

CANYON ECHO

Democracy & Holding Utilities Accountable

by Kara Shah

A functioning democracy and informed citizens are the two basic requirements for environmental justice. If people don't utilize their rights and voice their opinions, we are left with a corrupt and incompetent bunch in office. This leads to people losing access to clean water and clean air, especially people living in underserved communities. Arizona is no stranger to getting controversial approvals for plans that harm the environment, people, and biodiversity.



The Arizona Corporate Commission (ACC) is generally regarded as the fourth branch of government in Arizona. The members of this Commission are elected by the voters rather than being appointed by the governor as is done in most states. Commissioners are responsible for regulating public utility companies to meet their goals of providing safe, reliable, and affordable utility services to all. Interestingly, they don't aim to provide clean energy, and the utilities more often than not end up being unaffordable, especially as they double down on expensive fossil fuel generation.

The ACC is infamous for its money-minded approach, a trait that they have showcased quite a lot recently. Earlier this year, the Commission voted to begin a rulemaking to eliminate the Renewable En-

ergy Standard & Tariff (REST), which was introduced in 2006 aiming for utilities to achieve a skimpy 15% renewable energy by 2025. If the Commission eliminates these rules, along with the rules to help us conserve energy, the Commission will take a huge step backwards as both help us conserve energy, the Commission will take a huge step backwards as both help save dollars and keep the state's grid reliable as neither relies on imported energy. The ACC indicated that the state had already achieved the target, so it should not be an issue, but this completely disregards the fact that households in our hot state desperately need investment in energy efficiency and that repeal-

ing renewable energy requirements sends a terrible message.

Since 1971, the ACC, through the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee, has had to evaluate the environmental impacts of power plants, and Arizonans have had the right to voice their opinions on them in public hearings. The ACC's recent decision, however, will make it tougher for people to have a say on new methane gas-fired power plants. Earlier, to construct a gas plant, companies would have to obtain a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC). This

contd. P2

So What if a Bunch of Birds Die? When Life Cycles Become Deadly, Vicious Circles

by Tyler Kokjohn

Over 60 years have passed since Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*⁽¹⁾ and alerted the world to the dangers of environmentally-persistent chemical pesticides. Despite repeated warnings and sad experiences, a similar situation is unfolding around us today.



The new problems involve second-generation rodenticides. Arizona is home to a diverse collection of rodents and, as many residents discover, some of them may become destructive nuisances. While new rodenticides are effective, they also threaten untargeted wildlife⁽²⁾. By feeding on rodents that have consumed these slow-acting, long-lived poisons, predators, scavengers, and birds of prey become accidental victims of rodent control efforts. These persistent poisons have seeped deeply into food webs and are present in an alarming range of untargeted animals⁽²⁾.

contd. P14

Graphics by Toni Malcolm

2024 Annual Member, Volunteer, & Partner Recognition

FALL PICNIC

Nov 17th, 2024
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

- Awards Ceremony
- Volunteer Recognition
- Food & Beverages

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK & PRESERVE
10919 S CENTRAL AVE.
PHOENIX, AZ

For Questions: 602-253-8633
grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org

RSVP



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Don Steuter	Conservation Chair	Group Rep	dsteuter@hotmail.com	602-956-5057
Anakarina Rodriguez	Publications, Membership Chair Equity Trail Map	Group Rep	akrod520@gmail.com	
One vacant At-Large seat		At-Large		
Group rep Flagstaff vacant				
Lynn DeMuth	Compliance Officer	Non-Voting		
Dale Volz	Elections	Non-Voting		

At-large members of the Ex Com are elected by the members statewide.

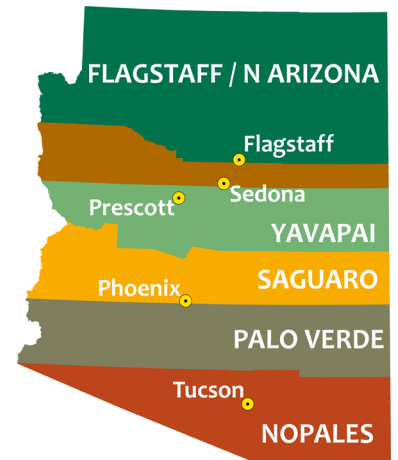
Group representatives are elected in their group geographic area.

Other positions are appointed by the Ex Com.

CCL: Council of Club Leaders

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Happenings around AZ

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

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/saguaro>

Chair:	Jo Sylvester	602-292-6806	stitchinjo@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair/Programs:	Sally Howland	602-663-2889	sally_howland@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Steve Larson		SLA1801704@aol.com
Membership:	Sue Barsky		
Outings:	John Bashears		

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/palo-verde>

Chair:	Natalia de la Torre		nadelatog98@gmail.com
Vice-Chair/Political:	Greg Clark	480-734-0926	greg@btllcaz.com
Secretary:	Chris Gehlker	602-370-0128	canyonrat@icloud.com
Treasurer:	Jerry Nelson	602-550-0282	peakbagger2@gmail.com
Outings/Wilderness:	Jim Vaaler	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Lisa Vaaler	602-468-4158	lvaaler1@gmail.com
Conservation:	Don Steuter	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Greg Brooks		
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Kathy Mohr-Almeida, PhD	480-329-8503	kathylynn626@yahoo.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Lorena Hernandez		

Programs are currently being scheduled.

Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/plateau>

Currently under reorganization

Yavapai Group (Prescott)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/yavapai>

Chair	Gary Beverly	928-308-1003	gbverde99@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Steve Cook	575-418-9027	scook@projectworldview.org
Conservation Chair	Russ Pilcher		rp1020@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Jenny Cobb	928-925-1320	cobbsrun@msn.com
Group Rep to Chapter ExComm	Jenny Cobb	928-925-1320	cobbsrun@msn.com
Outings	Stan Bindell	928-636-3903	
Newsletter	Gary Beverly	928-308-1003	gbverde99@gmail.com

Yavapai group programs & executive committee meetings are held on the **first Monday of the month**.

Nopales Group (Tucson)

Chair	Anakarina Rodriguez		akrod520@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Linda Robles		lindarobles39@gmail.com
Conservation	Cyndi Tuell		cctuell@gmail.com
At-Large	Nick Arnold		econamold@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Vanessa Gallego		gallego.vanessa@gmail.com

Nopales group executive committee and program meetings are held every **fourth Wednesday of the month**. gmai

