from 6 pm to 8 pm, please join us at the McPherson Center for drinks and snacks and information on plans for next fall’s elections. This is a great opportunity to meet people and get involved in helping make a difference for the 2004 elections. For more information and to r.s.v.p., please contact Roxane George at (928)774-6542 (roxanegeorge@swfa.org) or call the Chapter office at (602) 253-8633 or email grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Phoenix
On Friday, October 17th from 6 pm to 8 pm, we will enjoy snacks and drinks at the home of Don Steuter, our Chapter Conservation Chair. For more information and to r.s.v.p., please contact the Chapter office at (602) 253-8633 or email grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Watch for upcoming political events and activities in this space. Chad Campbell, Political Committee Chair

Sep 23 (Tue) Palo Verde Group Hike Leaders Planning Meeting Join the bimonthly pow-wow at the Sierra Club’s 2nd floor conference room in Phoenix. Talk about hiking, biking, backpacking, camping, caving, rock climbing, volleyball, and other outdoor activities we’ll be leading in Nov., Dec., and beyond, as well as other socially responsible activities. Have you ever thought about being a hike leader? Come to this meeting and see what it takes! Snacks start at 7:00 pm, and the meeting shortly thereafter. Feel free to attend if you would like to plan an event, offer suggestions, or just see what the heck we’re up to. For more info., your contacts are: Jim Vaaler (jim.vaaler@msn.com) 602-553-8208, Paul Zembov (canyontrekker@hotmail.com) 602-989-1977, and Ted Gartner (gartneraz@netzero.net) 480-961-0370.

Yavapai Group (Prescott and suburbs)

Oct 21 (Tue) General Meeting 7 PM Prescott Public Library program to feature Making Sense of Place, a film examining regional Arizona issues by the Lincoln Foundation. In the Third floor Conference room of the library.

Sept 7 & 9 & Nov 4 (Tue) Executive Committee Meetings 7 PM For details and meeting location, call (928) 274-9360.

Yavapai Group (Prescott and suburbs)

Oct 29 (Fri) Full Moon Potluck and Hike! 6 PM -10 PM. Join us for a potluck and hike at Dreamy Draw Park. There will be a full moon, lots of good friends, and plenty of good food. Bring a dish of your choice, but please remember, no glass containers. Club will provide plates, silverware and drinks. Please remember that alcohol is not allowed.

Plateau Group (Flagstaff and surrounding area)

Sept 25 (Thu) It’s Drier than You Think! 7:00PM To feature a film examining regional Arizona issues by the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Tuscons for Sensible Transportation and Women for Sustainable Technology will be Ronico’s guests. There will also be food, books, door prizes, books from Green Fire Books and if Sierra Club calendars, backpacks and T-shirts arrive by then, an opportunity for some early holiday shopping. Bring a friend and spend an enjoyable evening at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way. For more information, call (520) 374-8078.

Sept 9 & Oct 7 & Nov 4 (Tue) Executive Committee Meetings 7 PM Committee reports and discussion of club business. Open to Sierra Club members. Main floor meeting room, Historic YWCA, 738 N. 5th Ave. near University Blvd. For further information, call (520) 623-6401.

Rincon Group (Tucson and suburbs)

Sept 25 & Oct 30 (Thu) Executive Committee Meetings 7:00 PM Committee reports and discussion of club business. Open to Sierra Club members. Main floor meeting room, Historic YWCA, 738 N. 5th Ave. near University Blvd. For further information, call (520) 623-6401.

Oct 9 (Thu) New General Meeting 7:30 PM All Welcome! Environmental friends including the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Tuscons for Sensible Transportation and Women for Sustainable Technology will be Rinico’s guests. There will also be food, books, door prizes, books from Green Fire Books and if Sierra Club calendars, backpacks and T-shirts arrive by then an opportunity for some early holiday shopping. Bring a friend and spend an enjoyable evening at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way. For more information, call (520) 374-8078.

Rincon Group (Tucson and suburbs)

Sept 11 (New General Meeting 7:00 PM All Welcome! New, new and past Club members are cordially invited to this Fall Kick-Off of Sierra Club Rincon Group’s General Meetings in our new venue at Tucson Botanical Gardens’ Grace Rich of the Living Simply Club recently featured in AZ Daily Star will show us ways to “give higher status to those who are living responsibly toward the environment.” Meet the Rincon Group’s officers, catch up on what members are working on, enjoy refreshments, meet a few surprise guests and spend a lovely evening with friendly people in a garden setting. These lively General meetings will be held the second Thurs. of the month in the main building of Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way. For more information, call (520) 574-8078.

