

Mountain Lines

Vol. 19 • No. 1 • Summer 2012



A Sustainable Landscape

Let the Preserve's environment inspire your xeriscape gardening.

Watchable Wildlife

A peek into the resourceful and sustainable life of the Kangaroo Rat.

Families in Nature

Simple, yet meaningful ways that families can help our environment together.





This issue of Mountain Lines celebrates the notion of sustainability. It's an awkward word, but the idea - not to deplete the ecological, historical/cultural, or open space resource

- is fundamental to the creation and ongoing management of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

The city ordinance establishing the Preserve lays out management objectives, which include: "preserve the local plants, wildlife and natural resources to maintain the biological diversity and long-term sustainability of the area's ecology" and "provide a superior opportunity for people to experience and enjoy the magnificent Sonoran Desert and mountains." In other words, manage the land to maintain healthy natural habitats that sustain the rich diversity of plants and animals found here.

Sustainability is always a goal of our Preserve-related activities. Currently the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is conducting biological inventories of the plants, animals and natural communities of the Preserve that will allow us to create a natural resource

"The natural environment sustains the life of all beings universally."
- Dalai Lama

management plan. With this information in hand, future land management activities coupled with ongoing monitoring will allow us to track ecological changes over time. We'll be able to know how well we are sustaining the Preserve's ecology.

We use a combination of methods to monitor human impacts. There are areas of the Preserve where we actually measure erosion from human uses of the trails, and changes to the flora along the sides of the trails. Trail counters at various locations count the number of users who pass by. McDowell Sonoran Conservancy stewards watch for impacts as they patrol trails.

Our responsibility for the Preserve is to those who come after us. We want to do all we can to make sure visitors 100 years from now will have the same experience of the desert that we enjoy today. We have to always ensure that sustainability remains a core philosophy of our actions. 🌿

About Us

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy champions the sustainability of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for the benefit of this and future generations. As stewards, we connect the community to the Preserve through education, research, advocacy, partnerships and safe, respectful access.

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McDowell Sonoran Conservancy
16435 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 110
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
480-998-7971

www.mcdowellsonoran.org
info@mcdowellsonoran.org



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Scottsdale Public Art Collaboration: 100 Journals Project

