

CANYON ECHO

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona>

Grand Canyon Chapter

Spring 2021

Celebrating Earth Month 2021

Join virtual Sierra Club events and other local actions

Visit our chapter calendar to register for the events below and see a complete and updated list of Sierra Club happenings: sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities. See page 9 for more information on other local Earth Day activities.

Thursday, April 8

Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Outdoors
7:00 PM–8:30 PM

Monday, April 12

Preserving the Connection:
Habitat Connectivity in McDowell
Sonoran Preserve
6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Outings are a popular Sierra Club activity; however, outdoor recreation has historically been non-inclusive and lacking accessibility. Sierra Club has focused efforts on equity and inclusion across its outdoor programs. In this interactive presentation, Sergio Avila, Sierra Club Local Outdoors Program Coordinator, will describe the different outdoors programs, their goals and strategies, and engage in conversation to explore opportunities for the Rincon Group going beyond "outdoor recreation," like experiential education, advocacy, service, and more.

McDowell Sonoran Preserve in Scottsdale, Arizona, is uniquely situated to connect nearly three million acres of protected wildlife habitat.

As the surrounding area is increasingly urbanized, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy uses citizen science and partnerships to assess the wildlife community and gauge the viability of the Preserve as a habitat linkage. Learn more about this complex ecosystem. This will be followed by a Wildlife Activist Group meeting to learn more AZ wildlife and how you can get involved. Each month will feature a speaker.



Rainbow over Brown's Ranch in McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Photo by Lynne Russell.

Tuesday, April 13

Irreplaceable Grand Canyon: San Francisco Peaks and Arizona Snowbowl
6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Join us for the fourth and final talk in a series of talks and discussions on "Irreplaceable: Grand Canyon." This talk will focus on "The San Francisco Peaks Traditional Cultural Property and Arizona Snowbowl." Speakers will include those who have been working for decades to stop desecration of the Peaks and will focus on the continued and ongoing threats, as well as what we can all do to help.

Thursday, April 22

Telling Your Climate Story
4:00 PM–5:30 PM

Join Columba Sainz with Moms Clean Air Force and Eco-madres, Doug Bland with AZ Interfaith Power and Light, and more climate activists. They will tell their climate stories and provide tips on telling your own. Whether you're speaking with a legislator or member of Congress, or your neighbor, telling your climate story helps people understand the climate crisis and how they can help. Listen to these compelling stories and learn more about telling your own.

Thursday, April 22

Celebrate Earth Day with Wild at Heart!
6:30 PM–7:30 PM

Wild At Heart (WAH) is a non-profit organization that provides rescue, rehabilitation, and release for birds of prey. At the Palo Verde Group program guest speaker Greg Clark, WAH Burrowing Owl Habitat Coordinator, will discuss how new government regulations and the pandemic affect the habitat construction efforts, a new project (MOTUS) which allows the tracking of birds via radio transmitters, and how volunteers can get involved.

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



Arizona Chapter Action Directory

Canyon Echo

Spring 2021
Vol. 57 No. 2

Canyon Echo © 2021. Canyon Echo (ISSN 0164-7024) is published quarterly for Sierra Club members by Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, 514 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85003. Phone: 602-253-8633. Printed at Valley Newspapers.

Front page banner designed by Erika Gronek.

 **Printed on 100% recycled paper with soy ink.**

Editor: Lydia Wilson
602-253-9140, lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Outings Editor/Mailing Organizer: Jerry Nelson
602-550-0282, peakbagger2@gmail.com

Copy Editor: Kurt Florman

Publications Chair: Meg Weesner
520-576-2083, mweesner@att.net

Publications Committee:
Sandy Bahr, Gary Beverly, Benjamin Downer,
Kurt Florman, Chris Gehlker, Toni Malcolm,
Jerry Nelson, Joe Shannon, Urb Weidner

Webmaster: John Sheffield
jsheffield40@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Annual dues to Sierra Club are \$39 (including \$1 for *Canyon Echo*). Subscription rate for non-members is \$10. Send check payable to Sierra Club - Canyon Echo, 514 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85003.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes and postage due to Sierra Club Member Services, c/o Canyon Echo, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417. Periodicals postage paid at Phoenix, AZ.

