

# Mountain Lines

Vol.14, No. 5 August, 2007 Preserving Our Desert and Mountains [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org)

## MSC Volunteers Give City of Scottsdale \$327,752

During 2006, 180 volunteers with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy gave 18,158 hours of their time to protect and enhance Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. **That contribution, valued at \$327,752 represents a 59% increase from the previous year.**

The sweat, toil and financial support MSC and its stewards give to the city-owned preserve is being celebrated during October, which is McDowell Sonoran Month in Scottsdale. Stewards directly save city taxpayers money, and they are "motivated to do a good job," says MSC board chairman Len Marcisz.

"The city profits when we provide support that otherwise would have to be provided by salaried employees of the city," Marcisz said. It represents an "economic contribution. That's a good thing for the city."

Bob Cafarella, Scottsdale's preservation director, and Claire Miller, preserve manager, genuinely appreciate the help.

Back in the early 1990s, when the preserve was a concept, critics would say "'look at what you're going to need staff-wise' to manage the land," Cafarella said. "The supporters

said 'we will help you take care of the preserve, we will be the staff.' They committed."

Miller couldn't do the work – among it, trail construction and maintenance, closing of unauthorized trails, erosion control, litter and trash pickup, monitoring, invasive plant removal, hike guiding and the constant interaction with and education of users – without the volunteer stewards.

"They're out there, pick and shovel, and the dirtier the better for some of them," Miller said. "They love to work hard, be outdoors, and there's a social element, too. They're just an incredible group of folks. They bring so much to the table."

Miller, who grew up on Scottsdale, spent 13 years with the city of Phoenix parks and recreation department working in mountain and desert parks. Phoenix has a large department, with dozens of park rangers and full-scale grounds and maintenance crews working its 29,736 acres of mountain and desert preserves. In Scottsdale, she's the first and only manager of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Scott Hamilton, who previously had responsibility for all Scottsdale trails, is now dedicated full-time to the needs of preserve trails. Beyond Miller, Hamilton and Cafarella, there are no other city employees who spend all their time working on preserve issues.

The Scottsdale model of city and non-profit collaboration has the attention of communities throughout the Valley, in Arizona and beyond, Cafarella says. Officials "come to us for advice," Cafarella said. "Scottsdale has been identified as the center of land preservation in a valley and a state that is growth-oriented. It's what works in Arizona."

### About The MSC

*The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy's commitment to the community is to champion the preservation of the Sonoran Desert and its mountains, facilitate the community's relationship with preserved land, and develop a culture of stewardship within the community.*

*It is our goal to secure for future generations their unique environmental and archeological heritage.*

### Mountain Lines

Official publication of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. Printed on recycled paper with soy based inks.

Creative design donated by Debra Doss

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Ruthie Carll, Managing Director  
Debbie Frey, Office Manager  
Annette MacLean, Program Asst.  
Sandra Kurlander, Data Manager

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#### Ex Officio Directors:

Bob Cafarella, Claire Miller, , Bernie Finkel

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The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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The 2006 – 2007 fiscal year which ended June 30, brought amazing changes to MSC. MSC proved that it is a responsive, dynamic, and adaptable organization by finishing this year of change as a stronger entity.

I feel our most significant achievement this year was the management enhancements made by our volunteer leadership. Our volunteers, who bring an amazing array of skills to the table, do so with commitment and enthusiasm. The volunteer leadership worked together to prepare MSC to recruit, train, mentor, and reward new volunteers. This team also examined itself and identified a need for leadership rotation, thus allowing new people to serve MSC as leaders. Their plans for recruiting and training are now being implemented and the MSC family eagerly awaits our next generation of volunteers.

**Here are a few highlights of other achievements:**

MSC built and now operates an office in the Scottsdale Promenade.

MSC hired a Managing Director to help bring the education and stewardship activities up to the level of excellence that our advocacy activities achieve.

A much needed ATV, a tug to carry equipment, and a trailer to carry both was purchased and donated to the City of Scottsdale Preservation Department.

MSC revitalized our printed materials leading to a more contemporary look.

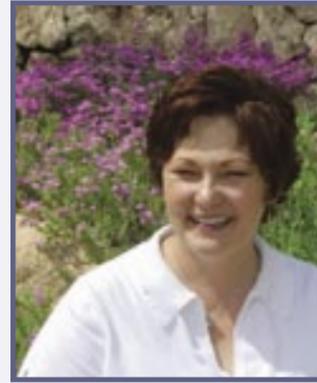
Circle of Friends members enjoyed the first of what will be an annual members spring field trip.

The best news of all is that this growth occurred while, at the same time, we improved our financial position. At year-end, we were able to make a large contribution to our endowment, illustrating both our short-term financial stability and our concentration on long-term financial planning. Our Circle of Friends members and our donors - including 217 new donors - made this possible through their generosity and passion for the Preserve. In addition, we received a substantial gift from Jane Rau, a lifetime board member and co-founder of MSC.

The current fiscal year's plans are sure to produce great things in the next few months. I will be writing an article in the next issue of Mountain Lines to share MSC's short-term goals. I cannot help sharing, however, the outcomes of a few goals that have already been achieved: A new website will launch in the next few weeks; a greatly enhanced schedule of events for McDowell Sonoran Month creates more education opportunities; a new volunteer training system begins on September 29th improving our ability to recruit and train more volunteers than ever before; and new, permanent trail maps funded by MSC will be installed any day at the south area trailheads.

I am thrilled to be a part of this organization! We work as a team, accomplishing more than any of us could alone. We are making a difference in our community. Everyday brings new challenges. What more could someone want?