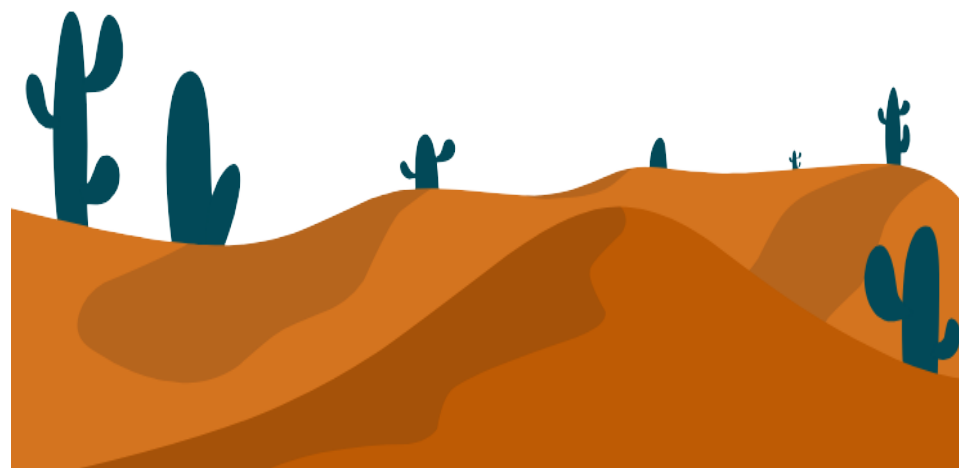
Chapter Announcements

Wildlife Activist Group Virtual Meetings Oct 28, Nov 11, Dec 9 (MON) 6pm. Interested in making a difference for wildlife? Want to help protect habitat, gather important research data on wildlife, or watchdog the Arizona Game and Fish Commission? Please consider joining our Wildlife Activist Group. For more information, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Energy & Climate Action Team Virtual Meetings Oct 23, Nov 19, (TUE) 6:30pm. Discussions and programs encompass renewable energy and energy efficiency campaigns nationally and locally. Everyone is invited to participate, no matter how much or how little you know about energy issues. For more information, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Arizona Sierra Club Conservation Virtual Meetings Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5 (THU) 6:30pm. This is the monthly conservation meeting of the Arizona (Grand Canyon) Chapter and Palo Verde Group (Phoenix area), where we discuss a broad range of environmental issues. Come learn more about issues or bring an issue you care about and share what you know. For more information, contact Don Steuter at dsteuter@hotmail.com.

Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter Conservation and Executive Committee Oct 13 (SUN). For details and more information, contact Don Steuter at dsteuter@hotmail.com (conservation) and Cyndi Tuell at cctuell@hotmail.com (Executive Committee).



from P.1 (Democracy and Utilities)

summer, the ACC allowed a huge methane gas-fired plant with no CEC based on a new and harmful interpretation of the statutes. Until then, gas plants would have to give detailed environmental reports on their projects and the Committee and Commission would have to weigh the environmental impacts against the need for the power plant. If nearby communities were affected, they might be ordered to fund mitigation or even provide direct payments to homeowners. With the new ruling, companies can get away with high pollution and causing great harm to nearby neighborhoods without being held responsible.

The current ACC has continually disrespected the people of Arizona by opting for profit over people and failing to hold monopoly utilities accountable. It is important that people understand the significance of the ACC.

Kara Shah is a Sierra Club volunteer

Sierra Club Elections

Who can vote?

All current Sierra Club members in good standing (dues paid) who belong to the Grand Canyon Chapter.

How do I vote?

- *NOTE:** You can now vote online! Please go to sierraclub.org/arizona for details.
- Review the candidate biographies on pp. 7-9.
- Mark whether you have a Single or Joint (household) membership.
- Vote by marking the box space(s) beside the candidates of your choice. Vote for no more than the number of candidates indicated for the Chapter or Group.
- After voting, photocopy or cut out your ballot and place it in an envelope with your name, membership number (if not known, call 602-253-9140 and leave a message), and address on the return address. Your membership number is the 8-digit number above your name on your newsletter mailing label. Deadline: December 1. Ballots postmarked later than December 1 OR without a name, membership number and address on the envelope will not be counted.

Why are there two boxes following each candidate's name?

The second vote column is for joint memberships (two people living in the same household who are members). If you fill in the "S" box, your vote will count once. If you have a joint membership, fill in the "J" box and your vote will count twice for one household. If you have a joint membership and the two members want to vote for different candidates, check two "S" boxes in the same section. Do not check both the S and the J boxes.

What do I need to remember when marking the ballot?

Do not put your name on the ballot. Before counting, names and joint memberships will be verified from your return address on the outside of the envelope. Ballots will be counted after the deadline (December 1). All members may vote for Chapter Executive Committee candidates, but members may only vote for the candidates in the Group in their respective residential location. If you are unsure of which Group you're in, contact 602-253-9140 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Rather than voting by mail, you can vote electronically by visiting: <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/2024-elections-for-chapter-and-groups>.

Rather than voting by mail, you can vote electronically by visiting: <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/2024-elections-for-chapter-and-groups>.

VERY IMPORTANT

2024 ELECTION BALLOT

GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Vote ONLY for Your Group

If you are not sure which group you're in,
contact 602-253-9140 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Is your membership
Single
or Joint?

Postmark deadline for ballots is Dec. 1

Be sure to include your name and address on the envelope (not on the ballot). Any envelopes without this information will be discarded and the ballot will not be counted.

Mail to: SierraClubElections
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85223

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
All Members Vote

	Single	Joint
Vote for no more than 5 candidates	(Membership Type)	
Amritha Kathrikeyan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anna Mohr-Almeida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalia de la Torre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhys Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Vote ONLY for Your Group

SAGUARO (N. Maricopa County) Vote for no more than 2

John Beshears	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sally Howland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PALO VERDE (Phoenix) Vote for no more than 4

Greg Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalia de la Torre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim Vaaler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ
Vote for no more than 3

UNDER REORGANIZATION

-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOPALES (Tucson)
Vote for no more than 3

Nick Arnold	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anakarina Rodriguez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhys Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

YAVAPAI (Prescott)
Vote for no more than 2

Russell D. Pilcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stan Bindell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona>

Meet the Chapter & Group Committee Candidates

Chapter Executive Committee

Amritha Kathikeyan (Membership Number: 53860904)

My name is Amritha Karthikeyan(she/her). I am a strong advocate for the climate and environmental justice. I have been involved with climate activism in Arizona for about four years. My involvement started with the Arizona Youth Climate Coalition, with my first course of action being helping plan a strike at the State Capitol in March of 2019. My passions have evolved throughout the years, leading me to study the intersections between sustainability and data and college, and eventually lead me to being an advocate for sustainable and equitable urban development and resiliency. As I've evolved, it's been empowering meeting and working with other people in the environmental community to advocate for change. I would love to continue being a part of this committee to continue to learn more about environmental activism and organizations while meeting other people in the local community.

Anna Mohr-Almeida (Membership Number: 50455852)

Hello there! I am Anna Rose Mohr-Almeida, a clean-air activist and Engineering student at Arizona State University. I founded Kids Climate Action Network! (Kids CAN!), a 501c3, a youth leadership community that works to improve air quality, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and creating purposeful art. I was the Youth Keynote at Arizona State University's Local to Global Teach-In and discussed the negative environmental impact of the factory farming model of food production. I participated on the L2G Youth Keynote Panel and discussed community organizing. I have been honored by the Grand Canyon Chapter of Sierra Club as an Outstanding Youth, participated in the Rainforest Action Network's Palm Oil Action Leadership Summit, and was a member of RAN's Palm Oil Action Team. I have also lobbied locally and in D.C. with Moms Clean Air Force for improved air quality. I was a Youth Climate Coalition group member responsible for the many climate strikes from 2019 to 2020. I also worked at GenOn, a bipartisan organization dedicated to getting people registered to vote and to care about the impacts of climate change. I want to continue as a member of the Sierra Club Executive Committee. Thank you.

Natalía de la Torre (Membership Number: 51470222)

I am running for the ex com because it helps me stay informed on what is happening in my community. I believe it's very important to stay informed as well as involved. Being a part of the ex com allows me to help my community grow. These past years with the PVG ex com have been very rewarding, like helping with the feeding for the owl project and being able to provide support for the highschool I went to, to be able to build a succulent garden.

Getting people involved in their communities at a young age is so important to building a better future. This year I would work on more outreach to younger audiences to get involved in their community and stay informed on environmental issues. To accomplish this, we would make a social media page to get further outreach to people of all ages. Which could also help with more membership sign ups.