Chapter Director

Sandy Bahr 602-253-8633 sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

Conservation Program and Communications Assistant

Lydia Wilson 602-253-9140 lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org

Grand Canyon Conservation Program Manager

Alicyn Gitlin 928-774-6514 alicyn.gitlin@sierraclub.org

Border Conservation Program Manager

Vacant

Water Sentinels Program Manager

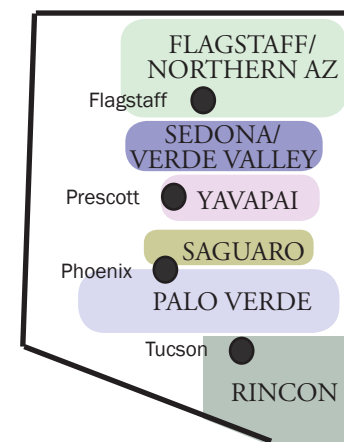
Jennifer Martin 602-254-8362 jennifer.martin@sierraclub.org

Southwest Local Outdoors Coordinator

Sergio Avila 520-624-7080 sergio.avila@sierraclub.org

Southern AZ Energy Program Coordinator

Catalina Ross 520-312-2849 catalina.ross@sierraclub.org



(xc) 2021 Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) members

BIPOCC: Black Indigenous People of Color Committee

CHAPTER OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chair/Membership	Kathy Mohr-Almeida (xc)	480-329-8503	kathlynn626@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	Meg Weesner (xc)	520-576-2083	mweesner@att.net
Secretary:	Joe Shannon	928-380-9537	jshannon278@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Gehlker	602-370-0128	canyonrat@icloud.com
Conservation:	Don Steuter	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
BIPOCC:	Oscar Medina (xc)	520-903-8005	oscardemedinagomez@gmail.com
Political:	Korey Hjelmeir (xc)	480-734-0926	khjelmeir@hotmail.com
Outings:	Jenny Cobb	928-925-1320	cobbsrun@msn.com
Water Co-Chair:	Joshua Preston (xc)	520-904-8291	farmerjp99@gmail.com
Water Co-Chair:	Gary Beverly (xc)	928-308-1003	gbverde99@gmail.com
Wilderness:	Jim Vaaler (xc)	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
Council Delegate:	Stephanie Vázquez Salas (xc)	623-302-6889	stephanie.vazquez03@gmail.com
Council Alternate:	Anna Mohr-Almeida (xc)	480-329-8503	mmlkm02@gmail.com

2021 Group Voting Representatives to Chapter Ex-Com (see pp. 12-13 for contact information):

Flagstaff/N AZ:	Joe Shannon	Rincon:	Jasmine Angulo	Yavapai:	Tom Slaback
Palo Verde:	Don Steuter	Saguaro:	Jo Sylvester		

Chapter Announcements

APR 11 (SUN) 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

MAY (TBD) 6:30 p.m. Political Committee meeting (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.

APR 12, MAY 10, JUN 14 (MON) 6 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

APR 27, MAY 25, JUN 29 (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

MAY (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.

JUN 1 (MON) Copy deadline for Summer 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.

National Sierra Club Elections Are Underway – VOTE by April 28

A democratic Sierra Club demands grassroots participation, and your involvement in the election of the Board of Directors is crucial for a strong Sierra Club

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club board election should have received their ballot in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) in early March. The ballot includes information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club’s web site.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

How can I learn about the candidates? Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can visit the Club’s election web site for

additional information about candidates:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/board-directors-election-2021>

Then make your choice and cast your vote! Voting online is quick and easy! Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage and to make vote-counting easier. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received no later than April 28, 2021.



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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

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Sandy Bahr – twitter.com/SLBahr
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Grand Canyon Campaign – bit.ly/protectgc_twitter



Chapter – bit.ly/gcc_fb
AZ Water Sentinels – bit.ly/azsentinels_fb
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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

Continuing the Fight for Oak Flat

The Sierra Club has partnered with filmmaker Craig Johnson to present the Fight for Oak Flat, a documentary series about the proposed Resolution Copper Mine in Arizona and the people, including from Apache Stronghold, Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners, and Sierra Club, among others, who are fighting to stop the mine from destroying Oak Flat, or Chi’chil Bildagoteel, a unique natural area held sacred by Indigenous people.

The Fight for Oak Flat Part 4, the final installment of the series, was released in March, 2021. Part 4, A Spiritual Battle for Sacred Land, tells the story of how Oak Flat was almost privatized last March. It also takes a deeper look at the spirituality of the Western Apache people and explains why Oak Flat is critical to the continued practice of their religion.

View part 4 here. You can follow these links to view [part 1](#), [part 2](#), and [part 3](#).

Please also [use this link](#) to contact your Representative and Senators to ask them to co-sponsor and support a reintroduced version of the Save Oak Flat bill to repeal the land exchange. See more ways to take action for Oak Flat by going to: apache-stronghold.com/take-action.html.



Thank You to Our Donors!

NOTE: These lists include donations received from January 1 through March 15.

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Donors continued from p. 4.

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If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

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Thank you to all who donated to protect our borderlands.

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Photo by Dan Millis.