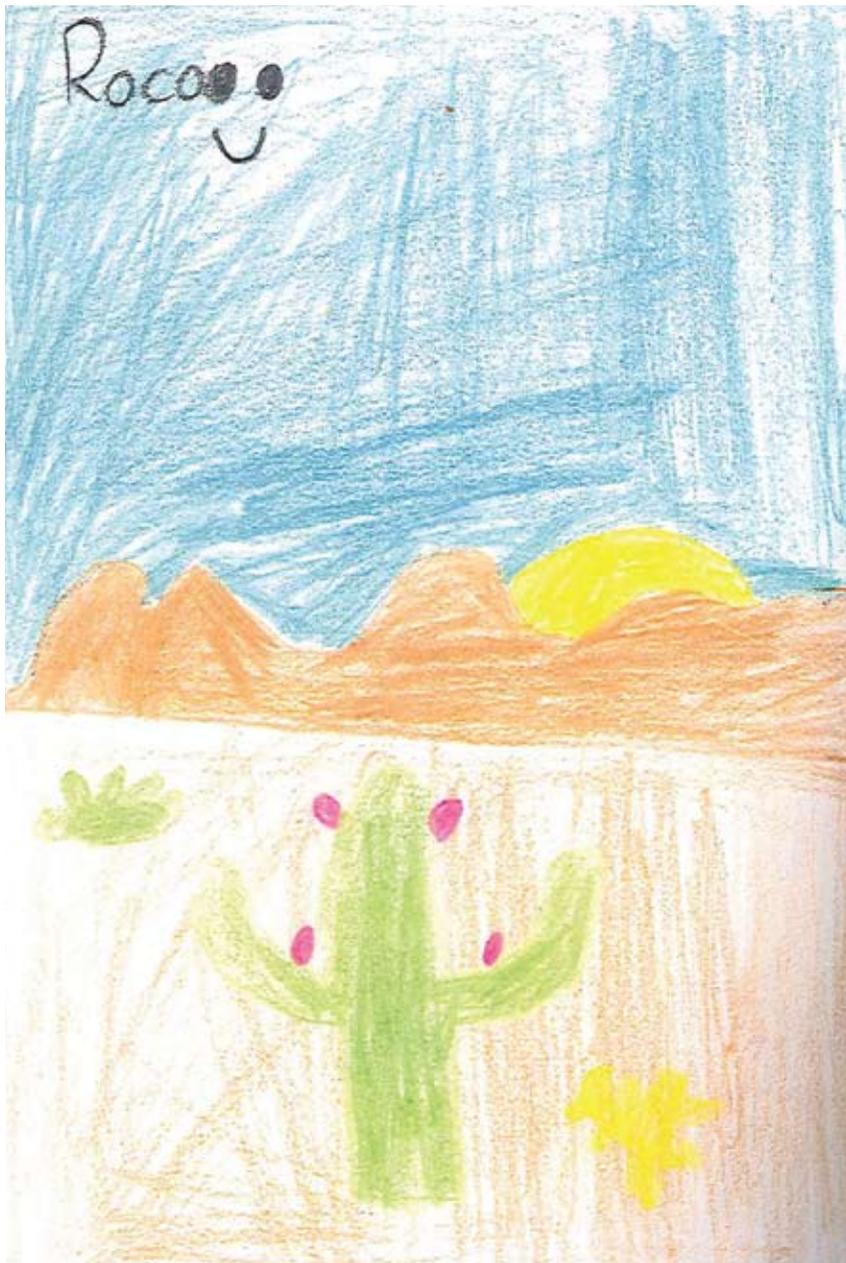


Collaborating with the Scottsdale Public Art program, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy staff and steward volunteers filled a public art journal from September 2011 through January 2012. Our journal is now on display at the Gallery@the Library, located at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, until the end of the summer. More than 100 journals began their travels throughout the Valley to collect contribu-

tions from anyone who crossed their path - notes, collages, drawings, doodles, poems and more. Together, these journals create a community self- portrait.

Conservancy volunteers carried the journal to events and activities around the community, and also shared the journal with visitors to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Our

journal was open to everyone. Kids doodled about their experiences in the Preserve; other visitors shared love letters and poems about, and drawings and photos of, the Preserve and the Conservancy volunteers who make the community's experience in the Preserve special. ✨



Children enjoyed drawing their interpretation of the Preserve in the Conservancy's journal at the trailheads. Photo provided by: Scottsdale Public Art



*Water is a valuable resource, especially in the Sonoran Desert, and xeriscaping is a great way to significantly reduce your dependence on using water outdoors.
Photo by: C. Kellum*

Xeriscape: Creating a Sustainable Personal Landscape

By Barb Pringle
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Master Steward

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve draws visitors from all over the world, who are often pleasantly surprised that our Sonoran Desert looks nothing like a stereotypical desert, with sand as far as the eye can see. Visitors to our Preserve are treated to an abundant diversity of plants: towering saguaros, silver-glimmering cholla cactus, orange-crowned spiky ocotillo, lush green mesquite trees, and depending on the season, wildflowers in every color imaginable.

The indigenous plants of the Preserve have evolved over millennia to adapt to the arid, hot and high-UV conditions found here. To a visitor, the desert often seems hostile, with native species barely hanging onto life. In fact, the specialized adaptations of desert plants allow them to thrive and even to require seasonal drought and heat for maximum health. For example, the saguaro is well-adapted to its Sonoran Desert

habitat and cannot survive in a wetter climate or even a colder, high-altitude desert.

These physical adaptations of desert flora are a fine natural example of sustainability, because they allow such plants to survive and thrive under the conditions in which they live. The plants do not change their environment; they adapt to its reality. That's an essential feature of sustainability that human communities increasingly strive for – living well and thriving within the limitations imposed by the local environment.

Xeriscape (from the Greek word 'xeros', meaning 'dry') is a good example of a man-made sustainable practice. Xeriscape principles recognize the reality of living in a hot and arid desert environment, and so focus on the design and building of landscapes that conserve water yet are aesthetically pleasing and include attractive features like green plants, shade and wildlife habitat. Many homeowners, homeowner associations and nearly all municipalities and utilities have embraced the principles of xeriscaping, but it wasn't always like this in the Valley of the Sun.

