Taking Action for Oak Flat

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

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.

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

You can check for additional actions here: apache-stronghold.com

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

By Brytnee Laurette

Oak Flat photo by Jim Dublinski.
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
Dan Millis 520-620-6401 dan.millis@sierraclub.org

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

CHAPTER OFFICES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chair: Jim Vaaler (xc) 602-553-8208 jimvaaler@msn.com
Vice-Chair: Meg Weesner (xc) 520-576-2083 mweesner@att.net
Secretary: Joe Shannon 928-380-9537 jsshannon278@gmail.com
Treasurer: Chris Gehlker 602-370-0128 canyonrat@icloud.com
Conservation: Don Steuter 602-956-5057 dstooter@hotmail.com
Nominations: Kenneth Langton (xc) 520-749-3829 kplangton@msn.com
BIPOCC, Council Delegate: Oscar Medina (xc) 520-903-8005 oscarmenedagomez@gmail.com
Membership: Kathy Mohr-Almeida (xc) 480-329-8503 kathylynn626@yahoo.com
Political: Korey Hjelmeir 480-734-0926 khjelmeir@hotmail.com
Outings: Jenny Cobb 928-925-1320 cobbrun@msn.com
Water: Joshua Preston (xc) 520-904-8291 farmerjp99@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large): Stephanie Vázquez Salas (xc) 623-302-6889 stephanie.vazquez03@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large): David McCaleb (xc) 602-840-7655 davidCMccaleb@gmail.com

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

Flagstaff/N AZ: Joe Shannon 602-254-8362 jennifer.martin@sierraclub.org
Rincon: Marie Swanson 520-945-1251 mswanson@sierraclub.org
Palo Verde: Don Steuter 602-956-5057 dstooter@hotmail.com
Saguaro: Jo Sylvester 602-913-9512 jsheffield40@gmail.com
Yavapai: Tom Slabback 928-380-9537 jsshannon278@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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 or Lydia Wilson at 602-253-9140 or 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 to discuss word count, photos to include, licensing, issue topics, and to request submission guidelines.

http://sierraclub.org/arizona
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/fljgjga-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.

http://sierraclub.org/arizona
Thank You to Our Donors!

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

The Morning Stars Sing Together (500+)
Zachary & Nancy Brooks
Anne Maley-Schaffner
Ken McGinty
Howard Mechanic
Jerry Nelson
Robert & Donna Robb

Make the Mountains Glad ($100–499)
Keith Bagwell
David & Barbara Baule
Rita Brunacini
Terri Buress
Nancy Chiester
Gerald Cox
Kevin Dahl
Mary Donahue
David Dube
Beth Dutton
Nancy Ethridge
Marsha Foutz
Edward & Elizabeth Goff
Janet Grossman
Gayle Hartmann
David Hoyt Johnson
Gordon & Ava Jensen
Ellen Katz
Kitty Kennedy
Michael Kottke
Jane McNamara
Janet Moore
James Nafziger
Wayne Nelson
John Peck
Barbara Pederson
Christopher Pinhey
Linda & J Michael Powers
Theresa Shall
Shea Stanfield
Michael Tamarock
William Thornton
Nancy Vlassis
Anastacia Walsh
Barbara Warren
Ric Watkins
Duffie Westheimer
Walt Wieto
Gary Wright

Keep Close to Nature’s Heart ($50–99)
Ila Abernathy
Stuart & Cindy Alt
Marilyn Bonine

Barbara Zugor
James Zurich
Tom Rose & Carol Grieshaber

Judy and Ken Ahlberg
Ray Alfini
Fannie Allen
Craig Anderson
Jennifer Anderson
Sergio Avila and Jenny Neeley
Sandy Bahr and David Komm
Beth Ballmann
Peter and Betty Bengtson
Andrew Bernier
Rebecca Berry
Gary and Molly Beverly
Patricia Bigwood
Doug Bland
Carolyn Bosserman
Susan Briggs
Elizabeth Bromley
Jan Buckwalter
Victoria Cahill
David Cardinali
Christine Carlson
Ken Collier
Linda Crouse
Rachel Davis
Barbara Bingham Deutscher
Susanne Durling
John M. Franklin
Roxane George
Carrie Gilbert
Robert Gilliam
Sarah W. Gordon
Stephen E. Griffin
Martin Haley
Sadie Hanson
Elizabeth Harrison

Vanessa Heydorn
Sandy Hughes
Janette Huntington
Laurie Jurs
Tyler and Katrina Kokjohn
Philip Korth
Georgette Larrouy
Joanne Lewis
Phillip Long
Harry Lumley
Antoinette Malcolm
Hideo Mansho
Eligh Masaquaptewa
Joan Mason
Karen McClelland
Shauna McIsaac
Mark McKain
Paddy McKeag
Loretta Merrell
Diane Miller
Dan Millis and Kate Van Roekel
Joy Mockbee
Heather Moffitt
Georgine Morris
Elena Moshinsky
Karen Muir
Mark Mulligan and Toni Ramsey
Janice E. Myers
Bich Hoa Nguyen
Shane Nicholas
Stephen Nunn
Susan O’Hara
Jim McPherson and Elna Otter
Becky Peters
Steve Pinedo