Thank you to all who donated to our Political Action Committee.

Jan Buckwalter
 Scott Cooley
 John Kelley

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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>



One Planet, One Future. Climate Justice Now

First Ever Virtual Environmental Day at the Capitol a Huge Success

By Sandy Bahr

While the COVID-19 virus forced us to move our annual lobby day, Environmental Day at the Capitol, to the virtual world, we were still able to gather together to be informed, inspired, and to meet with our legislators to encourage positive action on climate, water, and more.

On February 3rd, Tucson Mayor Regina Romero kicked off the day with an inspiring talk about what the city is doing and working on to address the climate crisis and encouraged all to participate in actions at the Arizona Legislature. Other highlights of the day included a [youth-led news conference](#) where high school students read love letters to the Earth (see page 7), followed by a [video from Arizona Interfaith Power and Light](#) that featured a legislator and various activists and leaders reading their love letters to the Earth.

Thanks to Civic Engagement Beyond Voting for helping people learn how to sign up for and use the Request to Speak System to register support or opposition to bills, Protect Our Water Arizona for informing us about fracking and its impacts on northern Arizona waters, and the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators for giving a briefing on positive actions the Legislature could take on climate and wildlife and also on a few of the bills to stop. We all learned a lot!

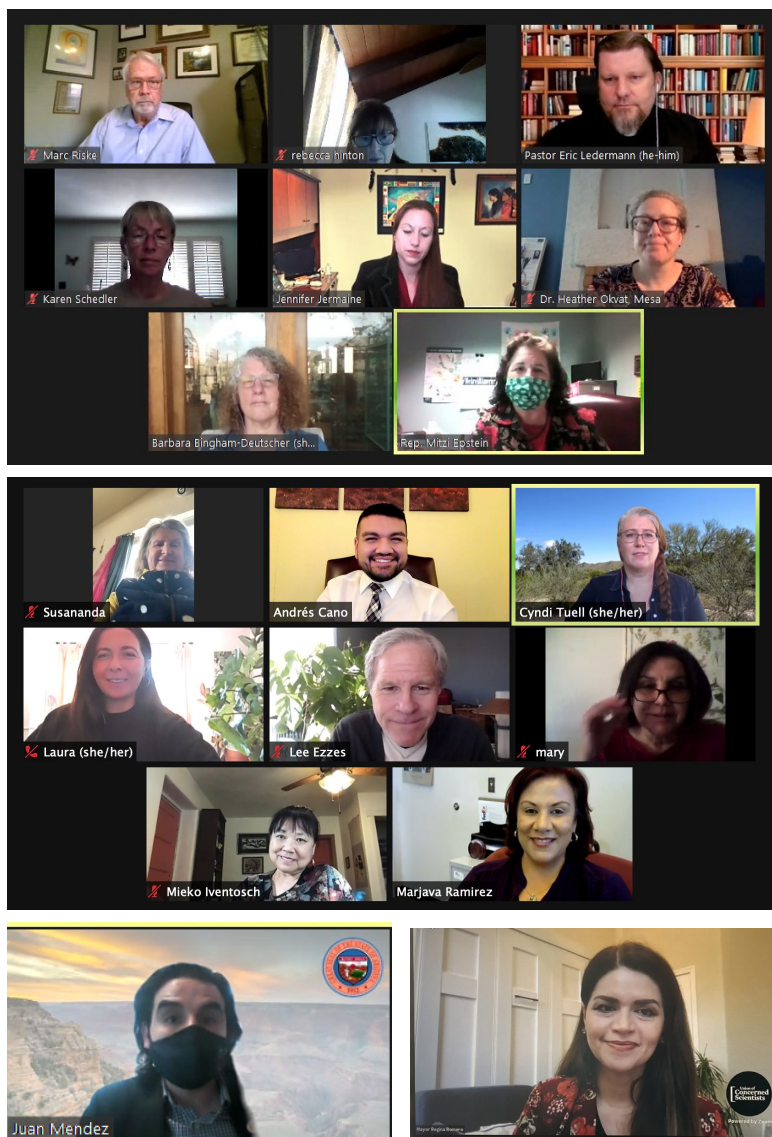
People from most districts were able to meet with at least one of their legislators, but sadly some legislators just flat out

refused to meet and a few ended up with conflicts. We encourage everyone to continue to meet with and talk to their legislators beyond this lobby day, including via calls, emails, and virtual programs. If you need help setting up appointments, don't hesitate to reach out. It makes a difference!