Overall, I have really enjoyed being a part of the ex com and would like to continue supporting my community. Thank you for the opportunity.

Rhys Williams (Membership Number: 56137501)

My appreciation for the natural world comes from my experiences hiking and camping. But in the few short years I've become involved in organizing, I've learned many lessons. I've learned that we must build the world we want to see, and I've learned that change is possible through the hard work of dedicated people. The Sierra club is doing that work, as an institution of the environmental conservation and justice movement. I want to be a part of that effort. So that the places I am able to experience can continue to flourish for future generations to come.

Palo Verde Group

Greg Clark (Membership Number: 55082849)

Greg Clark primarily works doing on-the-ground habitat conservation projects to support the population of Burrowing Owls in Arizona and any owls migrating during the winter. Greg installs artificial burrows to build new homes for owls that are displaced from land development projects and relocates the owls to the new habitat. With the expansion of solar farms in Arizona, Greg is working with large developers to add habitat enhancements around the solar farm sites to create food and space for Burrowing Owls and other animals that also will live in the artificial burrows, such as Gila Monsters. In addition, Greg is assisting with the build-out of the Motus migratory bird and bat tracking network. Long distance migratory birds and bats can be tagged with tiny transmitters and automatically tracked using radio stations placed in the path of the migratory animals, such as the Pacific Flyway. Motus tracking data can then be used to determine where best to focus on habitat enhancements to support declining populations of migratory animals in the West

Meet the Chapter & Group Committee Candidates

Natalia de la Torre (Membership Number: 51470222)

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Overall, I have really enjoyed being a part of the ex com and would like to continue supporting my community. Thank you for the opportunity.

Jim Vaaler (Membership Number: 11880851)

I will uphold principles of justice, equity, diversion, and inclusion (JEDI) in our Palo Verde Group. The Jemez Principles need to guide and inform our decision making process in our Sierra Club work as well as in our daily lives. While the 30 X 30 land proposal put forth by the Biden Administration is a very good idea, I believe that before we can expend a lot of energy on that proposal, we must be certain that Donald Trump is no longer an existential threat to our democracy, our environmental laws, and indeed the Planet. Until that is accomplished it will be necessary to try and sell duplicatable and peer reviewed science to politicians who in many cases do not wish to be bothered by the science of climate change and land protection. Indeed, when looking at what the Republican Party has become, one realizes that the Republican Party is no longer a political party, but simply a cult of personality. I do believe we have our work cut out for us.

Saguaro Group

John Beshears (Membership Number: 47263325)

John Beshears has been a member of the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter for longer than 20 years. He has been on outings, volunteered on service projects, helped lobby, and attended various meetings and events. Beshears attended SC outings, first aid and fundraising training, Campfire soon. Beshears has served as Fundraising Chair, and currently Saguaro Group Outings Co-Chair and Saguaro Group Service Projects Co-Chair.

Sally Howland (Membership Number: 46901049)

I am Sally Howland and I have been a member of the Saguaro Group of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club for the last eleven years. I have been actively involved in organizing meetings, hikes and service projects for the Saguaro Group. I look forward to continuing my service.

Yavapai Group

Russell D. Pilcher (Member ID: 48855207)

I'm running for another term on the ExComm for the Yavapai Group of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Stan Bindell (Member ID: 47066215)

I'm running for another term on the ExComm for the Yavapai Group of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Nopales Group

Nick Arnold (Membership Number: 50709617)

Anakarina Rodriguez (Membership Number: 48447588)

Rhys Williams (Membership Number: 56137501)

My appreciation for the natural world comes from my experiences hiking and camping. But in the few short years I've become involved in organizing, I've learned many lessons. I've learned that we must build the world we want to see, and I've learned that change is possible through the hard work of dedicated people. The Sierra club is doing that work, as an institution of the environmental conservation and justice movement. I want to be a part of that effort. So that the places I am able to experience can continue to flourish for future generations to come.

Flagstaff/Northern AZ - Under reorganization.



Donors through 09/21/2024

Monthly Donors

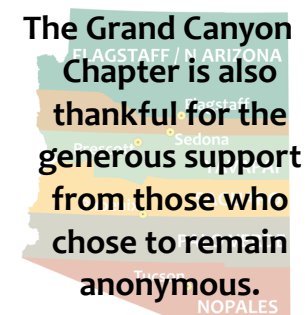
Fannie Allen	Carolyn Bosserman	Mike Franklin	Ms Rosemary Kist	Mark Mulligan	Kathleen Rahn	Ms Marsha Turkin
Nancy Atherton	David Bowman	Jerry Gless	Joanne Lewis	& Toni Ramsey	Judith Rau	Margaret Weesner
Sergio Avila	F R & A G Buckner	Sarah W Gordon	Phillip Long	Janice E. Myers	Nyssana Reyes	Ben Weiner
& Jenny Neeley	Christine Carlson	Rebecca Smith Gross	Hollace Lyon	Mary Ruth Nagle	Mrs Lisa Reyes	Deborah Weir
Jennifer Baltz	Francis Copple	Lars Haarr	Toni Malcolm	Shane Nicholas	Leilani Rothrock	Jeff Winkler
Joan Batchelor	Louise Courtney	Harley Halseth	Gary McCormick	Mr Stephen Nunn	Deborah Sebree	Robert Wist
Ms Rebecca Berry	Linda Crouse	Paul Jehle	Amy Meyertholen	Theresa Parry	Robin Spiegelman	Tom Wright
Gail Bliss	Margaret Day	Howard Johnson	Dan Millis	Julie Pindzola	Abby Spotskey	
Michael Bosse	& John Hertz	Laurie Jurs (Border)	& Kate Van Roekel	Michael J Pope	Tiffany Sprague	
& Kristen Fenec	Dwight Finkel	Laura Key	Elena Moshinsky	Peter Ragan	Dan Teninty	

Hitched to Everything Else in the Universe (\$1-49)

Donald Armitage	Jennifer Daugherty	Margaret Herding	Marlene Lynch	Cecilia Morgan	Jacquelyn Powers	Sharon Thompson
Robert Bates	Lynn DeMuth	Colleen Hunt	Kris Maloney	Andrew Mosier	Judy Pykare	Richard Trowbridge
Yvonne Betts	& Eugene Mertz	Anne Jehle	& Kevin McNeill	& Jan Hunter	Robert Rhoden	Christine Warsaw
Marvin Brown	Ms Virginia Dotson	Suzanne Johnson	Mr James R Manshardt	Karen Muir	Vic Sanzo	Charles Watters
Gloria Burruel-Jacobs	Mr Richard Erwin	Jules Ketcham	Dr. Timothy John McAuliffe	Leslie Norton	Ms Barbara Seese	Clinton Welch
Claudia Christiansen	Dr John W Ferner	Janet King	Pat McConnell	Mr Theodore Novak	James Shea	Bill Young
Dr Lawrence Cohen	Vicki Green	Shirley Krafft	Jerry McCoy	Roger Oravetz	Ms Margaret J Sinton	& Tanya Wyman
Charles & Nancy Conn	Mrs Sandra Guerrero	Birgitta Lapides	Karen Michael	Vincent Pawlowski	Gail A. Smith	
Stanley & Sally Curd	Theodor Hansen	Mary Lewis	Lorrie Miller	Jan Peterson	Alice Stambaugh	
Staci & Chris Holley Curtis	Betsy Harter	Jules Lewis	Nancy Modeen	Dan Pollak	Susan Sulkey	