Michael J. Pope
Lisa Reyes
Nyssana Reyes
Peter Rocco
David Rohrer
Patricia Romero
Leilani Rothrock
Thomas Schlabach
John Seamon
Philip Shea
Gary Silverman
Rebecca Smith Gross
Mary Smith-Hansen
Tiffany Sprague
Harry Stacy
Marvel Stalcup
Alice and Karl Stambaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kasting
Kathleen Stell
Dan Stormont
G. Marie Swanson
Drs. Tuber and Schechtman
Marsha Turkin
Olivia Valenzuela
Patricia Vanmaanen
Kendra Vining
Dale and Christine Volz
Joy Wall
Judith and Richard Watson
Meg Weesner
Lydia Wilson
Jeff Winkler
K M Wyly and A Stumpf
Robert Zaccaria

Michael J. Pope
Lisa Reyes
Nyssana Reyes
Peter Rocco
David Rohrer
Patricia Romero
Leilani Rothrock
Thomas Schlabach
John Seamon
Philip Shea
Gary Silverman
Rebecca Smith Gross
Mary Smith-Hansen
Tiffany Sprague
Harry Stacy
Marvel Stalcup
Alice and Karl Stambaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kasting
Kathleen Stell
Dan Stormont
G. Marie Swanson
Drs. Tuber and Schechtman
Marsha Turkin
Olivia Valenzuela
Patricia Vanmaanen
Kendra Vining
Dale and Christine Volz
Joy Wall
Judith and Richard Watson
Meg Weesner
Lydia Wilson
Jeff Winkler
K M Wyly and A Stumpf
Robert Zaccaria

http://sierraclub.org/arizona

Donors continued on p. 5.
Thank you to all who donated to our Political Action Committee.

Craig Agee
James Amato
Sharon Bale
William Bemis
Gail Bliss
Jan Buckwalter
Gioannetti Catherine
Timothy Chriswell
Beverly Ciarelli
Brian Ceniawski
Dennis Davis
Sue Gilles
Robert & Karen Gilliam
Kenneth Hinkle
Elizabeth Hunter
Philip Ivey
Daniel Knox
Sharon Landis

Peter Magnuson
David Moewes
Jo Ann Moon
Jill Newby
Elna Otter
Richard Probst
Henry Rampelt, Jr
Emily Samaniego
Michelle Stewart
Frances Walker
Elizabeth Weaver
Charles Wright

Thank you to David & Barbara Baule for donating in memory of Naomi Pearson

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.

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:

Check our chapter calendar for a complete and updated list: 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 instrument 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 scientific or Constitutional law, or appealing to common humanity by way of an explanation to our shared problems, merely reinforcements 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,
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 dictorially 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 Pepperwolf

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

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 significant 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 restaurants 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...
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

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 previously 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

Canyon Echo encourages contributors to use Creative Commons licensing.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5 or send a letter to Creative Commons, 543 Howard Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, California 94105.

All other contributions, including photos, cartoons, and written work, fall under standard copyright restrictions.

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.

Sandy is Chapter Director

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 CanyonEchoSub@gmail.com. You will receive an email when the new issues become available online.

Letters to the Editor

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

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

(x) Group ExCom members

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

Chair: Kathy Mohr-Almeida (x) 480-329-8503 kathlynn626@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair: Chris Gehlker (x) 602-370-0128 canyonrat@icloud.com
Secretary: Bettina Bickel (x) 602-246-5739 bbickel08@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jerry Nelson 602-550-0282 peakbagger2@gmail.com
Outings/Wilderness: Jim Vaaler (x) 602-553-8208 jimvaaler@msn.com
ICO: Lisa Vaaler 602-468-4158 lvaaer1@gmail.com
Conservation: Don Steuer (x) 602-956-5057 dsteuer@hotmail.com
Programs: Rebecca Hinton (x) 602-405-1779 rahinton@hotmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large): Jim Dublinski (x) 480-532-2285 jdublinaski@icloud.com
Ex-Com (At-Large): Korey Hjelmeir (x) 480-734-0926 khjelmeir@hotmail.com
Membership: Jim Dublinski (x) 480-532-2285 jdublinaski@icloud.com

Contact Rebecca Hinton for information about Palo Verde Group events

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

Chair: Meg Weesner (x) 520-576-2083 mweesner@att.net
Vice-Chair: Ken Bierman 520-661-7555 kbiemran1@gmail.com
Energy: Russell Lowes (x) 520-321-3670 russlowes@gmail.com
Membership: Thomas Hatfield (x) 520-991-1199 mitchstevens@stevenslloydgroup.com
Outings: Mitch Stevens 520-991-1199 mitchstevens@stevenslloydgroup.com
ICO: Al Bellavia 520-622-1752 joelien@cox.net
Newsletter: Joy Herr-Cardillo 520-622-1752 joelien@cox.net
Ex-Com (At-Large): Marie Swanson (x) 520-977-0678 gleemarie@icloud.com
Ex-Com (At-Large): Oscar Medina (x) 520-903-8005 oscarmedinagomez@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large): Vacant

Contact Meg Weesner for information about Rincon Group events

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)
http://sierraclub.org/arizona/saguaro

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

Contact Sally Howland for information about Saguaro Group events

Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group
http://sierraclub.org/arizona/platoeu

Chair: Joe Shannon (x) 928-380-9537 jshannon278@gmail.com
Secretary: Amelia Hirsch (x) 928-473-8952 amelia.josephine.h@gmail.com
Treasurer: Marcia Burns (x) 928-853-3132 swtropics@yahoo.com
Outings: Debbie McMahon (x) 928-707-0610 debbie_dsb@hotmail.com
Wildlife: Kay Bordwell 928-779-3517 kbordwell4@gmail.com
Publications: Sarah King (x) 602-576-6054 garbageldy@hotmail.com

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

Yavapai Group (Prescott)
http://sierraclub.org/arizona/yavapai

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

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