**Ruthie Carll**  
Managing Director



**The People of MSC**

**Board of Directors**

- Melinda Gulick – Chairman
- Bob Freund – Vice Chairman
- Len Marcisz – Secretary
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- Bernie Finkel
- Sue Livingston
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- BJ Tatro – Pathfinder Chair
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- Jerry Miller – Construction and Maintenance Chair
- Dan Gruber – Education Chair
- Chet Andrews / Bobby Alpert – Volunteer Training Chairs
- Dick Benson / Pat Catalano – Recruitment Chairs
- Karen Epps – Distribution Chair

**Staff**

- Carla – Executive Director (through March)
- Ruthie Carll – Managing Director
- Debbie Frey – Office Manager
- Annette MacLean – Programming Assistant
- Sandra Kurlander – Data Manager (since January)

**MSC by the Numbers**

**We Salute Our 2006 Supporters**

We are so grateful for all of the support you provided to fuel our work in 2006-2007. Whether you gave \$1 or much more, you made countless successes happen! Your generous contributions make our work possible.

MSC exists because of you, and it is through your support and actions that we will continue to advocate for the completion of the Preserve, provide stewardship of the land within the current Preserve, and educate our community about the urgent need for land conservation.

Through our work together, we can ensure that this treasure will be here for our children and generations to come.

Thank you for your partnership and support.

Total Fundraising:	\$371,566
Total # Friends:	336
Total # Donors:	637
Total # New Donors:	217
Total # Corporate Donors:	14

**Preserve**

Acres in Proposed Boundary:	36,400
Acres Owned by the City of Scottsdale:	11,990
Acres Preserved through Zoning:	1,713
Acres Pending Acquisition:	420
Acres Remaining, including State Land:	19,643
Total Miles of Trails on Trail Master Plan:	174
Miles of Existing Trails:	117

**Programming**

Number hikes:	87
Number of hikers:	1,485
Number of Outreach Events:	31
Number of Pathfinder Contacts:	15,000
Number of Construction & Maintenance Projects:	81

**Volunteers**

Total # of Hours Contributed:	17,522
Monetary Value of Contribution*:	\$316,272
Total # Stewards:	180
New Master Stewards:	5
Total # Master Stewards:	14
New volunteers:	65

\*As determined by the Points of Light Foundation

**Consolidated Financial Statements  
Year Ending June 31, 2007\***

(with comparative totals for 2006)

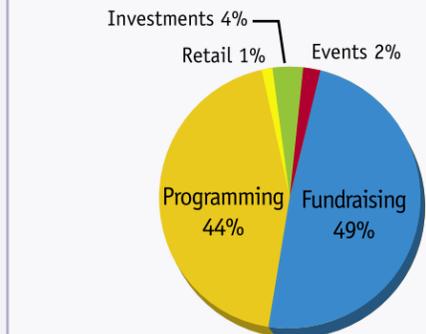
Assets	June 2006	June 2007
Current Assets		
Cash	\$610,693	\$647,501
Receivables	\$5,000	\$13,493
Inventory	\$10,234	\$1,975
Other Assets	\$3,213	\$1,265
Fixed Assets	\$392,895	\$415,907
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,022,035</b>	<b>\$1,080,141</b>

Liabilities & Net Assets	June 2006	June 2007
Current Liabilities	\$18,883	\$12,541
Net Assets	1,003,152	\$1,067,600
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$1,022,035</b>	<b>\$1,080,141</b>

**Support and Revenue Sources**

Events	\$15,005	(2%)
Fundraising	\$371,566	(49%)
Programming	\$331,067	(44%)
Retail	\$10,775	(1%)
Investments	\$31,250	(4%)

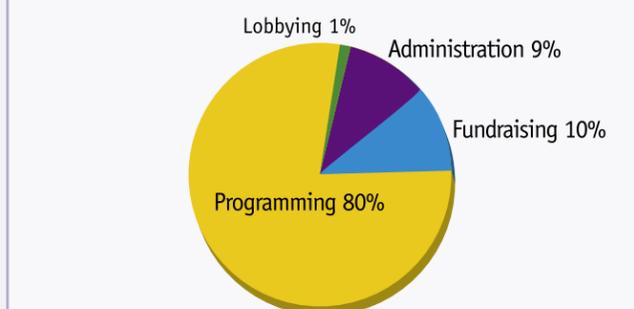
**Total \$759,663**



**Expenses**

Administration	\$65,471	(9%)
Fundraising	\$71,542	(10%)
Programming	\$603,293	(80%)
Lobbying	\$5,257	(1%)

**Total \$745,563**



# October is McDowell Sonoran Month



What do 17 talks, 8 hikes, 6 events, the Mayor and owls all have in common? The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and City of Scottsdale's 13th annual McDowell Sonoran Month!



Photo Credit: Stacy Lankford

On Oct. 2nd, as she has for the past 12 years, Mayor Mary Manross will proclaim October to be McDowell Sonoran Month. MSC organizers hope this year's month-long celebration is the best yet. This year's theme, *It's Your Preserve*, was selected as a tribute to the community who wisely protected Scottsdale's most valuable natural resource for future generations.

"It's really amazing to see people get out in the Preserve for the first time," said Steve Dodd, a longtime MSC Steward and hike leader. "They say 'I never knew this was here.'" And, once they are on the Preserve, "they're a friend for life," he continued. "Hopefully, we can get more people out there and realize what they've got. After all, it is their Preserve."

McDowell Sonoran Month is intended to increase awareness of Sonoran Desert and how the MSC protects the desert through its stewardship efforts. MSC wants more people to know about the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, MSC's unique partnership with the city of Scottsdale, and how everyone can help protect open space and desert habitat.

"People don't realize what an ecological treasure is sitting out here in terms of land that is worth preserving," Dodd said. "They don't know what we've got, and how special it is." The preserve, with its geology, topography, rich plant and animal life and cultural heritage, is "a living, breathing treasure," he said. "This is really something that's unique and worth preserving."

