

CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL!



<http://sierraclub.org/arizona>

Grand Canyon Chapter

Fall 2016

How Do I Love Thee?

My goal to explore Arizona's national monuments

By Alicia Hamilton

It seems reductive to summarize our love for Arizona by the 18 national monuments we have. But is it? Or are those monuments a testament to what we love and stand for? For me, the answer is yes! Some people may think that if you've seen one cactus you've seen them all...if you've seen one ruin, you've seen them all...if you've seen one canyon, you've seen them all. However, a mindful visit to one of these monuments can alter this narrow view.

The centennial celebration of the National Park Service (NPS) acted as a catalyst to visit all 18 of these Arizona gems, although not all are managed by the NPS. These monuments are true testaments to what we love about Arizona: the flora and fauna, the culture and history, and the monumental canyons that guide the life source of every Arizonan. In order to capture multiple experiences, I enlisted some trusted friends to conduct this statewide exploration and celebration. With the help of Sierra Club, Outdoor Afro, Water Sentinels, South by Southwest, and the Arizona State University (ASU) Wildlife and Restoration Student Association, we were able to visit 11 of the 18 monuments by late summer. The remaining seven are planned for fall.

Our outings have seen a diversity of activities and goals, ranging from education to service to simple enjoyment of the beauty

and wonder of our public lands. The trips began in February at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument with a combination camping and hiking trip led by Bev Full. During a spring trip with ASU students to Wupatki National Monument, we explored ruins, listened to park rangers, surveyed the landscape, and left with more questions than when we started. The trip led students to deep curiosity that will further their respect for how we explore and protect our public lands.

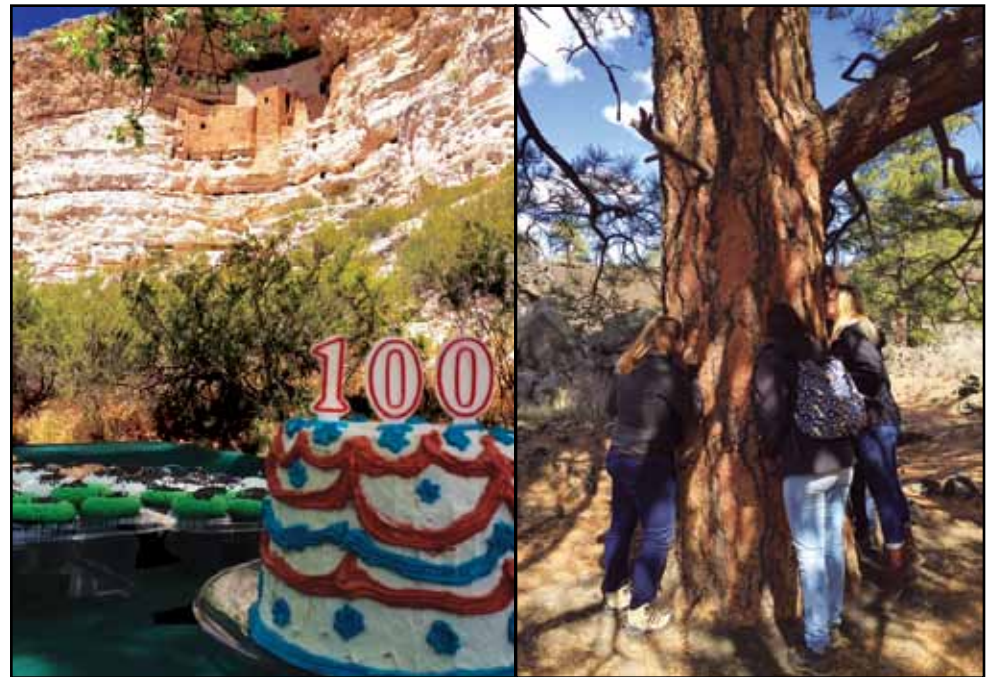
The great weather in April brought us to Montezuma Castle National Monument, where we passed out 100 cupcakes to recognize the 100 years of the NPS. Highlights of the trip were the intersections of history that took place at this one site. While listening to the story of the Sinagua people, we were perched next to a retaining wall built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps within view of a 20-story structure built more than 800 years ago. The outing moved and awed us.

We also sought to study and give back to these public lands. In late July, Arizona Water Sentinels volunteers conducted water monitoring at Agua Fria National Monument in order to assess quality of the river.

See Monuments continued on p. 4.



Don't forget to vote in chapter and group elections! See p. 6 for ballot and instructions. Deadline is December 1.



Top left: Celebrating the National Park Service's 100 years at Montezuma Castle National Monument.

Top right: Participants smell a ponderosa pine at Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument.

Bottom: ASU students at Wupatki National Monument.

Photos by Alicia Hamilton.



Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



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Arizona Chapter Action Directory

Canyon Echo

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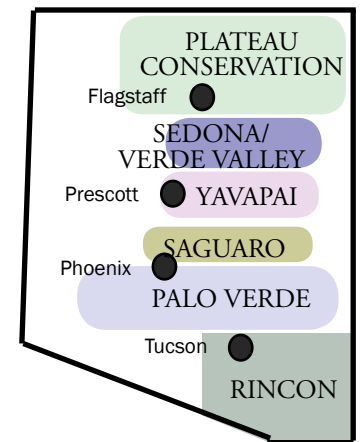
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Palo Verde: Blair McLaughlin **Rincon:** Meg Weesner **Yavapai:** Tom Slaback
Saguaro: Harry Lumley **Sedona/Verde Valley:** Brian Myers

Chapter Announcements

OCT 17, NOV 21, DEC 19 (MON) 6:30 p.m. Political Committee meetings. Help us elect more environmentally-friendly candidates! If you are interested in helping improve the political climate in Arizona, consider being part of our Political Committee! All Sierra Club members are welcome to participate. For information, contact Dale Volz at 480-892-5102 or dvolz@earthlink.net.

OCT 19 (WED) 5:30 p.m. and DEC 14 (WED) 6:30 p.m. Wildlife Activist Group meeting. Are you interested in learning more about the wildlife that calls our state home and in working for species' protection? Join us to learn more about what's happening with Arizona's wildlife, upcoming projects and opportunities, and how you can get involved. For more information, contact Sandy Bahr at 602-253-8633 or sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

OCT 25, NOV 15 (TUE) 6:30 p.m. Energy Team meetings. Discussions, programs, and field trips 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 or to be added to our list, please contact Sandy Bahr at 602-253-8633 or sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

NOV 2 (WED) 5:30 p.m. Publications Committee meeting. Have an idea? Help plan future issues of *Canyon Echo*! Contact Keith Bagwell at 520-623-0269 or kbagwell50@gmail.com or Tiffany Sprague at 602-253-9140 or tiffany.sprague@sierraclub.org.

DEC 1 (THU) Copy deadline for Winter 2017 Canyon Echo. Articles, art, photographs, poetry, essays, and brief epiphanies are welcome. Contact the editor before submitting at 602-253-9140 or tiffany.sprague@sierraclub.org to discuss word count, photos to include, licensing, issue topics, and to request submission guidelines.

DEC 28 (WED) 1–5 p.m. (stop by anytime) Canyon Echo Mailing Party. Volunteers save the Chapter hundreds of dollars by preparing *Canyon Echo* for mailing. Thank you! The job is easy to learn, and we all have a great time. Any amount of time that you're available is appreciated. Contact Jerry Nelson at 602-279-4668 or peakbagger2@gmail.com for details.

JAN 14–15 (SAT–SUN) Chapter Conservation (SAT) and Executive Committee (SUN) meetings. Club leaders meet to consider matters related to statewide conservation efforts, share experiences across groups, and coordinate strategy to align our Chapter mission and goals with that of national Sierra Club. For more information, contact Don Steuter at 602-956-5057 or dsteuter@hotmail.com or Ken Langton at 520-749-3829 or kplangton@msn.com. Meetings will be located at North Mountain in Phoenix.

Grand Canyon Chapter – What’s Going On?

Picnic Time!



Preparing for the feast at a previous chapter picnic. *Photo by Mark Coryell.*

Sunday, November 13

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Papago Park, Phoenix (Ramada #2)

As a way to say *thank you* to all of our members and volunteers, we invite you to join us for this fun potluck and volunteer/member awards recognition picnic! Spend a day at Papago Park and meet and mingle with others devoted to Arizona’s environment. FREE! All you need to bring are your friends and family and a dish you wish to share. Sierra Club will provide a main dish and drinks. Not yet a member? Please join us!

RSVP to 602-253-9140 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Directions provided when you RSVP!

Mark Your Calendar:

Environmental Day at the Capitol

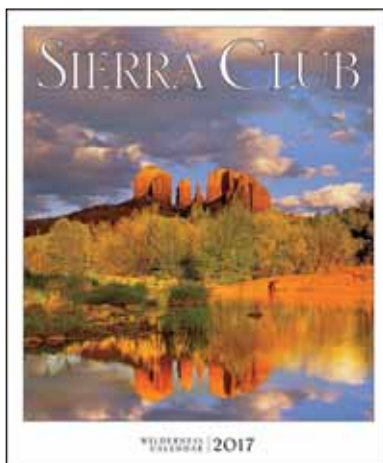


**February 15, 2017
Arizona State Capitol
Historic Supreme Courtroom**

Join us for this annual event to meet with your legislators as part of a small group and to learn about the legislative process. Each group will have an experienced leader. This is a great opportunity to learn about conservation issues and to make a difference!

