

# CANYON ECHO

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona>

Grand Canyon Chapter

Winter 2021

## Justice for Arizona: *Canyon Echo* in 2021

In 2020 we saw one of the largest civil rights movements in history as people took to the streets worldwide in support of Black Lives Matter (BLM). Sierra Club called on members and supporters to advocate for BLM and defunding the police. These monumental movements coincided with a global pandemic and a worsening climate crisis. The publications committee came together to determine that the advancement of social and environmental justice are the most pressing topics we need to discuss in 2021. Please see below for dates and themes of each issue.

**Spring:** *History of Arizona Injustices* – this issue will celebrate local successes in the fight for social and climate justice. We will discuss problems that persist, and highlight actions that people took and can take to create justice. **Submission deadline: March 1, 2021.**

**Summer:** *Justice Today* – what are the most pressing injustices in Arizona right now? What is our community doing about it and how can people get involved? We will discuss these questions and more in our summer issue. **Submission deadline: June 1, 2021.**

**Fall:** *Justice Every Day* – this issue will examine what we want the future Arizona to look like and how we can work to create social and climate justice today and every day. **Submission deadline: Sept 1, 2021.**

## Taking Action for Oak Flat

*International Day of Prayer and Action for Chi'chil Bildagoteel, or Oak Flat*

By Brytnee Laurette 

On Dec. 21, the Winter Solstice, a volcano in Hawaii erupted. There were earthquakes across the globe and both Jupiter and Saturn could be seen embracing in the night sky. That Monday marked the International Day of Prayer and Action for Chi'chil Bildagoteel, or Oak Flat.

“Today is a good day,” youth activist Naelyn Pike said, kicking off the Day of Prayer and Action online event. “What a great day for us to continue to pray and continue to stand for Oak Flat and to show as a people that it’s not just an Apache fight, it’s not just an Arizona fight, it’s not just a Native fight. It’s an all-people’s fight.”

The Oak Flat Day of Prayer and Action came together in response to the Trump administration fast-tracking an environmental analysis—the last step before Oak Flat is handed over to international mining giant Rio Tinto.

Oak Flat, located about an hour east of Phoenix in the Tonto National Forest, is sacred to the Apache, who gather medicines and hold coming-of-age ceremonies there. [The fight to save](#)

[Oak Flat](#) sets a precedent for protecting sacred sites.

Rio Tinto and its partner, BHP Billiton, tried for years to convince Congress to give them Oak Flat to mine for copper. In 2014, the late Sen. John McCain slipped a rider into a must-pass defense funding bill that authorized the swap, breathing new life into Rio Tinto’s Resolution Copper Mine. A new coalition, the [Apache Stronghold](#), was formed just a few weeks after former President Obama signed the bill into law. It organized hundreds of people to march from the San Carlos

*Oak Flat continued on page 3*

### Send Your Message

To contact your members of Congress, you can use this link:

[addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/save-oak-flat-and-stop-rio-tintos-destructive-copper-mine](http://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/save-oak-flat-and-stop-rio-tintos-destructive-copper-mine)

You can check for additional actions here:

[apache-stronghold.com](http://apache-stronghold.com)

\*See page 3 for more ways to take action for Oak Flat.

*Oak Flat photo by Jim Dublinski.*



Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



# Arizona Chapter Action Directory

## Canyon Echo

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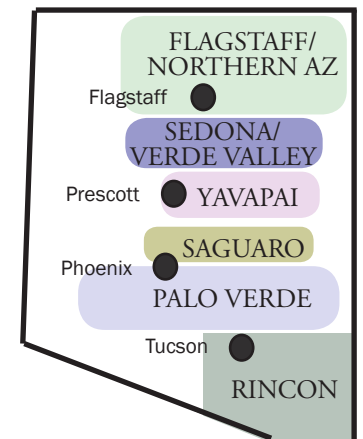
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*BIPOCC: Black Indigenous People of Color Committee*

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

## Chapter Announcements

**JAN 23 (SAT) 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](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org)

**JAN, FEB, MAR (TBD) 6:30 p.m. Political Committee meetings (virtual).** Help us elect more environmentally-friendly candidates! If you are interested in helping improve the political climate in Arizona, consider being part of our Political Committee! All Sierra Club members are welcome to participate. For information, contact [political.chair@grandcanyon.sierraclub.org](mailto:political.chair@grandcanyon.sierraclub.org).

**JAN 11, FEB 8, MAR 8 (MON) 6:00 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](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org)

**JAN 26, FEB 23, MAR 23 (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](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org)

**FEB (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](mailto:mweesner@att.net) or Lydia Wilson at 602-253-9140 or [lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org](mailto:lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org).