## McDowell Sonoran Month Schedule of Activities

Full listings with details, location directions, reservation or ticket information, and more can be found at [www.mcdowellsonoranmonth.com](http://www.mcdowellsonoranmonth.com)

### Events

#### Proclamation Get Out

October 2, 5 p.m.  
City Hall, Kiva Room

At the October 2 City Council meeting, Mayor Mary Manross will declare October "McDowell Sonoran Month." During the announcement, she will acknowledge MSC for its contribution to the city in the form of stewardship of the Preserve, funds for Preserve enhancements, and advocacy. Join MSC's board, staff, volunteers, and friends at this event – and don't forget to where your blue shirt!



#### Tour de Scottsdale

October 14, all day  
DC Ranch's Market Street  
Cost varies on type of rider and registration date (\$75 - \$150)

This 70 mile bike ride, one of Scottsdale's signature events, is in its 4th year and it is bigger and better than last year. And – when the riders are out, their friends and family can wait at the Expo. This fun event includes a large number of exhibitors, food, a beer garden, and band. Proceeds from this event benefit the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.

Proceeds from this event benefit the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.

#### Big Fall Work Project

October 20, 7:30 a.m.  
Gateway Access Area

MSC plans major work projects at least twice per year. This project, at the new Gateway Trailhead near DC Ranch, includes devegetating what will be the Gateway parking area. Everyone interested in helping should join us. People of all ability levels are needed. This is a great way to contribute to the growth of your Preserve. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [rsvp@mcdowellsonoran.org](mailto:rsvp@mcdowellsonoran.org).

#### Cookout at the Ranch

October 27, 5 to 10 p.m.  
McDonald's Ranch  
Adults \$45 / Children \$15

Supporting a great cause never tasted so good. Come to MacDonald's Ranch where the hay wagons and good times will roll for the 12th-annual, fun-packed benefit for desert preservation, the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive, wildlife rehabilitation, and Rotary charities. Savor a delicious buffet from the Outback Steak House, enjoy the popular Stragglers C&W Band, cowboy stunt pro Brian Bausch, Earl Gray trick pony, and MC Alan Havir.

### Ongoing Programs

#### Guided Hikes in the Preserve

Every Saturday and Sunday in October, 8 a.m.

Join MSC Stewards as they guide you along the trails of the Preserve. You won't regret getting to know your Preserve better. The spectacular views, wildlife and plants are brought to life by the trained volunteers who care for this, Scottsdale's greatest natural resource. Details for all of these hikes can be found on the website.

#### Sunset Family Series

Every Friday Evening in October, 4:30 p.m.  
Lost Dog Wash Trailhead Amphitheater  
Free

These family programs are perfect for everyone. All programs focus on native wildlife and will include hands-on activities for children. The casual setting, interesting programs, and watching the sunset are the perfect way to end a busy week. Presenters are from Southwest Wildlife and Adobe Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

#### "Preserve Up Close" Trailhead Talks

Every Saturday and Sunday in October, 9 a.m.  
Lost Dog Wash Trailhead Amphitheater

MSC Stewards are passionate about the Preserve for many different reasons. During these free half-hour, casual talks, different Stewards share their passion in Presentations that range from cooking to mountain biking. A complete list of dates and topics is on the website.

#### "What the Experts Say" Presentations

Every Monday in October, 7 pm  
Scottsdale Community College, L5122 West

Each Monday evening at 7 p.m., a different local scientist will share their views on some aspect of conservation or the environment. Talks range from the importance of biodiversity to the outlook for native insects. On Oct. 1, James R. Anderson, PhD, a senior research scientist at Arizona State University, talks about "Pollution Patterns in the Valley of the Sun: A Need for Planning." These free talks will be held at Scottsdale Community College as part of an ongoing partnership between MSC and SCC's Center for Native and Urban Wildlife. Lemonade and cookies will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. in CNUW's Toad Hall.

### Event Help

If you are interested in helping at any of the McDowell Sonoran Month events, please contact us today. Call 480-998-7971 x 105 or email [volunteer@mcdowellsonoran.org](mailto:volunteer@mcdowellsonoran.org).

### McDowell Sonoran Month Proclamation

*Whereas, the citizens of Scottsdale have consistently and strongly expressed that the preservation of the McDowell Mountains and the surrounding Sonoran Desert is a high priority by passing seven Preserve-related votes leading to the establishment the McDowell Sonoran Preserve; and*

*Whereas, the citizens of Scottsdale established the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization to partner with the city to steward this community asset; and*

*Whereas, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale's most valuable natural resource, will, when completed, protect one third of our city as natural, open space making Scottsdale one of the nation's leaders in urban conservation; and*

*Whereas, it is the desire of the City of Scottsdale and its citizens, to celebrate this resource and the achievement in creating and stewarding it on this, the 13th anniversary of the Preserve's establishment; and*

*Whereas, it is also the intent of the City of Scottsdale to raise awareness of the need to complete the Preserve thus protecting our ecological heritage for future generations;*

*Therefore, I, Mary Manross, Mayor of the City of Scottsdale, Arizona, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2007 as McDowell Sonoran Month in Scottsdale and urge all of our community to join me during this month in appreciating and celebrating the beauty of this community treasure and in recognizing the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy for its contribution of service to our city.*

— Mary Manross, Mayor



Bobcat: Photo credit: George Andrejko

## Hikes

It's time to get out your hiking boots and hit the trail! October, November, and December bring new hikes and the return of a few favorites. Join our stewards and get into your Preserve. Don't forget your water, sturdy shoes or boots, hats, sunscreen and snacks.

No reservations are required. For directions to the meeting places visit [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org) or phone 480-998-7971, ext. 100.