Keep Close to Nature's Heart (\$50-99)

Michael & Katherine A Baron	Devin Cruise	Lura Dymond	Dominick Grillas	Lynda Kido	Janis Lipton	Marilyn A Turkington
Dean	Frederick	Margaret San Filippo	& Anne Samyn	Tyler Kokjohn	Joan Spatti	
& Mary Brennan	& Zura Dotton	Donald Gerber	Michelle Guyett	Cyndie &	Don Steuter	
Sid Bucher	Beth Dutton	Dr Gregory Gessay	Roger Hacker	Michael Koopsen	Dennis Stevenson	
	& David Bush	Emojean Girard	Mr Roger Jenkins	John M Kuzmiak	Thomas Triolo	

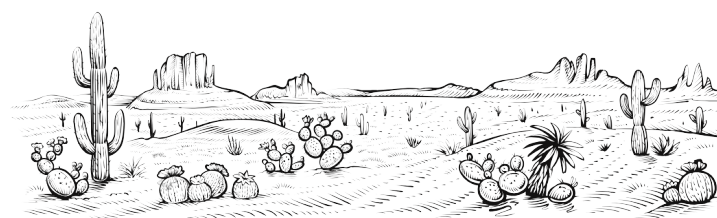


Make the Mountains Glad (\$100-499)

Greg & Marilyn Anthony	Roger & Barbara Carter	B Hollway &	Ms Marleen Lyon	Sue Ordway	Ms Barbara L Smith	Michael Wilson
Dr Christopher Appleton	John Carter	T Christensen	Malcolm &	Mr & Mrs Charles Ott, Jr	Martha Stampfer	James M Zurich
Elizabeth E Beeson	Eric Coons	Paul Kallina	Laura MacEwen	Donald Louis Pierson	Al & Barbara Sturges	
Bruce Brown	Gail Dickerson	Laurence Kolonel	Felicia & Warren May	R Cynthia Pruett	Roz Switzer	
Betty G Brown	Mr Mark Ferguson	Michael L Kottke	Ann Morgan	Michael Quinlan	Daniel Tarico	
Carrie Bruce	Bruce E Flocken	Gail Kranz	Ms Sandra F Novak	Brit Rosso	Drs. Tuber	
Robert D Cable, Jr	Jim Hannan	David Lutz	Kathy Olmstead	T Sharp & M Beikman	& Schechtman	

Make the Morning Stars Sing Together (\$500 +)

Janet Witzeman	Ruth Rettig	Kathy Altman	Doris Provine
Robin Mann	& David Dube	& Ivy Schwartz	



Get Outside and Help Our Rivers and Watersheds!

Join the Sierra Club Arizona Water Sentinels.



Water testing on the Verde River. Photo by Toni Malcolm

by Jennifer Martin-McCleod 

Arizona Water Sentinels collect water quality data monthly, May through October, one Saturday per month on the Verde River and one Monday per month on the San Pedro River. Join us for the next one! No prior experience or special equipment is required. Data collected are used to determine the health of these rivers and whether or not additional actions are needed to reduce certain pollutants.

Southeastern Arizona, through which the San Pedro River flows, had gotten some rain late in the summer. It was great to see water in September where in July we had seen only dry riverbed. It's amazing what a little rain can do!

We will have one more monitoring event on each river this year – October 19th on the Verde and October 21st on the San Pedro.



Completing the testing sheets Photo by Toni Malcolm

We will be having lunch together after to celebrate another successful season and share our thoughts on what went well, what could be improved, and what we want the future of the program to look like. All are welcome, even if you haven't been out before. Please join us!

Missed the monitoring season?

You can still participate in our monthly service projects in the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area. We go out monthly to help maintain this gem in south central Phoenix, removing invasive weeds, picking up trash, and planting native shrubs and trees. Lately we have been doing a lot of work to maintain the Butterfly Garden at the Central Avenue Trailhead.



Tabling at a nature festival to promote the Water Sentinels. Photo by Toni Malcolm

For more information and to RSVP, you can go to the calendar on the chapter website or you can contact Jennifer Martin-McCleod at jennifer.martin@sierraclub.org or call (602) 423-6157.



Jennifer in her element at the Verde River. Photo by Toni Malcolm

Hiking Guidelines

The Sierra Club is a nationwide organization with active local outings for members and non-members. Please join us as we make friends and explore life-enriching interests. Simply find an outing by date and contact the leader for directions, reservations, time, and additional information. RESTRICTIONS: NO FIREARMS, RADIOS, OR PETS (unless noted otherwise). Outings are by reservation. Call early (group limit 20)

Each hike is rated for degree of difficulty and risk by the leader.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| "A" | >16 miles or >3,000 ft. elevation change (EC) | RT Round Trip |
| "B" | 8–16 miles and 1,500–3,000 ft. EC | OW One Way |
| "C" | 3–8 miles and 500–1,500 ft. EC | |
| "D" | <3 miles and 500 ft. EC | |

The trip leader has absolute authority to question trip participants as to their equipment, conditioning, and experience before and during the trip. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources> or contact the National Outings Dept. at 415-977-5528 for a printed version. Sierra Club liability covers leaders only. Each person is responsible for his/her own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately. If you leave the trip, with or without the leader's permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Hikers are encouraged to carpool and share the driver's fuel expense. Donations are accepted from all participants at \$1 (member) and \$3 (nonmember). Money is collected by the leader and deposited with the group treasurer. For more information, contact the Sierra Club Grand Canyon office at 602-253-8633. Hikes and outings are also listed online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>.

CST 208 776 640.

Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Hiking and Learning on Red Butte

• by MatteaGoetz



Group photo of hike participants.
Photo by Jim Dublinski

Red Butte is a sacred mountain to many Tribes in the region and is located within our newest national monument, the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni—Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument. From the top of the Butte, we could see Pinyon Plain Mine and its close proximity to Grand Canyon. Members of the Havasupai Tribe joined the hike and shared their relationship to the landscape and perspectives on Pinyon Plain Mine, a uranium mine located within the Monument, grandfathered in due to outdated laws. Hydrologist Laura Crossey and geologist Karl Karlstrom of the University of New Mexico also hiked up Red Butte. Laura and Karl have been studying the geology and hydrology of this region for decades and shared with us their concerns about the dangers of the mine regarding the aquifer it pierces.

This trip was both a joyful and somber experience. Spending time with each other, connecting to the land, sharing our stories, knowledge, and concerns about a place we all hold deeply within our hearts was life-giving. Simultaneously,



Pinyon Plain Mine from Red Butte.
Photo by Jim Dublinski



Desert Spiny Lizard seen on the hike.
Photo by Jim Dublinski



Red Butte from the North Rim.
Photo by Jim Dublinski

seeing the mine from above, knowing how imminent the threat is to this region as mining has officially begun, only reengaged our passions and commitment to shutting down and cleaning up the mine.

We look forward to spending more time together at Red Butte and hope you can join us for our next trip.

Mattea is Grand Canyon Program Manager

Beyond the Slab -- CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS OF PUBLISHED ECO-AWARENESS !

By Greg Pentkowski

THE ELECTION OF 2024 IS ONLY WEEKS AWAY. WE NEED TO STOP THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES OF 8 YEARS AGO FROM DUMPING UPON AMERICA AND THE EARTH AGAIN !

Our Country and the Earth are At A Crossroads !

VOTE !

AS IF YOUR LIFE AND AMERICA DEPEND ON IT !