**For more information, contact Sandy Bahr
at 602-253-8633 or sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.**

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- 18 Hikes and Outings**
- 20 Service Outings**



Help support our work by purchasing these lovely calendars! Filled with beautiful pictures and handy information, they make great holiday gifts! Proceeds benefit our Inspiring Connections Outdoors campaign.

Buy Your 2017 Sierra Club Calendars!

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Engagement Calendar	\$14.95	_____	\$ _____
Wilderness Calendar	\$13.95	_____	\$ _____
Shipping (\$5 first; \$1 each add'l to same address)			\$ _____
Membership discount (-\$0.95 per calendar)			\$ _____
	GRAND TOTAL		\$ _____
Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____			
Phone _____ Email _____			

Please fill out the order form and mail with a check made payable to “Sierra Club” to 514 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85003.

Vote for Environmental Protection This Fall!



Why is it that so many people who are eligible to vote in elections don't, while so many who cannot vote would love to be able to cast a ballot? There is no one simple answer, but it does seem that our tendency is to take for granted things that have always been for there for us. Those who are or have been prevented from voting for any number of reasons may better appreciate how precious this important right is.

Whatever the reason you or others you know may have for not voting, we encourage you to rethink it and to vote early or go to the polls to cast your vote on November 8. This is an important election and will determine a number of local and national seats: 90 in the Arizona Legislature, one in the U.S. Senate, all nine congressional, three for the Arizona Corporation Commission, city council and county supervisor in various communities, other county offices such as sheriff and county attorney, retention of judges, at least two ballot measures, and, of course, U.S. President. This is no trivial matter. Participating and helping to elect these people is a big responsibility.

All of the people who cannot vote – children, non-citizens, those who have not had civil rights restored – and all of the creatures affected by our votes – wildlife, plants, domestic animals – and the air, land, and water that have no vote – are counting on us to speak up for them at the ballot. Let's do it!

Important dates:

October 10 – last day to register to vote

October 12 – early voting begins

October 28 – requests for early ballots must be submitted to the county

November 8 – Election Day

Monuments continued from p. 1.

Another incentive for these outings was to highlight an area that deserves national monument protection. Surrounding Grand Canyon is a place of great cultural and ecological importance. The 1.7-million-acre expanse features deep canyons, ponderosa pine forests, and vast grasslands. Grand Canyon Heritage is a magnificent landscape worthy of becoming Arizona's 19th national monument. We hope to be able to include this area in future monument outings.

Alicia is an Organizing Representative for Sierra Club's Our Wild America campaign.

Sign Up for the Electronic Newsletter!

Help save resources and money by signing up to receive the newsletter electronically! Send an email with your full name and membership ID (8-digit number on your mailing label) to CanyonEchoESub@gmail.com or fill out the short form at http://bit.ly/e_echo.

Cast of Characters

Cyndi Tuell **Activist to the Max**

One word describes Tucson Sierra Club member and environmental attorney Cyndi Tuell: "activist." Her yeoman efforts earned her Grand Canyon Chapter's 2015 Conservationist of the Year award.

In addition to her professional work, centered of late on water- and land-use cases, Cyndi is an engaged member of the Rincon Group Executive Committee, working on membership recruitment while keeping abreast of the Club's hot local issues. She is very active with Tucson Supports Oak Flat, serves on the Board of Directors of Montana-based Wilderness Watch, and works with Sky Island Alliance and Friends of the Animals, the latter of which opposes the effort to reintroduce desert bighorn sheep to the Santa Catalina Mountains.

In her spare time, Cyndi works on social justice issues and is active with Show Up for Racial Justice. Somehow, she does all this while single-parenting a seven-year-old son.

An avid backpacker and white-water rafter – she has rafted the Colorado and six other Southwestern rivers – Cyndi, a Tucson native, earned her undergraduate University of Arizona degree in ecology and evolutionary biology. She did this while on her first round of single-parenting (her now 23-year-old daughter) and working.

One task Cyndi performed while in college involved field work with Sky Island Alliance, which brought to Cyndi's attention that laws to protect and enhance our environment "are lacking." This sent her into the UA Law School in pursuit of a law degree, which she could complete in three years "without taking a math class." With her law degree in hand, Cyndi went to work as a lawyer with the Center for Biological Diversity. One issue she worked on in that capacity was federal-agency travel management planning. That put Cyndi into frequent contact with Grand Canyon Chapter Director Sandy Bahr over a seven-year stint.

After leaving the Center and setting up her own consulting and law practice, Cyndi got active in Sierra Club and the Rincon Group.

Cyndi's top concern is the endangered, or at least threatened, status of Arizona's meager water supply. Over-drafted, overused, and excessively contaminated in an arid area, water is our number one problem, she believes. Cyndi is involved in litigation over threats to the San Pedro River and its watershed from proposed residential and commercial development in Cochise County.

Mining and mine proposals are another threat to our water supply and to sacred Native American sites, wildlife habitat, and air quality. Cyndi fights them with protests, demonstrations, and testimony instead of litigation.

Beyond all these efforts and an active public-speaking calendar, Cyndi is engaged in a low-key campaign for for a local elected office, which she believes that needs more robust enforcement of environmental laws.



Cyndi Tuell on Yetman Trail.
Photo courtesy of Cyndi Tuell.

Thank You to Our Donors!

The Morning Stars Sing Together (500+)

Robert Dixon
Lori Lefebvre
Cary & Nancy Meister

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Linda Gale Drew
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Jeanne Miyasaka & Joseph Ryan
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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Political Action Committee this quarter!

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Mark Stambaugh
Steven Thompson
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Many thanks to all who contributed to and helped make our Water Sentinels Benefit Concert a success! Thank you, also, to musicians Jennifer Martin, Don Steuter, Begged and Borrowed, De Mairt Coel, and Pick & Holler and to Fiddler's Dream for hosting the event.



Photo by Dan Millis.

Thank you to the following for donating to protect Arizona's borderlands:

William Carey	Pamela Jackson	Phyllis Petersen
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Thank you to our monthly donors!



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The Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter thanks and very much appreciates the **Wilburforce Foundation** and all it does for our Restore and Protect the Greater Grand Canyon Ecoregion project, **Edwards Mother Earth Foundation** for its support of our energy efficiency work, and **National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance** for its support of our efforts in wilderness areas. Mil gracias!

NOTE: This list includes donations received from June 8 through September 7.

Create a Lasting Legacy

By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local chapter.

For confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270 • gift.planning@sierraclub.org

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?

- 1) Review the candidate biographies on pp. 7–9.
- 2) Mark whether you have a Single or Joint (household) membership.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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 **address** as 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 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.

ELECTION BALLOT

Postmark deadline for ballots is Dec. 1!

Is your membership Single or Joint?

Single Joint

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE All Members Vote

Vote for no more than 5 candidates	Single (Membership Type)	Joint
Keith Bagwell	(S)	(J)
Ken Langton	(S)	(J)
Harry Lumley	(S)	(J)
David McCaleb	(S)	(J)
Oscar Medina	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

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.

PALO VERDE (Phoenix) Vote for no more than 5

Bettina Bickel	(S)	(J)
Gary Kraemer	(S)	(J)
Blair McLaughlin	(S)	(J)
Don Steuter	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

SAGUARO (N. Maricopa County) Vote for no more than 4

Bev Full	(S)	(J)
Doug Murphy	(S)	(J)
Peter Weinelt	(S)	(J)
Jim Wilkey	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

SEDONA/VERDE VALLEY Vote for no more than 2

Tina Myers	(S)	(J)
Paul Sequoia Rauch	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

RINCON (Tucson) Vote for no more than 3

Thomas Hatfield	(S)	(J)
Russell Lowes	(S)	(J)
Meg Weesner	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

YAVAPAI (Prescott) Vote for no more than 2

Gary Beverly	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

Very Important!

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

Sierra Club Elections
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85003



Meet the Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

Keith Bagwell (*Membership #42044629*)

I am an environmentalist. My interests span the spectrum of environmental concerns as the contamination of our planet with toxic chemicals in our air, water and soil alarms me.

We must minimize our use of these toxins in all that we do and that has implications for the way we live. We must oppose private and government projects and programs that increase or maintain chemical contamination. We must promote vigorously the move away from reliance on dangerous toxins toward a sustainable future.

We seek to protect and improve public health and ecological justice, but with the relentless march into global climate change successful action is even more imperative.

The hope for success rests with our governments. They set and enforce legal standards that reject negative private proposals, and encourage and reward positive efforts. The Sierra Club must continue and strengthen its work to elect and positively influence elected representatives.

The Grand Canyon Chapter meets high standards with its meaningful and often successful actions to move us in the right direction on issues we face. I am proud to be your elected representative on the Chapter Executive Committee and I entreat you to vote for me for another two-year term.