Keepin’ Groups in the Loop

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix and suburbs)

Meetings are open to the public. Sierra Club office, 202 E. McDowell Rd., Conference Room, Second Floor. For directions, please call or email the contact person listed.

Sept 11 & Oct 9 (Thu) Palo Verde Group Political, Conservation, and Executive meetings, Sierra Club office 6:00 P.M. Political Committee meets (Sept. 11) to review the results of the Sept. 9 City Council elections in Phoenix and meet (Oct. 9) to review the November city council runoff election in Phoenix. Contact: Ted Gartner (480) 961-0370 (gartneraz@netzero.net). 7:00 P.M. Conservation Committee will discuss issues related to desert preservation, forest protection, wildlife and endangered species, energy conservation, growth management, etc. Contact: Don Steuter (602) 956-5057 (donsteuter@aol.com). 8:30 P.M. Exec. Committee meets to review matters related to group policies, outdoor activities, finances, and other business. Contact: Roxane George at (928) 774-6542 (roxanegeorge@swfa.org).
SEPT 5-6 (FRI-SAT) Sun Second Annual Grand Canyon Music Festival Weekend, “D"hikes & Potluck Picnic. Attend one or two of the Chamber Music Concerts (Fri. & Sat. 9-11 PM) and then join the picnic on Sun. Limited space available at my house at Grand Canyon (bring bedding). Fri. night pickup at 8:30 PM at Vail's, 962 E. Bachelors and Brahms; Sat. night is JS Bach, Lurazuria, Telemann, WF Bach & Mozart. More info about concerts at: www.grandcanyonmusic.org. Our special group rate is $14 each evening. E-mail me details for last year's music was awesome! On Sat. our hike will be the seldom visited upper section of the Old Grandview Trail (1.9 mi, RT, 500' elev. gain), some exposure. On Sun. we hike out to Shoshone Point (picnic area is reserved) for an early afternoon potluck picnic (2 mi, RT, little elev. gain). Hotel room info at: www.xanterra.com or www.grandcanyoninfo.com. For more info and registration contact: Bob Audretsch, (928) 638-2077 before 9 PM or e-mail (preferred) bob41@grand-canyon.az.us. Grand Canyon.

SEPT 20 (SUN) “C" McDowell Mountain Road Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup Project, (3 mi., 1200 ft. elev. change). Please come out to help clean up one of the McDowell Mountains, this continuing project gives you a chance to experience the Sonoran Desert at its best. Our 3-mile stretch of highway is just east of the McDowell Mountain Regional Park between Fountain Hills and Rio Verde. With views of Four Peaks and the Superstition Mountains to the south, the Superstition Mountains to the west and the Maratzaal Mountains to the north, you can’t ask for a more scenic place to serve your community. Best of all, we always finish before noon, leaving the afternoon free. Our trip highlight is a mid-morning visit to the enigmatic and mysterious “McGinty’s Kitchen Sink,” otherwise known as the Grand Canyon of McDowell Mt. Rd, where ice-cold refreshments can often be found. Each trip participant receives a free Adopt-a-Highway program T-shirt, gloves, and a colorfull rock formation known as the canyon! Sponsored by the Desert Conservation League. Coffee to be provided Sat. and Sun. Advance registration at VOAz website (www.dcgenter.org/voaz) is required. Event details and a full registration are provided there. Sunday will be a half-day event with time provided afterwards for hiking at your leisure. Children must be 10 years or older. No pets, please. Bring your worn hiking boots, a pair of gloves, and prepare to do some honest physical labor that will yield satisfying results. Plan to arrive Fri. evening and stay until Mon. (a holiday) if you wish. Contact Marge at 602.508.0915 or e-mail margeshpi@aol.com for registration or questions.

OCT 11-15 (SAT-WED) Green River Canoe/Kayak Float Trip (five days, four nights, a total of 65 river miles). Car pool to Moab on Friday, Oct. 10. At 8 AM outfitter will transport group and gear to river launch area and pick up down river 5 days later. Canoe, equipment, and meals provided. A donation of $250 to cover costs is requested to hold a reservation. Contact Bev Full (480) 595-2306 (flufill@cox.net). Phoenix.

OCT 18 (SAT) “B” Mogollon Rim Rappel Trip (6 mi., 1200 ft. EC). Our journey into this wilderness canyon is an opportunity to learn more about desert rappels and about the use of AZ wilderness. There will be scrambling, downclimbing, upsclimbing, rock-hopping, and possibly a bit of shallow wading involved. Waterfall your gear just in case, and bring a change of clothes for after. Includes rappels up to 85’. We’ll leave in places in places to climb the return route (no moves harder than 5.7). Sponsored by the Mountainside activity section. You must be a Sierra Club member and bring the following equipment: climbing harness, rappel device, helmet, 3 locking carabiners, prusik cords or other ascending device, and personal anchor sling. 6 miles total, 1000’ EC. 4WD vehicles needed. Contact Connnie or Ted Gartner 480-961-0370 (twofast@globalcrossing.net).