The positive bills on climate, water, and voting have all died this session, so right now we are mostly working to stop bad legislation, including attacks on clean energy and restrictions on limiting carbon emissions, establishing a weak water quality program for a limited number of rivers and streams, making it difficult to challenge large factory farms as nuisances, allowing plastics to fuel facilities to be regulated more lightly as manufacturing rather than as waste facilities, limiting early voting and making it more difficult, among other bills and issues. To keep up on what is up at the Arizona Legislature, [sign up for our legislative updates here](#) or go to our website and [check out legislative tracker here](#).

Thanks to the more than 20 organizations and all of the volunteer leaders who helped make Environmental Day at the Capitol a huge success and for all that you do every day to take action on protecting public health and the environment. We have a great start, but will need more and more people from a diversity of backgrounds to really center the Arizona Legislature on our Environmental Day theme, "One Planet. One Future. Climate Justice Now!" You can be a part of that effort.

Sandy is Chapter Director



Top: Rep Mitzi Epstein and Rep Jennifer Jermaine meet with volunteer lobbyists from legislative district 18. **Middle:** Rep Andrés Cano meets with volunteers from LD3. **Bottom:** Sen Juan Mendez and Regina Romero, Tucson Mayor, also took time to speak and answer questions.

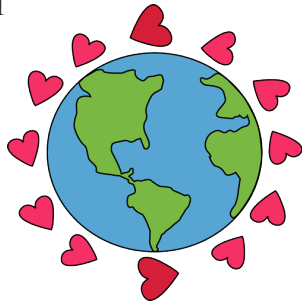
Keep up to Date with the AZ Legislature

Are you signed up for legislative email updates? Emails are sent weekly, and you can register here:

<http://bit.ly/legislativeemail>

Love Letters to the Earth

As part of Environmental Day at the Capitol and Earth Day 2021, we are gathering love letters to the Earth in partnership with Arizona Interfaith Power and Light, Arizona Faith Network, and the Franciscan Renewal Center.



You can [view more love letters to the Earth online here](#). On Environmental Day, high school students hosted a news conference and read love letters to the Earth, and there was also a spirit circle featuring love letters hosted by Doug Bland, Executive Director of Arizona Interfaith Power and Light.

If you are interested in writing and reading your own love letter to the Earth, please send a two-minute video submission to submit@phoenixuu.org.

The following letter was written by Ellie Finley

Our beautiful earth is suffering. While more and more people, young and old, are joining the movement to address the heart-breaking effects of climate change, our elected officials are simply proceeding with business as usual. I say this because we are all too distracted disagreeing on whether the earth needs protection and how to save it, instead of taking action.

However we know what must be done, whether that be wildlife conservation, cleaning pollutants on our lands and oceans, or saving multiple ecosystems like our rainforests and the arctic.

We cannot ignore this problem or be pessimistic about the resolutions. Both of these ideas are harmful and hinder the solution for the huge environmental problems that we have been facing since 1992 at the Earth Summit, and we are still in this never ending cycle of debate and discussion. We must be optimistic; we can and we should face these

continued on page 8

Cast of Characters

Korey Hjelmeir

Written by Meg Weesner

I first got to know Korey Hjelmeir on a cold, windy day near Pearce, Arizona (Cochise County). We were setting up release tents for burrowing owls, on a Sierra Club outing in cooperation with Wild At Heart, an Arizona-based raptor rescue organization. As we struggled to keep our fingers warm, we put together the frames of pipe and draped them with netting. Then the most fun part—we released a pair of cute little owls into each enclosure, where they would be fed for a month while they adapted to their new burrows, previously constructed.

Korey Hjelmeir (pronounced JEL-MEER) has served as Chair of the Grand Canyon Chapter's Political Committee since 2019. She was just appointed to the chapter's Executive Committee to fill a vacant two-year term. She also serves on the Palo Verde Group Executive Committee.

Korey grew up in the Pacific Northwest and admits to a life-long interest in conservation and politics. She had always been

active in contacting legislators about issues. For her, everything in environmental action comes down to politics—electing the people “who will vote the right way on our issues.”

A few years ago, Korey was attending Environmental Day at the Capital. Then-Chair Dale Volz invited her to the Political Committee (PolCom) meeting that followed the day of lobbying. Though she was hungry and wanted to go for the pizza, she had a conflicting meeting that evening. Nonetheless, she learned about Sierra Club's political activities and volunteered for the PolCom. Now she is serving as its Chair for the third straight year.

The chapter's PolCom consists of about 12 activists from around the state. Their role is “to work on getting candidates elected who will support environmental issues.” Endorsement is

continued on page 11



Korey (right) joins volunteers in staking the area for burrow construction with Wild at Heart at River Ridge Guest Ranch in Hereford, AZ. *Photo by Kim Ratell.*

Love Letters to the Earth continued from page 7

school we work to build a community that cares for the Earth through the education of our students, so that one day they can create a better future for the climate. We try to protect the Earth in the little ways we can. But in our government we have little to no action to address large-scale, systemic problems that have real change. To do this, we must have leaders willing to lead, not passive participants watching things fail. The Earth is worth it; it's all we have. Thank you for your time.