Ken Langton (*Membership #42806903*)

Inappropriate development and misguided planning continue to destroy the natural areas and wildlife that we care about in Arizona. I am a candidate because as your present State Chair I want to continue to preserve our wild areas and help build a conservation-based community. I bring the leadership skills that I honed as a Sierra Club leader and as a university professor. I have chaired the chapter's Southern Arizona Wildlife Refuges and National Parks Conservation Committee and previously served as the State Chair in Michigan and as their National Forest Committee Coordinator. Later I was elected Chair of the Sierra Club's National Chapter Chairs Forum. At the University of Michigan I served on the Executive Committee of the Environmental Studies Program. More recently, I have served on three national Sierra Club Governing Committees. I am a member of Tucson's Rincon Group where I work on national wildlife refuges and national parks.

I am often asked: why do you spend so much time working for the Sierra Club? Because conservation requires a persistence and dedication that often takes years. Our reward in the interim is the personal, unobserved sense of integrity that comes from doing the right thing.

Harry Lumley (*Membership #47885646*)

I've been a member of Sierra Club since my retirement in 2010. I've served as Chapter Secretary, and am currently Chair of the Saguaro Group. I have 22 years of experience in the US Dept. of State living in and experiencing the ecological challenges faced by many countries. I have a degree in Biology and 35 years of Information Technology experience. As I am now retired I am highly motivated to dedicate more time at supporting Sierra Club's local, national and international efforts.

David McCaleb (*Membership #40829837*)

I am a member of the Executive Committee and have been serving as the Chapter Treasurer for the past eight years. In addition, I am serving on the national board advisory committee, FinCom. I moved to Arizona in 1960, grew up in the desert outside of Phoenix and have considered it my home ever since. I have lived out of the state several times for education and work. I moved back to the state in 1994 and have been distressed by the rate of change taking place that is putting our beautiful land and resources at risk of being destroyed forever.

As a biologist, hiker and semi-retired executive, I would like to continue to bring to the ExCom my years of management experience, an awareness of the wonders of the

environment and a commitment to do my best to keep Arizona a special place. I believe that one of our greatest challenges is managing our resources and the environment while coping with the expected influx of new residents. I would work with the ExCom, the staff and all members to preserve our state to ensure that we all can continue to enjoy living here.

Oscar Medina (*Membership #48105903*)

My interest in serving as an ExCom member for the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter stems from my work with climate justice organizing. In 2015, I received the Climate Hero Award from CREDO for my involvement with Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign and our efforts to protect residential rooftop solar in Tucson while fighting against the utility company's dependency on fossil fuels. As the head of the history department and manager of the restoration ecology program at Changemaker High School, I've designed curriculum that develops student leaders to act on environmental issues impacting their community. My students have participated in environmental day of lobbying at the AZ capitol to express their environmental concerns to their elected officials. Nonetheless, I've organized field trips to the national parks with my high school students to experience the outdoors and value the natural environments. As an ExCom member, I would like to work closely with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group to support Sierra Club's national interest in recruiting younger underrepresented leaders. I currently live in south Tucson with my wife and two children. We enjoy visiting our family in Jalisco and Zacatecas Mexico and Los Angeles, CA.

Sierra Club Internship

By Ian Ooley



Ian Ooley, Christian Ritenour, and Elliot Cull (left to right) monitor the Verde River. *Photo by Jennifer Martin.*

This summer, May through August 2016, I have been honored to work with Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter's Arizona Water Sentinels. I originally reached out to Sierra Club in order to fulfill a class requirement at Northern Arizona University so that I can go into my senior year ready to graduate in the spring and to apply what I have been learning from my professors. What happened for me, though, was finding a real interest in what the Water Sentinels are doing for the rivers around Arizona.

From Cottonwood to Sierra Vista, I have been working with the Water Sentinels to collect samples and run analyses to deter-

mine the water quality of Arizona's rivers. Through doing this, I have learned which tests need to be run and what the data gathered mean in the scope of how Arizona's rivers and environment are doing. A big interest of mine was in the collection of water samples to determine the *E. coli* content in the rivers.

I also spent a good amount of time looking over and updating a report on the state of the Verde River and can now say that I have at least a fundamental understanding of what a scientific report of environmental quality looks like. This internship has allowed me to gather real-world insight on what field work actually consists of. It has given me valuable real-world experience into the field of environmental science and set me on a course to become more successful in school and the workforce after graduation.

Ian is a student at Northern Arizona University and was a summer intern with Sierra Club.

Meet the Group Executive Committee Candidates

PALO VERDE GROUP

Bettina Bickel (*Membership #16765783*)

Arizona is blessed with an amazing diversity of public lands and wildlife, and I love to explore and enjoy by hiking, backpacking, birding, kayaking, and photographing. Unfortunately, our public lands, wildlife, air, water, and climate face a myriad of threats, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with so many dedicated and inspiring people in the Sierra Club to protect the environment that we value. I would be honored to serve another term on the Palo Verde Group Executive Committee.

Gary S. Kraemer (*Membership #47513569*)

Hello. I'm running for another term serving on the Palo Verde Group Executive Committee. I originally was on the Ex-Comm during the 1980s. I was absent for a time after that while involved with family, career and some relocations. I returned to become active again and also returned to serve on the Ex-Comm a few years ago. I've been involved in several Lobbying days at the Capitol, Trail Maintenance Service trips, Group Representative for a time, attended various meetings around town regarding environmental issues, and communicated with the City Council on matters relating to Parks and Recreation needs. I have also been to Oak Flat several times with other Sierra Clubbers (and the GMO club), meeting with Apache representatives. I'm currently serving as Group Secretary.

I would like to serve another term and would appreciate your vote. Thank you!

Blair McLaughlin (*Membership #40110274*)

I ask for your vote to serve another term on the Palo Verde Group Executive Committee. I have enjoyed my time on the Executive Committee and believe it is important to make thoughtful and informed decisions as I help to educate our community and improve our environment. Along with many other very dedicated members, I plan to push forward and continue my work on the Palo Verde Group Executive Committee as a means to expand our message of protecting and enjoying Arizona. Thank you.

Don Steuter (*Membership #23812444*)

My primary interest with the Sierra Club since joining in the late 1980's has been protection of public lands, in particular fighting to stop irresponsible mining across our most special landscapes and preventing destructive cattle grazing in our hot desert and riparian areas.

My history with the Sierra Club includes chairing the Palo Verde Group Conservation Committee (1990 to the present) and the Chapter Conservation Committee (2001 to present). I have worked on several campaigns and projects over the years including organizing with others the Conferences on Conservation of State Lands (COSTL – 1998-99) and as a steering committee member for the Citizen's Growth Management Initiative in 2000. I also worked on the Grand Canyon Campaign Protection Committee, am on the steering committee for the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, represented the Chapter at Council of Club Leaders, and serve as secretary for the Chapter Political Committee.

Working with the oldest and most influential conservation organization and its many hard working and committed members has been an honor. With your vote I'll continue the effort to keep our air and water clean and our wild places wild.

RINCON GROUP

Thomas Hatfield (*Membership #42711404*)

"Metamorphosis" is an apt word to inspire and celebrate from Nature – to emulate, with awareness and intention, as a Principle, to help guide the aims and efforts of Rincon Group.

With high regard for the worthy history of Rincon Group – our vital challenge is to imagine and foster "metamorphosis" of the efforts and results of Rincon Group (to best meet the oncoming future, across Southern Arizona).

The key is people, lots of people of all ages – especially bold young people, eager to join and encourage others to join together – to best "explore, enjoy, and protect" the bountiful yet fragile and threatened natural world, all around us (and within us, too).

My own spiritual metamorphosis resulted from joining the "Sierra Singles" section of the Loma Prieta Chapter of The Sierra Club – where I learned slowly, how to best lead others on events, with lots of easy fun and laughter.

Within two years there, I led a slate of friends to join the ExComm of that section – and, as "Membership Coordinator" for the next 5 years, I helped eliminate membership dues, as we continued to streamline operations and elevate fun and enjoyment.

Russell Lowes (*Membership #43781677*)

I would like to be re-elected to the Rincon Group Executive Committee. My early background is in Wilderness Act activism and in energy economics. I am the primary author of a book on the Palo Verde nuclear plant and coal energy. This book was used in the successful campaign to stop financing for two of the five reactors at Palo Verde.

I focus on worldwide energy production, which contributes the most to global warming. Also of high interest are Wilderness designation, mining impacts, and toxics, to list a few. I am the Energy Chair for the Rincon Group and have been fighting for decades for solar, wind, energy efficiency, energy storage and energy management. We must stop any expansion of nuclear, coal and fracked gas electric plants, and instead opt for cleaner and more affordable energy options, like solar rooftop energy.

I give energy presentations in Tucson and Phoenix. I also give talks on saving our Arizona wild lands with Mitch Stevens, the Rincon Group Outings Chair. I give primers on buying solar energy for free to Sierra Club members and others. I am involved in the national Sierra Club listserve on energy and global climate chaos.

Margaret "Meg" Weesner (*Membership #13399492*)

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for almost 40 years, and a life member for much of that time. I was elected to the group ExCom two years ago, and am currently serving as group chair. Since 2006, I have been an outing leader for the Rincon Group. During 2013 and 2014, I led chapter activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and received the chapter's Conservationist of the Year Award. With your support I would like to continue working for success on environmental issues in southern Arizona. Sierra Club is unique among national environmental organizations because of the opportunities it provides for grassroots members to become actively involved in conservation issues. Involving youth and non-traditional communities is important for the perpetuation of our 120-year-old organization. I would be honored to continue serving on the group's executive committee and working to protect our air, water, and public lands and improve sustainability in our community.