We are not the Midwest

In the early 1970s, Ron Dinchak moved to the Valley. Dinchak is a biologist and professor of environmental biology and natural history at Mesa Community College. He was fascinated by the native plant species he saw and wanted to plant them in his own yard. He soon discovered to his great dismay that local landscape suppliers sold no native plants. "Back then, everyone was trying to replicate the Midwest and landscaping with non-native plants and trees that sucked up mass amounts of water," he recalls. Since he couldn't buy

anything native, he started collecting seeds and growing them himself.

By the 1980s Dinchak was providing the Desert Botanical Garden with homegrown local plants like penstemon and milkweed for their plant sales. The move to use natives in landscapes grew as statewide water conservation initiatives were mandated and the xeriscape movement gained momentum.

Xeriscape for increased sustainable living

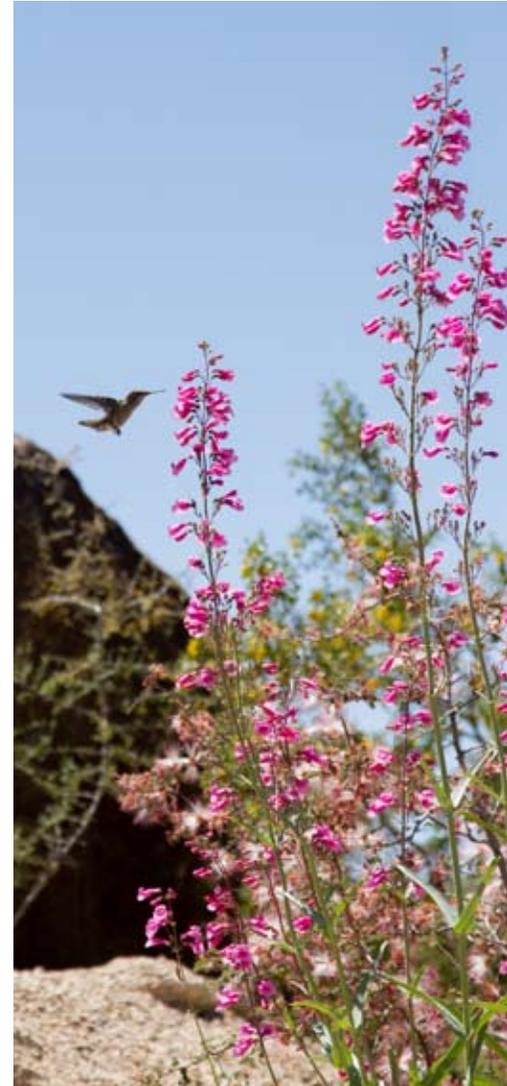
Here are five reasons that explain why the principles of xeriscape landscaping align with sustainable living practices:

Water: It's reported that at least 50% of water consumption in the average single-family home is used outdoors; we use about 200 gallons per day, with about 130 of that for landscape. A xeriscape however, can save 30% to 80% in outdoor water consumption.

Energy: With about 13 inches of annual rainfall, the Phoenix metro area depends on outside sources of water to supply its growing population. Arizona diverts some 1.5 million acre-feet of water from the Colorado River and must move it and store it via the Arizona Canal system and state reservoirs. This manipulation of regional water consumes huge amounts of energy, which is something sustainable living seeks to minimize.

In our own yards, by reducing watering frequency, sprinklers run less often and for a shorter time period, lowering energy consumption. This is especially true if big grassy lawns are replaced by a xeriscape.

Pesticides: Much like the natural environment of the Preserve, a properly-designed xeriscape is a living, connected



*One of the benefits of using native plants in your xeriscape garden, is the abundance of our favorite Sonoran Desert fauna, like hummingbirds.
Photo by: M. Jensen*



A sustainable desert landscape not only allows flora to thrive, but also fauna like bees and other insects. Photo by: J. Hamilton

food chain. Creating a sustainable desert landscape means making room for birds, reptiles and insects. They do a much better job than pesticides in controlling unwanted visitors. For example, scorpions love crickets, and roadrunners eat scorpions – and rattlesnakes and many other critters! By providing a chemical-free yard, you let the natural ecosystem do its job. Also, kids and pets can play in a healthier environment.

Restoration of native habitat: The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy has performed habitat restoration projects with the help of the community in the Preserve for many years. One of the primary reasons that this is done is to create a natural area ideal for flora and fauna to thrive. The same concepts can be applied in any Sonoran Desert home landscape. A xeriscape uses native plants and so helps restore, even if just in a small space, some of the Sonoran Desert habitat that's been lost to development. Every little bit makes a positive difference.

