

Mountain Lines

Vol. 18 • No. 4 • Winter 2011



Landmarks of the North

Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve can attest to its beauty and uniqueness.

Preserve Biodiversity

Find out more about the flora and fauna of the Preserve.

Mountain Biking

The Preserve is a mecca for mountain bikers of all skill levels.





When I think about the north area of the Preserve (the land generally north of Dynamite, south of Stagecoach Pass, east of Pima, and west of 136th Street), the first

thing that comes to mind is that we need a name for it. We can call the south portion "the mountains," and that pretty well captures it. The landscapes of the north portion are more diverse, and the area needs a better description.

For the next several years, responding to the growth of the Preserve in the north, and its stewardship implications, will be the most significant challenge MSC faces. Last year the City of Scottsdale acquired approximately 2,000 acres in the north. They are prepared to bid on another 4,400 acres at auction in December; furthermore, the city council has approved for staff to begin the process of acquiring potentially more than 6,000 acres in 2012. If these acquisitions are successful, the Preserve will have grown in size by 20 square miles in only three years, with hundreds of miles of trails to patrol, extensive maintenance and remediation needs, and new trailheads to support.

"Exploration is really the essence of the human spirit."
-Frank Borman

A unique aspect of the Preserve in the north is that it is filled with historic and pre-historic sites that reflect a rich human history on the land. Humans have used the land for nearly 10,000 years, from Archaic hunter/gatherers and Hohokam who found protection in rock shelters, to soldiers who crossed it along the old Stoneman Road, to the early settlers who founded Brown's Ranch in the 1800s. A new trailhead building scheduled for completion in 2013 will provide space to describe that history, orient visitors to the area, and will provide panoramic views of the landscape. Over the long term, public use of the north may exceed that of the mountainous south, as hiking, biking, and horseback riding are all more amenable on the generally level terrain.

This issue of the Mountain Lines celebrates and brings the north area to you. If you haven't yet, I invite you to visit the north yourself this season. You'll find unending possibilities for exploration on the many miles of trails, and you'll begin to gain an appreciation for just how big a job MSC stewards face in helping to protect and manage it. Bring a friend with you, and use your visit to recruit them to join the ranks of our stewards. We're going to need their help.

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Cover Photo by: C. Koning

ABOUT MSC

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy champions the completion and sustainability of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for the benefit of this and future generations. We connect the community to the Preserve through public and private partnerships, environmental education and stewardship.

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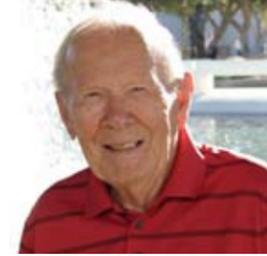
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Lost Dog Wash Amphitheater Named for Andrews

At the recommendation of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, the Scottsdale City Council voted to name the Lost Dog Wash trailhead amphitheater for Chet Andrews, longtime McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Steward and past Chairman of the Board.

This is a fitting tribute to a man who devoted the past 20 years to educating the community of the importance of protecting the desert and mountains of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Chet Andrews is one of those individuals who didn't set out to change the course of history, but that's what happened.

Andrews realized that if the community were to protect and preserve the mountain range, the city would need a cadre of volunteers to do the hard work of land protection and preservation. So, he began looking for a model that he could use to make it work. In 1996, Andrews started the first trail building and maintenance program in concert with former Preserve Director Bob Cafarella.

This program expanded into his enduring legacy: the concept of training volunteer Preserve stewards who would commit themselves to protecting and preserving the land. Andrews and Cafarella began teaching informally and within the year, they had recruited nearly 90 volunteers who cleared a five-mile trail for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Andrews' legacy today is a vibrant community of stewards, who in fiscal year 2010-2011 contributed just less than 30,000 hours to the Preserve, the equivalent of \$570,000 of labor.

Chet has devoted much of his life to providing a legacy for all to enjoy. If you would like to honor his contribution, please consider making a tribute gift in Chet's name. For more information about making a tribute gift and recognition opportunities in the Preserve, please contact Linda Raish by phone at 480-998-7971 or via email at linda@mcdowellsonoran.org.

Field Guide & Flora Guides Are Great Gifts for the Holiday Season



You don't need that extra trip to the mall this holiday season on your quest for the perfect present. *The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy's Field Guide to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve* and Marianne Jensen's *Wildflowers and More* are two great items that you can buy for that friend or family member who loves exploring the outdoors. These books are full of detailed information about plants, animals and geology that brings the desert to life anywhere at any time.

First Solar: MSC's Newest Preservation Partner



One of our newest Preservation Partners is First Solar.

MSC and First Solar share a similar mission: MSC is committed to an enduring legacy through preservation; First Solar strives to create enduring value by enabling a world powered by clean, affordable solar electricity.