OCT 18-19 (SAT-SUN) “A” Sixth Annual Grand Canyon One-Day Rim to Rim (23 miles, 6000’ elev. change). We’ll take a large van or two up to the north rim on Saturday, where we’ll stay at the Jacob Lake Inn. From the north Kaibab trailhead, instead of peak de de day, we’ll hike through to observe the seasonal and climatic changes occurring through the elevations. Hiking up the Bright Angel Trail. The Sierra Club will provide shipping, gas, and park fee. John Mogk (480) 456-4615, johnmogk@cox.net.

OCT 30-31 & NOV 2-3 (THUR-SUN) “B” Little Colorado Hiking Weekend. Meet late Thursday afternoon in Cameron and convoy to our camp for our Friday hike. On Friday we hike from the rim to the Little Colorado River on the Palant East route (approx. 2 mi, RT, 1800’ elev. gain) & return same route. We’ll be dealing with lots of potential rock fall danger. First See Outings continued on pg. 12

Enjoy and Explore Arizona

For carpooling, camping information and to sign up call Michelle Pulich Stewart 602-253-9140 or email michelle.pulich@sierraclub.org Phoenix/Apache.

SEPT 27 (THU) “B” Parker Creek Dayhike. This 9 mile RT hike into the Sierra Ancha Wilderness Area features a lovely hike thru a riparian area with an elevation gain of about 2000 ft. Once on top we will hike over to Mud Springs and people will have an opportunity to see how this part of the canyon is changing from the spraying from a few years ago. Designed in 1964, this is one of our original Wilderness Areas. During our lunch break the leader will give us a brief and informal overview of AZ wilderness and also some history on the Sierra Ancha Wilderness. For reservations, meeting place, etc. call your leader Jim Vauler at 602-553-8206. Phoenix.

SEPT 27 (SAT) “B” Wilson Mountain Barrellhouse Dayhike 6 miles, 600’+ elevation change. A colorfull rock formation on the western slopes of Wilson Mountain looks so remarkably like the letter ‘B’ that this off-trail adventure we’ll climb up to the barrells, or as close as we can get, then visit nearby Angel Falls, a scenic canyon wall with a waterfall at its base. Bring a rappel device, helmet, 3 locking carabiners, some prusiks or other climbing gear, and be ready for some very steep scrambling, bushwhacking (through non-prickly manzanita), and rock hopping in Sedona’s peculiar red rock country! Bring plenty of water, as the barrels contain only 200 ft. Call Ted Tenny, (480) 396-3389. Phoenix.

SEPT 27 (SAT) “A” Devils Canyon Service Trip and Rappel Hike, (7.5 mi., 1200 ft. EC) A trip to one of the crow jewels of our State Trust Lands. Interesting rock ‘hoodoos’ stand guard at this high desert area to serve our community. You must be a Sierra Club member and bring the following equipment: climbing harness, rappel device, helmet, 3 locking carabiners, prusik cords or other ascending device, and personal anchor sling. 7 miles total, 1000’ EC. 4WD vehicles needed. Contact Connie or Ted Gartner 480-961-0370 (twofast@globalcrossing.net).

OCT 15-17 (SAT-MON) Trail Maintenance on Sierra Club section of the Arizona Trail Another year has passed and it’s time to sign up for the Sierra Club’s adopted section of the Hiline Trail that also is part of the Arizona Trail. The Hiline Trail has been in existence for more than 100 years. The area is full of history from native peoples no longer there to enjoy. This is a fun way to participate in an outing, please go to http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/ chapter/forms/ or contact the NA Outings Dept. at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version. Sierra Club liability covers leaders only. Each person is responsible for his or her own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately. If you leave the trip, with or without the leader’s permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Groups are encouraged to carpool and share the driver’s fuel expense. Suggested compensation is 5 cents/mile. Donations accepted from all participants at $1 (member) and $3 (nonmember). Mon. pay is collected by the leader and deposited with the group treasurer. For more information, call Jim Muller (602) 553-8210. All Hiline outing contact is held in the Rimpom Group newsletter and in the Palo Verde Group Sierra Club Singles newsletter.

