

MOUNTAIN LINES

Vol. 14, No. 1 May, 2006 Preserving Our Desert and Mountains Ž www.mcdowellsonoran.orgŽ

New officers named to board of directors

Melinda Gulick has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, heading a slate of three new officers named recently. Bob Freund was elected vice-chairman and Yvonne Tagart was elected secretary.

Gulick has been serving as a member of the MSC Board of Directors for the past year, and also serves on the City of Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission. Gulick is active in a number of civic and charitable organizations, and serves as town manager of and director of operations of DC Ranch for DMB Associates.

Freund has been a member of the MSC board since 2000, previously serving as secretary of the board, and a member of the Executive Committee. He is a Steward, hike leader, and has served on the MSC fund Development Committee. He is a retired attorney.

Tagart was first elected to the MSC board in 2004, and has served on the organization's Marketing Committee. She is an attorney with Ronan and Firestone in Scottsdale.

Lost Dog Wash Access Area Grand Opening

The first major access to the Preserve is scheduled to open Saturday, May 20.

You are invited to join Mayor Mary Manross, members of the City Council, Arizona's Official State Historian Marshall Trimble, members of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, and members of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy to celebrate the opening at a formal ceremony at 8:00 a.m.

Following the ceremony attendees will be able to view the poster commemorating the opening. The poster is from a painting created especially for the opening by artist Larry Cremeens. Guests may also participate in



New officers for the MSC board of directors above, left to right: Bob Freund, Yvonne Tagart, and Melinda Gulick.

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optional guided hikes. A general hike and a special hike for children will be offered along with nature talks in the amphitheater. The subject will be the role of a wash in the Sonoran Desert.

For riders a special bring-your-own-horse equestrian ride will be held. Staff will also be present to discuss the amenities in the access area, including the environmentally friendly waste, power and building materials employed.

The access area is located off of 124th Street just north of the Cactus Street alignment (overflow parking will be available at Anasazi School at the southeast corner of the 124th Street/Cactus Road alignment).

Thoughts from Carla, Executive Director

It's getting hot already and many of you are heading out of town, but before you go:

1) Please join us at what promises to be a wonderful grand opening of the Lost Dog Wash Access Area. It's so exciting to see these trailheads come on line and we owe a big "thank you" to our partners at the City of Scottsdale's Preservation Division for their hard work in planning and constructing what will soon become favorite entrances to the Preserve.

2) Please SIGN THE CONSERVING ARIZONA'S FUTURE PETITION!

We have gathered 230,000 signatures to date and I am pleased to report that currently the top two signature gatherers in the state are MSC members! We need 50,000 more signatures of registered Arizonans this month in order to have a sufficient safety bubble since many signatures will be invalid. If you want to sign or can carry a petition, please email us at preserve@mcdowellsonoran.org or call the MSC office at 480-998-7971. Remember, this straightforward initiative will:

- Conserve 694,000 acres of some of Arizona's most important natural areas.

In the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, it will immediately protect 5,177 acres of state land in the McDowell Mountains and Granite Mountain; it will provide the opportunity for Scottsdale to sign a long-term purchase agreement without going to auction for an additional 9,347 acres that were reclassified as suitable for conservation under the Arizona Preserve Initiative; and this will maximize use of the existing preservation tax as Scottsdale works with the state to purchase the remaining 4,500 acres within the voter approved Preserve boundary.

- Require the state land department to cooperate with local communities for planning and conservation of state trust lands, and provide local authorities the power to limit and control development;

- Protect and enhance an essential classroom funding

stream thereby ensuring better Arizona schools, which are the building blocks of strong neighborhoods.

A strong statewide coalition for Conserving Arizona's Future has been built with key supporters, some of whom are: Arizona Business and Education Coalition (119 school districts and businesses, including Motorola, Intel, Cox, Boeing and Bashas), Arizona Education Association, Arizona League of Conservation Voters, Arizona League of Women Voters, Arizona Mountaineering Club, Arizona Native Plant Society, Arizona Public Service, Arizona School Administrators Association, Arizona State Horsemen's Association, Arizona State Parks, Audubon Arizona, Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, Desert Foothills Land Trust, Governor Janet Napolitano, Governor Bruce Babbitt, Lattie Coor, President Emeritus Arizona State University, Mayor Mary Manross, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Mountain Bike Association of Arizona, National Parks Conservation Association, Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, Sonoran Institute, Superstition Area Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy in Arizona, Trust for Public Land, Valley Forward Association with more than 250 member groups, Valley Partnership, Arizona's 11th largest trade organization, representing 500 companies.