FOR MORE VOTING INFORMATION CONTACT:
ARIZONA SECRETARY OF STATE

azsos.gov/elections
OR CALL: 1-877-THE-VOTE
OR: 602-542-8683

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 5
MAIL YOUR MAIL-IN
BALLOTS BEFORE OCT. 29 !

WE ALSO VOTED AT EARLY LOCATIONS AND DROPPED OFF OUR EARLY BALLOTS EARLY!

@2024 GREG PENTKOWSKI 8/29/2024

Hualapai Tribe Asks Court to Protect Ha’Kamwe’ from Drilling



Protest of the Lithium Mine. Photo by Sandy Bahr

On August 2, the Hualapai Tribe filed a lawsuit against the US Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for wrongfully approving the Sandy Valley Lithium Exploration Project, a massive drilling operation that would severely and permanently damage the Tribe’s lands and the waters of Ha’Kamwe’, or Cofer Hot Springs, an important ceremonial and cultural site and listed as a Traditional Cultural Property. The Tribe has voiced its concerns to environmental agencies since 2019, when an Australian mining company began exploration activities in the area. On August 21, the US District Court for the District of Arizona granted the Hualapai Tribe a temporary restraining order and set a hearing to consider granting a preliminary injunction that would extend the pause for the duration of the lawsuit.

On September 17th, the Court heard from the Tribe and mining company in a six-hour hearing at which the judge ordered each side to submit briefs on why or why not the judge should issue an injunction against this drilling. Judge Diane Humetewa will issue a decision in the near future. Attorney General Kris Mayes filed an amicus brief in support of the Hualapai. Prior to and during the hearing, members of the Hualapai Tribe, Chispa Arizona, Sierra Club, Arizona Faith Network, and many others gathered outside in support of the Tribe and protection of the springs.

If the project is allowed to go forward, the company could drill and test up to 131 exploration holes across 21 acres reaching depths of 360 feet into the aquifer that feeds Ha’Kamwe’, with an eye towards building a full-scale mine.

Portions of this piece come from a news release sent by the Hualapai Tribe. Information here was compiled by Sandy Bahr

Click on the link below to show your support



2024 Environmental Report Card for AZ Legislature and Governor

Session Characterized by Inaction on Key Priorities-Water, Climate, and Environmental Justice

In August, Sierra Club, joined by Chispa Arizona and Arizona Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) for Equity, released the [2024 Environmental Report Card for the Arizona Legislature and Governor](#).

“The 2024 legislative session was disappointing as legislators again missed opportunities to act on climate, environmental justice, and water, and, unfortunately, passed water legislation that does more harm than good, failing to address groundwater issues for rural Arizona or protect any rivers or streams,” said Sandy Bahr, director for Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon Chapter. “As if that were not bad enough, legislators loaded up the ballot with referrals, including one to make it difficult to advance rules to protect our air and water, one to target immigrants, and one to hinder citizen initiatives.”

Nearly everyone seemed to agree that Arizona needed to take action on water, especially as wells in rural Arizona continued to be pumped dry by industrial agriculture and an assured water supply was no longer available in parts of the Active Management Areas. It turns out, however, that developers, big agriculture, land and water speculators, and private water companies were all interested in continuing business as usual with unsustainable sprawl development and pushing through bills that changed the rules to accommodate that. Rural water issues were left unaddressed.

“How will our younger and future generations see us? To know that we continuously chose

profit over one another, over our home, our water, and over the healthy future of our children and loved ones,” said Nile Bunger, climate justice director with Arizona AANHPI for Equity. “One of the biggest acts of love we can give to one another is protecting our water rights and environment for all; although, time and time again, we ignore the concerns that are negatively affecting our BIPOC, rural, and marginalized communities. It is vital that we do not exclude the voices of the community and the future of Arizona’s water. Our rural areas and communities deserve better.”

“The Arizona legislature holds great power and ability to make laws that impact us in our daily lives,” said Alondra Morales, climate justice program coordinator for AZ AANHPI for Equity. “This report card serves as a clear summary of which legislators have the community in mind and which legislators have other priorities. I hope this is helpful guidance to the people of Arizona to get to know their legislators!”

“It’s very clear that lawmakers who hold the majority at the legislature do not look out for the interests of the people of Arizona. Every step of the way during this legislative session we saw them ignore the will of the people and act in ways that benefit private interests,” said Vania Guevara, political and advocacy director for Chispa Arizona. “We will continue to work diligently to connect our people to their own power by showing up in this space because we belong there.

2024 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CARD

B Governor Hobbs			
SENATE GRADES		HOUSE GRADES	
A+	Hatathlie	A+	Austin, Caverro, P. Contreras, Crews, De Los Santos, Gutierrez, Ligouri, Lucking, Luna Nájera, Peshlakai, Sandoval, Stahl-Hamilton, Travers, Villegas
A	Epstein, Gonzales, Marsh	A	Aguilar, Blattman, L. Contreras, Mathis, Nardozi, Ortiz, Pawlik, Schwiebert, Tsosie
B	Bravo, Burch, Gabaldón, Mendez, Miranda, Sundareshan	B	Alma Hernandez, C. Hernandez, L. Hernandez, M. Hernandez, Quiñonez, Seaman, Terech
C	Alston, E. Diaz, Fernandez, Anna Hernandez ¹	C	
D		D	
F	Bennett, Bolick, Borrelli, Carroll, Farnsworth, Gowan, Hoffman, Kavanagh, Kerr, Kern, Mesnard, Petersen, Rogers, Shamp, Shope, Wadsack	F	Biasiucci, Bliss, Carbone, Carter, Chaplik, Cook, L. Diaz, Dunn, Gillette, Grantham, Gress, Griffin, Heap, Hendrix, Jones, Kolodin, Livingston, Marshall, Martinez, McGarr, Montenegro, Nguyen, B. Parker, J. Parker, Payne, Peña, Pingerelli, Smith, Toma, Willoughby, Wilmeth
No Grade		No Grade	Hodge, Longdon, Shah, Sun

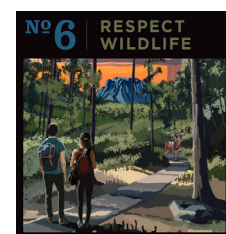
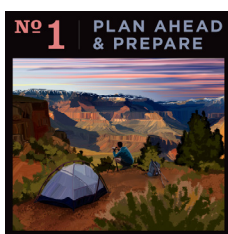
¹ Note that some grades are lower primarily due to missed votes.

We will keep partnering with legislators that are environmental justice champions to push this body to protect the air we breathe, our access to public

lands, and our right to an easy and accessible democracy.”

The 2024 Environmental Report Card is available in English [here](#) and Spanish [here](#).

Sandy Bahr is Chapter Director for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club



Cast of Characters



Stormy & Canelo

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself (and Canelo).

Canelo and I are always together. We love volunteering and spending time outside. We are both native Arizonans and love this biodiverse state. Arizona has more biomes than any other state, is the only state with saguaros, and is the only state with all four deserts (including the Sonoran desert, which is the most biodiverse on earth). Canelo and I are both proud and happy Arizonans. (Maybe we are such Arizonans that when telling about ourselves, I end up telling about Arizona.)

I was born in Tucson, raised in Willcox, and graduated from Cochise Community College and Northern Arizona University, so have spent my life in many parts of Arizona. I was a public school teacher for a decade and was a single mom, raising a daughter camping, exploring, and enjoying all parts of Arizona.

2. What are your hobbies or interests?

Rock climbing, hiking, anything outdoors. Gardening, DIY projects, and crocheting (the newest learning), and LOTS of reading always keep me busy and productive when I'm at home.