Hiking Guidelines

The Sierra Club is a nationwide organization with active local outings for members and non-members. Please join us as we make friends and explore life-enriching interests. Simply find an outing by date and phone the contact for directions, reservations, time and additional information.

RESTRICTIONS: NO FIREARMS, RADIOS OR PETS

Outings are by reservation. Call early (group limit 20). Each hike is rated for degree of difficulty and risk by the leader.

*A* = +16 miles or +3000’ elevation change (EC)

*B* = 8-16 miles and 1500-3000’ ft. EC

*C* = 3-8 miles, 500-1500’ ft. EC

*D* = 3 miles and 500’ ft. EC

Round Trip

RT Round Trip

OW One Way

Trip leader has absolute authority to question trip participants as to their equipment, conditioning and experience before and during the trip. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/ chapter/forms/ or contact the NA Outings Dept. at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version. Sierra Club liability covers leaders only. Each person is responsible for his or her own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately. If you leave the trip, with or without the leader’s permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Groups are encouraged to carpool and share the driver’s fuel expense. Suggested compensation is 5 cents/mile. Donations accepted from all participants at $1 (member) and $3 (nonmember). Mon. pay is collected by the leader and deposited with the group treasurer. For more information, call Jim Muller (602) 553-8210. All Hiline outing contact is held in the Rimpom Group newsletter and in the Palo Verde Group Sierra Club Singles newsletter.
Enjoy and Explore Arizona

Sierra Club- Grand Canyon Chapter’s 2nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon with Special Guest

John Muir

Mark Radatz performs

Watch, Pray and Fight

Saturday, November 15, 2003

11:00 AM, at the Conference Center at South Mountain Environmental Education Center (SMEEC) in Phoenix

A ll that you need is a ticket......

To receive your ticket by mail for this event, just clip and fill out the oval form and send it to the Chapter office with your check. Vegan lunch selections are available. Cost per ticket is $12

Mail to: Sierra Club- Grand Canyon Chapter, 202 E. McDowell Rd. Ste. 277, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

Thank you for your support.

Gifts to the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club support our citizen-based advocacy and legislative programs and, therefore, are tax-deductible.

Sierra Club- Grand Canyon Chapter

NOV 1 (SAT) SaguarO National Park Exotic Plant Eradication Service Trip. This is a great opportunity to take

out frustration with inaction or wrong-headed action in the political world and make a difference on the ground. We

will help the park remove non-native species in the park—primarily buffelgrass and fountain grass. Come learn more about these exotic species and how you can help to limit their impact.

Plan to meet at the Park at 8 AM and to work until noon.

Don’t forget to bring lunch, snacks, water, and your favorite work gloves.

We will also provide some light refreshments. For more information or to sign up to help with this project, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633.

Phoenix

NOV 1 (SAT) “B” Desert Ridge Day Hike. 13 miles, 1700’ elevation change.

Walk amid colorful rock formations and unexpected scenic treasures of the Goldfields from the Apache Trail to the river, by way of Willow Springs Canyon and its southern tributaries. Climb 1100’ to the top of the ridge overlooking Willow Springs Canyon and Desert Canyon. Enjoy two miles of spectacular vistas of the Superstitions, Marazatals, McDowells, Goldfields, and distant mountains on every side!

Continue south, leaving the ridge to return on the Jeep trail from Bagley Tank. Most of the climbing is after we leave the river, and there are prickly plants along the way.

Call Ted Tenny (480) 396-3389.

Phoenix

NOV 1 (SAT) “B” Puebloano Canyon Dayhike. Deep in the heart of the Sierra Anchas is a major Indian ruin in a beautiful canyon. Though the hike is only 6 miles roundtrip, it is rugged and steep, with a 1000-foot climb and a fair amount of brush. High grass, willows, and juniper accompany you. Contact Jay Skardon (928) 943-6583 or jskardon1@aol.com.

Phoenix

NOV 1 (SAT) “C” Little Sabino Mountain Dayhike. This 6 mile hike in the Mazatzal Wilderness Area will have a short Jeep car shuttle, followed by a fairly leisure (and mostly downhill) hike. Fall colors should be excellent during the final 2 or 3 miles of this hike.

We will have lunch by a spring in a nice grassy area and the leader will talk about some of the issues we have worked on in the past in this area as well as some Wilderness history on the Mazatzals. For reservations, meeting time and place, call your leader, Jim Vaaler, at (602) 553-8208.

Phoenix

NOV 8 (SAT) “B” Peak 3134 RidgeLine Day Hike. 8 miles. + 2400’ elevation change. Two grassy canyons and two arches will delight you on this off-trail trek in the southern Goldfields.