We have come a long way but there is still the real possibility that the Legislature will refer an insufficient, competing "spoiler" measure to the ballot in order to confuse voters. In addition, running a statewide campaign for what promises to be a chock full November ballot will not be easy and it will be expensive. We still need your help. This summer we will be holding a special meeting to honor our signature gatherers and announce campaign activities. We will send out an email to our Friends and have numerous newspaper articles as the date gets closer. Please watch for them.

Have a safe but fun summer!

Thank you all -

Carla, Executive Director, MSC

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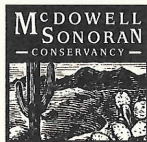
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Chris Ferguson, editor

special thanks: photography MSC Stewards

Mountain Lines is published four times a year by the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy
...preserving our deserts and mountains

Bike Patrols Improve Trail Coverage

Now in its second year of operation, the MSC Mountain Bike Steward Patrol has been a tremendous asset in helping Stewards patrol large areas of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and nearby State Trust Lands.

"There are nearly 16,000 acres and 100 miles of trails in Preserve and State Trust Lands in the area northeast of Pima road and Dynamite," explained B. J. Heggli, lead steward for the Pima area and Mountain Bike Patrol. "It would be extremely difficult to cover this much area on foot; the bikes allow us to cover more ground, more often."

In addition to providing random patrols, the mountain bikers also perform remote trail maintenance projects, litter pick-up, and provide information and assistance to all trails users in the area. The group works closely with the City of Scottsdale Preservation Staff, Arizona Game and Fish, and the Arizona State Land Department.

Members of the Mountain Bike Patrol are easily recognized on the trails by their bright yellow shirts.

"We're starting to see some recognition of the group from many users on the trail," explained Heggli. "Because we're in an area where we encounter other bikers, hikers and also various types of motor vehicles, we needed the bright yellow shirts primarily for visibility from a safety standpoint, but now we're finding that people are starting to recognize who we are and what we do."



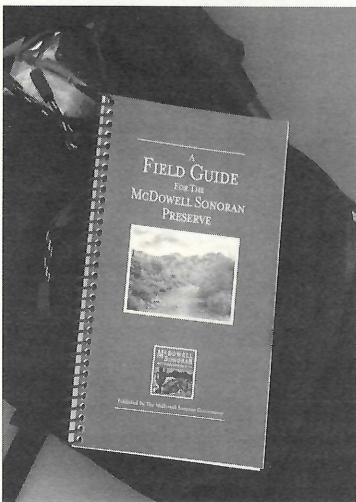
With hundreds of miles of trails to patrol, Mountain Bike Stewards have their work cut out. From left: Jack Adams, Dave Bradford, and B.J. Heggli.

To qualify to become a member of the bike patrol, individuals must have completed the MSC Steward or Assistant Steward training courses, and must demonstrate basic mountain bike skills and equipment handling prior to assignment with the patrol. The bikers carry maps and other information on the Preserve for distribution to people they encounter on the trails, and also generally carry basic emergency and first aid supplies.

Heggli added that there are plenty of openings for additional bike patrol members.

Individuals interested in the Mountain Bike Patrol program can contact Heggli by sending an email to info@mcdowellsonoran.org, or calling the MSC office at 480-998-7971.

New MSC Field Guide Available Late May



You can be among the first to get a copy of the new Field Guide to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, being published by the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. The approximate 130-page guide features information and photos on plants, animals, geology and cultural history of the Preserve, and well as trail maps.

"The Field Guide has been a labor of love for many of our Stewards" explained Fred Klein, an MSC Steward and editor of the guide. "We've learned that the more people know about the Preserve, the more they appreciate it... it's designed to easily fit in a back-pack for on-the-trail reference."

Initial delivery of the Field Guide is scheduled for late May. Cost is \$15, plus shipping and handling. The guide can be ordered by calling the MSC office at 480-998-7971, or by going to the website at mcdowellsonoran.org.

Quantities are limited, so reserve your copy today.

Circle of Friends

Our circle of friends are people connected by a common thread- the preservation of the desert and mountains. This represents the thoughts behind changing the name of our Friends membership organization from the "Friends of the McDowell's" to the "McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Circle of Friends."