3. What is your favorite outdoor activity (and Canelo's)?

Yoga and sound meditations at the Desert Botanical Garden are relaxing and energizing to Canelo and I both, and something we both look forward to every cool season. This practice has even helped Canelo and I to find shady spots or quiet spaces on hikes to stop and practice mindfulness.

4. What is your favorite place in Arizona?

Grand Canyon—one of the seven natural wonders of the world here in our state, has been visited many, many times. I have hiked, rafted, camped, and enjoyed it in as many ways as possible. The Canyon's beauty and wonder never cease to amaze me.

5. What made you want to volunteer with the Sierra Club?

Sierra Club was founded to get people to enjoy nature, to value it, and work to protect it. I love the outdoors and am very politically active, so Sierra Club seems the perfect match for me.

Sierra Club is the nation's largest grassroots environmental organization, which does incredible, innumerable hands-on and logistical work to protect lands and animals here in Arizona and all over the country. Sierra Club is a non-profit organization, meaning volunteers are extra appreciated! I love giving my time somewhere it is appreciated, doing things I enjoy, and having an impact where it matters.

6. What do you believe are the biggest challenges facing Arizona?

Environmental Racism and Injustice
Easy access to democracy and voices being heard through free and fair Elections
Excessive groundwater pumping

7. What accomplishments are you most proud of and why?

I have personally registered over 100 new voters the last couple of years. I am always working to have as many people as possible registered, informed, and active to support a truly functioning democracy.

8. What one word do you think describes you best?

Energetic.

9. What one word describes Canelo best?

Calm (Mellow).

Community Excellence Award



We are pleased to announce that Thomas Hatfield has been awarded the 2024 Communication Excellence Award for his exceptional contributions to the Grand Canyon Chapter website. Thomas's expertise in web development and organizational skills have significantly improved our online presence, enhancing the accessibility and shareability of our publications across digital platforms. His dedication and expertise have been crucial in advancing the Grand Canyon Chapter's digital communications strategy and supporting our vital work.

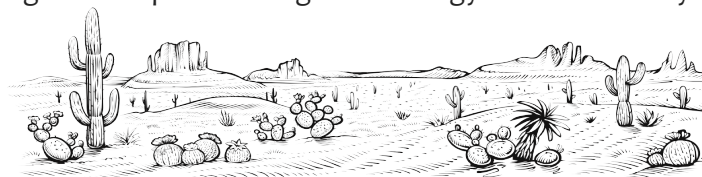
Student Contributor

Every Degree Matters

•by Maria Traveno 

Climate change is an undeniable reality. Our planet is experiencing unprecedented global warming due to excessive greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and other human activities. Arizona has fluctuating temperatures, where one day the temperature may be very high, whereas the next day it may drop so low that snow is a probability. Climate change affects the flora, fauna, and us! The necessity to delay school openings due to the extreme cold waves has become a reality. As students who live across the border, having to wait in line and walk to school in temperatures of -11° Celsius has caused the emergence of climate-related health problems. In addition, preschoolers walking up to 15 blocks in these temperatures to get to school is a clear call to action. We all have a shared responsibility in the fight against climate change. Governments, companies, civil society, and individuals must assume our role in protecting our planet and posterity. We must invest in renewable energy, promote sustainable agricultural practices, conserve our natural resources, and adopt lifestyles that are more conscious and respectful of our planet. Climate change is not only an environmental problem but also a moral, economic, and social one that needs an urgent response.

Maria Treviño is a 16-year-old residing in Douglas, AZ. She is deeply passionate about biology and committed to addressing climate change. One of her major goals is to pursue a degree in biology at the University of Arizona.





We send two Chapter email updates per month, including upcoming events & activities, action items and more.



Borderlands email updates are sent every month



Wildlife email updates are sent once every other month



Arizona Water Sentinels email updates are sent once every other month



Energy email updates are sent once every other month



Grand Canyon Protection Campaign email updates are sent once every other month



Legislative updates are sent weekly during the legislative season



Chapter | AZ Water Sentinels | Borderlands Campaign | Grand Canyon Campaign | Flagstaff/N AZ Group | Yavapai Group | Saguaro Group



Chapter | Borderlands Campaign | Grand Canyon Campaign



Chapter | Palo Verde Group



Chapter | Borderlands Campaign | Grand Canyon Campaign | AZ Energy

Trees Matter

•by Oscar Valencia

Join Our Tree Team!



Help Us Plant Trees Across the Valley! Interested in planting trees with us? We need folks to help us plant trees at schools through our Trees for Schools Program, and other community plantings! New to planting? No problem, we'll train you!

Volunteers gain knowledge on proper tree planting, work with students to beautify their campus, and take ownership of being involved in a special group!



- Requirements:
- Must be 18 years or older
 - Physically able to dig/plant trees
 - Have reliable transportation
 - Must pass a background check
 - Must be available select weekday mornings
 - Be excited and enthusiastic to work with children; be reliable

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

To learn more and sign up:
Contact volunteer@treesmatter.org

Here in the Valley of the Sun, our urban forests plays a vital role in cooling our cities. They do so by providing shade and through evapotranspiration, which is a process that cools surrounding areas through water vapor released into the atmosphere.

Trees can help cool an area by up to 9°F during peak summer months, which could be the difference between a hot summer day and a potential heat related illness. Although we all experience the hot summer months here in Arizona, many of us experience it differently than others. It is often the low-income and underserved neighborhoods that will have the smallest tree canopies, leading to higher temperatures, higher air pollution and a lack of shade.

These factors will grow over time as climate change progresses, further endangering the residents of these communities. A major factor that got us here is the discriminatory practice of redlining. Redlining simply put is the denial of credit to someone based on the area they live. These redlined neighborhoods were at a higher risk of having their natural spaces disrupted and replaced with large infrastructure due to their land being graded as “D” grade by the Home Owners Loan Corporation

(HOLC) (Benitez, 2022). This scale created by the HOLC looked at factors such as housing market conditions, economic characteristics and neighborhood demographics (Benitez, 2022). Although redlining was made illegal by the passing of the Fair Housing Act in 1968, its effects can still be observed today.

Using the Tree Equity Score Analyzer (TESA), a tool created by American Forests, one can see how tree inequities disproportionately affect certain communities over others. With this map, we at Trees Matter, a 501(c)(3) local nonprofit, are able to identify disproportionately affected communities and redistribute the benefits of trees through shade tree distributions and tree planting initiatives. Our mission at Trees Matter is to foster and inspire an increased, more equitable tree canopy in the Valley of the Sun. In partnership with SRP and Treeland Nurseries, Trees Matter is able to distribute upwards of 5,000 desert-adapted shade trees each year. Through our tree planting initiatives, we have planted hundreds of trees in schools, parks and neighborhoods in low-income communities which they can directly benefit from as the trees mature. All of our projects are fueled by our amazing volunteers, who’s hard work and dedication are the foundation of all that we do. In order to help those with the drive

to improve our tree canopy in the Valley but without the means to do so, Trees Matter is starting a new volunteer tree planting cohort called the Tree Team! We will be providing the team with training related to Urban Forestry such as planting, pruning, tree selection,

and tree biology. They will have the opportunity to join us at tree plantings, help with pruning and measuring projects, and eventually be able to adopt their own tree planting site to help manage and maintain the urban forests sustainably. Email volunteer@treesmatter.org for more information!