First Solar is committed to a world in which clean and affordable solar electricity plays an increasingly important role in the global energy mix and the transition to a low-carbon society. Raising awareness and education are crucial to promoting renewable energies glob-

ally, and to informing citizens about climate change.

First Solar supports this belief in the community by collaborating with local organizations like MSC, participating in events, supporting local programs, and providing citizens with the encouragement to help protect the environment. For instance, as a sponsor of the 2011 Tour de Scottsdale, First Solar employees were on site to provide information about solar power to event attendees, encouraging a long-term commitment to renewable energy.

Thank you, First Solar! ☀️



Landmarks of the North: A Written and Photographic Tour

By Barb Pringle, MSC Steward

Named after the Brown Family, Brown's Mountain is a north area landmark that can easily be seen from the site of the historic Brown's Ranch area in the Preserve. Photo by M. Jensen

Anyone who has spent time in the northern reaches of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve can attest to its beauty and uniqueness. This has been a momentous year for north-area land acquisitions that will shape the Preserve's future and ensure the protection of irreplaceable historical, biological, geological and archeological sites; not to mention the spectacular recreational opportunities offered by these northern lands.

The north end of the Preserve is generally defined as the area north and east of Dynamite and Pima Roads. Over the past year, about 6,400 acres have been purchased or designated for purchase; when finalized, the Preserve will grow to nearly 22,000 acres, or just shy of two-thirds of the overall 36,000-acre goal.

Roughly one year ago, 2,000 acres of state trust land was purchased by Scottsdale near the 96th Street and Dixileta Drive alignment. This three-square-mile parcel shines with extensive boulder outcroppings, rolling terrain and riparian areas. It will welcome the next Preserve trailhead, Brown's Ranch, to be built north of the present terminus of Alma School Road.

State trust land informally known as the "Gooseneck" links the southern part of the Preserve to the northern portion. This

1,900 acre parcel runs along 136th Street on each side of Dynamite/RioVerde Drive. It is spectacular upper-desert habitat with plants not seen in the southern part of the Preserve.

Further north, 2,500 acres located northeast of Dixileta and Pima Road includes such landmarks as Granite Mountain, Balanced Rock, as well as Brown's, Cholla and Cone Mountains.

The north area of the Preserve offers a rich diversity of landmarks to explore and enjoy. Let's take a brief tour of some of the notable destinations:

Brown's Ranch

Brown's Ranch was part of the large 44,000-acre DC Ranch-Brown's Ranch cattle business established by E.O. Brown and his partners in 1916. Cattle ranching tapered off in the 1960s as development began to spread northward. Scottsdale purchased much of the land in 2000 and added it to the Preserve. At the site there is evidence of human presence going

back at least 8,000 years, with Archaic, Hohokam and Yavapai people leaving behind traces of their use of the site as a seasonal hunting ground. You can also clearly see the remains of the cattle-ranching operation there, with cisterns and building foundations scattered around a small central site. Read more about the Brown's family and the cattle drive history on page 13.

The Center for Native and Urban Wildlife (CNUW) has been conducting plant and seed bank studies in the Brown's Ranch area for several years. Ephemeral washes such as the East and West Canotia washes, East and West Horned Lizard washes, Honeysuckle wash and Two Snakes wash provide an ideal environment for studying soil seed banks to better understand how to restore and conserve native vegetation. Heed signs you may see in the area asking that you stay out of restoration areas so that critical upland desert habitat restoration can successfully proceed.

Brown's Mountain

This landmark, located just west of Brown's Ranch, is "the best evidence we have showing volcanic activity in the Valley," explains MSC Master Steward Dan Gruber. Volcanic rocks form the upper layers of Brown's Mountain. The top is basalt, probably from lava flows that originated in the Superstition Mountain range 10- to 20-million years ago. Below that is a thick layer of tuff, a light-colored rock formed as a result of explosive volcanic eruptions. This tuff layer also is exposed in a long, low ridge running east from the mountain. Below the tuff is another basalt layer from earlier lava flows. At the bottom is granite formed 1.4 billion years ago. 🌿

Below: Stewards and members of the community enjoy exploring the remains at Brown's Ranch as a reminder of the Preserve's unique and varied history. Photo by: D. Bierman





Cholla Mountain

In contrast to nearby Brown's Mountain, the granitic Cholla Mountain was formed from solidified magma deep underground, about 1.4 billion years ago. This area is a favorite of mountain bikers, who enjoy a variety of trails that wind around Cholla. For geology buffs, it's interesting to note that a north-south fault runs through this area, between Cholla Mountain to the east and Brown's Mountain to the west. This fault formed a few hundred thousand years ago when the ground moved a few yards.