Ellie is a Sky Islands High School Student

Spotlight on Borderlands

“Terminus Unleashed” is a poem in the form of a Horatian ode that imagines a contemporary incarnation of the Roman god of borders, Terminus.
By Kenneth D. Madsen, Associate Professor of Geography at The Ohio State University at Newark.

Rome. Westphalia. Berlin. Jerusalem.
Like a retiree unable to
Make it on a meager pension,
You don't stay out of the limelight very long.
Perhaps you were upset when you got the
Cold shoulder at the end of the Cold War.
Maybe you missed the attention,
Prompting a return to greater prominence.

The United States of America.
Borders have matured since Jupiter used
To validate your vocation;
If maturing is what one wants to call it.
The Han and Ming Dynasties, your heroes.
Cross-cultural credentials on file, check!
But while quite an inspiration,
Europe packaged and exported your essence.

“A big, beautiful wall.” Magnificent!
And to think, the United States was once
Critical of your excesses.
Yet today you have been universalized.
Not just yesterday's Germany, Israel's
Green Line, the DMZ, nor the U.S.;
But any siblings with stresses:
India, Bangladesh; Ecuador, Peru ...

Oh, divider-in-chief, how you forget
That back in the day both sides agreed to
Validate your vital power;
Jointly consecrating through ceremony.
Fences? Walls? Electrified? Even topped
With razor wire? They're but the latest styles.

No longer constrained, you tower.
No longer just a second-rate Roman god.

You're now petitioned and worshiped galore.
Politicians increasingly call on
You to back their imperium,
But now one has sold his heart and soul to you.
“Build the wall” is your latest calling card.
The Roosevelt Easement re-established
Your own Roman Pomerium,
Now extended east through eminent domain.

In the U.S. laws yield to your desires.
Protections for parks, archeology
Sites, graves, farmland, and coastal zones.
Eagle habitat. Caves. The Clean Water Act.
Gone. Constitutional controversies.
The Administrative Procedures Act?
Good riddance. Sikes has been de-throned.
Yet pine trees and apple orchards get a pass.

The audaciousness is astonishing.
Minions honor your legacy along
The boundary with Mexico,
Invalidating competing religions.
There is no accountability when
It comes to your latest whims. (Hidalgo,
San Diego, Calexico:
¡Atención topónimos en español!

Yes, there is voluntary compliance.
Environmental Stewardship Plans, not
Assessments or Impact Statements.

We're supposed to concede, what's the difference?
A century's worth of protections are
Brusquely dismissed. Responsibility
Shifted from experts to agents,
Untrained in the skills required to comply.

Sadly, entries are displaced, not deterred.
Walls fuel dangerous manifestations
Of your nemesis Mercury,
Jesus Malverde is now more powerful.
Los Zetas, Tijuana, Beltrán-Leyva:
As one goes down, another takes its place.
Futile even for Hercules.
Certainly your funding will never keep pace.

Despite your skills people find a way in.
Flows travel through, under, over, around,
Via guarded ports-of-entry.
Ultimately making their destinations.
Crossings become longer, more expensive,
But rarely stopped. The appeal of walls and
Fences is elementary,
Yet in practice ineffective and deadly.

Deaths by dehydration in the desert.
Drownings in the Mediterranean.
Bodies in Asia on fences.
More dramatic offerings than ancient Rome.
Order maintained through such sacrifices.
Old-stone savagery pales alongside these
Violent borders. Now hence is
February's consecration – on steroids.

Madsen, Kenneth D. 2021. Terminus Unleashed: Divine Antecedents of Contemporary Borders. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*.
You can read the full article, including footnotes to the poem, online here: <https://doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2020.1865185>

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Earth Day in AZ



Thursday, April 22, 2021

Chandler

The Environmental Education Center is hosting a free drive-by celebration on April 17 including grab bags with crafts and activities. See more information here: [eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-and-arbor-day-celebration-drive-thru-tickets-148120198501](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-and-arbor-day-celebration-drive-thru-tickets-148120198501)

Flagstaff

Activities include virtual events and discussion leading up to Earth Day. On Earth Day, there will be socially distanced clean ups across Flagstaff parks—registration required. See more information and register here: flagstaff.az.gov/1439/Earth-Day

Glendale

Virtual Earth Day celebration: check out helpful earth-friendly resources and ways to celebrate Earth Day at home. See details here: glendaleaz.com/live/city_services/water_services/water_conservation_and_sustainable_living/earthday