SAGUARO GROUP

Bev Full (*Membership #10337194*)

I was an original organizer of the Saguaro North Maricopa County Group in 2004 and have served as chair and ExCom member. I have lead hundreds of outings that raise money and recruit volunteers for the Sierra Club. I would appreciate being elected to continue serving on the Saguaro Group ExCom. Thank you.

Doug Murphy (*Membership #43848824*)

I have been active with the Saguaro Group since 2005, starting as publicity chair, organizing service outings and this past summer working with Jennifer Martin and the Saguaro Group to start water monitoring on the Lower Verde River. My wife and I enjoy kayaking on nearby lakes and travel. I am the Vice Chair for the Saguaro Group and work in law enforcement for the Courts.

Pete Weinelt (*Membership #44176428*)

I've been a Sierra Club outings leader for the last 4 years, leading hikes & camping/hiking outings. Some of my passions are about learning to live in a more sustainable manor & reducing my carbon footprint and then sharing that information/understanding. I've been the outings chair for the Saguaro group for the last year.

Jim Wilkey (*Membership #43313248*)

I have been a Sierra Club member for more than 10 years. I continue to volunteer on the chapter and group political committees. When time permits, I volunteer as a Sierra Club rep at various tabling events and activities. I enjoy being an assistant hike leader, especially on canoe/raft trips.

SEDONA/VERDE VALLEY GROUP

Tina Myers (*Membership #44535328*)

No candidate statement.

Paul Sequoia Rauch (*Membership #47241805*)

I'm happy to have served our Club members from my position on the executive committee for the past two years. I'm honored to be part of the Sierra Club for its national part in last year's successful legal case of protecting as much of the Tongass NF as possible from logging. Being a Sedona resident for 26 years, an environmentalist my entire life, and recently writing/publishing Forsaken Earth the Ongoing Mass Extinction, I look forward, with your help, to continuing my position on the committee.

YAVAPAI GROUP

Gary Beverly (*Membership #44589093*)

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for three decades and have been active in the Yavapai Group ExComm since 2006 as Chair, Outings Chair, and Publications. My primary project is to protect the base flow and riparian environment along the Verde river, which can in part be achieved through Congressional designation of the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River. My other interests are in air and water quality, the Grand Canyon, forest management, and in trails. If re-elected, I will continue my efforts with increased vigor. These are the most challenging times for environmental interests in the last century, so now is when we should redouble our efforts by speaking loudly and clearly to defend the earth that sustains us.

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Beyond Parks: Non-Park Activities of the National Park Service

By Meg Weesner

The National Park Service (NPS) does more than manage parks. Most of the non-park programs involve outdoor recreation or historic preservation. Below are a few of the NPS programs with examples in Arizona. The first three designations are made administratively by the NPS for sites that meet the criteria for designation.

National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) are sites that contain the best remaining examples of specific biological or geological features. They can occur on public or private lands and, once designated, are eligible for technical assistance and small grants. Among the ten NNLs in Arizona are Meteor Crater, Willcox Playa, and Ramsey Canyon.

National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) are nationally significant historic places that represent the heritage of the U.S. There are 45 NHLs in Arizona, including El Tovar Hotel at Grand Canyon, Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Taliesin West near Phoenix, and San Xavier del Bac Mission near Tucson. These features are the cream of the crop of our country's cultural resources.

National Register of Historic Places – This list of more than 90,000 properties around the U.S. is the official list of historic places worthy of preservation. Arizona has more than 1,400 properties on the list, some of which are districts that include many

buildings and features. Examples include the historic Navajo Bridge over Marble Canyon and Tucson's Fox Theater. Oak Flat, site of the proposed Resolution Copper Mine, was added to the National Register as a traditional cultural property last March.

Properties on this list are eligible for federal preservation tax credits and grants such as Save America's Treasures.

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) – This is a relatively new designation that Congress has used for areas where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally-important landscape. They are lived-in landscapes and encompass a variety of ownerships. These areas represent grassroots, community-driven approaches to heritage conservation. Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area is the only one in Arizona, but others have been proposed, such as Santa Cruz Valley NHA, and may be designated in the future.

Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program – This program offers technical assistance to community groups,



Top: Navajo Bridge over Marble Canyon. Photo by Krzysztof Belczyński. Right: Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. Photo by Scott Jones.



non-profits, tribes, and state and local governments seeking to protect special places, conserve and improve access to rivers, design trails and parks, and create outdoor recreation opportunities. Arizona has two planning professionals (both stationed in Tucson) who provide technical assistance throughout the state. Current projects include regional planning for recreation along the Verde River, cooperating with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Tucson to encourage youth to experience and build careers in conservation, and collaborating with underserved and rural communities throughout the state. More information about this program is at <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>.

Meg is Chair of the Rincon Group and an NPS retiree.

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VOTE THIS NOVEMBER TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM FROM PRIVATIZATION!

Greg Pentkowski 8/27/16 © 2016

Canyon etching courtesy: J.W. Powell expedition 1869-1872

A Day with Youth on the Salt River

By Tracy Corenman   

Cool, crisp water splashing over smooth river rocks, the hot summer sun beaming on the back of your neck, great blue herons soaring over the water. These are just a few memories the Metro Phoenix Boys and Girls Club made on July 19 while joining Sierra Club's Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program and Latino Outdoors for a kayaking day trip on the lower Salt River.

The primary purpose of the trip was to conduct a trash pick-up in support of Latino Conservation Week, a national effort organized by Hispanic Access Foundation to celebrate the Latino community's part in outdoor activities that help protect our natural resources.

Twenty-seven students joined several chaperones, volunteers, and river guides for what was for many of them the first time using a kayak or experiencing the Salt River. One of ICO's main goals is to facilitate these first nature experiences for underserved communities or groups that may have limited access to the outdoors.

The three-hour trip down the river included several stops along popular beach areas and shorelines. Participants hopped

out of their kayaks and combed the area for trash, collecting it using large garbage bags and trash grabbers. At the end of the day, the group had hauled out a dozen full trash bags and become stewards for Tonto National Forest and its prized Salt River.

The group ended its day on a grassy field next to the river at Saguaro Lake Guest Ranch, which graciously hosted the group with tables and chairs for lunchtime.

Sierra Club, ICO, and Latino Outdoors all encourage the introduction of fun, new outdoor experiences that can be repeated without facilitation. Many of the teens enthusiastically chattered about coming back again with friends. By showing participants how to be safe, demonstrating how to access the river, and explaining the different ways of traveling through the water (by kayak or by tube, typically), this adventure helped ensure the youth will be able to take advantage of future opportunities to enjoy the river and continue their stewardship of our public lands.

The Salt River kayaking trip was just one of many efforts throughout the Southwest that took place during Latino Con-






Youth from Metro Phoenix Boys and Girls Club enjoy a day on the Salt River, removing trash and learning about conservation. *Photo by Jennifer Martin.*

servation Week, which stretched from July 16–24, 2016. Latino Outdoors inspires the community to connect personal stories and culture to the land through outdoor experiences. This week-long effort is one of many ways the organization facilitates this goal throughout the year.

Sierra Club's Our Wild America campaign and Latino Outdoors plan to continue building connections and creating programming for the community throughout the year and throughout the Southwest.

Tracey hosts a travel blog called Twenty-Something Travels and is head baker and cookie enthusiast at Pucker Up! Cookie Bouquets based in Phoenix.

Big Bend: A National Park at the Frontier

By Katie Sharar   

Visiting Big Bend is to experience the borderlands in a new way, particularly for me, who has spent years engaged in various elements of border issues in Tucson. Big Bend is located in the Chihuahuan Desert. It contains two mountain ranges and millions of acres of national park land, private ranchland, and a state park. Its southern boundary is the Rio Grande River and the nearest city is El Paso, a five-hour drive northwest. The landscape south of the river is equally desolate; the nearest town with electricity and commerce is more than 100 miles into Mexico. Big Bend is a harsh and vast place, even in comparison to the Sonoran Desert.

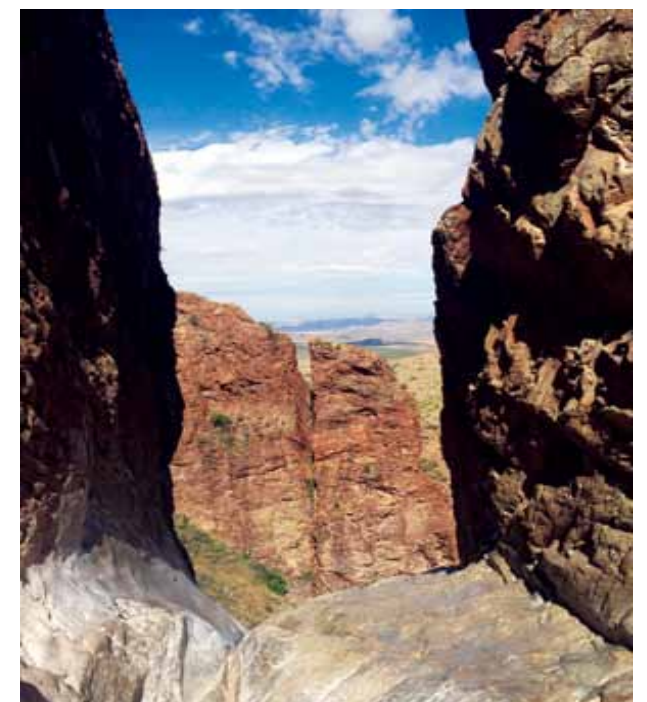
Partly due to isolation, there is less evidence of border security in Big Bend than anywhere else on the border. In the entire national park, there are just four Border Patrol employees, and the river is the only

boundary. This lack of surveillance would suggest a higher likelihood of crossing without apprehension. However, the geographic realities – isolation and difficult terrain – make the possibility of death or disappearance alarmingly high.