**MAR 1 (MON) Copy deadline for Spring 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](mailto:lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org) to discuss word count, photos to include, licensing, issue topics, and to request submission guidelines.

*Oak Flat continued from page 1*

Apache reservation to Oak Flat.

Thousands of people worldwide have been marching and protesting in the years since in hopes of saving Oak Flat. December's digital rally provided an outlet to gather in prayer and call on our elected representatives to support the Save Oak Flat Act's reintroduction in 2021. The bill, first introduced by U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT), would, would repeal the land swap provisions in the 2014 law.

Rio Tinto has a history of destroying sacred sites. [Oyu Tolgoi Watch](#) was formed in Mongolia in response to Rio Tinto's mining project in traditional herding lands. [Sukhgerel Dugersuren](#), a representative from the organization, shared her peoples' struggle against the mining company and encouraged solidarity so all Indigenous people can be heard.

Reverend Dr. William Barber and Rev. Liz Theoharis of the [Poor People's Campaign](#) called on the crowd to pray and join the Apache Stronghold in solidarity, because this fight is about religious freedom. Naelyn Pike closed the Day of Action event with a call to action.

"I am asking you to make a stand," she said. "Do not be a bystander to the continued genocide of Native people. Call your Congress people. Call your political leaders. Pray. Don't let this be another project that passes and will destroy our way of life. So please stand with us."

Several thousand people have already taken action for Oak Flat since then. Will you join us?

*Brytnee Laurette works as the public lands campaigner with the Center for Biological Diversity and is a fierce advocate for Oak Flat*

We need everyone to ask their members of Congress to support reintroducing, co-sponsoring, and voting for the Save Oak Flat Act in 2021. Here are their phone numbers.

- Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (202) 224-4521
- Sen. Mark Kelly (202) 224-2235
- Rep. Tom O'Halleran (202) 225-3361
- Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (202) 225-2542
- Rep. Raúl Grijalva (202) 225-2435
- Rep. Paul Gosar (202) 225-2315
- Rep. Andy Biggs (202) 225-2635
- Rep. David Schweikert (202) 225-2190
- Rep. Ruben Gallego (202) 225-4065
- Rep. Debbie Lesko (202) 225-4576
- Rep. Greg Stanton (202) 225-9888

*Please be sure to also use the links on page 1 to take action for Oak Flat!*

## Support Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund

As COVID-19 continues to rage throughout the United States, it is having a disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities, including the Hopi and Navajo. With the lockdowns and great economic impacts from COVID, the need for assistance is greater than ever. The Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund has raised \$6 million and has used those funds to bring resources to Navajo and Hopi communities. Recently, however, there has been a new spike in cases both with the Hopi and Navajo and new lockdowns, so another wave of funding is needed to provide food boxes to families in need.

Please consider additional donations by going to: [gofundme.com/f/xjgrfa-navajo-amp-hopi-families-covid19-relief-fund](https://gofundme.com/f/xjgrfa-navajo-amp-hopi-families-covid19-relief-fund)

You can also donate by writing a check to "Nonprofit Fiscal Services" (their fiscal sponsor), putting "Navajo/Hopi Relief" in the subject line, and mailing it to 623 East 2100 South, Suite B1, Salt Lake City, UT 84106.

## Keep Up to Date with Our Chapter!

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**Palo Verde Group** - [bit.ly/pvg\\_meetup](https://bit.ly/pvg_meetup)  
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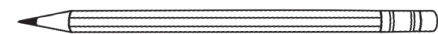


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**Rincon Group** - <http://bit.ly/rinconfb>  
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**Saguaro Group** - [http://bit.ly/saguaro\\_fb](http://bit.ly/saguaro_fb)

## Readers Respond

"How has the pandemic changed your relationship with the outdoors? What outdoor activity are you most looking forward to once pandemic restrictions start to ease? How could you create a different version of it now?"

We want to hear from you! Each issue, the publications committee will pose a question to our readers. If you are inspired to respond, please do so in 200 words or less, and send your submission to [lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org](mailto:lydia.wilson@sierraclub.org). The best response(s) will be published in the next issue.



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**Legislative** email updates are sent weekly during the legislative session.