Carbon sequestration: This intriguing new theory is exciting researchers around the globe. Mycorrhizal fungi are widely found in desert plants, living on their roots. The fungi perform valuable functions to the plant – for example, its hairlike filaments, called hyphae, extend the reach of plant roots and act as pipes to funnel more water and nutrients to the plants. They also contain a glycoprotein called glomalin. It's recently been found that glomalin stores large amounts of soil carbon. The U.S. Department of Energy is now sponsoring studies to find out if glomalin can be used for carbon storage efforts to offset rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. Talk about sustainability on a macro scale!

Xeriscaping at Preserve Trailheads

Prior to the construction phase of our Preserve trailhead facilities, Conservancy stewards salvaged cactus and other native



*Be creative when decorating your garden; it will make yours stand out among the rest.
Photo by: M. Jensen*

plants to make way for each building. Upon completion, many of the salvaged plants were replanted using many of the principles of xeriscape (see the seven principles below). Not only does the landscape at each trailhead look natural and beautiful, but the setting allows each plant - and visiting animals - to flourish.

“We need to be good stewards of our desert and realize that it's a beautiful

ecosystem,” says Dinchak. A xeriscape provides Sonoran Desert residents with not only a more sustainable lifestyle, but also a powerful sense of belonging to this unique place in the world. 🐦

Barb Pringle has been a steward with the Conservancy for seven years and is currently serving as the Community Relations program team lead. She enjoyed a successful career in technology marketing and now applies her skills and love for the Preserve in a way that strengthens the organization's impact in Scottsdale.

The Seven Xeriscape Principles

Good landscaping plan and design: Create an overall plan that suits your tastes, needs and budget. It's better to think long-term if possible. Contour your yard to trap natural rainfall; its chemistry is much better for plants than tap water.

Low water use plants: There are hundreds if not thousands of native or desert-adapted, non-invasive plants. Xeriscape does not mean a gravel-filled yard devoid of plants! Avoid invasive species like fountain grass and African sumac trees. Use shade trees on south and west exposures for protection from summer heat.

Appropriate turf areas: You can still install a proper xeriscape and include a small turf area for kids and pets.

Efficient irrigation: When designing your irrigation system, group trees, shrubs, groundcovers and turf areas on different valves so each get the appropriate amount of water.

Soil improvements: Fertilizers and soil supplements are usually not necessary with native desert plants, though amendments are needed for turf areas.

Use of mulches: Mulches reduce evaporation from planted areas and cool the soil beneath; they reduce weed growth and erosion too. For a real sustainable solution, create your own compost pile in your yard and use it for mulching. See the family pages starting on page 16 for more information about composting.

Appropriate maintenance: Adjust irrigation schedules at least four times a year based on water demands; prune sparingly to remove dead or diseased branches.

Watchable Wildlife: The Sustainable Merriam's Kangaroo Rat

By Kellie Elliott
McDowell Sonoran Field Institute Intern



Photo by: B. Taubert

Life in the heat of the Sonoran Desert can be too extreme for many mammals. To survive in this desert a species must be evolutionarily trained for a very minimalist lifestyle. Merriam's Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys merriami*) provides one of the greatest and most common examples of such sustainable living.

Let's begin with the first principle of sustainable living: housing. These kangaroo rats have very few specifications when it comes to habitat. They are solitary critters, but will work together to create a large burrow. Each kangaroo rat establishes its own territory within the burrow by building their own den. Each colony can contain anywhere from five to several hundred burrows! The only limits to a colony's size are the edible seed-producing plants in the surrounding area.

Merriam's Kangaroo Rats are granivorous, or seed and grain eaters only. To ensure enough food to last through the late summer and winter months of the Sonoran Desert, they must have an efficient method for collecting and storing grain. Like all kangaroo rats, Merriam's are equipped with small external fur-lined pouches on their cheeks to carry the collected seed back to their hole. Each rat has its own cache of seed that it will defend from the other rats in the burrow. To avoid predation and overheating they only collect on nights with little moon light.