**Sat., Oct. 6, 8 a.m. Ringtail Loop** A 2.5-mile trip past fine specimens of Sonoran Desert plants. Mild inclines only. A "Hike Right" talk offering desert-hiking tips will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the amphitheater. Allow about 2 hours for the hike. **Meet at #3**

**Sun., Oct. 7, 8 a.m. Balanced Rock** A 4.2-mile round trip to a striking rock formation. See a juniper tree, a relic of an earlier era. Mild inclines only. About 3 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #1**

**Sat., Oct. 13, 8 a.m. Brown's Ranch** Learn about ranching in our area during a 4-mile hike through the former working ranch. Visit the corral area and the foundation of the old ranch house. See how cattle grazing affects the land long after the cattle are gone. Mild inclines only. About 2 1/2 hours. **Meet at #1**

**Sun., Oct. 14, 8 a.m. Dixie Mine** Learn about mining in the McDowells on a scenic, 5.5-mile hike to a former working mine. Little elevation gain but lots of ups and downs. About 4 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #3**

**Sat., Oct. 20, 8 a.m. Ethnobotany Hike** Learn how Natives Peoples used desert plants for their food, shelter, rituals and medicine in a 3.2-mile loop hike on the scenic Cactus Trail. A few steep places but mild inclines otherwise. About 3 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #1**



Photo credit: Mariann Wallace

### Where to meet before the hike

**Meeting Place #1:** The end of Alma School Rd. north of Dynamite Blvd.

**Meeting Place #2:** The end of 128th St. north of Via Linda

**Meeting Place #3:** Lost Dog Trailhead lot at 124th St. north of Via Linda

**Meeting Place #4:** The lot at 104th St. just south of McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd.

**Meeting Place #5:** Trailhead staging lot in the park off Fountain Hills Blvd. *\$5 per car entrance fee*

**Sun., Oct. 21, 8 a.m. Gateway Loop** Our first public hike in the new Gateway Area covers 5.5 miles with an elevation gain of about 700 feet. A few steep places. About 3 1/2 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #4**

**Sat., Oct. 27, 8 a.m. Big Saguaro Loop** A 5-mile hike in the state trust land visits a 30-armed desert giant. Good photo ops. Mild inclines only. About 3 1/2 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #1**

**Sun., Oct. 28, 8 a.m. Micro-Desert on the Lost Dog Trail** See little-noticed plants and animals that have a powerful effect on the desert environment during a 4-mile hike. Mild inclines only. About 2 1/2 hours. **Meet at #3**

**Sat., Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m. Geology Hike on the Amphitheater Trail** Learn how the McDowells and surrounding mountains were formed on a 5.5-mile trip through an interest rock formation. Mild inclines only. About 3 hours. **Meet at #1**

**Sun., Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m. Sunrise Peak from 128th St.** Traverse the full length of the beautiful Sunrise Trail from the west, ending at the 145th Way Trailhead. About 5 miles with about a 1,200-foot elevation gain. For hardy hikers. Allow about 4 hours including carpooling. **Meet at the lower lot on Via Linda west of 145th Way.**

**Sat., Nov. 10, 8:30 a.m. Windgate Pass** Our second Gateway Area debut climbs 1,350 feet in about 4 miles to a saddle offering views of the interior of the McDowell Range, then returns for about an 8-mile total. For hardy hikers. Allow about 4 1/2 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #4**

**Sun., Nov. 11, 8:30 a.m. Spur Cross Trail** About a 6-mile round trip to a riparian area in Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. Mild inclines only. There's a \$3-a-hiker park fee. Allow about 3 1/2 hours. Meet at the parking lot at the park on Spur Cross Rd., west of Scottsdale Ave. and 4.25 miles north of Cave Creek Rd.



Photo credit: Mariann Wallace

**Sat., Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m. The Human McDowells** See the McDowells the way a native hunting party saw them on a 2.5-mile hike on the Ringtail Loop. Mild inclines only. About 2 1/2 hours. **Meet at #3**

**Sun., Nov. 18, 8:30 a.m. Little Granite Loop** A rugged, 8.5-mile hike around Little Granite Mountain that offers a good mix of scenery and exercise. Many ups and downs. For hardy hikers. About 5 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #1**

**Thurs., Nov. 22 (Thanksgiving Day), 8:30 a.m. Taliesin Overlook via the Quartz Trail** Enjoy a guiltless Turkey Day by first doing a 5-mile round-trip hike with about a 500-foot elevation gain to a scenic saddle overlooking the East Valley and Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural complex. Some climbing but on gradual grades. About 3 hours. **Meet at #4**

**Sat., Nov. 24, 8:30 a.m. Cholla Mountain Loop** Work off your Thanksgiving excess on a rugged, 8-mile hike around Cholla Mountain that offers a wide range of desert vistas. One short sustained climb and many ups and downs. For hardy hikers. About 4 hours. **Meet at #1**

**Sun., Nov. 25, 8:30 a.m. Sunrise Peak** Hike the full, 5-mile Sunrise Trail from the steeper east side, finishing at the 128th St. Trailhead. A 1,200-foot elevation gain. For hardy hikers. Allow about 3 1/2 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #2**

**Sat., Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m. Scenic Trail** A 4.8-mile foothills loop in McDowell Mountain Regional Park offers unique between-mountain views. Mild inclines only. About 3 hours. **Meet at #5**

**Sun., Dec. 2, 8:30 a.m. Ironwood Wash** A 7.5-mile round trip with a 800-foot elevation gain past a mountainside quartz outcropping into a high wash lined with large ironwood trees. Some climbing on gradual grades. About 4 hours. **Meet at #4**

**Sat., Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m. Cactus Trail** A 3.2-mile loop along Little Granite Mountain past some of the finest stands of saguaro cactus anywhere. A few steep places but mild inclines otherwise. Allow about 2 1/2 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #1**

**Sun., Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m. Wingate-Bell Loop** The main trail in the new Gateway Area is a rugged, 11-mile trek through Windgate Pass and Bell Pass that involves more than 2,000 feet of climbing. Excellent East Valley and interior-mountain views. For very hardy hikers. Allow about 6 hours including carpooling. **Meet at #4**

**Sat., Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. Desert Ecology Hike** Learn how deserts are formed and maintained in a 5-mile hike with a 500-foot elevation gain on the Quartz Trail. Grades are not steep. Allow about 3 hours. **Meet at #4**

**Sun., Dec. 16, 8:30 a.m. Cathedral Rocks.** A 5.5-mile loop to a striking rock formation that appears to have been a Native Peoples' gathering place. Mild inclines only. Allow about 3 hours. **Meet at #1**

Go the extra mile.  
It's never crowded  
and always worth it.