Imagine three interlocking circles of Friends, each one equal in size and value. The uppermost circle is our **Preservation Circle** - these members are committed to a common goal of annual giving to the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy to ensure we have funding to continue our community service through many outreach programs. Programs like Stewardship training, education and free hikes. Members in this circle have giving levels: *Desert Tortoise, Jackrabbit, Ringtail Cat, Coyote, Bobcat, and Mountain Lion*. The next circle is our **Legacy Circle**. Friends in this circle have chosen to leave a legacy to the community through a generous donation of \$5,000 - \$75,000. Members of the Legacy Circle are recognized for their ability to significantly impact the mission of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. The final circle is our **Heritage Circle** for gifts of over \$100,000. A gift of over \$100,000 fulfills a critical component of our mission - to protect the Sonoran Desert and Mountains for this and future generations. A heritage or tradition is something that is handed down through generations - an inheritance bequeathed on those that will follow us. As you plan your year end giving, won't you please consider moving up to the next giving level? If you are not a member, please come into the circle - you are reading this newsletter because you share our common point of interest, preservation in Arizona. Your gift, no matter the amount, is important to continuing our daily work, a series of services to the community, repeating themselves and never ending.

The Friends of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy thank the following individuals, families, organizations, and companies for their generous donations from Nov. 23, 2005 through April 26, 2006.

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Chairman's Message

By now, you've read of the Preservation Golf Tournament on June 2 at Troon North. I hope you'll join us in support of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy's stewardship, education and advocacy programs that have helped sustain Scottsdale's vision of preserving one-third of our City.

Although this is the first year for the tournament to be held at Troon North, it marks the second year of the tournament as an MSC fundraiser. Les Conklin of the Greater Pinnacle Peak Association initiated the idea for the tournament, spearheaded its organization and gathered sponsors to help make it successful last year.

Chairing this year's event for MSC is Barbra O'Brien, a former LPGA Tour player, and now a leading golf instructor. She has been honored with the LPGA's "Master Professional" designation, received numerous regional and national awards for instruction, and has been voted National LPGA Teacher-Of-The-Year by her peers.

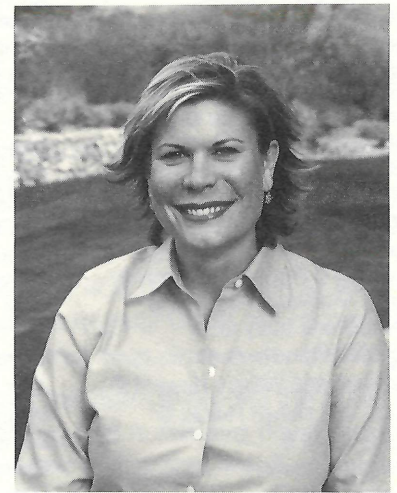
As for the course itself, in the high desert north of Scottsdale, Troon North Golf Club stands as the hallmark of the desert golf experience, stretching through the natural ravines and foothills in the high Sonoran desert in the shadows of Pinnacle Peak. The challenge, visual sensation, and special ambiance of Troon North set the standards by which all others are measured.

Special thanks to Barbra, Sue Livingston, Steve Dodd, Annie Collins, Christine Kovach, Carla, Sharol Zimmerman and Troon North for their contributions and leadership. Our tournament will be a success thanks to their generosity and dedication.

Golfers can call 480-998-7971 to register, or go to the MSC website at mcdowellsonoran.org for more information.

In Preservation and Friendship,

Melinda Gulick Chairman of the Board



Melinda Gulick

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join Our Circle of Friends!

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy needs your tax deductible Membership contributions to help preserve these spectacular areas. Join our Circle of Friends and make a difference in your community.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Preservation Circle

- ☐ Desert Tortoise (\$40) ☐ Jackrabbit (\$90)
☐ Ringtail Cat (\$150) ☐ Coyote (\$300)
☐ Bobcat (\$500) ☐ Mountain Lion (\$1000)

Heritage Circle

- ☐ (\$ _____)

Legacy Circle

- ☐ (\$ _____) ☐ Other (\$ _____)

Thank you for your support.

Make checks payable to: MSC, PO Box 14365, Scottsdale, AZ 85267

Please check here if you would like to volunteer for any of these areas:

- ☐ Events /Coordination
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☐ Other: _____

OR

Go online and sign up at
www.mcdowellsonoran.org

MSC/Troon Golf plan second annual tournament June 2

Just a few short years ago no one would have thought the golf community and desert preservationists would agree on much of anything. However, in a unique partnership that dates since 1995,

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and Troon Golf continue to prove that golf and preservation of Scottsdale's desert and mountains can go hand in hand as the two organizations combine to host the second annual Preservation Golf Tournament on June 2 at Troon North Golf Club.