Energy and water conservation are especially important to these animals. To avoid water loss the rats only exit their burrows at night. They spend the majority of their time in their den. All

of the water that is lost through metabolic processes within their den raises the humidity level, and this water is absorbed by the cache of seeds. When the rat eats the seeds he receives the absorbed water. This amazing system means that a Merriam's Kangaroo Rat may never have to drink water in its life, and may never need a perennial water source. On especially hot days they will seal off their burrows for added insulation.

It seems this animal has the "greenest" people beat. From multifamily, underground, sustainable housing to local food and energy conservation these animals are truly living the sustainable life. We could take a few notes from this amazing mammal to apply in our own lives. 🌱

Kellie Elliott has been working as a McDowell Sonoran Field Institute Intern for almost one year, focusing on the mammal study. She is currently pursuing a degree in Biology at Scottsdale Community College and will be continuing her studies at Arizona State University in spring of 2013.

Preserve Visitors and Preserve Habitats: Creating a Sustainable Relationship

By Keith Sullivan
McDowell Sonoran Field Institute Intern

This spring, the McDowell Sonoran Field Institute enlisted the help of several interns and Conservancy stewards to study the ways that Preserve visitors affect the habitats near and along the trails. Together, we designed a study method to measure key elements of conservation: the abundance and diversity of native and non-native flora, trail depth and width, and erosion.

Setting up the study was quite straightforward: we set measured transects (a straight, imaginary line 25 meters in length) along a variety of trails throughout the Preserve. The transect line was divided into square meter plots and data was collected within each plot. A post was placed in the ground at both ends of each transect to mark its location for future data collection. We chose the transect locations based on the frequency of use by Preserve visitors. Some transects are near places with heavy visitor traffic, others in places with light traffic, and some with only moderate traffic. The trail counters installed a few years ago help provide accurate numbers of visitors on the trails. By compiling data from areas with low to heavy use, we can accurately compare the conditions of the trails and surrounding habitats across this spectrum. Since the desert ecosystem changes very slowly, we will collect data from these sites only once per year, in February, for many years to come.

With the data gathered from this study, we hope to understand the impact that visitors have on the Preserve trails. This information will determine the most sustainable way to enjoy the land while ensuring that the habitats remain vibrant and healthy. The flora data will measure the expansion, if any, of non-native and native species in the area, and trail conditions will measure the physical impact of our recreational activities.

From all of the collected data, a comprehensive and strategic resource management plan can be created. The Conservancy's future stewardship and conservation work will be informed solely from the scientific data in the management plan. Protecting the Preserve will become a job for the interns, stewards and the greater community to participate in together, and when that work is backed up with scientific research, we can all be proud to know that the land will remain a sustainable and beautiful environment for recreation with the right balance of wildlife and desert habitat.

One of the primary reasons the Preserve attracts so many wildlife and hiking enthusiasts is because of its diverse plant and animal life, and studies such as this provide a way to ensure a stable equilibrium between nature, and those who love nature, for years to come. 🦋

Keith Sullivan is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Life Sciences with an emphasis in Conservation Biology at Arizona State University. Currently, he is serving as a McDowell Sonoran Field Institute intern, and has also worked with various agencies including the Arizona Game and Fish Department researching flat-tailed horned lizards, Gila monsters and desert tortoises.

Photo by: M. Jensen





The Preserve during the early morning hours is a peaceful place to visit during the summertime, as the sun peeks over the mountain tops, displaying a magnificent array of colors, and the air is dry and balmy. Photo by: S. Cullumber





*To sustain the efficiency and effectiveness of the patrol program as the Preserve increases in size, the group will need to double their number of volunteers on foot, mountain bike and horseback, in the coming year.
Photo by: M. Jensen*

More Acres and Greater Mileage Require More Patrollers

You may see McDowell Sonoran Conservancy stewards in their blue shirts who seem to be doing what everyone else is doing – enjoying the outdoors on a hike or a mountain bike ride. Chances are, though, that even while they’re enjoying themselves, they’re also hard at work patrolling the trails. When stewards are on patrol, they are looking for obstructions, ruts and downed plants, as well as picking up food wrappers, plastic bottles and abandoned mutt-mitts, all with the intent of guaranteeing your enjoyment, your safety and the Preserve’s lasting health.

The patrol team is made up of more than 200 stewards and is led by Master Steward Bobby Alpert. In a single month, they patrol enough miles to travel from Phoenix to Chicago! The patrol stewards implement a comprehensive patrol plan that dictates how frequently each trail must be patrolled. For example, the Gateway Loop is patrolled more often than Windgate Pass because more visitors spend time on the Gateway Loop and trail changes have a higher likelihood of occurring with greater visitor traffic.