-Author Unknown

# Revamped Training Program is Ready to Launch...



Photo Credit: Mariann Wallace

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy needs more volunteer Stewards who are prepared to take care of an expanding, heavily used McDowell Sonoran Preserve. To meet the demands, MSC has stretched its Steward training program from one to five total course offerings starting this fall.

“The content has gotten richer,” said Ruthie Carll, MSC managing director. “We’ve taken the old training, chopped it up and beefed it up. Our goal is to ensure that every volunteer is ideally trained for the service they provide and that they have all the information they need to represent MSC and the Preserve.”

MSC wants to be “ready for an influx of volunteers,” Carll said. With Preserve expansion into the Gateway region, and eventually to the space north of Dynamite Road, “we learned we needed 2-1/2 times more volunteers in order to optimally care for the Preserve. There’s a lot we can’t do because we don’t have enough people.”

The schedule begins with New Steward Orientation, and expands with four new, one-day classes aimed at Stewards who want to learn and do more. Each course is a full day long, and they are all offered at the **DC Ranch Village Health Club and Spa**.

New Steward Orientation helps new volunteers understand all the basics – Preserve history, the relationship between MSC and the city of Scottsdale, how MSC meets its mission and an introduction to programs — in an eight-hour course. When they’re done, graduates receive their blue MSC shirts and badges. Fee for the course is \$30, which covers the shirt, a badge, lunch and resource materials. New Steward Orientation classes are set for **Sept. 29, Nov. 3, Jan 12, and Feb 9**.

Field Training is a new requirement for Stewards who want to volunteer on the ground. They’ll learn about the Preserve trail system, trail condition evaluation and repair work. Upon

**To Become an MSC Steward, call Annette at 480-998-7971 x 105 today**



completion, graduates of this class can join foot, bike and horse patrols, and undertake trail work. Preserve 101 is offered **Oct. 6 and Nov. 10, and again Jan. 19 and Feb. 16**. It is free.

The Core Content Course helps Stewards learn about the Preserve’s flora, fauna, geology and human

history. Those graduates can become trailhead hosts and hike leaders. It is offered once each season, with **Nov. 17 and March 1** classes on the current calendar. It is also free.

Program Orientations give Stewards more particulars about their specific volunteer interests. Continuing Education is just that. “We feel strongly that people should learn throughout their lives,” Carll said. “And volunteers tell us that the opportunity to continue learning is one of the reasons they volunteer.” Dates for these courses are yet to be determined.



## From Training to Service

New Steward Orientation	Field Training	Natural History	Program Orientations	Continuing Education
<p>This course provides all the information needed to become an MSC Steward. Graduates receive their blue shirts, and are able to begin volunteering in a few areas right away.</p> <p><i>Graduates of this class can join these programs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Events</li> <li>Outreach Booth</li> <li>Office Assistants</li> <li>Planning Committees</li> <li>Speakers Bureau</li> </ul>	<p>Those Stewards who wish to participate in any of the programs that physically occur in the Preserve are required to take this class.</p> <p><i>Graduates of this class can join these programs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foot, Bike, and Horse Patrol</li> <li>Construction &amp; Maintenance (Trail Work)</li> </ul>	<p>For some activities, having a working knowledge of the Preserve’s flora, fauna, geology, and human history is necessary.</p> <p><i>Graduates of this class can join these programs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathfinders (Trail Head Hosts)</li> <li>Hike Leaders</li> </ul>	<p>After learning all about MSC, the Preserve, and more, it is time to learn how to participate in the various programs.</p>	<p>MSC believes that life long learning is vital and therefore, we provide education opportunities throughout the year.</p>

## Volunteers participate in programs that support the three missions of MSC: Advocacy, Education, and Stewardship



*They may look like a chain gang but they are having a lot of fun too!*



*The outreach booth is a great place to meet new people*

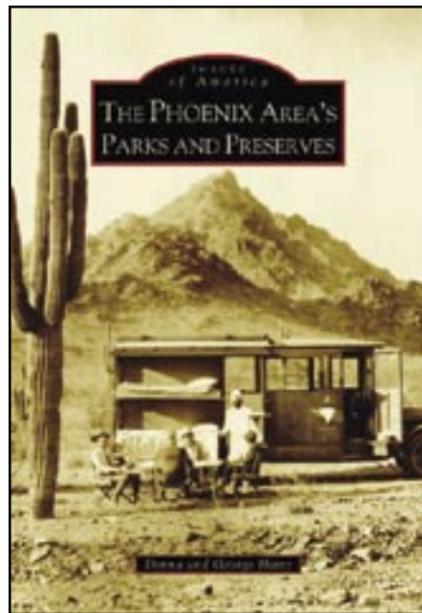


*Teaching is a great way to share your passion for the Preserve.*

I am only one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
And I will not let what I cannot do  
interfere with what I can do..

—Rabindranath Tagore

Two Stewards  
Write One Great New Book...**The Phoenix Area's  
Parks and Preserves** by Donna & George Hartz



The Hartz's book will be available through the MSC office after October 6th



On October 3, 1994, the Scottsdale City Council held a special meeting at WestWorld, a city-owned facility at the foot of the McDowell Mountains. As seen in this photograph, Mayor Herb Drinkwater led members of the council and other preserve supporters on a tour by horseback to view the spectacular scenery being targeted for preservation. (Courtesy McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.)

When we were approached by Arcadia Publishing about writing a book for their Images of America series, we immediately focused on the history of the parks and preserves within the metropolitan Phoenix area. This had been a subject of interest to us for many years. Not only were we long time supporters and Stewards for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, but both of us had done research and presented papers on the history of one of more of our major parks and/or preserves. Arcadia responded enthusiastically, and we began the challenging effort to write and produce **The Phoenix Area's Parks and Preserves**.

Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series requires the authors to tell their stories through the extensive use of historical photographs. This is one of the great benefits of this series – the collection and publication of untold thousands of historical photographs otherwise not easily accessible to the general public. There are more than 3,000 titles in this series, covering cities and towns throughout the United States – such as Joan Fudala's **Scottsdale**, published earlier this year. The stories are told primarily through photographs and their captions. The authors we have met, like us, tell about their challenge to find and gain access to the photographs necessary for the stories they wished to tell. **Our book contains 211 photographs, most never before published. The oldest historical photograph is from the early 1880s of the construction of the Arizona canal; our most recent shows the 2005 opening of the Lost Dog Wash Access Area.**

The history of open space preservation efforts in the Phoenix area goes back more than 100 years and, we believe, is best understood through a closer look at seven of the major parks and preserves – Papago Park, South Mountain Park / Preserve, Encanto Park, Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Camelback Mountain, Squaw Peak, and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Each receives a full chapter in our book, illustrating the successes and lessons learned in what is often a trial and error process of how to best protect these natural treasures. Each success provides a road map for those who followed.

From the first decade of the 20th century, Phoenix area residents fought to preserve open space from development pressures. Not surprisingly, their first areas of focus were the prominent nearby landmarks of the Papago Buttes and the Salt River Mountains (now known as South Mountain Park / Preserve). Mining was the immediate fear in the Salt River Mountains, while homesteading threatened the Papago Buttes area. Phoenix area residents sought to preserve these spaces for a variety of reasons – for recreational purposes, for scenic enjoyment, for protection of the environment, and for the satisfaction of knowing that these landmarks would remain “natural”.

For residents of the area, an important part of their identity was their connection to the natural environment and the prominent landmarks representing that environment. These landmarks were as much a part of Phoenicians' sense of place in the early 20th cen-

–continued...

ask an expert



*When are the Gateway trails going to open?*

by Scott Hamilton, City of Scottsdale Trails Manager

The trails in the central region of the Preserve, including the Windgate Pass and Bell Pass Trails, are open for public use. Parking, however, is extremely limited and will remain so until the Gateway Access Area is completed. This facility will be located on the east side of Thompson Peak Parkway, north of Bell Road. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2008, and should be completed by early 2009. In the meantime, limited access to the central region trails is available from the north side of Bell Road at 104th Street. Access is also available from the Quartz Access Area at the southwest corner of 104th Street and McDowell Mountain Ranch Road. And of course don't forget the other variety of wonderful trails and access points in the southern region of the Preserve that are open for public use. Trail maps of the southern region are available at [www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov/Preserve](http://www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov/Preserve) or at the MSC office. Enjoy the trails!



Gateway Saddle



Bell Pass

*I saw a really colorful lizard on my hike in the Preserve today. It was greenish-blue, had a yellow head, was spotted and had a black marking like a collar. Can you tell me what it was?*

by Ruthie Carll, MSC Managing Director

I think you might have seen a collared lizard. Collared lizards can reach up to 10 inches long from nose to the tip of their tails. They have smooth scales and the males are more colorful than females but they both are quite a bit more colorful than typical lizards. The males are territorial, so once you've located one, you can be fairly certain you'll see him there again. In breeding season, both the male and female collared lizards become even more colorful.



Collared Lizard; Photo Credit: Randy Babb

Another lizard in this area that is often confused for collared lizards is the desert spiny lizard. These lizards have scales that are keeled, giving them a rough appearance. They also have a black collar that is prominent on their throats but doesn't quite connect behind their heads. It looks more like a bib than a collar! Look for collared lizards in boulder areas, while desert spiny lizards prefer areas with trees.



Desert Spiny Lizard  
Photo Credit: Gene Almendinger

ture as they are for us in the beginning of the 21st century. Initially, residents were seeking to build “parks”, but in doing so they laid the essential groundwork for creating “preserves”. We include Encanto Park because it is an important part of this story - it helped meet the area's recreational goals, and thereby allowed a greater focus on the preservation effort.

The history of this preservation effort spanned every decade of the 20th century, with numerous bumps along the way. It is a story of community activism and dedicated inspirational leaders, both inside and outside of government. We believe the awesomeness of the on-going effort to create the McDowell Sonoran Preserve is best understood and appreciated in the context of the overall quest to create the Phoenix area's parks and preserves. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to tackle this project, and hope our book makes some small contribution to the celebration of these achievements. 🌵

I expect to pass through life but once.  
If therefore, there be any good thing  
I can do, let me do it now  
and not defer it,  
as I shall not pass this way again.

—William Penn

# The Contribution of Climbers

By Erik Filsinger and Paul Diefenderfer

Most of us have heard the expression “Leave No Trace.” What you may not know is that the movement to protect public lands in their natural and unspoiled condition has its roots within the climbing and mountaineering community.

Paul Petzoldt, founder of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), was instrumental in creating the Leave No Trace movement. As a climber, mountaineer and back-country guide, he watched the major increase in recreational use of public lands from the 1960’s through the 1980’s and its associated impact on the health of these natural areas. He set out to create a set of ‘best practices’ to guide the use of natural land in the hopes of preserving the beauty and pristine nature of wild lands for future generations. This, in part, led him to found NOLS as a way to develop skilled outdoor leaders who could also communicate respect for the land.



It was no surprise when in 1994, the United State Forest Service tapped Paul to help develop a national educational program that formalized his best practices for wilderness travel. The Leave No Trace concept was integrated into programs from the Boy Scouts to the for-profit outdoor adventure companies. And, as always, it remained a mainstay of the climber and mountaineer educational programs.

The Arizona Mountaineers Club (AMC) rock climbing classes teach novice and expert climbers alike to follow the Leave No Trace ethic. In the Preserve, the climbing community often assists MSC by picking up trash at rock formations and along to trails. Representatives from AMC are also working with the Preservation Commission to plan trails to climbing locations in order to reduce the impact of people blazing new trails to reach desirable areas. Finally, AMC members help monitor that Preserve by alerting MSC when they encounter damaged or other issues that need our attention.