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



## One Planet, One Future. Climate Justice Now

### Join us for virtual Environmental Day at the Capitol and Resource Zooms!

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

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



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

We will be hosting Resource Zooms leading up to Environmental Day as well as Volunteer Lobby Workshops. Team leaders will set up virtual meetings with legislators and assist with logistics. We try to make sure most participants meet with their own legislators. Sign up early to get information on the resource Zooms and other training as well as to get connected to your legislative team. Here is a preliminary schedule for the Resource Zooms:

<p><b>Jan 8</b></p> <p>Arizona Water 101</p> <p>12 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Jan 12</b></p> <p>Ecological Water</p> <p>6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Jan 13</b></p> <p>Arizona Heritage Fund</p> <p>2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Jan 15</b></p> <p>Climate Justice Action (English and Spanish)</p> <p>12 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Jan 22</b></p> <p>Pre-emption &amp; City Climate Plans</p> <p>8 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Jan 22</b></p> <p>Wildlife/Wolves/Game &amp; Fish</p> <p>12 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Jan 22</b></p> <p>Request to Speak system</p> <p>6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Jan 28</b></p> <p>Volunteer Lobby Workshop</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Jan 29</b></p> <p>Democracy: Voting rights and protection of ballot measure rights</p> <p>12 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Jan 29</b></p> <p>Issues briefing on bills we will be lobbying on Environmental Day</p> <p>6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Feb 3</b></p> <p>Environmental Day</p> <p>8:30 a.m – 2 p.m.</p>	

Check our chapter calendar for a complete and updated list: [sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities](http://sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities).

## Go See the Wall Construction to Understand

By Christina Moodie



We will not be all right. This Wall proves it. No matter how optimistic the historians are about American resilience, we will not be all right.

Go see the Wall. It's extremely huge — not possible to grasp from photos. Dark, heavy steel giving oppressive vibes. It's tall and dark and long and grinding, right over and through Boulder-headed mountains.

"Vibes" sounds light, but these vibes are the physical reality of massively tall steel tubes running black against white sky like piano keys or a monstrous in-

strument being strung forcibly skyward, the wind vibrating the steel. A plaintive cry. It's been recorded.

It is a thing felt in the soul—the same soul-sickening wrongness you feel when looking at pictures of Nazi concentration camps. You see it and you know we've been here before.

Symbols can destroy. Fences, walls topped with razor wire—these are more than a means to repel people. Just photographs of these brutal control barriers are frightening. This Wall is so massively made to scream, "Be afraid!"

Heavily rolling across vast expanses of desert the incongruous march of steel frightens the soul as well as blackening the landscape.

What is this Wall besides a destructive billboard? Of course it states, "Stay out!" But it says so much more. Its size, its breadth, its mandate to ignore all United States laws, citizens' properties, and environmental protections speaks volumes about losing our freedoms. If this mandate to build, no matter what, can stand, quite literally, as an advertisement that says brutality and force are the answer to our problems, then we're assuring our own destruction.

Historians say that our country has come through other horrifically trying times. That our foundational laws push us through periods of ugly confrontation and we come out the better for it.

I'm not sure that is a guaranteed result. Our mythology wants to forever frame us as being capable of positive change. But what if we refuse to change and we slide into authoritarianism?

I read recently that trying to present facts, explaining science or Constitutional law, or appealing to common humanity by way of an explanation to our shared problems, merely reinforces set prejudices that are based on uneducated stances. Knowledge, in this country, is often disdained.

So much damage from the Wall is happening.... I'm afraid all the feel-good proselytizing is worthless. I can tell you about

what is happening contemporaneously, or what happened historically (e.g., lessons from the Civil War), but if you are so hardened in your viewpoint against learning anything, nothing else will matter. It won't matter that the Wall disrupts the natural watershed or why that might personally affect you, it won't matter that animals won't be able to freely roam the vast terrain that sustains them, you won't care if the mountains have ugly scars ruining their formerly celebrated wildness—none of the environmental issues will matter to you.

So, will it matter to these stubborn deniers when their freedoms are lost because they wouldn't allow themselves to feel the wrongness of the Wall? If they won't factor in the nature-harming aspect, and the obvious human aspect,



*If this mandate to build, no matter what, can stand, quite literally, as an advertisement that says brutality and force are the answer to our problems, then we're assuring our own destruction.*

— Christina Moodie



**Top left photo:** Protesting walls built on Hia-Ced O'odham land at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. *Photo courtesy of Russ McSpadden/Center for Biological Diversity.*

**Bottom left photo:** New walls are destroying the Tinajas Altas Mountains, known to the O'odham as U'uva:k (place where the arrows fell). *Photo courtesy of Russ McSpadden/Center for Biological Diversity.*

Borderlands continued on page 9

*Borderlands continued from page 8*

then they are courting nothing less than a rejection of the moral basis for our country.