The City of Scottsdale expects to acquire an additional 6,400 acres by the end of 2012, expanding the Preserve to 27,800 acres. With the opening of two new trailheads and the

completion of a master trails plan for the new land, the patrol team needs to double in size to handle the growth. Focused steward recruitment for mountain bikers and equestrians has already begun, as they can cover a larger area more quickly than a patroller on foot. Alpert and his team are eager for new teammates and to make their way north, providing the same enjoyable visitor experience up there as they do in the McDowells.

In addition to routine patrols, steward volunteers organize two vital programs during the summertime: the 4th of July Fire Watch and the Monsoon Storm Watch. On July 4th, the patrol team asks stewards and community

volunteers to help monitor all Preserve access points, from as far south as Sunrise trailhead and as far north as the border to Tonto National Forest. The goal is to intercede people carrying firecrackers, and to ensure that the Preserve is protected from all forms of potentially-harmful holiday activities. Monsoon storm watches are launched after especially powerful storms to provide Preserve managers and Conservancy trail maintenance stewards accurate data about storm damage or fallen cacti.

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is committed to protecting the Preserve and engaging the community with its pro-

tection. To learn how you and your family can lend a hand in protecting our treasured desert environment through these important programs this summer, or if you are interested in becoming a full member of the patrol team as a Conservancy steward, please contact 480-998-7971 today. 

Patrollers use their time on the trails to ensure that the trail conditions remain safe for all visitors, but while doing this work, they are able to enjoy a peaceful and leisurely stroll through the Preserve. Photo by: T. Carvalho





Recreation in the Preserve All Summer Long: How It Can Be Done

By Vince Moruzzi
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Steward

Sticking to the early morning and pre-sunset hours, wearing the proper gear and staying well-hydrated are the best ways to enjoy your favorite workout during the summer. Photo by: F. Yulfo

Many people, even long-time Valley residents, might think we are crazy for hiking, biking or running in the Preserve during the summertime when daytime temperatures regularly exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Is it possible to sustain a regular routine of outdoor recreation throughout the entire calendar year? With a few helpful tips and the right gear, the summer might become one of your favorite seasons to be outside.

We hear this all the time, but can never be reminded enough to wear sweat-proof sunscreen, drink plenty of fluids before, during and after your workout, and stick to the early mornings and before sunset to enjoy the coolest temperatures. What we don't hear all the time, however, is to pay close attention to what our bodies tell us. You will likely not be able to hike, bike or run at the same level of intensity as you do during the winter months. Compensate by taking more breaks, choose less strenuous routes, and take a slightly shorter route.

Fortunately, technology for outdoor gear has come a long way, enabling people to maximize their time on the trails before tiring. A heart rate monitor makes

you aware of your target cardiovascular zone based on your age and fitness level. When you leave your target zone, you will know to immediately adjust your activity level.

Clothing technology has also improved tremendously. When choosing outdoor clothing gear, be sure that it is light and loose-fitting. For shirts, read the labels and look for polyester, nylon or a blend of both. Shorts are most comfortable when blended with Lycra or spandex because it stretches. If you prefer a more natural fiber, wool pulls moisture to its core, keeping your skin cool and dry. Wool is now very soft – give wool toe socks a try. They eliminate blisters and increase blood flow and air circulation in all temperatures. Hats also boast great wicking abilities, as well as sun protection. Look for the “UPF (ultra-violet protection factor) rating” on the tag – a rating between 40 and 50 indicates that 97.5-99% of UV radiation is blocked.

As far as hydration goes, a good rule of thumb is to drink a liter of fluid per hour of Preserve recreation. While water will keep you hydrated for workouts lasting less than 60 minutes, incorporating beverages with electrolytes ensures hydration and at the same time is a great pick-me-up for your energy. Gels and energy bars are other easy-to-carry items that will deliver calories quickly to your fatigued muscles. Be sure to eat or drink one of these items on your way home, too, to help you recover.

Experiment with these recommendations to see which combination of gear, fuel and workout schedule will make your summertime routine most sustainable and beneficial to your health. Visit your local REI or outdoor gear provider for more information. 🐾

Vince Moruzzi has been a steward for almost one year, and enjoys being a Pathfinder, patroller and serving on trail maintenance projects. He is currently a supervisor at the REI store in Paradise Valley. Prior to arriving in Arizona, Vince was a boat captain and scuba instructor in the Caribbean.