We’ll climb peak 3134 and traverse the ridge eastward to peaks 3089 and 3047. Climb down to a bright golden valley and follow the photogenic ridge southeast to haul 2437. From there it’s an easy walk to Willow Springs Canyon. Come prepared for boulder scrambling, rocky slopes, vivacious and prickly Sonoran vegetation, colorful Tertiary lava flows, and awesome views of the mountains.

Call Ted Tenny (480) 396-3389.

Phoenix

NOV 15-18 (FRI-MON) 5th Annual Labyrinth Canyon Float Trip. Meet in Moab (8 hour drive from Phoenix) to be put in at Crystal

Labyrinth Canyon float trip. Most equipment and all meals. Kayaks may be rented for an additional charge or bring your own.

A donation of $250 is requested. Call or email Bev Full at (480) 595-2306 or bfull@cox.net.

Green River, Utah

Canyon/Kayak Float Trip

OCT 16-15 (FRI-WED) 5th Annual Labyrinth Canyon Float trip. Meet in Moab (8 hour drive from Phoenix) to be put in at Crystal

Geyser by our outfitter. Float/paddle for five days through beautiful Labyrinth Canyon camping 4 nights on sandy beaches.

Included: canoes, shuttle, most equipment and all meals. Kayaks may be rented for an additional charge or bring your own.

At the Phoenix Zoo’s Stone House Pavilion Sat., Sept.

6 from 10:00 a.m.-noon.

The event includes a 45-

minute video created by Bobbie and a friend. This unique video gives you in-sight into the reintroduction process of the Mexican gray wolf.

Join Bobbie Holaday at the Initial Signing of her new book, The Return of the Mexican Gray Wolf: Back to the Blue

The Univ. of Arizona Press published the new book. All royalties benefit the Mexican Wolf Trust Fund administered by the Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

Please join us for this important service

Event involves planting native vegetation in disturbed areas in Saguaro National Park. This project involves transplanting

plants, planting nursery-grown plants, and doing ground preparation. Plan to meet at the Park at 9 AM and to work until mid afternoon.

Don’t forget to bring lunch, snacks, water, and your favorite work gloves. We will also provide some light refreshments. For more information or sign up to help with this project, please contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633.

Phoenix

See the Sierra Club's 2nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon with Special Guest John Muir.


Friday work off the turkey and dressing by hiking the Hermit Trail to Santa Maria Springs (5 mi. RT, 1600’ elev. gain). Sat. is a hike to Horshoe Mesa on the Grandview Trail (6 mi. RT, 2600’ elev. gain). Thanksgiving dinner at my home in Grand Canyon Village with our volunteer cooks. turkey, stuffing and you bring a dish to share. Limited sleeping space, beds and on the floor, at my house. $12 non-refundable deposit covers your turkey, dressing and wine with the meal payable by Nov. 11. Looking forward to a wonderful time like we did last year! Bev Full at (480) 638-2077 or my preference is an e-mail to: bfull@cox.net.

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out frustration with inaction or wrong-headed action in the political world and make a difference on the ground. We will help the park remove non-native species in the park—primarily buffelgrass and fountain grass. Come learn more about these exotic species and how you can help to limit their impact.

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Phoenix

Shear your AZ trees and ouIings Photo!

Send them to Canyon Echo at the Chapter office by email or post. Include your name and the date & location of the photograph.

For detailed submission guidelines, contact Michelle Pulich Stewart, (602) 253-9140 (michel@sierraclub.org).

www.arizona.sierraclub.org

30 feet of the route involves a belayed down climb of a steel cable and up climb on the way back out. When we return from that day hike we move our vehicles to the west side of the Little Colorado to the site of the steep and narrow Moody trail (approx. 2 mi. RT, 1700’ elev. gain). We will car camp there on Saturday night. On Sunday morning we move upstream on the LC and will hike the steep Overlook route to the Little Colorado, walk upstream and ascend to the rim on the Dun Site route (approx. 4 mi. RT, 1,200’ elev. gain).

If the LC is running high we will have to substitute another hike for this one. Both these involve steep climbing down narrow side canyons with rock fall potential. Individual share in paying for the Navajo Nation permit required in advance ($30 each). Substantial parts of each of these will be exploratory as the Leader has not hiked the full length of each yet. Bring day pack, gloves. These are all seldom hiked routes, all steep with loose rock and require basic rock climbing experience, some 3rd class climbing on each route. Limit 5 people.

For more info and registration contact the Leader, Bobbi and Hooker, (928) 2077 before 9 PM or e-mail (preferred) bobbi1@grand-canyon.az.us. Grand Canyon