A climber ascends Sven Slab; Photo by John Nystedt

For climbers that prefer the outdoors to rock walls, it’s not just about the climb. It’s about the natural rock, the amazing habitat, stunning views and camaraderie. Recreational climbing is another way for you to enjoy your Preserve. If you have any questions about climbers and mountaineers, feel free to visit one of the many rock climbing gyms in the Valley, or visit with a representative of the Arizona Mountaineering Club. Visit the website at: [www.amcaz.org](http://www.amcaz.org).

## Leave No Trace – Seven Principles for Wilderness Travel

- Plan and Prepare (Know the conditions of your destination and pack in what you’ll need.)
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces (Good trails and camp-sites are found not made.)
- Properly Dispose of Waste (Pack it in = Pack it out)
- Leave Nature Her Treasures (Pack out only what you pack in)
- Minimize Campfires (Fires are not allowed in the Preserve)
- Respect Wildlife and Treat as Precious (You are a guest in their home. Be a welcome one.)
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors (Leave the city and its noises behind)

# MSC Has Friends in Far Away Places

by Shannon Smith



“I can’t believe I found it!” I said aloud, alone in my rental car. I sat in a dirt parking lot looking at a sign that read “Lost Dog Trailhead.” A small blurb in the local paper prompted my adventure to find the entrance to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. After driving back and forth on Shea Boulevard, my Midwestern persistence paid off. As I stepped out of the car, I gasped at the spectacular beauty all around me. What a magical place to do my very first hike!

This was my first experience, my first meeting, with the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. That morning in January of 2002 is etched in my mind. Now, five years later, this Midwestern girl from the flatlands and the Preserve have become old friends.

As I started my hike, the thought entered my mind that the people of the Valley must have done something grand to deserve such a magnificent place. I said a silent thank you to the smart people who put this land aside for generations to enjoy. It was then that I noticed two friends I hadn’t seen in a while had come upon me: Peace and Serenity. It was as if they were waiting for me here.

The trail led me up into the rolling hills, giving me glimpses of the Preserve’s treasures such as lizards, desert birds, flowers, and the strange creatures known as the saguaros. I was immediately fascinated by them. They twisted, bent over, bowed and pointed. Some were stuck together and others even appeared to wave their many arms!

Then there was the endless blue sky. I pictured myself diving into it as if it were a big ocean. For a moment, I thought this beautiful preserve could hypnotize me. Entranced, I would stay there forever. Somehow, I didn’t mind that thought!

My hike was glorious and when I returned to my car, I quickly wrote down everything about the Preserve in my travel log. I knew I would be back the next year when I returned to the Valley. Over the following years, I explored other areas of the Preserve. Many mornings I have sat in front of the electric gate with my coffee, excitedly waiting for the gate to open.



Don’t ask this saguaro for directions! Photo credit: Don Meserve

As I return each year to the Valley and the Preserve, I have watched the improvements being lovingly made to the Preserve, and it makes me happy. The people of the Valley are blessed to have such a treasure in their possession. I pray that they use it wisely, manage it well, treasure and support it!

I always bring my two Preserve friends back with me to Chicago. Peace walks on one side of me, Serenity on the other. When they start to fade with the trials of everyday Chicago living, I know it is time for me to come back to the magical McDowell Sonoran Preserve to find them, once again!

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold, service was joy.  
—Rabindranath Tagore

## Memorials

### In memory of Leisa Lewis

donations given by:  
(in addition to those listed previously)  
Larry and Diana Levy  
Shauneen and Frederick Slack  
R Bruce and Nancy Fraser

### In memory of Timothy James Donovan

donations given by:  
(in addition to those listed previously)  
Jenna Lillibridge

### In memory of Rodney Daeffler

donations given by:  
(in addition to those listed previously)  
Larry & Diana Levy

# An Interview with a Scientist

## Dr. Dale DeNardo

Arizona State University, School of Life Sciences Assistant Professor

Study Area: Herpetology

Relationship to the Preserve: Studies Gila Monsters



### *From a scientist's point of view, why is the McDowell Sonoran Preserve important?*

The Preserve provides refuge to a large variety of species, but most importantly the Preserve provides an easy opportunity for the community to get out the house and off the roads to experience and enjoy nature. Such an interaction is physically and mentally beneficial to the individual and helps build awareness and appreciation for our natural surroundings

### *Why are you passionate about your field of study?*

While my parents were not “nature people”, somehow the enjoyment of being out in nature was something I had since early childhood. The more I spent time in nature, the more curious I was of it. The more curious I was, the more I realized that society’s understanding of the natural environment and the animals that live there is relatively limited. Thus, I decided to make a career out of answering questions about how animals interact with their natural environment. I have no regrets with that decision as it has me constantly mentally challenged, has me out where I love to be, and allows me to expand the knowledge of both scientists and the general public about organisms I have always admired. That’s not a bad gig, and I feel privileged.

### *If I could do one thing to help protect the Preserve, what would it be?*

Homeowners can help save the desert – their houses too — by clearing nonnative plants, particularly bunch grasses, from their yards. Nonnative plants have greatly increased the destructive potential of wildfires in recent decades, adding fuel in a place where there had

been little to burn until humans arrived. Ornamental grasses, commonly called fountain grasses are a major culprit. Sadly, the seeds of these grasses are easily spread by the wind allowing them to migrate into the Preserve. MSC spends thousands of hours trying to rid the Preserve of invasive fountain grasses. We are not winning this battle.