During the summer, our dogs can become dehydrated very quickly. Be sure to bring the same amount of water for your dog as you do for yourself. Photo by: R. Raish



If you spend your Preserve time with your dog, there are ways to keep them cool and hydrated so they can join you on all of your summertime outings. If you haven't tried paw pads, this might be a good time to buy a pair and keep your dog's feet protected from the hot ground.

Also, stick with early mornings and pre-sunset times and always bring the same amount of water for your dog as you would for yourself. Remember, electrolytes are not effective for dogs like they are for humans, so always have water available. You can purchase a collapsible water bowl if your dog struggles with drinking from a water bottle. Don't forget some dog food too for lengthier outings – when you're feeling hungry, chances are they are as well.

Another important difference between humans and dogs is that dogs do not sweat. Their only means of cooling themselves is panting. They can easily become overheated, so if you notice rapid breathing, heavy panting and excess salivation, find a place to rest, give them small amounts of water to drink and apply wet towels to cool the dog's body.

Be sure to keep all dogs on a leash when in the Preserve. It will keep you and your dog safe together!



Photo by: S. Parsons

Sustainable Families - Making Our Everyday Lives Even Greener

When you and your family visit the Preserve for some outdoor fun, did you know that you're making the environment healthier? You have made the sustainable choice to play in a natural area, instead of going somewhere that might require using excess electricity or water, so you're helping to save these important resources! There are more ways that you can make sustainable choices as a family both in and outside of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

- **Improve Air Quality**

You can make the air in your neighborhood cleaner by using non-motorized forms of transportation. Instead of driving or riding in

a car to get places, see how much fun you can have getting there by walking, jogging, biking, roller blading, or even skipping! Remember to always look both ways and listen for traffic before crossing the street.

▪ **Protect the Land**

Try composting! It is a simple and effective way for families to make the environment cleaner. Find a spot in your backyard within reach of water and in a somewhat shaded area. Create a bin using heavy mesh wire or concrete blocks. Aim for four parts brown material (dried plant materials, shredded newspaper, small branches), and one part green material (fresh plant materials, vegetable and fruit wastes, coffee grounds). By composting, you are reducing the amount of waste that

is sent to landfills and cutting down the need for chemical fertilizers – making for a cleaner water supply!

▪ **Upcycle: Create Treasure from Trash**

We've all heard of recycling, but have you heard of upcycling? Upcycling means to take waste and make something out of it that has equal or greater value/use as the original item – maintaining or improving the quality of the materials. Examples include decorating old boxes to use for storage of arts and crafts materials, and using old glass bottles as vases for flowers.

▪ **Conserve Water**

Everyone knows that using water wisely is important, but it can be easy

to forget. Always turn off the water when washing your hands, brushing your teeth, doing dishes, and only water plants in the evening time or very early in the morning.

▪ **Take Action**

You and your family can play an active role in helping the environment by joining a McDowell Sonoran Conservancy community service day project in the Preserve. There are many throughout the year and projects include cactus salvage and planting, invasive plant removal, trash pick-up, and habitat remediation. This is the perfect opportunity to try real, hands-on preservation work in a fun and beautiful setting. Check the activities calendar at www.mcdowellsonoran.org and mark your calendar today. 🌱



Lending a hand at a community service day project makes for a cleaner and more beautiful environment. Photo provided by: McDowell Sonoran Conservancy



Join Team Preservation, support the Conservancy, train for the Tour de Scottsdale, and meet new people along the way. Photo provided by: DC Ranch

2012 Tour de Scottsdale: Join Team Preservation Today

The 9th annual 30-mile and 70-mile Tour de Scottsdale and the 2nd annual Walk, Run & Roll return Sunday, October 14th on Market Street at DC Ranch. The DC Ranch Community Council hosts these annual events to support the invaluable conservation and education service that the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy provides to the community.

This year, we encourage anyone considering riding in the Tour de Scottsdale - from beginning cyclists to competitive professionals to join Team Preservation and raise additional funds for the Conservancy. By raising money as a rider, you are supporting the work of more than 400 volunteer stewards. Funds raised by the members of Team Preservation will enable the stewards to continue educating, researching, advocating, forming partnerships, and providing safe, respectful access to one of the most diverse desert ecosystems in the nation.