MSC stewards lead an easy, rambling hike that takes visitors to two striking sites near Cholla Mountain. The Amphitheater, located on the southern tip of Cholla Mountain, is surrounded on three sides by granite monoliths, with nature-created ledges perfect for sitting and enjoying an MSC-led lecture or just for reveling in the area's beauty and stillness. Cathedral Rock, found northwest of Cholla Mountain, is another striking granitic rock formation. At that site is evidence of Native American activity; pottery shards and metates can be found. Of course, it's important not to remove or tamper with these irreplaceable archeological treasures.

Left: Balanced Rock, Photo by B. White

Balanced Rock

You couldn't be mocked for wondering if giant space aliens had visited the north Preserve when you see Balanced Rock. This huge granite rock (that some say looks like a giant molar), sits atop another flat granite rock and appears to have been placed there. Or if you don't subscribe to the super-alien theory, then it must be true that Balanced Rock rolled into its current spot.

Actually, the explanation for its current position lies with geology and the natural forces of weathering and erosion. Balanced Rock essentially eroded in place to take its current shape. The surrounding mountains – Cholla and Little Granite – are piles of boulders also (and favorites for climbers). Historically, however, this entire area was once a solid granite mass that, over millions of years, cracked into millions of pieces.

The rounded edges – known as spheroidal weathering – are characteristic of granite. Granitic rock is not layered or internally organized, but rather is uniform throughout. When it weathers or breaks there is no preferred or consistent fracture direction. Hence, we see the random erosion patterns that create spectacular formations like Balanced Rock, Cathedral Rock, Cholla and Little Granite Mountains.



Juniper trees are an unexpected sight in the Preserve because they typically grow in higher elevations. Photo by: J. Woelke

Flora of the north

For those interested in our native Sonoran vegetation, the north offers up a rich and challenging diversity of plant life that will keep you returning to your *Wildflowers and More* flora guide for an answer to, "What was that gorgeous pink flower and that strange tree?"

One of the most interesting flora sightings is the juniper tree population located near Balanced Rock. These trees today are found in the higher chaparral regions, and so are relics of an earlier time period that was colder and wetter than the present day climate. 🌲

Below: Public hikes in the north area often stop to rest at the Amphitheater, as it is a great place for stewards to share interesting facts about the uniqueness of the north area. Photo by: M. Jensen



Biodiversity in the North Area: Where, What and Why?