Although surveillance and unauthorized crossings are less observable throughout Big Bend than other parts of the borderlands, the dynamics that both bind and separate the U.S. and Mexico appear in other ways. In Boquillas Canyon, which leads hikers to a canyon near the tiny Mexican town of Boquillas, copper handicrafts are displayed next to used coffee cans listing suggested donations. Although park signs prohibit these purchases, transactions regularly occur. The money from these crafts funds the local school, health clinic, and community center.

Boquillas has not been immune to intensified border policy. Before 2001, many Big Bend visitors included a trip to Boquillas in their itinerary. Likewise, families from Boquillas often crossed by foot or horseback to the park's stores to shop for perishable goods. In the wake of 9/11, however, U.S. authorities declared the informal crossing a security threat and closed it. Boquillas then saw its population drop by two-thirds; those who remained in Boquillas survived mainly on income from crafts sold illicitly to park visitors.

See Big Bend on p. 14.



Chisos Basin in Big Bend National Park. *Photo by Katie Sharar.*

Interview with a National Park Service Employee: Ravis Henry Park Ranger, Canyon de Chelly National Park

When and why did you decide to work with the National Park Service (NPS)?

I grew up in Canyon de Chelly National Monument. The funny thing was that I did not know it was a national monument or even what the NPS was.

When I was 20 years old, I decided to volunteer at the visitor center and discovered that I really do enjoy the NPS. That same year, in 2009, I applied for and acquired my first seasonal position with Canyon de Chelly as a Park Guide. I learned about the NPS mission and how similar it is to traditional teachings of life and the environment according to my people/culture of the Diné Tribe.

I returned the following summer, accepting a term position. I later applied for and received a permanent position. Since 2012, I have been a Park Ranger of Interpretation at Canyon de Chelly National Monument and have enjoyed every day of it. Not many people in the NPS get to say they actually “work at home,” but I do, and I’m proud of it.



Ravis Henry. Photo courtesy of Ravis Henry.

Did you work with other NPS units before your current position?

I did not work with any other NPS unit before Canyon de Chelly. I had visited other parks in my childhood, such as Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, White Sands, and Carlsbad, but I didn’t know that I lived in one until I volunteered in 2009.

Tell us a little about your park (location, current projects, cool facts, etc).

Canyon de Chelly National Monument is located in northeast Arizona, in the center of the Navajo Nation. It is a unique park as the land does not belong to the NPS. Canyon de Chelly remains Navajo Trust Land, allowing Navajo families to continue to reside within the park, resulting in more than 5,000 years of continual human occupancy. The monument was established on April 1, 1931, for the protection and preservation of the archeological resources; within the 83,840 acres of the park, archeologists believe that there could easily be more than 3,500 different archeological sites.

The monument has been actively involved with the local community and the greater Navajo Nation community. The Interpretation Team recently received a grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation to partner with a local school, creating a program that brings students to the park, using the canyon as an outdoor classroom.

Another ongoing project in the park is our Watershed Program, which began in 2004 and has since removed more than 900 acres of invasive plant species, such as Rus-

sian olive and tamarisk. Mexican spotted owl and raptor surveys are also conducted annually.

What are your favorite aspects of being an NPS employee? And favorite aspects of your park?

I think the greatest aspect of my NPS employment and of this park is the fact that I work at home, literally. I am Diné, Navajo, and I am very culturally oriented. My thought process, how I speak, and how I see the world come from being Diné. As Diné, we are told that we are the “Five Fingered Spiritual Beings on this Earth” and were created to serve as the caretakers of this world, the Glittering World. We are responsible for keeping or restoring peace, balance, harmony, and beauty. We are responsible for ensuring that our grandchildren have a sustainable place in which to live. This teaching, to me, coincides with the NPS mission, as we preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources for today and future generations.

Being able to share my home and culture with people from all over the world – and helping the next generation appreciate the world we live in and the role the NPS has in their lives – is all a part of what I do, and I enjoy it all. Overall, I feel like I was meant to be a Park Ranger.

Tonto National Forest: The Gem in the Backyard

By Alexander Garcia-Delgado

One hour and seven minutes. One hour and seven minutes is the approximate commute time from the concrete jungle of downtown Phoenix to the stunning natural mosaic called Tonto National Forest, including the Verde River.

The forest’s close proximity to civilization allows spontaneous decisions to leave in the morning, spend quality time in the forest, and return home to a comfy bed at the end of the day. This ability to interrupt one’s linear lifestyle and take a break from modern society’s exhausting routine is invaluable. However, as the saying goes, with great power comes great responsibility. Collectively, unfortunately, we are being irresponsible.

Our lack of responsibility in ethically enjoying the forest has harmed its monumental landscape. While visiting Tonto National Forest, the chances of witnessing a cottontail navigating through the bush is relatively high, but not higher than stepping on a bullet casing or expended shotgun shell. Spotting a fully-grown desert bighorn sheep high on a rocky mountainside is a rare moment and, therefore, a special memory for those lucky enough to witness it. However, glass bottles, aluminum cans, and Styrofoam plates are now common “species” in the Tonto, harming the local flora and fauna.

See *Tonto* continued on p. 17.



A view from Ballantine Trail in Tonto National Forest. Photo by John Evans.

Delivering the Message: What's Best for the Environment is What's Best for Us!

By Anna Rose Mohr-Almeida



Anna Rose Mohr-Almeida signing posters for Congressional representatives. Photo by Kathy Mohr-Almeida.

This summer, I went to Washington, D.C., to lobby for clean air with Moms Clean Air Force (MCAF). MCAF brought

young people from every state to be a part of its “Play-In for Climate Action” and to personally meet with state representatives. At the Play-In, there was a hula-hoop competition, several arts and crafts projects, and a band that played fun, catchy songs. I signed more posters than I could count, which MCAF had printed for every state representative, asking for action on clean air.

Alongside the Serna family from Phoenix, we visited the offices of Congressman Grijalva, Senator McCain, and Senator Flake. Of the three, Representative Grijalva was hands-down the most hospitable. He spoke with us personally and said he worries about the climate crisis. He is the sponsor of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act. Alexis Serna, 11, and I think Grijalva is awesome!

At John McCain’s office, we met with Legislative Correspondent Emily Michael. She didn’t seem to know much about what

is going on at Oak Flat. She said, “Senator McCain is excited about the Oak Flat Resolution Mine because of what it will mean to the defense community.” She stated that McCain believes the mine will benefit the “Natives” because of increased employment opportunities. I think McCain’s office was disrespectful by giving us a meeting with someone who knew so little about Oak Flat. Also, Michael could not comment on McCain’s plans, principles, or intentions around climate action.

At Senator Flake’s office, we met with Legislative Assistant Brian Kennedy. During the conversation, things became tense because Kennedy seemed to deny climate science, which I questioned. Kennedy said, “Senator Flake is uncertain whether the climate crisis is reality and questions if climate change is anthropogenic.” He stated that the climate has been hotter in the past, so people don’t really need to worry about climate change in the present. He suggested that “sun spots” may be causing the increase in temperatures. Moreover, Senator Flake does not support the Clean Power Plan

and does not consider coal “dirty.” When I asked about rising sea levels, Kennedy said, “Miami is a wealthy city. They can afford to build a sea wall.” He literally said that!

Political action on climate issues appears to be the same on the local level. I personally mailed Senator Worsley and Representative Bowers a copy of the last Grand Canyon Chapter Sierra Club’s *Canyon Echo*. In that issue, I wrote an open letter to them asking why they told me in person that they care about environmental problems but received Fs on their voting history report card from Sierra Club. Neither man responded to my open letter, even though I told them that 1,500 people from their district (25) read my letter.

It is up to the people of Arizona to decide who represents us at local and national levels and what the future will look like. Please choose wisely on behalf of young people because the time for nonsense has run out.

Anna Rose is a youth climate crisis activist in Mesa and an active member of Sierra Club. Visit <https://kidsclimateactionnetwork.wordpress.com> to connect.

Governor’s Water Council Ignores Conservation and Environment

By Gary Beverly



In the last issue of *Canyon Echo*, I described the need for an overhaul of Arizona water management law. Apparently agreeing that changes are needed, Governor Ducey established a Governor’s Water Augmentation Council (GWAC) and loaded it with establishment stakeholders from Big Ag, Big Cities, and Big Mines. Council discussions have tended to raving about Arizona’s wonderful water management, while ignoring problems, and with nary a mention of conservation or environmental water needs. There are major shortcomings in the GWAC approach.