Mesa

Activities include an Earth Day celebration in Carriage Lane Park, as well as virtual events throughout the month of April. See details here: mesaaz.gov/residents/sustainability/earth-day

Phoenix

Multiple activities include a 2021 Earth Day Challenge Run/Walk, a clean up, and a drive-by event. See details here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az-phoenix/earth-day-events/>

Prescott

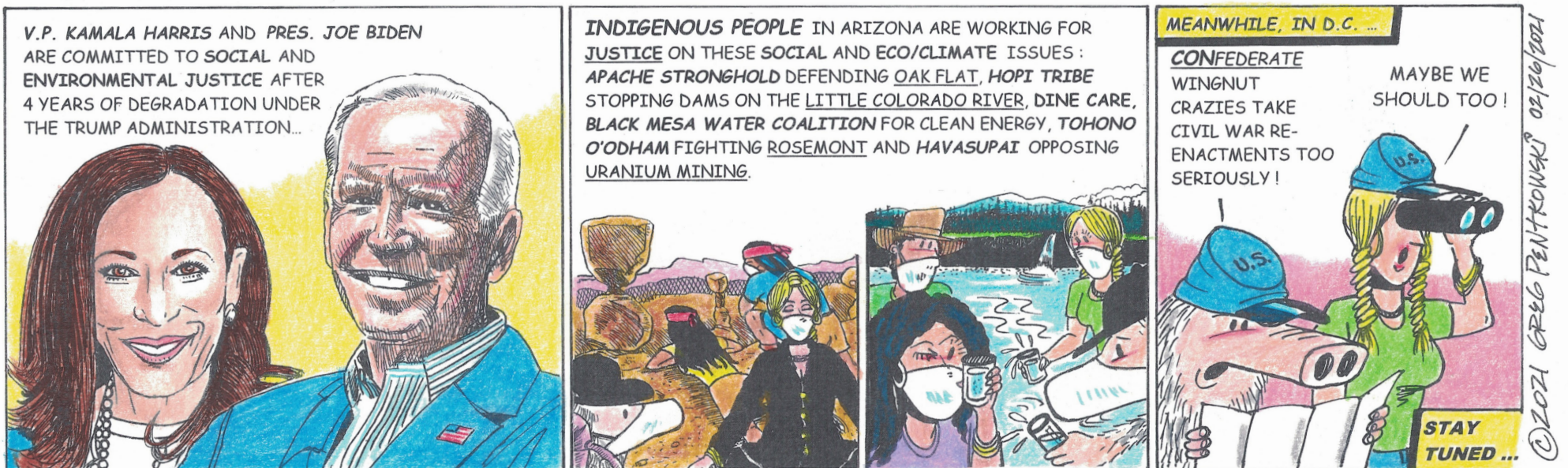
Activities include an Earth Day celebration in Granite Creek Park, as well as virtual events throughout the month of April. See more information here: prescottearthday.org

Tucson

Multiple activities include a 2021 Earth Day Challenge Run/Walk and drive-by event. See more information here: [eventbrite.com/d/az-tucson/earth-day-events](https://www.eventbrite.com/d/az-tucson/earth-day-events)

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


By Greg Pentkowski



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Get to Know Arizona Wildlife:

Grand Canyon Pink Rattlesnake

By Erin Hunt 

The Grand Canyon Pink Rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus abyssus*) is found in northwestern and north-central Arizona in Grand Canyon and north into southern Utah. While they can live in a variety of habitats, including grassland, desert scrubland, cliff slopes, woodland, and pine forests, it's pretty amazing for Arizonans that these special snakes are found nowhere else in the world!



Credit: National Park Service

They are named for their unique habitat in Grand Canyon, where they were first discovered, and for their coloring, which can be red, pink, green, yellow, tan, or gray with or without dark blotches or crossbands. This adaptation helps them stay well-camouflaged amongst the red rocks and cliffs of Grand Canyon.

While they are venomous, they avoid people unless they feel threatened. If you see one of these beautiful snakes out in nature, give the snake some space (at least three times its body length) and time to move away. Don't try to move the snake, but do consider yourself lucky to have seen one of Arizona's incredible native species!

Pink rattlesnakes grow up to 54 inches long and hunt squirrels, mice, lizards, and birds, playing an important role in our environment by maintaining balance in prey populations.

Wondering how to help snakes and other Arizona wildlife? Try these tips!

- Learn about the snake species in your area and spread the word. Who doesn't want to know cool snake secrets?!
- Many animals are injured or killed by vehicles. Drive carefully to give snakes and other wildlife time to move out of the road.
- Preserve the wild places that snakes and other species call home. Visiting Grand Canyon? Do your part to keep the natural wonders of the canyon intact for wildlife and people.
- Volunteer with Sierra Club or at your local nature center, wildlife refuge, or zoo.