By Lesley Forst, Research Program Coordinator

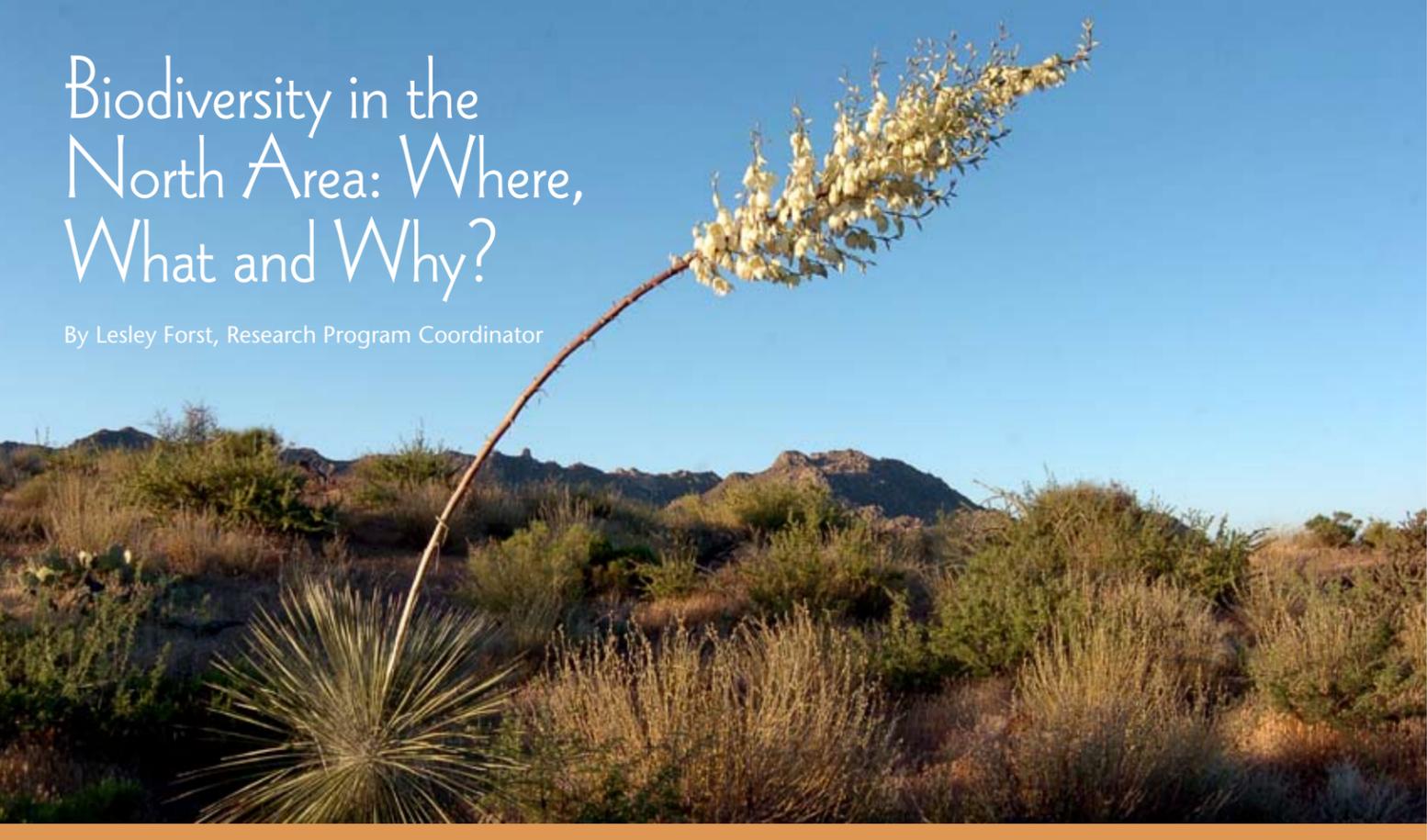


Photo by: N. Kastelic

As the McDowell Sonoran Field Institute begins to find out more about the flora and fauna in the Preserve, one question that needs to be answered is, “How and why is the area north of Dynamite Boulevard biologically different from the south?”

A couple of things that you will notice next time you venture into the north area of the Preserve is that the elevation is higher and the topography is relatively flat. There are only some smaller, more isolated mountains as opposed to the large range of peaks seen in the McDowell Mountains. The topography of an area has a lot to do with how water passes through; in the north area, drainage is slower and washes are broader, and often pass through each other in a braided-like pattern.

In addition to how flat the land is, its geographic location affects biodiversity as well. The north is significantly farther away from the urban heat-island of the Valley.

Both topography and geography explain the measurably colder temperatures, as well as higher rainfall amounts of the north. The temperature variance is as great as two degrees (Celsius) colder for both high and low temperatures, and the north area can receive two additional inches of rain over the course of a year.

Elevation, rainfall and temperature have a profound impact on flora and fauna. Because these factors are considerably different in the north compared to the south, the plants that Steve Jones, the flora survey principal investigator, and citizen scientists found last season were plentiful!

“The concentration of *Datura* in the riparian area behind the old dam (Fraesfield / Black Hills Tank area) is interesting. In other places, scattered *Datura* plants occur; but what we found there specifically was an entire field of *Datura*. Other annual plants that were found behind the dam were Cocklebur, devil’s claw, goat-head

and its cousin California caltrop, and some amaranths,” Steve reported.

Additionally, there are some species of plants that we have only found in the north area: juniper, white-thorn acacia, soap-tree yucca, dwarf desert peony, nose-burn and a few grasses. To learn more about these north-dwelling plants, go to www.mcdowellsonoran.org and click on the Conservation tab.

While the fauna survey is still in its early stages, the flora citizen scientists couldn’t help but notice many javelina, jackrabbits and cactus dodger cicadas while on their many outings this spring and summer. The cicadas, in fact, are a particularly loud insect and were both seen and heard along and east of the 118th Street area during the months of June and July. Our principal investigators for the large and small mammal and insect surveys have their suspicions about what they can expect to see in the Preserve, but we will have to wait and see what they and our citizen scientists discover. To join them on one or more of these surveys, contact 480-998-7971 ext. 105. 🦌

Watchable Wildlife: Deer of the Preserve

By Kevin Bodmer, Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Manager, Scottsdale

As winter approaches and the temperatures cool, you may find yourself spending more time outdoors in the beautiful McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Take this time to experience the diverse watchable wildlife opportunities Arizona has to offer. One of the most recognizable animals that you may encounter while in the Preserve will be deer.

Arizona is home to two different species of deer, the mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and the Coues deer (pronounced Cows), a small subspecies of the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Mule deer are the most abundant deer in Arizona and are the most prominent species in the Preserve. Although there have been sightings of the white-tailed deer in the Preserve, their presence is rare.

Mule deer receive their namesake from their large ears and are the larger deer of the two species. Adult mule deer bucks (males)



This fawn was enjoying its peaceful surroundings on a winter morning; Brown’s mountain can easily be seen in the distance. Photo by: R. Terlecki

range from 150 pounds to 200+ pounds and does (females) weigh 125 to 180 pounds. Bucks have antlers which they shed on a yearly basis and grow in preparation for the rut (mating period). Mule deer have a distinct set of antlers with two main beams which split into two or more tines. One of the most distinguishing characteristics between the two species of deer is the tail. Mule deer generally have a white tail with a black tip which will sway from side to side. White-tailed deer have a grayish brown tail with a white border and underside that will “flag,” or stand, when frightened.