The GWAC is fixated on centralized infrastructure (pipelines, canals, dams, well fields, desalination plants) and ignores the tremendous benefits of distributed solutions – e.g., if every homeowner and business would install rooftop solar photovoltaics, practice aggressive water conservation,

and collect rainwater, we would reduce taxes and fees, reduce environmental stress, and improve security.

The GWAC ignores conservation. Sierra Club believes that improved water conservation will reduce the stress on our environmental water resources and that we can do much more to cut water use. However, GWAC apparently believes that the major benefits of water conservation are behind us. Although it is true that state water consumption per person and per unit of economic activity has declined substantially since 1980



Rainwater harvesting system with drought-tolerant landscape in Prescott.

Photo by Gary Beverly.

(the low-hanging fruit), the future potential for demand control remains large. Unfortunately, data on Arizona water utility usage

and cost is poor; the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) doesn’t monitor it! However, thanks to the University of North Carolina, we have some excellent data (http://bit.ly/AZwater_UNC).

For example, the Phoenix water utility provides extremely inexpensive water – less than half of the state median – and the “conservation signal” is zero – that is, there are no pricing incentives for lower use. An important part of the conservation signal is an increasing block rate structure, in which the first few thousand gallons are inexpensive but the rate increases sharply for additional use. Although Tucson is popularly

regarded as an Arizona water conservation See Council continued on p. 17.

Grand Canyon Chapter's Book Corner

GETTING TO GREEN: SAVING NATURE: A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION. By Frederic C. Rich, W. W. Norton & Company, 2016. 368 pp.

Reviewed by Tyler Kokjohn



Frederic Rich was a partner with the Sullivan and Cromwell firm, a group representing an extremely wide range of interests, including acting as legal counsel on environmental issues for major corporations in the manufacturing, chemical, petroleum, and mining sectors. In addition to his distinguished law career, Mr. Rich has had long and deep personal associations with conservation organizations. Retired and now working as a writer, Mr. Rich offers his unique perspectives on the history, current condition, and future of the American environmental movement.

Mr. Rich outlines a roadmap to an active, pragmatic environmentalism he dubs "Center Green." Observing that a substantial majority of the American public identify as environmentalists or as having concerns about the environment, he offers a harsh assessment of recent failures to advance comprehensive solutions to global climate change. Mr. Rich highlights actions he feels have promoted polarization based on political party affiliation and suggests strategies must shift from grand, conceptual goals to concrete, politically-achievable targets. Offering ideas to close gaps between estranged groups that should share common cause on environmental issues, he envisions Center Green as a big-tent coalition that will ultimately draw broad enough public support to overcome the political divisions now impeding progress.



The book offers an interesting perspective on current controversies, although some critiques may be hard for many environmentalists to accept. When it comes to specific action items, the author's long experience as an industry representative works against him. Some of his prescriptions are undermined because he equates apples and

oranges: corporations and privately-funded think tanks are quite distinct from public membership organizations. Sierra Club members may note over-simplifications regarding the executive structures, political leanings, and activities of environmental groups. Mr. Rich does not appreciate the fact that Sierra Club is a grassroots organization seeking political solutions to a wide array of concerns and problems.

With political parties now churned by rank-and-file discontent, this book may be extraordinarily well-timed. When Mr. Rich explains the philosophy underlying some conservative community stances on the environmental controversies and demonstrates the diversity within this group, he reveals an opportunity for environmentalists. Perhaps activists will seize his insight to emphasize significant areas of agreement with conservatives and adopt his suggestions to hone communications in ways that recognize and build on them.

Tyler is a Publications Committee member and wilderness/wildlife activist.

Big Bend continued from p. 11.

A shift in policy came when the first unstaffed port of entry opened in 2014, enabling park visitors to spend time in Boquillas. Upon return, visitors must phone an officer at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement station to show documents electronically. This provides some economic benefit to residents of Boquillas, but few will be legally authorized to cross into the U.S. For many Mexicans, it is difficult to obtain a

visa, even when livelihoods and geographies are deeply intertwined. The new port of entry is a gesture with significant implications for communities on both sides of the border, even as it reinforces existing inequalities.

Back in Tucson, I saw the borderlands with new eyes. Although it exists within the same geopolitical region as my home, Big Bend defies the notion that border policing must be an enduring part of this landscape.

Katie is a teacher and a borderlands activist.

AMERICAN INDIANS AND NATIONAL FORESTS. By Theodore Catton. University of Arizona Press, 2016. 384 pp.

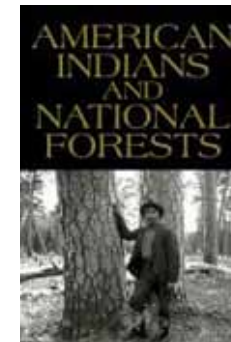
Reviewed by Angela Aleiss

Theodore Catton's *American Indians and National Forests* underscores the evolving relationship between Native Americans and the fragile habitat of U.S. Forest Service lands. Although Catton doesn't mention the proposed Resolution Copper Mine in Arizona's Tonto National Forest, local environmental groups will appreciate that the book raises similar issues of protecting Native sacred sites while managing ecological restoration on forest lands.

As a guided history of the U.S. Forest Service and its relationship to tribal nations, the book is solid. Case studies such as the Totem Pole restoration in Alaska, the Taos Pueblo fight to claim Blue Lake, and the Nez Perce salmon habitat restoration and wolf recovery on five national forest lands all highlight the agency's shortcomings and achievements. Also discussed are the controversies over Snowbowl and its use of reclaimed water in Coconino National Forest, as well as Mount Graham International Observatory in Coronado National Forest.

The book's rather cumbersome details of Forest Service bureaucracy, however, undercut its effort to reach its target audience in Native American and environmental studies. The text can be so heavily weighted with government history and policies that potential readers might feel overwhelmed when plowing through 384 pages to grasp important concepts (although the chapter summaries do help). A more reader-friendly "textbook" format highlighting major themes might have served better than a detailed academic tome.

Nevertheless, the book traces the history of the agency's evolution from a commercial/recreational focus to one of preservation, biodiversity, and tribal collaboration.



(The country's forest reserves were initially under the U.S. Department of the Interior then transferred in 1905 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.) The underlying principle governing U.S. Forest Service and tribal collaboration is that all national forests and grasslands were once indigenous lands. Today, tribes have a keen interest in accessing

their ancestral lands through treaty rights to hunt and fish, to protect burial grounds and other sacred sites, and to contribute to ecological restoration. In fact, the Forest Service created the Office of Tribal relations in 2004 to further develop these long-term collaborative relationships with tribal governments.

In addition, Catton clarifies the sensitive and often misunderstood issue of Native sacred sites. Indeed, the term "sacred sites" is obscure to most non-Natives because Native religions are tied to specific locations and are not "spiritual" or "holy" based upon human manufacture. (In other words, Native Americans traditionally did not establish their religious communities by building new churches.) Analogies are useful: Catton compares a proposed oil well development in a sacred area to a drilling rig in Mecca or the destruction of a Native American ancient shrine to bulldozing part of a Christian church. Ultimately, Catton reminds us that the tribe and not a government agency determines what is sacred.

These important issues not only define the relationship between the Forest Service and tribal nations but also reveal that ecological management is vital to preserving these lands.

Angela is a native Arizonan and author of Making the White Man's Indian: Native Americans and Hollywood Movies. She teaches at CalState University.

Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders A Sierra Club Job Shadow Student

By Nkembeteck Henry Nkwa

When I was told the woman I was living with was not my biological mother, I felt a high volume of love within me because I had never been treated differently from her children. Since then, I pledged to share this same high volume of love and compassion she gave me with others, and I pledged to become an ambassador of my community.

When I grew up, I found out that many people in my forgotten rural community are without a major source of livelihood. My survey found that more than 1,000 people, including my family, had lost their source of livelihood due to an ancient traditional leasing system. They are unable to recover their oil palm lands from the leasee within their financial capacity. These oil palm lands constitute the major source of in-



Nkembeteck Henry Nkwa. Photo courtesy of Henry Nkwa.

come for the families. Because they are unable to secure or recover their sources of livelihood, a direct chain of negative impacts follows, including abject poverty, young girls becoming sources of income through early and forceful marriages, and degradation of the already scarce forest resources as a means of survival, to name just a few.

I started generating ideas to help recover these families' sources of income. My customized solution and strategy had recovered the sources of livelihood for 24 people. I was selected for the 2016 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders based on my initiative with the goal of recovering and securing the sources of livelihood for the families. The fellowship program is an initiative of President Barack Obama to identify and build the next generation of African leaders who will accelerate the sustainable development of Africa. I was placed at Arizona State University (College of Public


Service and Community Solutions). Besides academic sessions and community and site visits, I also did my externship program with Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter. It is really an incredible experience working with Sierra Club. I found it to be one of the most proactive and vocal grassroots organizations protecting Arizona's environment for future generation.

My passion in life lies within community development and environmental sustainability. I look forward to working with organizations like World Bank, United Nations Environment Programme, and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to boost shared prosperity.

I invite you, reader, to be a part of the solution. Together, let us give hope to these families again. Learn more at http://bit.ly/RuReB_Cameroon.

Henry is a Mandela Washington Fellowship student from Cameroon and job shadowed at Sierra Club.