What is Team Preservation?

New this year, Team Preservation allows cyclists to support the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy in a fun way, complete with benefits, incentives, prizes, social opportunities, and most importantly, the reward of protecting the local environment.

How do I Join Team Preservation?

There are a number of ways to join Team Preservation:

- 1.** Sign up online at www.mcdowellsonoran.org by filling out the registration form. From there, you'll receive a confirmation from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, and we will assist you in setting up your personal fundraising page.
- 2.** Join us at the DNA Cycles Kickoff Party on Thursday, July 26 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. for a celebration of cycling and conservation, and to register with a Conservancy volunteer.
- 3.** Need more information before you commit? Come to one of our information meetings to learn about the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, the Tour de Scottsdale, Team Preservation, our commitment to you, and how to meet your commitment to us.
 - Tuesday, July 31
Scottsdale's Civic Center Library, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd. Scottsdale, AZ 85251
 - Thursday, August 2
Desert Camp Community Center, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
9260 E. Desert Camp Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85255

• **How Much Do I Need to Raise?**

Joining the team includes a personal donation of \$100 and team members must raise an additional \$450 by Thursday, October 11. If you meet or exceed your \$550 goal, we waive your registration fee.

• **What Happens Once I'm on the Team?**

You will receive a link from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy to your personal fundraising page, and an outline of the training rides, additional benefits, prizes and details for Team Preservation. After that you'll be off and riding!

• **Not a Cyclist? Don't worry!**

There are plenty of opportunities for you and your family to show your support to the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy:

1. Register your family for the 2nd annual Walk, Run & Roll and have a blast walking, running or riding your bike and enjoying a morning in the Sonoran Desert.
2. Volunteer at the Tour de Scottsdale. We will need approximately 200 volunteers to staff a variety of positions the day of the event. Contact 480-998-7971 to sign up!
3. Make a tax-deductible donation to the Conservancy and join our Circle of Friends. You can make your donation online at www.mcdowellsonoran.org, or by mailing the attached form below, or by calling 480-998-7971.



A great way to support the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is by registering your family for the 2nd annual Walk, Run & Roll. Photo by: A Behm

Thank You for Your Support

Through your commitment to the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy as a member of Team Preservation, participant in the Walk, Run & Roll or as a member of the Circle of Friends, you are helping us to share the beauty and wonder of our Sonoran Desert with the community and ensure that our environment is protected for 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)
- Pathfinder Circle (\$100)
- Trailbuilder Circle (\$500)
- Hiker Circle (\$50)
- Caretaker Circle (\$250)
- 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

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Tour de Scottsdale Kick-Off Party

The DC Ranch Community Council and the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, in partnership with DNA Cycles will host the Tour de Scottsdale Kick-Off Party on Thursday, July 26, at DNA Cycles in north Scottsdale from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Enjoy discounted registration for the 30-mile and 70-mile events, register your family for the Walk, Run & Roll hosted by the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, and sign up to be a part of Team Preservation to raise funds during your training on behalf of the work that the Conservancy does for our community. DNA Cycles will also offer a preview of the latest cycling gear, and can answer any cycling or training questions that you might have. Join fellow cyclists to have fun – and to make a positive difference for the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy!

- WHAT:** Tour de Scottsdale Kick-Off Party
- WHO:** Cycling enthusiasts, Conservancy stewards and Event volunteers
- WHEN:** Thursday, July 26, 2012; 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- WHERE:** DNA Cycles
7077 E. Mayo Blvd. Suite 100
Scottsdale, AZ 85054
(Scottsdale Road, just south of the loop 101)



WHY: Get in gear and start training for the Tour de Scottsdale; receive discounted registration rates; learn about fundraising through Team Preservation; sign up to volunteer. Party host DNA Cycles will offer store specials and raffles throughout the event.

FREE GOODIES: Enjoy light appetizers and beverages. First 100 Kick-Off Party attendees will receive swag-filled goodie bags.

RACE DATES: Tour de Scottsdale: Sunday, October 14, 2012, 6:30 a.m.
Walk, Run & Roll: Sunday, October 14, 2012, 8:00 a.m.

CONTACT: McDowell Sonoran Conservancy at 480-998-7971.