Erin is a Coordinator for Lobos of the Southwest in Tucson, AZ

Retrospect

By Michael Gregory

All winter my neighbors and I out here in the high desert had been seeing far more cottontails and jackrabbits than normal. Then in early April we started finding their bodies — no marks of predators or scavengers, just fresh bodies.

By summer, the government was reporting thousands dead across the Southwest from a new hemorrhagic virus they said was unrelated to the Covid 19 that surged across the US a month or so later.

In late summer, hundreds of thousands of songbirds fell out of the sky along the Rocky Mt flyways, starved to death by the combination of heat and drought preventing their plant and invertebrate food supply and the unprecedented fury of forest fires forcing them into early migration without enough fuel to make it all the way south and not enough food or water at the usual rest stops dried up from the same drought, the same record heat that desiccated the forests.

The dry washes that transect my forty acres stayed dry this year, not once running with stormwater from the mountains as they used to several times each summer, the rains that used to come “regular as rain” never happened, the least rainfall in the past twenty-year decline — no thunderheads building up each afternoon, no cloudbursts and lightning, no toad choruses from puddles and ponds after downpours. No downpours. This fall for the first time in my life I hung up feeders for the birds because for the first time as long as anyone can remember there was no wild food — no seeds, no bugs. For the first time, I didn't rush to beat them and the bees to the apples and pears in the orchard but watched bemused as they enjoyed the green fruit, sipped water from the drip emitters under the trees. And not just here. In the next valley west, the San Pedro — ribbon of life to hundreds of species, world famous for its biological diversity — never ran more than a trickle, none of the normal torrential floods we'd hoped would give the lie to the ugly, arrogant obscenity of the wall Homeland Security had built bank-to-bank across the riverbed



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).

Readers Respond

Last issue we asked, “How has the pandemic changed your relationship with the outdoors?”

The following was submitted by Sally Howland:

The COVID pandemic has kept people from traveling far from home so many have turned to hiking the local hiking trails. This is great as long as people follow the rules and etiquette of the trails. One of those problems was: What to do when the “call of nature” takes you by surprise way out on the trail? This has always been a problem but has been exasperated by the growing number of hikers and inexperienced hikers. So as a result, there are a lot more tissues and toilet paper fluttering around on the trails or a short distance off the trail.

I have never enjoyed seeing a tissue left on the side of the trail or a few yards off the trail. But now we are seeing more than a few. Recently when I found a growing circle of tissues visibly off a trail at Spur Cross Conservation Area, I decided something should be done.

Toilet paper will biodegrade after five weeks if buried or exposed to a wet environment, and tissues, which are thicker will take even longer. So, in the meantime it is trash—disgusting trash to see in a scenic area and unhealthy for humans and the environment.

As a member of the Saguaro Group ex com I approached the subject during one of our Zoom meetings. We decided to design a poster focusing on the issue of tissues and toilet paper, and work with the ranger at Spur Cross Recreational Area in Cave Creek. This is something that would be of service to our community at a time when we couldn’t meet in person.

Ranger Kevin admitted this was a growing problem, as was all trash, with so many new hikers hitting the trail. He encouraged us to draft a poster for his supervisor to okay. After two drafts and recommendations from Kevin and his supervisor we came up with the final poster, which was printed and placed in areas close to the beginning of the trails at Spur Cross Conservation Area.

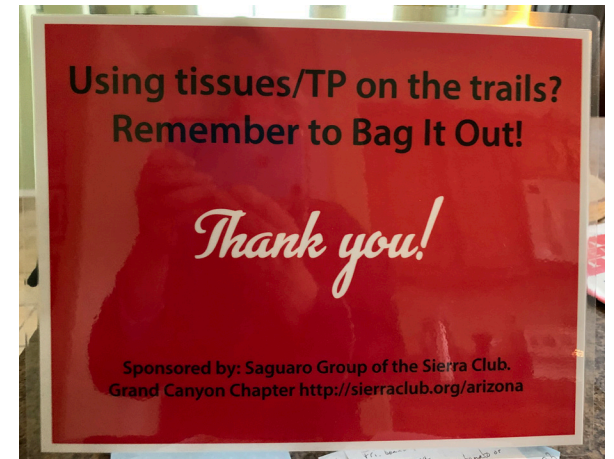
It is important to remind everyone to carry a plastic bag with them to carry out any and all trash that they accumulate, including all tissues or toilet paper.