No, we will not be all right if this fascism continues. We are so far into this dictatorial pit that I don't believe we'll fully recover. Did we ever fully recover from the Civil War? I think not. Now, we have a country that is positioned in a vastly more complicated world. It is a seriously, seriously compromised world. In this same world, immigrants seek peace and a democracy where leaders use their resources to find solutions to their problems—not leaders that dictatorially toss aside laws they don't like.

If this Wall doesn't sing doomsday vibes to you, you're not listening and we will not be all right.

*Christina is a Sierra Club member in Tucson*

### Spotlight on Borderlands: Artwork

“My concern for the environment is lifelong, but when I learned about and saw the environmental destruction with the erection of the border wall and the pumping of water in a desert on our southern border—Pima and Santa Cruz counties and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to name a couple of places—I was very frustrated and angry. I don't need to tell you about all the devastation it is causing. The photograph of the art I am submitting for publication is actually a small clay sculpture depicting the Statue of Liberty facing the border wall. No title—it speaks for itself.”

*Submitted by Sierra Club member Peppervolf*



## What happened with the Arizona Corporation Commission Election and why should I care?

By Sandy Bahr



On the evening of November 3, 2020, it looked like we were going to see a real sea change at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) and elect a Democratic pro-solar majority. As the votes continued to roll in, the lead shifted and a Republican majority was sustained on the Commission, however. There was still good news as Arizona elected the first Latinas to statewide office when Anna Tovar (D) and Lea Márquez Peterson (R) were elected. (Sidenote: what took us so long?)

The ACC is a constitutionally established entity, a fourth branch of government in Arizona with constitutionally established ratemaking authority. It is responsible for regulation of utilities such as Arizona Public Service (APS), Tucson Electric Power (TEP), and Southwest Gas. It does not regulate Salt River Project (SRP) due to the way SRP was established, and does not regulate municipal utilities. The ACC regulates small water companies, securities, and railroad and pipeline safety, but a great deal of time is focused on utilities related to energy.

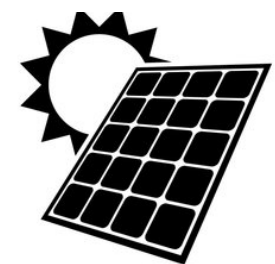
Anna Tovar was part of the solar team and has a strong record on environmental protection from her days at the Arizona Legislature and serving as mayor of Tolleson. She will join Commissioner Sandra Kennedy, the only other Democrat on the Commission. Together, they will be a strong voice for clean renewable energy, energy efficiency, and a just and equitable transition for coal-impacted communities.

Key to advancing these important measures and holding utilities accountable will be Commissioner Márquez Peterson, who recently supported a proposed clean energy

*ACC continued on page 13*

### Get Involved!

Want to learn more about energy issues in Arizona? Consider joining the Grand Canyon Chapter energy team! We meet monthly via Zoom and will meet again Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. You can join via webcam, computer, or telephone. Discussions encompass renewable energy and energy efficiency campaigns nationally and locally. See page 2 for more details.



# Governor and Health Director Again Leading State Off COVID Cliff

By Will Humble

The Governor announced a few tweaks to his policies in early December in response to the eye opening trajectory of the COVID epidemic in Arizona. Despite clear evidence that we were on an exponential growth curve and headed for another hospital capacity crisis in December, only minor new efforts were announced at his media conference.

He doubled the public service announcement budget for messages about how people should behave, reminding them to wash their hands, keep physically distant from others, and to wear a mask. Many of the PSA's feature audio and video of the governor or the health director. Others have more creative content.

The Phoenix, Tucson, and Mesa airports have testing stations where passengers can stop by for a free COVID rapid test.

Schools are now mandated to require that masks be worn on school campuses, on school buses, and during school-associated activities by all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors. This is probably the most sig-

nificant intervention that was mentioned at the press conference.

Hospitals will be receiving \$25M in CARES Act money to pay for healthcare worker staff bonuses or to supplement their personnel costs.

An Executive Order was issued making it clear that the SARS CoV2 immunizations should be entered into the state's immunization registry (ASIIS), making it easier to track patients for their follow up SARS CoV2 booster shot.