Friends of the Sonoran Desert

By Roger McManus 

Friends of the Sonoran Desert (FSD) was established in 2014 by a group of Sonoran Desert enthusiasts to promote stewardship of the Sonoran desert ecosystem, including the Sea of Cortez, throughout its occurrence in the U.S. and Mexico. As with many distinctive ecosystems globally, the Sonoran Desert suffers from ongoing adverse environmental impacts and fragmentation in both the U.S. and Mexico.

The Sonoran Desert ecosystem does benefit from the work of many citizen conservation organizations and government agencies, but, predictably, important challenges at large scales are not subject to adequate attention. FSD focuses on those issues that are not receiving needed attention by working to contribute comprehensive management of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem throughout southern Arizona and California, plus Sonora and Baja in Mexico.

FSD is a science-based organization – that is, we support the development of needed science to best understand the ecology of the Sonoran Desert and our understanding of the impacts of human activities on the ecosystem. That is the starting point for designing and implementing effective management and stewardship programs.

Most importantly, we work to identify and improve government procedures for establishing those programs and to enable citizen participation in government policy development. We are concerned that all too often citizen engagement is not adequate to ensure needed citizen oversight and support of government policies that can best achieve conservation goals. Beyond citizen participation in the formulation of the goals, citizen engagement is critical to securing effective implementation of the policies and monitoring of their effectiveness.

A key example is the need to enable wildlife movements across the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Traditionally, such barriers have included existing and expanded highways and fencing for ranch management. More recently, barriers, particularly in the U.S., are increasing to control illegal immigration and smuggling. Fortunately, over the last couple of years, Mexican and U.S. conservation organizations and government agencies have been working together to find solutions to these impediments to wildlife movements.

FSD, for example, has initiated the Tinaja Project to compile all English and Spanish scientific literature published on border barriers and wildlife conservation, along with credible scientific information and personal reports that can contribute to designing solutions to enable normal wildlife behaviors. In partnership with colleagues

at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and the Phoenix Zoo we have established a database of that information to identify major problems and solutions for wildlife conservation in the border region.

To that end, we have developed protocols with the U.S. Border Patrol to share information on the potential adverse impacts of the construction of border barriers in the U.S. The Border Patrol's predominant responsibility is to ensure U.S. security by controlling illegal immigration and drug smuggling; however, by documenting the science that can contribute to understanding wildlife needs, we are making progress in identifying solutions for maintaining U.S. security at the border and enabling needed stewardship of our Sonoran Desert wildlife.

Roger is President of Friends of the Sonoran Desert.

Happenings Around the State

Five groups and one regional conservation committee make up the Grand Canyon Chapter. All events and meetings listed below are open to members interested in learning more about Sierra Club. You can find out more at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>. Schedules are subject to change. (x) Group ExCom members

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix)

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

Chair/Programs:	Michael Brady (x)	480-990-9165	pvg.chair@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Fareed Abou-Haidar (x)	480-345-1779	fdadlion@cox.net
Secretary:	Gary Kraemer (x)	602-373-6301	drrealitycheck@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Jerry Nelson	602-279-4668	peakbagger2@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Blair McLaughlin (x)	602-515-3850	blair.mclaughlin@cox.net
Conservation:	Don Steuter (x)	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
Outings:	Jim Vaaler (x)	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
Inner City Outings:	Lisa Vaaler	602-468-4158	lvaaler1@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Bettina Bickel (x)	623-939-1667	bbickel08@gmail.com
	Michelle Lund (x)	480-664-1069	michellelund@cox.net
	Kathy Mohr-Almeida (x)	480-329-8503	kathylynn626@yahoo.com

OCT 6, NOV 3 (THU) 6:30 p.m. Conservation Committee meetings. Contact Don Steuter.

OCT 13, NOV 10 (THU) 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee meetings. Contact Mike Brady. Location TBD.

OCT 20, NOV 17, DEC 15 (THU) 6:30 p.m. Free monthly programs. The Palo Verde Group offers monthly programs on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30–8 p.m. Location TBD; contact for details. Monthly programs are open to the public. Visit <http://sierraclub.org/arizona/palo-verde> or call 480-990-9165 for more information.

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)

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

Chair/Website:	Harry Lumley (x)	480-474-4993	lumleyhw@gmail.com
Conservation:	Dianne Leis (x)	480-432-9181	dianne.leis@gmail.com
Secretary:	Sally Howland (x)	602-663-2889	sally_howland@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Urb Weidner	602-595-3301	northwoods@cox.net
Membership:	Jo Sylvester	602-595-6170	stitchinjo@yahoo.com
Outings:	Peter Weinelt (x)	623-388-2209	vitalpaw@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	Doug Murphy (x)	602-329-3690	dbmurphy@cox.net
Political:	Jim Wilkey (x)	480-649-2836	nvrgvup@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Bev Full (x)	480-221-2554	bfull@cox.net

Contact Sally Howland for information about the following.

OCT 1 (SAT) 8 a.m. Monthly meeting. Join us for breakfast in a beautiful setting at Grotto Cafe, 6501 Cave Creek Rd. in Cave Creek. We will have an introduction to upcoming events and our involvement with the Arizona Water Sentinels. At 9 a.m., we will head to Needle Rock for water monitoring.

NOV 5 (SAT) 8 a.m. Monthly meeting. Join us for breakfast at Grotto Cafe, 6501 Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek. Patti Fenner from Friends of Tonto National Forest will share information about the group. A hike on Dragonfly Trail at Spur Cross Conservation Ranch will follow at 9 a.m. This is a 3-mile moderate hike. Entrance fee to Spur Cross is \$3.

DEC 3 (SAT) 8 a.m. Monthly meeting. Join us for breakfast at Grotto Cafe, 6501 Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek. A quick social breakfast followed by an 8:30 a.m. hike to Marcus Landslide Trail in Scottsdale. This is rated as a 4.1-mile moderate hike.

Rincon Group (Tucson)

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

Chair:	Meg Weesner (x)	520-290-1723	mweesner@att.net
Conservation:	Keith Bagwell (x)	520-623-0269	kbagwell50@gmail.com
Secretary:	vacant		
Treasurer:	Ken Bierman	520-882-2708	kbierman1@gmail.com
Energy:	Russell Lowes (x)	520-321-3670	russlowes@gmail.com
Outings:	Mitch Stevens	520-647-3823	mitchstevens@stevensloydgroup.com
Inner City Outings:	Kyle Kacerek		kyle.kacerek@gmail.com
Political:	Lee Oler	520-791-9246	cloler@cox.net
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Michelle Crow (x)	520-743-9958	mcrow10@cox.net
	Diego Martinez-Lugo (x)	520-243-9912	dmartinezlugo@email.arizona.edu
	Catalina Ross (x)	520-312-2849	cross@email.arizona.edu
	Cyndi Tuell (x)	520-404-0920	cctuell@hotmail.com

OCT 27, DEC 1 (THU) Conservation Committee (6 p.m.) and Executive Committee (7:15 p.m.) meetings. The meetings are open to the public. Sierra Club members, in particular, are urged to attend and to participate. Hope you see you there! Located in the first floor conference room of the Historic YWCA, 738 N. Fifth Ave., Tucson.

The following programs are located at Tucson City Council Ward 3 office, 1510 E. Grant Rd., Tucson. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Keith Bagwell.

OCT 13 (THU) 7 p.m. Tumacácori, from Village to National Park. As the National Park Service celebrates its centennial, parks and their visitors are reflecting on this shared heritage. What brings an object or place under the protection of the NPS and what will keep it there as new generations take up the mantle of preservation? Join Ranger Melanie Rawlins for an exploration of Tumacácori National Heritage Park's journey from village to national park and where it might go as the NPS begins its second century.

NOV 10 (THU) 7 p.m. Grand Canyons of Arizona. There is more than one great canyon in this remarkable state. Discover three of Arizona's spectacular canyons and their environmental richness. In this visual extravaganza, Russell Lowes and Mitch Stevens, hikers and backpackers for more than 25 years, will showcase mystical Devil's Canyon, Grand Canyon, and the splendors of Aravaipa Canyon. They will talk about how you can help preserve these amazing landscapes.

DEC 8 (THU) 7 p.m. Land Management and Ecological Monitoring. Pima County's Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) is a key element of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan that addresses local compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The MSCP commits the county to perpetual stewardship of natural resources across the stunning diversity and breadth of its land holdings. Julia Fonseca will discuss the management and monitoring required of the county and how it will carry these out with partnerships, boots-on-the-ground actions, and cameras-in-the-sky assessments.

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Sedona/Verde Valley Group

<http://www.reliablescribe.com/svvg>

Chair:	Brian Myers (x)	928-300-7734	ibisalliance@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Anne Crosman (x)	928-284-9252	annecrosma@aol.com
Secretary:	Tina Myers (x)	928-204-1703	ibisalliance@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Paul Rauch (x)	928-821-4215	sequoia.tree55@gmail.com
Webmaster:	John Sheffield	928-204-1517	jsheffield40@gmail.com

For information about activities in the Sedona/Verde Valley area, contact Brian Myers.

Yavapai Group (Prescott)

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

Chair/Outings/Web:	Gary Beverly (x)	928-308-1003	gbverde@cableone.net
Vice-Chair/Conservation:	Tom Slaback (x)	928-778-4233	theprescottkid@cableone.net
Secretary/Treasurer:	Sandy Geiger (x)	928-710-7691	sandy.geiger@gmail.com
At Large:	Jenny Cobb (x)	928-541-9746	cobbsrun@msn.com
	Doug Treadway (x)		douglastreadway@yahoo.com

Contact Gary Beverly for information about the following event.