Sally is the Secretary and Programs Chair for the Saguaro Group

The following was submitted by Carmen Pacheco:

My husband and I do not go anywhere other than to doctors and to grocery stores. Our daughter is a frontline worker and works long hours as a phlebotomist. Our neighbors and family members have contracted COVID-19 and thankfully have recovered but, since the Pandemic continues, we have no gatherings at our home as in the past. We pray for better days.

Carmen is a member of the Palo Verde Group



Photos courtesy of Sally Howland.

Cast of Characters continued from page 7

the most visible activity, but committee members also canvass, call, write postcards, and raise money for the chapter’s Political Action Committee, which supports our endorsed candidates. The PolCom reviews candidates for state-wide offices, the Arizona Legislature, and the Arizona Corporation Commission. They also work with Sierra Club Groups to endorse candidates for local and county offices. Korey has an encyclopedic knowledge of senators and representatives serving in the legislature; she says she has a “really big spread sheet” to track all 30 legislative districts. New members of the PolCom are always welcome. Meetings are monthly and most are by conference call, so anyone from around the state is encouraged to participate. Contact Korey if you are interested.

Korey studied business and computer science at University of Washington, but went in to business in real estate. Over the years, her work has included many aspects of real estate—agent, property management, mortgage, private real estate investment, and others. She moved from the Seattle area to Arizona in 2002—“the sun brought me here.” She lives in Scottsdale with her husband, Bryan Selna. In non-COVID times, they like to travel the US and internationally, and they hope to retire overseas. Until then, they travel to find just the right retirement spot.

Meg is Vice Chair of the Grand Canyon Chapter

Happenings Around AZ

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

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

Chair:	Meg Weesner (x)	520-576-2083	mweesner@att.net
Conservation:	Oscar Medina (x)	520-903-8005	oscardmedinagomez@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Ken Bierman	520-661-7555	kbierman1@gmail.com
Energy:	Russell Lowes (x)	520-321-3670	russlowes@gmail.com
Membership:	Thomas Hatfield		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
Group Rep:	Jasmine Angulo (x)	520-309-6232	
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Marie Swanson (x)		gleemarie@icloud.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Josh Ruddick (x)	520-561-6869	desertnaturalist@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Vacant		

Contact Meg Weesner for information about Rincon Group events

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 oscarmedinagomez@gmail.com or mweesner@att.net. The Rincon Group Executive Committee meets at the end of the Conservation Committee meeting, 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 Thursdays, **April 22, May 27, and June 24**. Please join us!

Rincon Group hosts educational workshops (formerly called "programs") on the second Thursday of the month from **7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** They are free and open to the public and will be conducted via Zoom during the coronavirus pandemic. Zoom links will be sent to the Rincon Group ListServ before each workshop. Anyone else who wishes to participate can get the Zoom link by sending an email to oscarmedinagomez@gmail.com or mweesner@att.net. The subject matter of each workshop will be announced when the link is made available. Dates for this quarter's educational workshops are Thursdays, **April 8, May 13, and June 10**.

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

Chair/Programs:	Rebecca Hinton (x)	602-405-1779	rahinton@hotmail.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 (x)	602-561-1359	lvaaler1@gmail.com
Conservation:	Don Steuter (x)	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
Membership:	Jim Dublinski (x)	480-532-2285	jdublinski@icloud.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Joshua Knight (x)	602-737-5477	knight.joshua@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Kathy Mohr-Almeida (x)	480-329-8503	kathylynn626@yahoo.com

Palo Verde group programs are **on the fourth Thursday every month at 6:30 p.m.** Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and are open to the public.

Contact Rebecca Hinton for more information.

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
Service/Membership:	Urb Weidner (x)	602-300-8505	northwoods@cox.net
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Vacant		

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
Treasurer:	Marcia Burns (x)	928-853-3132	swtropicals@yahoo.com
Outings:	Debbie McMahan (x)	928-707-0610	debbie_dsb@hotmail.com
Wildlife:	Kay Bordwell	928-779-3517	kbordwell4@gmail.com
Communications:	Sarah King (x)	602-576-6054	garbageldy@hotmail.com
Political Liaison:	Anthony Garcia		
Public Lands:	Emma Benenati (x)	928-527-3116	emmap.benenati@nau.edu

Flagstaff Group programs & Executive Committee meetings are held **on the second Thursday of the month**. Contact Joe Shannon for more information about events in 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:	Vacant		
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Stephen Cook (x)	575-418-9027	scook@projectworldview.org

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

Sierra Club Extends COVID-19 Response

On January 26th Sierra Club CEO Michael Brune announced that all Chapter and National offices will remain closed at least until Sunday, July 4th. Additionally, all domestic and international outings that begin between now and Sunday, July 4th, 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>.