The tournament will be held on Troon North's Monument Course, and is actually the culmination of a long-standing relationship between the two organizations, as

Troon Golf has provided annual financial support to MSC since 1995.

Proceeds generated from the Preservation Golf Tournament will provide additional funding for MSC's preservation efforts and programs. Entry fees for the tournament are \$250 per player.

The format for the tournament will be a "shamble" where every player hits a drive, the foursome hits their second shots from the best drive, and then everyone plays their own ball from to the hole. Plus a Troon Golf professional will be playing along with each foursome, providing tips and advice along the way.

In addition to the unparalleled golf

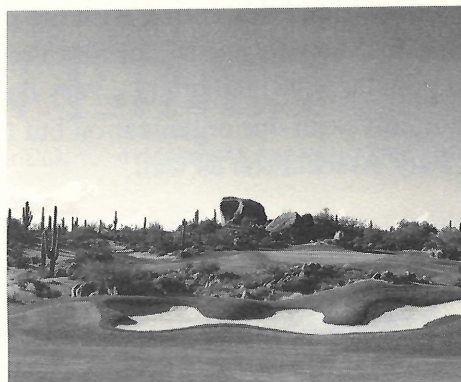


photo of Troon North by Steve Dodd

experience at Troon North, participants will receive complimentary beverages, lunch, and an awards and prize presentation with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

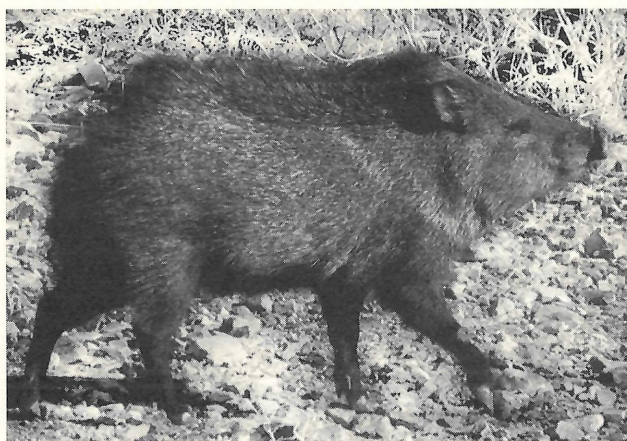
Plus there will be a tee gift bag for each player, as well as a variety of specials events and contests throughout the day.

Prior to tee-off, there will also be a mini-clinic conducted by Tim

Mahoney, Troon Golf's director of instruction. Mahoney has been teaching in the national and international arena for over 22 years, working along side some of the greatest teachers in the game. Tim's home course is Talking Stick Golf Club in Scottsdale.

Golfers can call 480-998-7971 to register, or go to the MSC website at mcdowellsonoran.org for more information.

Preserve Up Close



Javelina

photo by B.J. Heggli

Although they look like pigs to most people, the collared peccary, more popularly known as the javelina, is no more closely related to the pig than it is to the hippopotamus. While the resemblance to pigs is obvious, there are notable differences between the two.

Javelina are much more social than pigs, forming permanent herds, noted by cooperation and little competition among members. They are nearly exclusively herbivorous (although they sometimes will eat insects) while pigs are omnivorous.

Javelina are smaller, adults generally weighing around 50 pounds or so, while many pigs can weigh ten times that much. And javelinas have a scent gland on their backs that produce odor; with their frequent physical contact with each other, herds often develop a distinct odor all their own.

Javelinas tend not to be dangerous, but like all wild animals, are best viewed at a distance. If startled, they may dash off in multiple directions, and with their generally poor eyesight, you could end up an unintentional target. And hand-feeding can be dangerous and should be avoided.

MSC lost a dear friend this spring with the passing of Myrna Smith. She was one of our first Preserve Stewards, a popular hike leader and a very dedicated volunteer not only with our organization but the McDowell Park Association as well.

While we will miss her dearly, Myrna's spirit will live on in this land she loved and fought for.

"Nothing that was worthy in the past departs. No truth or goodness realized by man ever dies or can die - but is all still here, and recognized or not, lives and works through endless changes."

Thomas Carlyle

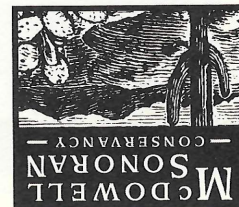


Myrna Smith

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