### *What is your first memory of liking nature?*

I think my first memory is of liking nature! A significant early memory is that of my first and only camping trip with my father (as he was not an outdoors person in any way). My 5th grade science class and our parents spent a weekend in the Mojave Desert. I appreciated the desert considerably, but more importantly I appreciated the dedication of my father to support my interests regardless of his discomforts. That experience made me realize that through my passion for nature I can instill an appreciation, even if not an enjoyment, of nature by those for whom it is not a passion

### *What does your job entail?*

As an Assistant Professor at ASU, I have multiple responsibilities - teaching, research, and service. I use my passion for animals in nature in all three. My research focuses on how animals balance their many needs (e.g., water, energy, heat) in challenging environments such as our Sonoran Desert. I am also interested in how environmental change influences this balance, and thus the health and behavior of the animals. We predominantly use snakes and lizards as models to address my questions. The service component of my job is a less formal component, but one that I enjoy immensely. I strongly feel that, as a scientist, I have the responsibility to not only share my findings with colleagues but also provide this information about, and hopefully the fascination for, animals to the general public.

### *How does your job impact nature and/or the Preserve?*

For nine years my lab has been studying Gila monsters and how they survive in the desert. While Gila monsters are an icon of the American Southwest, they had been surprisingly understudied. Gila monsters themselves are fascinating in that they are the largest lizard in the U.S. and one of only two venomous lizards in the world. However, they are also exceptional models for studying organism-environment interactions in general since their lifestyle is a challenging one. We recently begun studies to examine how urbanization is effecting their ability to thrive. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve is an exceptional location for such a study because it is large yet closely associated with the surrounding urban landscape. Our work will provide insight into the stability of the MSP Gila monster population, and, as a side benefit, we are documenting the presence of other reptile species in the preserve.

### *Why would a kid want to grow up and have your job?*

If a kid loves nature, then I cannot imagine a better job. You get to keep yourself mentally challenged in one of the most beautiful places in the world. You also get to be a spokesperson for a vital component of our society (the world around us).

### *How do you think local kids or adults can make a difference in saving the natural environment or specifically the Sonoran Desert?*

There are a few ways. First, respect the environment. I have extreme difficulty trying to understand the campers and weekend travelers who expend the effort to go be in nature, but then destroy it. Litter, off-road driving, and damage to the vegetation (e.g., cutting trees or shooting 100+ year old saguaros) can permanently destroy the thing that you set out to visit. Yes, one can travel progressively farther each trip, but eventually the land will run out. Thus, visitors should use the environment and enjoy it, but leave it as it was found for future visitors. Also, while an individual only has a single vote, together votes make a difference. We need to become better stewards of the environment for us and for future generations. This state is fortunate to have a lot of State Trust Lands, and thus the people can have a say in what the Arizona of tomorrow will look like.

### *If you were trying to explain to a non-scientist why the Preserve is important, what would you say?*

It is hard to convince someone of the value of something they no little about. So first off, I would insist that the person see it and experience it, preferentially with someone who can share some of its hidden secrets. At first glance, a novice may see it as barren and boring, but the Sonoran Desert is an amazing place for its geology, plants, and animals. The MSP is an exceptional representation of the Sonoran Desert right in the backyard of one of the biggest metropolitan areas in the country. The MSP can provide mental relaxation, physical conditioning, and educational opportunities at little to no cost. The MSP not only preserves the desert within its boundaries, but through building an appreciation for such habitat its influence can be felt throughout the state and beyond. 🌵

## Become a Friend

We hope you enjoy reading the Mountain Lines. This resource is just one of the many tools MSC uses to inform the community about the importance of the Preserve. It is our intention to first educate our community and then motivate community members to do everything they can to ensure that the Preserve is completed. The Preserve seems large, and it is, however we are only half-way to preserving the area voters approved in 2003.

While we each cannot do everything needed, we each can do something! Don't allow yourself to become immobilized by the breadth of need. Take only one action and you become part of the solution.

There are many ways that each of us can influence the successful completion of the Preserve. This may be by writing the legislature in support of state land reform, becoming an MSC volunteer, help spread the word when propositions come up for vote, or by becoming a member of our Circle of Friends.

If we each do what we can, over one-third of the City of Scottsdale will be permanently preserved as open space.

Please become a member of our Circle of Friends. While your membership helps us financially, it also magnifies our voice. We have a big job to do and we need your help.

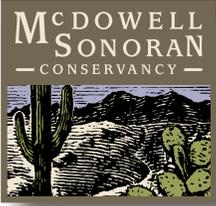
By completing the enclosed form and becoming a Friend of the Preserve, you help MSC continue to safeguard your Preserve for this and future generations. The full amount of your gift may be considered a charitable contribution.

photo credit: Adam Rodrigez



photo credit: Stacy Lankford





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Suite 110  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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SCOTTSDALE, AZ  
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## news and notes

# Scottsdale Fire Department Salutes MSC Stewards

To demonstrate its appreciation for extra “eyes and ears” on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, the Scottsdale Fire Department fed pizza and gave shirts to fire-watching Stewards of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.

The event was “a small thank-you to the Stewards for everything they’ve done,” said Jim Ford, Scottsdale fire marshal. Scottsdale Mayor Mary Manross and Chief Willie McDonald spoke to the group, and more than a dozen Stewards received golf shirts from the fire department.

Annually, MSC Stewards have patrolled Preserve access points on the Fourth of July “to ensure individuals do not do something, or anything, that is potentially harmful to the Preserve,” such as shooting fireworks, explained Bob Cafarella, preservation director for the city of Scottsdale. This year, Stewards were posted at the Gateway

trailhead near 104th and Bell Road, at the Lost Dog Wash gate and ramada, and at the 128th Street trailhead.

Stewards taking part in this year’s fire watch included Cathy Cope, Robert Gordon, Adam Weber, Alice Demetra, Claren Heim, Gene Purkheiser, Jenna Lillibridge, Sandra Hertlein, Joni Millavec, Arleda Watson, Larry Levy, Dennis Mowry, John Nystedt, Russ Tarner, BJ Heggli, Tommy Collins, Dick Benson, Chris Stalzer, Ann Sheedy, Jim Schlieper and Jan Schlieper.