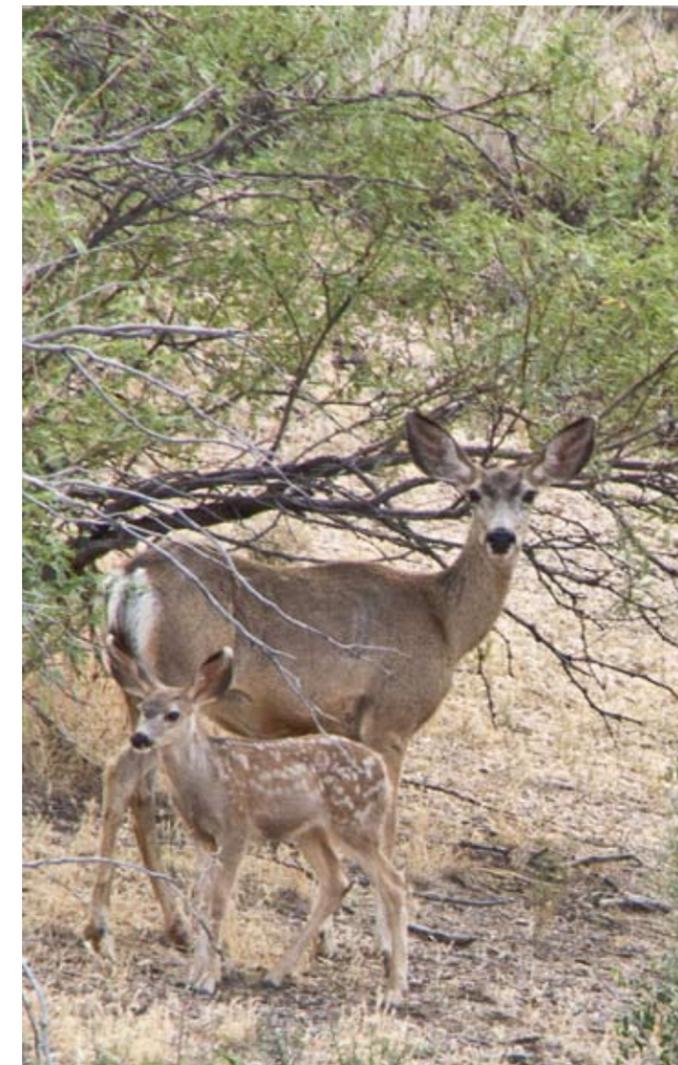
Mule deer diets consist of forbs, broad leaved herbs, and browse, leaves and/or twigs of deciduous shrubs. Some of the things you may observe deer eating in the Preserve include various grasses, acacia, jojoba, ocotillo, palo verde, barrel cactus and prickly pear to name a few.

Does in the central and southern portions of the state have their young (fawns) midsummer and fawns will generally remain with their mothers until spring or until they are yearlings, or one year old. Keeping this in mind, the winter months provide a great opportunity to watch does and fawns together in the wild.

As you venture out to the Preserve this winter, be on the lookout for mule deer and take note of their unique characteristics. There is a wide array of species within the Preserve which will inspire you to learn more about wildlife that surrounds you. For more information about Arizona’s watchable wildlife opportunities and deer species visit www.azgfd.gov. 🦌

Kevin Bodmer is a Wildlife Manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. He specializes in wildlife law enforcement and conservation of Arizona’s wildlife resources and habitats. He attended the University of Redlands in southern California where he obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies. Kevin is an Eagle Scout and a native of Arizona.

Photo by: M. Jensen



One of the gifts of the north area of the Preserve is its stunning views of far-away vistas, like Four Peaks and the Superstitions to the east and the Tonto National Forest to the north. Photo by: B. Jabara





A Short History of Brown's Ranch

By Len Marcisz, MSC Master Steward

Remains of the Brown family's house visited by MSC stewards. Photo by: D. Bierman

Brown's Ranch was developed incrementally by Edwin Orpheus Brown, a Scottsdale businessman and entrepreneur.

E. O. Brown came to Scottsdale in 1904 to partner with his sister-in-law in running the town's general store. In short order, Brown became the town's postmaster, a school trustee, the irrigation director, vice president of Western Oil Company, president of the Scottsdale Cotton Gin Company, controlling stockholder of Farmers State Bank, and owner of the water works and ice plant.

By 1910, Brown's business acumen and interest expanded to include cattle ranching. In 1916, he began moving his operations north to the McDowell Mountains. In 1917 he acquired the rights to the DC cattle brand. The brand would eventually become the icon for his operation -- DC Ranch.

The ranch eventually expanded to 44,000 acres of which 23,000 were owned directly by the Brown family. Its boundaries ran roughly from Bell Road in the south to Lone Mountain Road on the north and from Pima Road on the west to the crest of the McDowells on the east.