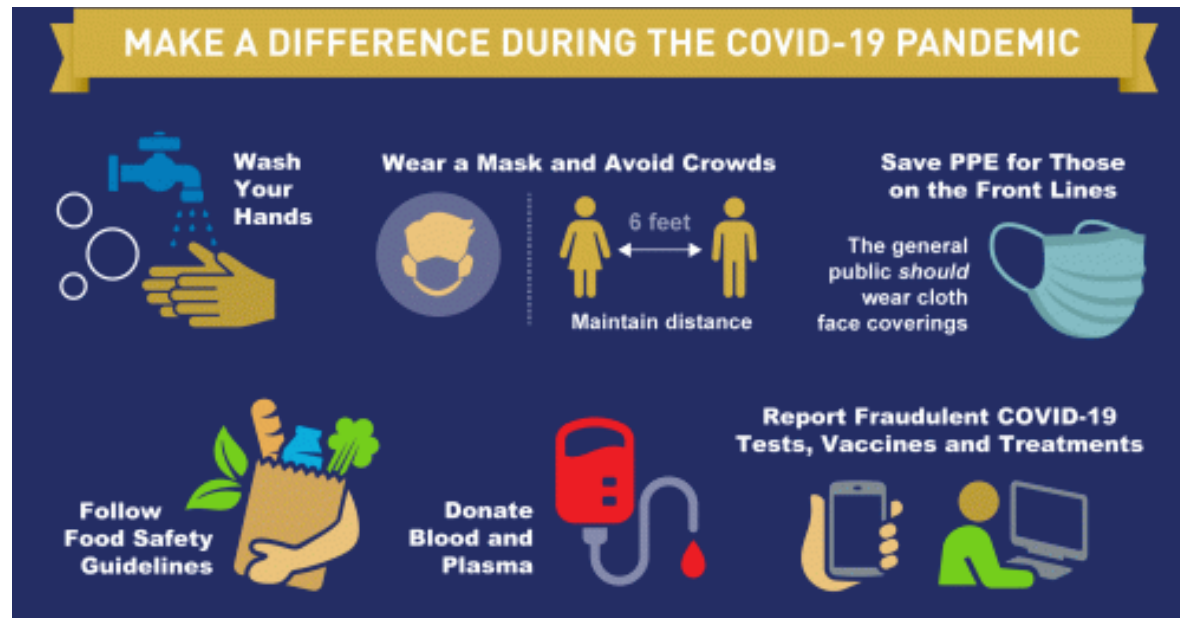
These measures were wholly inadequate to prevent another hospital capacity crisis in Arizona in December. Mitigation measures like a statewide, uniform, and enforceable face-covering mandate (placing the responsibility for compliance on businesses and organizations) and far better enforcement of mitigation measures in bars and restau-

rants were needed many weeks ago. Had they been implemented in October, when the case rate and trajectory began to increase, those interventions would have been able to slow down the spread enough to decrease the likelihood of a hospital crisis in December.

Many weeks of opportunities to benefit from better enforcement in bars

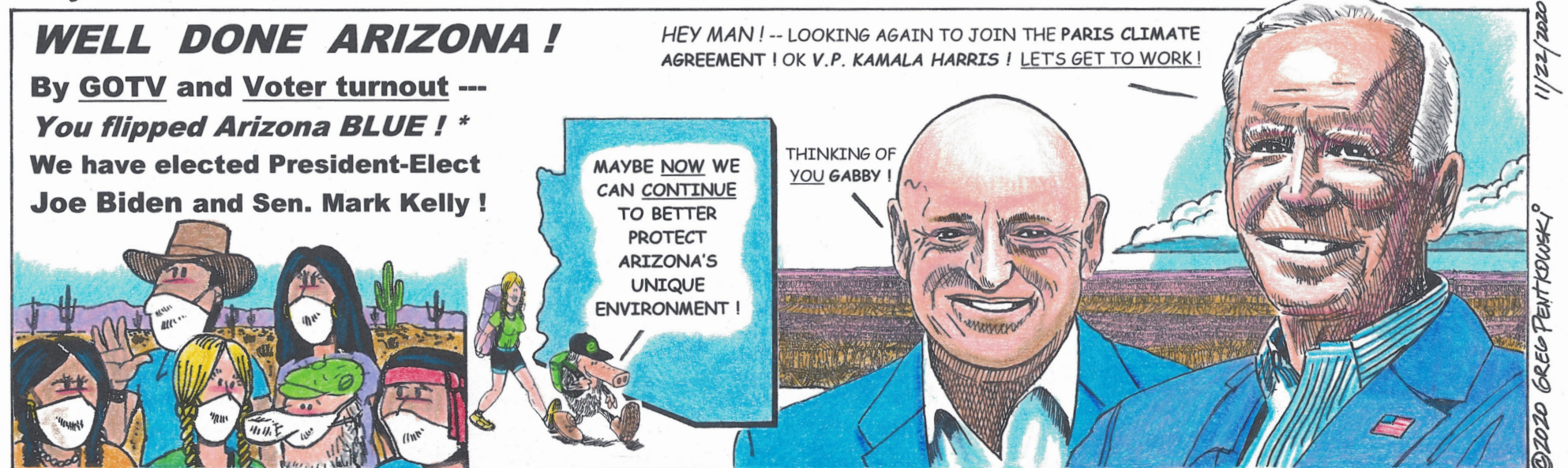
and restaurants, and a uniform and enforceable statewide mask mandate (with enforcement focused on businesses and organizations rather than individuals) were missed. Because of that, far more stringent measures would be needed at