Works Cited

“Tree Equity Score Analyzer for Maricopa County, AZ.” Tree Equity Score, www.treeequityscore.org/analyzer/maricopa/map.

Benitez, Mia. “The Problem of Tree Inequity: Redlining and Its Contribution to Tree Inequity in Low Income Neighborhoods.” The Problem of Tree Inequity: Redlining and Its Contribution to Tree Inequity in Low Income Neighborhoods | Department of English, 2022, english.umd.edu/research-innovation/journals/interpolations/fall-2022/problem-tree-inequity-redlining-and-its#:~:text=Tree%20inequity%20stems%20from%20redlining,minorities%20are%20affected%20by%20redlining.

Oscar Valencia is the Tree Team Coordinator oscar@treesmatter.org



Mesa Urban Treescape. Photo by Toni Malcolm

Stargazing at the Great Bend of the Gila



We kicked off Latinx Conservation Week in Arizona with a stargazing event near the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument.

We got to the Painted Rock Petroglyph campsite as the light was leaving the sky, just in time to get a glimpse of the rich history that's in this part of the Sonoran



Desert. We walked around the Painted Rock and studied the beautiful petroglyphs left there by the people who walked and lived in these lands long before us. As we talked about the significance of this place we shared the importance of protecting this history from the sprawling of

contd. from page 1 Vicious cycles

measures have big gaps⁽²⁾. The irony of using second-generation rodenticides is that they may also decimate key rodent-controlling species and ultimately make bad situations worse—permanently.

The widespread use of the anti-inflammatory drug diclofenac for veterinary medicine purposes in India⁽³⁾ offers an example of consequence cascades following the introduction of a potent chemical into an ecosystem. An extreme sensitivity to diclofenac contamination inadvertently turned many animal carcass food sources deadly to several species of vultures and caused their mass die-off^(3, 4). The loss of vultures, keystone animal carcass-scavenging species, set the stage for more problems. When vultures vanished, the increased food available to other scavengers allowed feral dog populations to increase, contributing to an upsurge in deadly rabies infections in humans⁽⁴⁾. No longer quickly and cleanly scavenged by vultures, the fast-growing volume of animal carcasses forced disposal of dead livestock in waterways, which facilitated the spread of other infectious diseases. Figuring out why vultures vanished and comprehending the full consequences was complicated and time-consuming⁽⁴⁾. It is believed the summed impacts resulted in a half-million human deaths between 2000–2005 and enormous economic losses^(3, 4).

Masters of test tube organic chemistry, we consistently overlook the dangers of polluting our living world with persistent chemical poisons. As Rachel Carson warned, unless we act judiciously, we may discover the under-appreciated cycles of life essential to human wellbeing are being unwittingly transformed into deadly, vicious circles.

(1). Rachel Carson. 1962. *Silent Spring*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

(2). Dina Fine Maron. 2024. *Rat Poison's Long Reach*. Science, 10 July 2024. <https://www.science.org/content/article/really-scary-rat-poisons-wreaking-havoc-raptors-wildlife>

(3). Vivian La. 2024. *Loss of India's Vultures May Have Led to Deaths of Half a Million People*. Science, 15 July 2024. <https://www.science.org/content/article/loss-india-s-vultures-may-have-led-deaths-half-million-people>

(4). Prerna Singh Bindra. 2018. *Declining Vulture Population Can Cause a Health Crisis*. Mongabay, 5 February 2018. <https://india.mongabay.com/2018/02/declining-vulture-population-can-cause-a-health-crisis/>

Tyler Kokjohn is an active member of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club

our cities. Everyone there had heard about the Great Bend of the Gila, but it was there where they were able to see for themselves how truly special this place is and why so many of us are trying hard to get this new national monument established.

After heading to our stargazing spot (and running into a resident of the campsite, a rattlesnake) we got into our community circle to talk about why Latinx Conservation Week is important for our Latinx community. We got to learn about each other and where our Latinx heritages come from. We also touched on other conservation subjects like the problem with light pollution in our wild spaces and wildfires. We followed the circle talks with some Mexican food provided by a local Gila Bend Carniceria, Mercado de Amigos.

Soon the stargazing began. Some folks walked through the stars using our constellation map apps, while others got an amazing glimpse of the moon and Saturn. Some even braved the desert at night and used a black light to look for smaller evening desert dwellers like scorpions and beetles.

We wrapped up the night with some smores and headed back to the city. It was touching to me to lead my first all Spanish-speaking outing and remind me of how providing outings this way not only means a lot to me but we also received a lot of positive feedback from community members as well. Someone shared how much they love going outdoors but nothing compares to doing so in community.

Ana is the Energy and Public Lands Coordinator for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club

Photos by Ana Gorla



Support Your Local Sierra Club

When you make a donation to the Grand Canyon Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our efforts to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, to curb global climate change, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. If you haven't already, please also consider signing up to become a monthly, recurring donor to support local Chapter efforts!

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support the Sierra Club's citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

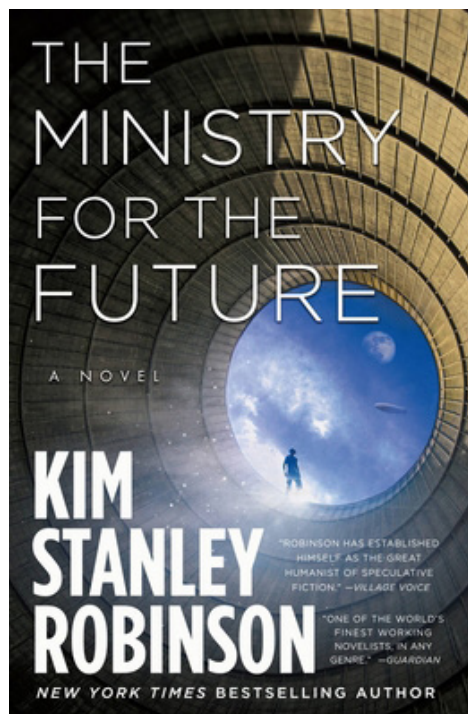
Donate online at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/donate>

or by mail to:

Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004



BOOK REVIEWS



• by Miché Lozano

"The Ministry for the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson is a thought-provoking climate fiction novel that weaves together policy, global finance, and environmentalism. While its complexity might appeal more to some readers-I'm looking at you, policy wonks-it could challenge others. The audiobook version enhances the experience with voice actors who brilliantly capture the diverse international cast. Robinson's narrative spans multiple perspectives, from powerful policymakers to climate refugees, providing

a comprehensive view of the climate crisis and its potential solutions.

Set in the near future, the novel portrays a world where climate change has reached a tipping point, necessitating radical and sometimes ethically dubious decisions. Through a blend of essays and first-person accounts, readers experience the unfolding crisis from multiple perspectives: victims, bystanders, and those spearheading change.

I would have liked the book more if Robinson had further explored the portrayal of characters radicalized by their climate change experiences. I think this was a missed narrative opportunity. The Children of Kali, a group undertaking bold direct actions, stands out as particularly intriguing. They cross ethical boundaries that seem justifiable when the stakes are literally all life on Earth. Equally compelling is the United Nations diplomatic leader for the Ministry for the Future, who navigates exhausting negotiations with tact and determination. This character faces countless political and bureaucratic obstacles from those who view Earth merely as a resource to exploit, rather than a responsibility to protect. While the book is dense and could have explored some characters more deeply, it balances the gravity of the climate crisis with a radical hope for the future. Robinson's work serves as a wake-up call, encouraging readers to consider innovative solutions to climate change while avoiding paralyzing climate anxiety.