Cattle fit for market were driven by cowhands from the ranch to railroad stockyards that were located where the Tovrea Castle and Sky Harbor Airport are

located today. The drives usually took two days and the cattle were herded variously down Alma School, Bell, Pima and Scottsdale roads. The last cattle drive occurred during the 1950s, after which the "dogies" were less romantically, but more efficiently, transferred in trucks.

Cattle Drives

Among the many iconic images of the Old West is the cattle drive. Bevies of bovines hoofing toward the far horizon accompanied by singing cowboys graced the final frames of many early western films.

Cattle drives in the American West varied in difficulty owing to factors such as

distance, terrain, accessibility to water and grass, weather and exposure.

Cattle drives from ranches near the McDowells were generally easier and shorter than in other parts of the state -- often lasting no more than two or three days. Water was always a concern so local cowhands would follow trails that ran close to water or minimized distance between watering spots. The typical Brown's Ranch cattle drive would start from near Brown's Mountain, north of today's Dynamite Boulevard. The herd would be driven down the Alma School extension -- which remains a dirt road today -- past Greasewood Flats, down to the area of

today's DC Ranch where the cattle would be watered at tanks filled via pipes from Frazier Springs.

The herd would then be driven down to near the intersection of McDowell and Hayden Roads or some other grazing spot along Indian Bend Wash where water and grass were sufficient. From there the final leg of the drive was to the Tovrea stockyards, near today's site of the Tovrea Castle. The drive was usually handled by fewer than a dozen cowhands. In the era before television, iPods, and cellphones, the cattle drives were considered events of considerable local entertainment value. 🌵

Mountain Biking in the North

By Barb Pringle, MSC Steward



Though the Preserve is most known for its hiking trails, it's also a mecca for mountain bikers, who appreciate the many trails suitable for all skill levels. Mountain biking is not just a fun adventure. It's also a great way to get and stay fit. Depending on your speed and trail difficulty level, you can burn 600 to 1,000 calories per hour and receive great health benefits at the same time.

North Access Mountain Bike Trails

Head north to experience scenic trails with forests of large saguaro cacti, unique boulder formations, excellent views and high-elevation native vegetation. Many mountain bikers using the Preserve love this area for its rocky, rolling terrain and peaceful setting.

The north area contains approximately 16,000 acres of Preserve and State Trust Land; it is located northeast of Pima and Dynamite Roads. Over 100 miles of trails exist, many ideally suited for mountain biking. The trails have numbered posts, but can be confusing as they twist, bend and cross over one another, says steward and avid mountain biker Dave Williams. He and bike patrol team lead Mike Milillo agree that a good map with clearly labeled trail numbers is essential and a GPS unit is useful as well.

The main routes begin at the future Brown's Ranch trailhead, at the end of Alma School Road north of Dynamite. Trail #27 begins here and runs north around Slant Mountain through Brown's Ranch. Once you reach Brown's Ranch, you can make a right and ride a connector trail east to link up with trail #24 (known as the Metate Trail). If you make a left to ride the north route of trail #24 around Cholla Mountain, expect a steep and difficult ride, best for experienced riders, advises Milillo. For a ride that's appropriate for all ages and abilities, take a right to go south on trail #24, around the south side of Cholla Mountain and then linking to the east-west power line trail #2.

If you continue to ride north on #24, there are lots of alternate trails, such as #21 (Brown's Jam). This one, says Milillo, is a fun rolling trail with many twists and turns. The Metate trail (#24) also intersects with a short connector trail north of Cholla Mountain that links up several far-north area routes, including trail #5 (Desert Dingleberries) or trails #22 and #44 which loop south and east to Granite Mountain.

A good short ride from the Alma School access point, notes Williams, starts at trail #27. Take a right onto trail #2 (power line), then north onto #24 up and around Cholla Mountain to #28, then

enjoy a great downhill run back to #2 to loop back to the Alma School access area.

While the most fun trails are a matter of opinion and depend on your skill level, one favorite for advanced riders includes trail #30, which is "kind of like a bobsled run for bikes!" enthuses Milillo. He adds that some of the most challenging trails are #5 and #22 (Stage Route) north of Cholla Mountain, where mountain bikers will encounter technical routes requiring a high level of expertise – and nerve.