COVID-19 continued on page 10



Graphic courtesy of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Beyond the Slab -- CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS OF PUBLISHED ECO-AWARENESS ! By Greg Pentkowski



\* AN ACCOMPLISHMENT - SINCE DEMOCRATIC HQ IN PHOENIX WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED BY AN ARSONIST A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTION.

COVID-19 continued from page 9

this point to prevent a hospital capacity crisis.

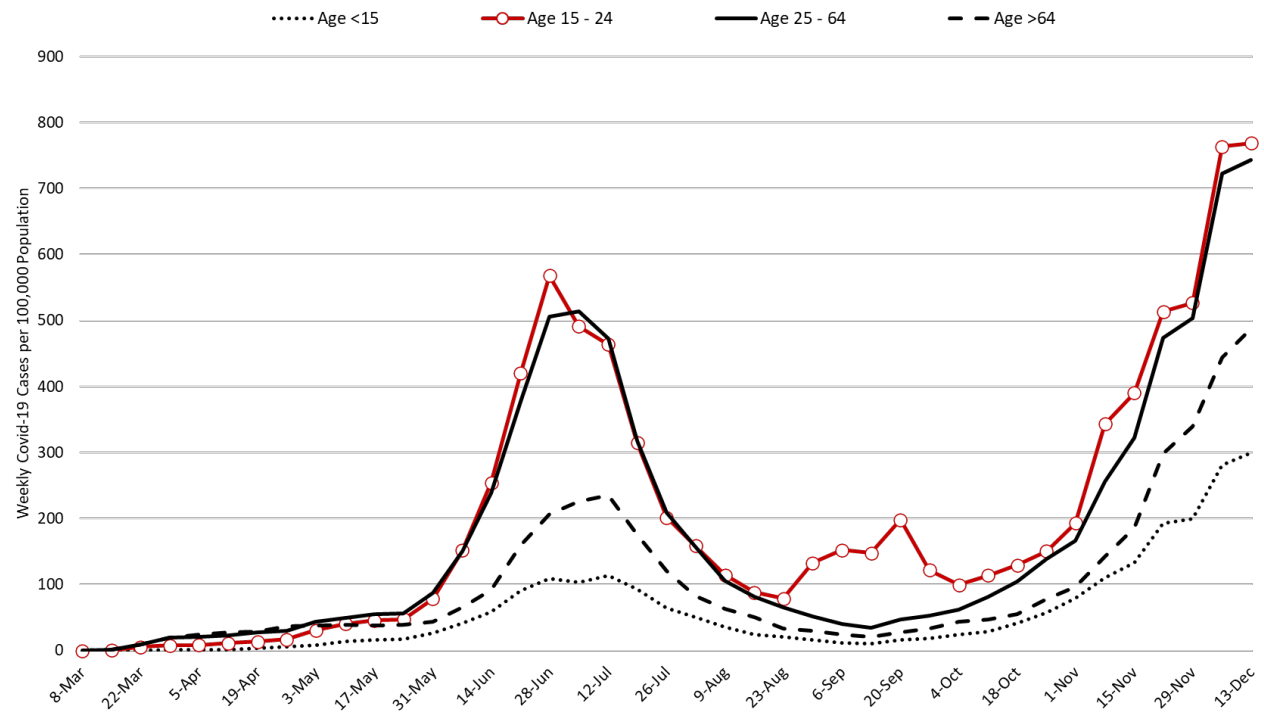
In my opinion, the die is cast, and we have a hospital capacity crisis, possibly including Crisis Standards of Care. The crisis is worse than our summer fiasco because there are very few out-of-state healthcare workers to contract with, our seasonal population of at-risk persons is increased now, and July represented the low-point of our normal seasonal hospital census.

Sadly, the hospital capacity crisis and the resulting loss of life were likely avoidable with targeted and timely evidence-based interventions a few months ago.

Get ready folks.

*Will is Executive Director for the Arizona Public Health Association*

Figure: Newly Diagnosed Covid-19 Cases in AZ by Age Group Mar 1 through Dec 13.