Overall, "The Ministry for the Future" offers a unique blend of fiction and real-world climate science, making it a must-read for those interested in climate policy, global cooperation, and the potential paths forward in addressing one of humanity's greatest challenges.

Miché is the Program and Communication Assistant for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club

• by Gary Beverly

"The Emerald Mile," by Kevin Fedarko 2013, Scribner, 415 pages, 8 unnumbered pages of plates : illustrations, map
An audiobook version is available at most local libraries and through Audible.

While preparing for a raft trip through Grand Canyon, I stumbled onto one of the best books I've ever read: The Emerald Mile. Ostensibly, this is the story of a dory, the Emerald Mile, and three fanatic boatmen that set a speed record boating the Colorado River thru Grand Canyon from Lees Ferry to Grand Wash Cliffs. But the book is much much more than the story of an illegal exploit.

Author Kevin Fedarko offers passionate descriptions paired with detailed research of the early residents, explorers, engineers, rangers, boat designers, boatmen, and other characters. He includes geology and how the Canyon was formed, indigenous history, Major John Wesley Powell's 1869 expedition, and the Glen Canyon Dam near-disaster of July 1983. This book is very well written, a fascinating immersion into an amazing place. Fedarko tells stories about the Canyon and offers character studies of some amazing people: Powell's boatmen, Martin Litton, and Kevin Grua. Fedarko uses dramatic tension to spark the reader's interest:

Sierra Club vs Congress and Bureau of Reclamation:

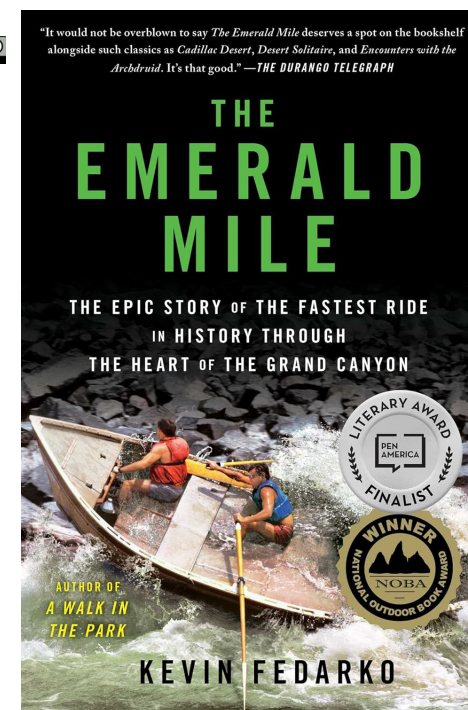
Sierra Club leaders Martin Litton and David Brower blocked Marble and Bridge canyon dams and preserved a free flowing river through Grand Canyon. After the disastrous trade off that protected Echo Park and authorized Glen Canyon Dam, Litton and Brower were determined to avoid any more compromise.

The Wild Colorado River vs Engineers:

High drama runs through the in-depth description of the 1983 Glen Canyon Dam compromise. Fedarko interviewed the engineers that designed, operated, and maintained the dam to construct an accurate and chilling narrative of near disaster. In a desperate attempt to save the dam, the operators cobbled together a plywood wall to raise the dam, then released record high, dangerous flows with no warning to dozens of boats downstream, almost tearing the dam apart—a very close call.

The Wild Colorado River vs rafts and dories:

Lots of tension here. The story includes a detailed description of the monster debris flow that created the mammoth Crystal Rapids. During the record high flow event in 1983, Crystal Rapids tore three enormous motorized rafts to pieces in one day. While the National Park Service was picking up bodies and debris, the little dory named Emerald Mile with Kevin Grua and two buddies, trying to set a speed record, ignored NPS staff on shore and headed straight into the gargantuan hole—you'll need to read the book to learn what happens...



Gary is Water Co-Chair and is a member of the Publications Committee

Explore & Enjoy Arizona

OCT 26, 2024 (SAT) TIME TBA. "D" Kendall Camp Day Hike (2 miles RT, EC <300). We will park on FR79 and hike to Kendall Camp. Fall colors and fabulous views north. Kendall Camp was a mining camp and homestead. All that remains is the apple orchard. If you want to hike further (6+ miles), it is a steep (920 EC) <2 miles to the Ridge on Maverick Mountain. Along the way is an old logging cut and remains of a miner's cabin. Turn left there and continue up a few very steep hills to even better views of Prescott. Hiking stick is recommended on the steep hills. Advise if you will be hiking up the mountain. Bring your snacks, lunches, and drinks. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leaders Jenny Cobb cobbsrun@msn.com 928-925-1320 or Jimmy Castro or jimmygordo01@gmail.com 928-499-7396. To register: [click here](#)



Kendall Camp Apple Orchard.
Photo by Jenny Cobb

NOV 9, 2024 (SAT) TIME TBA. "D" Surprise Spring #350 Day Hike (<3 Miles OB, EC 232). Gentle hike in Granite Basin. Trail passes through shady stands of ponderosa pine then open country where large boulders tower over chaparral covered hillsides. Superb views of Granite Mountain. To make a longer hike continue on Balancing Rock Trail 349 (2.5 miles) Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leaders Jenny Cobb cobbsrun@msn.com 928-925-1320, Heidi Alton threedogzaz1@gmail.com 480-200-5480, or Jimmy Castro or jimmygordo01@gmail.com 928-499-7396. To register: [click here](#)

NOV 16, 2024 (DAY) 9:00 am, "C" moderate Glassford Hill Summit Trail Day Hike (4.6 miles RT, 964 EC). The Glassford Hill Summit Trail in Prescott Valley takes hikers into the guts of an extinct cinder cone volcano. Home to a herd of Pronghorns, their grassland habitat is being replaced by houses and roads. Join members of Central Arizona Wildlife Alliance and friends to learn what you can do as citizen scientists to help preserve this endangered Pronghorn herd and the other abundant wildlife on Glassford Hill.



Endangered Pronghorn.
Photo by Jenny Cobb

The views are spectacular. For more information, directions, and carpooling, contact Outings Leader Jenny Cobb cobbsrun@msn.com or text/call 928-925-1320. Limited space, click on this link to reserve your place: [click here](#)

NOV 16, 2024 (SAT) Time TBA. "C" moderate Clark Springs Granite Wilderness Day Hike (4.5 miles RT, EC 1047). Enjoy a variety of high desert flora, a creek and spectacular views beginning at the Metate Trailhead and turning around with views of Williamson and Skull Valleys. National Forest fee area. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Heidi Alton threedogzaz1@gmail.com 480-200-5480. To register: [click here](#)

DEC 14, 2024 (SAT) TIME TBA. "D" Pioneer Park Day Hike (3.1 Miles OW), EC162). Enjoy the natural beauty of the area on open trails with views of Prescott. If you want to make a larger loop it is 4.9 miles 331 EC. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. Advise if you will be doing the longer loop. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leaders Jenny Cobb cobbsrun@msn.com 928-925-1320 or Jimmy Castro or jimmygordo01@gmail.com 928-499-7396. To register: [click here](#)



Granite Mountain.
Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

DEC 14, 2024 (SAT) Time TBA. "C" moderate Granite Mountain Big Juniper Day Hike (4.8 miles RT EC 949) We will hike from Contreras Road, downhill to Division Well, then uphill through high desert to the Big Juniper that was saved by the Granite Mountain Hotshots. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Heidi Alton threedogzaz1@gmail.com 480-200-5480. To register: [click here](#)