Take the Challenge

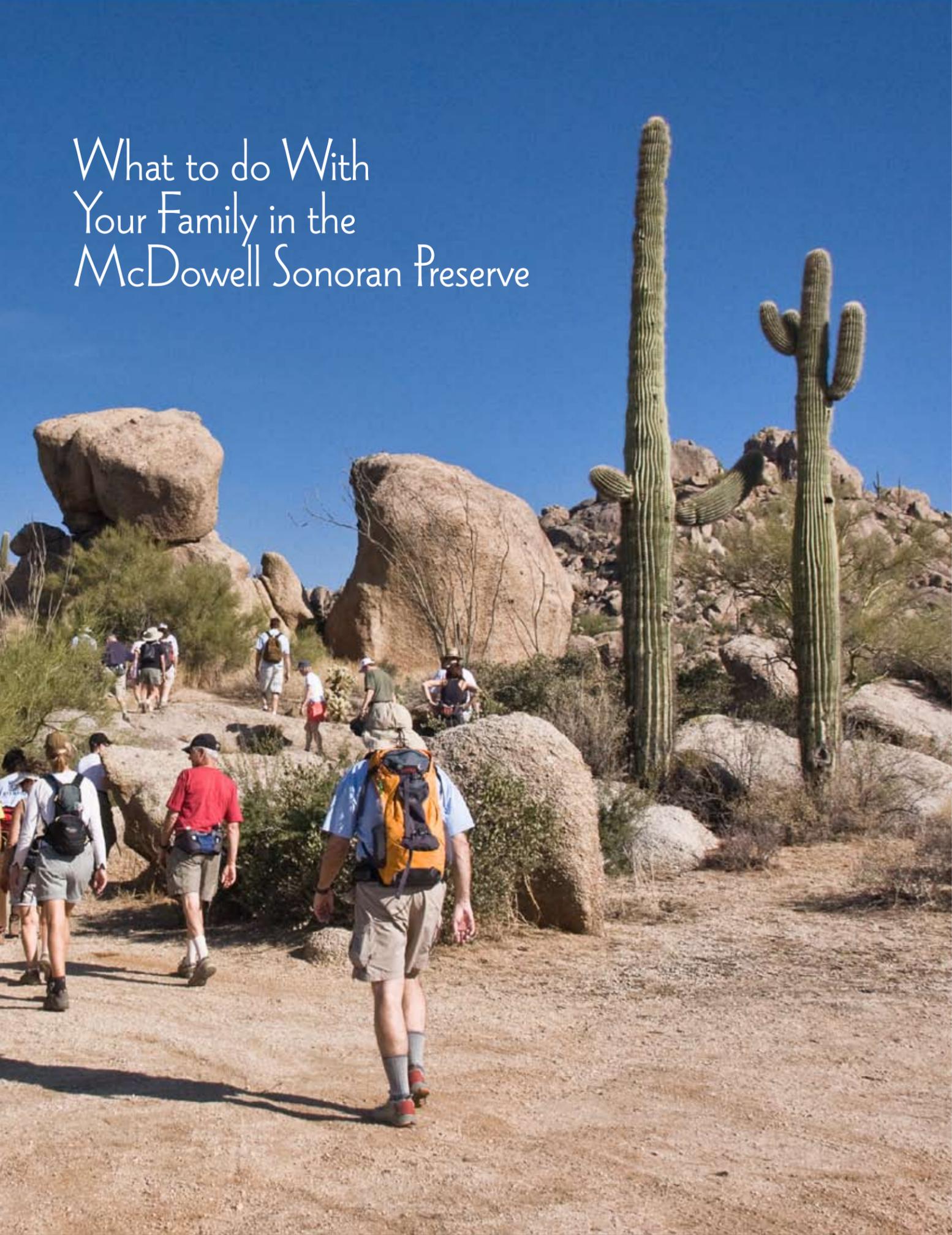
For a wonderful exposure to the north area, sign up for the 4th annual McDowell Sonoran Challenge, a 21-mile mountain bike event held in late January 2012. Bikers follow a route that showcases some of the furthest and most interesting points of the planned Preserve. Contact Molly at 480-998-7971 ext. 102 for more details and start training now for this spectacular event.

If you are hoping to dust off your mountain bike for great winter and spring season riding and want to get some additional guidance before navigating the prime mountain biking trails of the north, Mike and Dave and other members of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy steward bike patrol team will find the right trails for you and the proper directions as well! 🌵

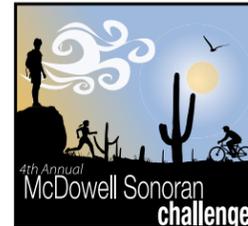
Photos by: B. BWhite



What to do With Your Family in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve



Prepare for the 4th Annual McDowell Sonoran Challenge Saturday, January 28, 2012



The McDowell Sonoran Challenge is certainly a challenge for mountain bikers, runners and hikers alike, but there is a way for

you and your family to conquer the course and have fun, all at the same time!

Training Tips for Teens: Tackling the Mountain Bike Course

The best places to train on your mountain bike are along trails that are well-marked and showcase a variety of technical elements to test your skills. Here are some trails that you can try in the southern area of the Preserve that will help you to prepare for the course in the north:

EASY

Desert Park trail to Horseshoe trail to Gateway Loop from Gateway trailhead

MODERATE

Lost Dog Wash trail to Taliesin Saddle and back via the Ringtail trail from Lost Dog trailhead

STRENUOUS

Tom's Thumb trail to Windgate trail to East End loop from the Tom's Thumb trailhead

Don't forget your helmet, plenty of water, and if you need a map, visit www.mcdowellsonoran.org.