Graphic courtesy of publichealth.arizona.edu

## ANIMAL PLANET

By Laurie Jurs

Didn't plan it but we do it  
Now we got to live through it  
Stay home  
Don't roam  
Shelter in place  
Don't show your face

Thought I knew my home range after 33 years  
Maybe all this was always here  
Thought I knew my place  
But it wasn't the case  
Turns out I only scratched the surface  
And it is my monkey and it is my circus  
What I'm learning is giving me purpose

Noah's Ark  
Theme Park  
Dark skies  
Animal eyes  
Brand new world with each sunrise

If there's keys to the kingdom  
They're not mine to give  
The M.O. here is Live and Let Live

Siddhartha and St. Francis  
Sit beneath a tree  
TALKING  
Whether snake or toad or rat or bee  
Gotta Have a Heart  
And set them free

The rats go down on the Anza Trail  
Benevolent deportation  
There's been so many these last weeks  
Bet they've started their own nation

Y los cascabeles diamantinas  
Play their part in the cuarantenas  
And the Colorado sapos tan grandes tan feos  
Psychedelic con neurotoxicos  
And the swarms of bees, blessed pollinators  
Needed natural relocators  
And out on the road  
The monster from the Gila

Lumbers along like a mini-Godzeela

It's surround sound, theatre in the round  
Totally stereophonic, supersonic  
Donkeys bray to the east  
Peacocks shriek to the west  
And the song dogs are certain  
that they're the best

And the ravens rave over the  
flora and fauna  
And they all party on like there's  
no manana

We live in the middle of this  
symphony, cacophony and  
harmony  
Thank Gaia there's room for you  
and me

*Laurie is a Sierra Club member  
in Southern AZ*

## Animal Spotlight:

### Goat Ranching in Northern Arizona

By Kay Bordwell



On a windy autumn morning, the San Francisco Peaks in the background, I met Amelia and her husband, Jeff, on their ranch. Since 2018, the couple have been here, north of Flagstaff, raising goats for eating, breeding, and grazing. These goats are Boer goats originally from Africa, the breed has two sets of muscle, so they provide lots of meat compared to other goats.

As the wind whipped my hat off, I see the summer has brought little rain and the tumbleweed and sagebrush are all that dot the area. Large pens are set up to house the goats and water is brought in, along with grass hay to provide feed for these beauties. Amelia is very particular about her sources of feed so that her goats receive the most nutritious feed with low sugar. She also gets brewery grain that has been used in the brewery process and reuses it as it is rich in nutrients.

She is also particular about where her goats graze. The sites must be toxin free: no pesticides and no hidden toxins. She must vaccinate, give tetanus shots, check for sexually transmitted diseases, and test for worms and parasites.

We walk over to Anchor, her large male goat with impressive horns that curl forward. She talks with pride of her process of tagging (to keep good records) and each herd has an ID so that she can keep good track of what goats she has had in the past and relationships of mommas and babies.

I see large IBC containers for water around the place. Amelia is careful about her sources of these since they could pre-



Photo courtesy of Kay Bordwell.

viously have contained chemicals that may affect her goats. Her hay barn is one place to stand for some shade as she talks about sources of hay. Arizona's hay is expensive because much of it is sold to foreign countries, so she gets most of her hay from out of state like Colorado.

Her goats are rented to people with lands that need wildfire protection for clearing of tall grasses around structures and protection of other resources. Depending on the size of the property, she rents them out for a week, checking on them daily to make sure they are doing ok.

Normally, goats are bred in the fall and kid in March and have sets of twins—although sometimes singletons or triplets. Her goats are certified to be scrapie-free in order to transport them across state lines, but mostly she keeps them close to the Flagstaff area.

The goats can be a tool to clear weeds from near structures to better protect them from fires

*Kay is a member of the Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group*

## Electronic Newsletter

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

## Letters to the Editor

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

ACC continued from page 8

rule package. Those rules will come before the Commission one more time in 2021 and must get the affirmative vote of at least three commissioners. Other key issues the Commission will address in 2021 include a proposed rate increase from APS, which includes a proposed transition package for the Navajo Nation related to the retirements of Navajo Generating Station, Cholla Generating Station, and Four Corners Power Plant. Integrated Resource Plans (IRP) that establish utility generation mix for the next 15 years will either be acknowledged by the ACC or not early this year.