Hiking the McDowell Sonoran Challenge course is a great way for family members to see some of the interesting rock formations without having to think about which way to go. Photo by: M. Jensen

The Trail Run: Not That Different from a Road Run

If you are a family that enjoys running together around your neighborhood or along the sidewalks in local parks, taking a run along the trails in the Preserve is an easier transition than you may think!

Start on trails like Desert Park trail or Ringtail because those are flatter with the least amount of natural obstacles. As you become more comfortable with your surroundings, try out the Gateway Loop – there are more obstacles, but without the increase in elevation.

With the addition of these obstacles, your body and mind will become more engaged in the activity to keep you upright and having fun. Remember trail etiquette. If you need to pass a hiker or equestrian be sure to call out "On your left (or right)."

Not Ready to Bike or Run? Do the Hike!

Even if you have family members that aren't old enough yet to bike 20 miles or run a 15K, a child carrier is the perfect way for everyone to enjoy the beautiful sights and feel the excitement of the McDowell Sonoran Challenge.

To Register

Your family for the 4th annual McDowell Sonoran Challenge, visit www.mcdowellsonoran.org or www.active.com today! 🐾



Save the Date

Thursday, February 9, 2012

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Gateway Trailhead, 18333 N. Thompson Peak Pkwy, Scottsdale

Making a financial contribution to MSC is a very personal choice. Your decision to learn more about making a legacy gift may be because you want to get more kids outdoors, or because you are committed to the research we are doing... whatever the reason, please consider attending this informative talk. Contact MSC Community Development Director Linda Raish, at linda@mc-dowellsonoran.org for more information. Thank you for your commitment to MSC.

Have you ever thought about what would happen to the Preserve if the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy didn't exist? How would people learn about this living treasure and everything it has to offer if MSC did not offer educational programs or create materials for the community's use? Would Scottsdale need to close the Preserve to visitors because of safety concerns, damage to the trails, or worse?

As a McDowell Sonoran Conservancy supporter you know how important MSC is to our community. You also probably know that we don't receive any funding from the City of Scottsdale, and that even with volunteers doing a lot of the heavy lifting, we will always need a small staff to keep us running and to spend money on the tools that help us to do our work.

There are ways you can make a difference for the long-term, even in this tough economic environment. We have brought together experts in the fields of investing and charitable gift planning to show how to increase your income, save on your taxes, and support McDowell Sonoran Conservancy in a way that is best for you and your family.

"I am glad I will not be young in a future without wilderness." - Aldo Leopold

Making an Investment In Our Future

Make the choice to invest in the protection of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve through membership in the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy's Circle of Friends. By making a gift today, before the end of the year, you will ensure that we are able to continue our important work and protect the natural lands you cherish.

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that receives no tax dollars, depending solely on the generosity of supporters like you who value the natural environment. The best opportunity for you to help save our unique Sonoran Desert is by making a charitable gift today.

In recognition of your contribution, you will be listed in our annual honor roll and will receive issues of the *Mountain Lines* in the mail. If you include your email address your gift, we will also send you alerts to inform you of important preservation issues so you can help us secure our open-lands heritage for the benefit of this and future generations.

Join Our Circle of Friends

As a community member who values the outdoors, and specifically the Sonoran Desert, you understand the importance of preserving and maintaining open space now to ensure its availability in the future. This shared appreciation of the desert is why we are inviting you to join us today as a Friend of the Preserve... by returning the membership form below.

- McDowell Sonoran Society (\$1,500+)
 Steward Circle (\$1,000)
 Trailbuilder Circle (\$500)
 Caretaker Circle (\$250)
- Pathfinder Circle (\$100)
 Hiker Circle (\$50)
 Other _____

Please charge my credit card
 A check is enclosed

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on the card _____

Name(s) by which you would like to be acknowledged _____

Address _____ Email _____

Phone _____

I would prefer that my gift remain anonymous

Mail to: McDowell Sonoran Conservancy • 16435 N. Scottsdale Rd. • Suite 110 • Scottsdale, AZ 85254



McDowell Sonoran
CONSERVANCY

16435 North Scottsdale Road
Suite 110
Scottsdale, Arizona 85254

Get the latest MSC info at:



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Last year, through the help of local students, their friends and families, corporate groups and MSC stewards, we doubled the number of contributed volunteer hours as well as the number of restored acres in the Preserve on many community service days. This year, we've already begun to make our impact through cactus salvage, invasive plant removal, and trash pick-up on National Public Lands Day in September and Make a Difference Day in October. If you haven't had a chance to join us on a project, mark your calendar for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on January 14, 2012. Contact Lesley at 480-998-7971 ext. 105 to sign up with your group today. 🌱

Save the Date Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service January 14, 2012

Photo by: B. White