In 2020, and despite the divisive nature of the political world, a bi-partisan ACC did advance some solid policies on clean energy. The outgoing Commission Chairman, Bob Burns, and Commissioner Sandra Kennedy helped to lead that effort and on some key issues were joined by a third or even a fourth commissioner. Chairman Burns' work at the ACC to hold APS accountable on elections, to advance clean energy, and to promote a more transparent and accountable planning process are appreciated by a diverse group of advocates.

We don't know how 2021 or 2022 will unfold, but we do know that public involvement will be critical and that come 2022, we will need to be prepared to work hard to ensure a Commission that understands helping ratepayers means advancing clean energy.

To find out more about how to get involved in Sierra Club's Energy Team and Arizona Corporation Commission work, please contact Sandy Bahr at [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org).

*Sandy is Chapter Director*

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# Happenings Around the State

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

## Palo Verde Group (Phoenix)

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

<b>Chair:</b>	Kathy Mohr-Almeida (x)	480-329-8503	kathylynn626@yahoo.com
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Chris Gehlker (x)	602-370-0128	canyonrat@icloud.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Bettina Bickel (x)	602-246-5739	bbickel08@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jerry Nelson	602-550-0282	peakbagger2@gmail.com
<b>Outings/Wilderness:</b>	Jim Vaaler (x)	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
<b>ICO:</b>	Lisa Vaaler	602-468-4158	lvaaler1@gmail.com
<b>Conservation:</b>	Don Steuter (x)	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
<b>Programs:</b>	Rebecca Hinton (x)	602-405-1779	rahinton@hotmail.com
<b>Ex-Com (At-Large):</b>	Tom Krepitch (x)	602-625-2087	tkrepitch@cox.net
<b>Ex-Com (At-Large):</b>	Korey Hjelmeir (x)	480-734-0926	khjelmeir@hotmail.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Jim Dublinski (x)	480-532-2285	jdublinski@icloud.com

Contact Rebecca Hinton for information about Palo Verde Group events

## Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)

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

<b>Chair:</b>	Doug Murphy (x)	602-329-3690	dbmurphy@cox.net
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Jo Sylvester (x)	602-292-6806	stitchinjo@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary/Programs:</b>	Sally Howland (x)	602-663-2889	sally_howland@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Peter Weinelt (x)	623-388-2209	vitalpaw@yahoo.com
<b>Outings:</b>	Bev Full (x)	480-221-2554	bfll@cox.net
<b>Membership:</b>	Sue Barsky (x)	623-561-2514	sue.barsky@dvusd.org
<b>Service Projects:</b>	Urb Weidner (x)	602-300-8505	northwoods@cox.net
<b>Agua Fria NM Liason:</b>	Ehrick Howland	602-663-4479	ehrick3@hotmail.com
<b>Programs:</b>	Harry Lumley	480-474-4993	lumleyhw@gmail.com

Contact Sally Howland for information about Saguaro Group events

## Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group

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

<b>Chair:</b>	Joe Shannon (x)	928-380-9537	jshannon278@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Amelia Hirsch (x)		amelia.josephine.h@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Marcia Burns (x)	928-853-3132	swtropics@yahoo.com
<b>Outings:</b>	Debbie McMahon (x)	928-707-0610	debbie_dsb@hotmail.com
<b>Wildlife:</b>	Kay Bordwell	928-779-3517	kbordwell4@gmail.com
<b>Publications:</b>	Sarah King (x)	602-576-6054	garbageldy@hotmail.com

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

## Yavapai Group (Prescott)

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

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

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

## Rincon Group (Tucson)

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

<b>Chair:</b>	Meg Weesner (x)	520-576-2083	mweesner@att.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ken Bierman	520-661-7555	kbierman1@gmail.com
<b>Energy:</b>	Russell Lowes (x)	520-321-3670	russlowes@gmail.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Thomas Hatfield (x)		thomas.hatfield@gmail.com
<b>Outings:</b>	Mitch Stevens	520-991-1199	mitchstevens@stevensloydgroup.com
<b>ICO:</b>	Al Bellavia		AlBellavia@hotmail.com
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Joy Herr-Cardillo	520-622-1752	joiellen@cox.net
<b>Ex-Com (At-Large):</b>	Marie Swanson (x)	520-977-0678	gleemarie@icloud.com
<b>Ex-Com (At-Large):</b>	Oscar Medina (x)	520-903-8005	oscarmedinagomez@gmail.com
<b>Ex-Com (At-Large):</b>	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 mweesner@att.net. The Rincon Group Executive Committee meets there at the end of the Conservation Committee meetings, at about **7:15 p.m.** The meetings are open to the public. Sierra Club members in particular are urged to participate in the Conservation Committee meetings. Please join us!

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



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