OCT 5, NOV 2, DEC 7 (WED) 6 p.m. Executive Committee meetings. Members are urged to attend and participate. We choose the issues we are involved with and do our strategic planning at these meetings. Located at Yavapai Title Agency, 1235 E. Gurley St., Prescott.

Plateau Conservation Committee (Flagstaff)

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

Chair:	Joe Shannon	928-380-9537	jshannon278@gmail.com
Soundscape Activist:	Dick Hingson	928-699-8366	dhingson@infowest.com
General Member:	Joan Stoner	928-853-9899	jstoner@npgcable.com
	Al White	928-527-8567	bosco8567@msn.com

Contact Joe Shannon for information about the following event.

NOV 10 (THU) 6 p.m. Monthly meeting. Please join us! The Plateau Conservation Committee (northern AZ) holds meetings every other month to discuss happenings and ways to get involved. Sierra Club members are urged to attend and to participate. Open to the public.

Tonto continued from p. 12.

Bullet casings and disposable silverware aren't the only things we leave behind after a day in the outdoors. Tarnished bushes, ravaged soil, and destroyed wildlife habitat are what remains after an off-highway vehicle (OHV) abandons the authorized trail and creates a new one. The noise pollution created by an OHV can be disturbing both to the wildlife of the forest and fellow visitors.

Our relationship with Tonto National Forest isn't sustainable. The trash we disregard and abandon there poisons the natural habitats of countless species. Our unethical usage of OHVs smears the beautiful landscape. Yet, a long-lasting symbiotic relationship between human and forest is

obtainable. It will require the participation of all parties: the Forest Service, OHV users, recreationists, and many more. Reaching this goal of a symbiotic relationship will be lengthy, requiring communication and intentional participation among all parties. The current situation cannot be solved with the implementation of a single intervention. It will be a process of trial and error. Innovation, determination, and creativity will be essential throughout the whole endeavor.

Tonto National Forest is a world of wonder and awe that resides right in our backyard. The duty of making sure our public lands stay strong and healthy for future generations rests on our shoulders.

Alex is a student at Bioscience High School and a Sierra Club intern.

Visiting Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

By Tyler Kokjohn



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Photo courtesy of the NPS.

Once known as the "most dangerous national park" and largely closed to the public for more than a decade, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI) has been fully open for visitors for nearly two years. Additional personnel, border surveillance, security measures, and patrols have led park managers to conclude the monument is once again a safe place to seek some spectacular scenery and wilderness experiences.

Visitors should bear in mind the monument has more than 500 square miles of desert terrain and should carry plenty of water and supplies. Wildlife is abundant and is not tame. During warm months, venomous animals such as snakes and scorpions will be active. Wood or ground fires are not permitted anywhere in the monument.

ORPI borders Mexico, and hikers and campers purchasing permits at the visitor center are informed of the current situations along with advice about how to avoid trouble. Cell phone service is unreliable in the monument. To put matters in perspective, the monument website reminds us that most visitor injuries are due to motor vehicle accidents.

Prospective visitors can find more information about the monument and safety suggestions at http://bit.ly/ORPI_safety.

Learn more about the reopening of the monument at http://bit.ly/ORPI_reopening.

Tyler is a Publications Committee member and wilderness advocate.

Council continued from p. 13.

leader, it is only average in its consumption and conservation signal. Prescott has the steepest increasing block rates in the state, thus the conservation incentive is strong.

Water usage measured as gallons per citizen per day (gpcd) varies widely across the state. Again, ADWR has no data, but Western Resource Advocates has measured system-wide gpcd ranging from Scottsdale at 302 down to Payson at 83. At an individual level, I have documented many homes in the Prescott area as low as 22 gpcd, achieved by aggressive indoor water conservation and rainwater harvesting. The clear implication is that water conservation has enormous

potential, especially in reducing landscape water use.

The GWAC doesn't mention environmental water. Sierra Club has asked the GWAC to organize an Environmental Water Conference (see our letter at http://bit.ly/SC_GWACltr) and has published "A Conservation Vision of Arizona's Water Future" (see it at <http://bit.ly/AZwatervision>), which together describe the environmental water problems we face.

We have had *zero* response from the Governor or the GWAC, so we are now planning the next steps.

Gary is Chair of the Yavapai Group.

Explore and Enjoy Arizona

Find more events and opportunities on our online calendar at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/outings>.



OCT 1 (SAT) "C" Fort Bowie National Historic Site (4 mi. RT, 200' EC). We will hike from Apache Pass Rd. to this small park, which commemorates the conflict between Chiricahua Apaches and the U.S. military in southern Arizona. Exhibits along the trail and staff at the ruins of the fort describe the site near an important water source. We will recognize the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Limit 15. Contact Meg Weesner at 520-290-1723 or mweesner@att.net. **Tucson**

OCT 8 (SAT) "B" Humboldt Mountain (10 mi., 1620' EC). On this partially exploratory hike in the New River Mountains near Seven Springs, we will ascend Humboldt Mtn. by a road to its 5207' summit, drop off-trail to a ridge leading to Peak 4939, and follow a relatively gentle ridge down the mountain to our cars, using jeep trails much of the way. Our route will be grassy, perhaps brush-clogged, and rocky (leather gloves recommended). Views will be spectacular and the adventure high. Drive 44 mi. from Scottsdale. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

OCT 10 (MON) "C" Deem Hills Park (3.5 mi. loop, 600' EC). We'll start on Circumference Trail, then take Ridgeline Trail (1.5 mi.) over the western ridge of the park back to Circumference Trail, looping around back to the parking area. This hike offers some nice elevated views and some good, but not too steep, uphill. Contact Pete Weinelt at 623-388-2209 or vitalpaw@yahoo.com. **Phoenix**

OCT 15 (SAT) "B" Monument Mountain (8-10 mi.). This on- and off-trail exploration in New River Mountains will take us to the 4985' summit of a mountain near Seven Springs and, if time, temperature, and energy allow, deep into the mountains. A 0.5-mile section will take us up and down 800' to and from the summit over steep, rocky, brushy, and spiny terrain (leather gloves recommended). The views should be stupendous. Drive 44 mi. from Scottsdale. Call Ken McGinty at 602 265-2854. **Phoenix**



OCT 21-23 (FRI-SUN) "B" Chiricahua National Monument and Amerind Foundation Car Camp. On Friday, we will hike to the natural bridge (4.8 mi. RT), then camp

ATTENTION, CURRENT AND POTENTIAL OUTINGS LEADERS!

Are you interested in leading outings for Sierra Club? Or are you a current leader who needs to update your first aid or outings leader certification?

Outing Leader Training 101 and First Aid Certification Saturday, January 7

9 a.m. (first aid) and 1:30 p.m. (OLT)
First Baptist Church, 4448 E. Main St., Mesa

Cost for first aid is \$25 (\$35 if you'd also like CPR); scholarships are available. OLT 101 is free. First aid and OLT 101 are required of all Sierra Club outing leaders. First aid training is required every three years, and OLT 101 is required every four years. CPR training is optional.

To sign up or for more information, contact our chapter office at 602-253-8633 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.



in Bonita Campground. Saturday, we will take the tram to the top and hike Echo Canyon Trail (4.8 mi. RT) down to the visitor center. Sunday, we will pack up and do a short hike to Sugarloaf (1.8 mi. RT). On the way home, we will go to the Amerind Foundation (museum \$10/\$9 seniors). A nonrefundable fee of \$6 is required to hold your spot. Contact Colleen Collen at 520-577-4543 or cmavender@gmail.com.

OCT 22 (SAT) "B+" Crabtree Springs (12 mi., 1000' EC). On this hike in the Mazatzal Mountains near Sunflower, we will follow jeep roads and trails to a distant spring. There will be lots of up- and down-hill travel. Leather gloves recommended. Drive 45 mi. from Scottsdale. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**



OCT 24-26 (MON-WED) "C" Camping and Touring in Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

Tour La Posada Inn at Winslow on the way north. Drive on to Canyon de Chelly National Monument to camp at Cottonwood Campground. Meet our Navajo guide for a private tour of the park and get back in time for the scenic rim drive and maybe a hike to Whitehouse Ruin. Stop at Petrified Forest National Park on the way home. Cost: \$40, includes 2 dinners, 2 lunches, and 2 breakfasts (but not the lunch

at La Posada). Contact Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or bfull@cox.net.

OCT 29 (SAT) "B+" Brush Corral Ridge (9 mi., 2000' EC). On this mostly off-trail exploratory hike in the Mazatzal Mountains, we will follow a ridge, drop into a valley, and return along another ridge. At our high point of 3780', we will enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding desert. But we'll also endure steep and slippery slopes and untold vegetation horrors (leather gloves recommended). Drive 45 mi. from Scottsdale. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

NOV 5 (SAT) "C" Upper Verde River Wildlife Area (3 mi., 300' EC). After eagle-spotting at Del Rio Springs, we'll hike down a trail to the Verde River, where hikers can choose a) to hike 2 mi. to the confluence with Granite Creek or b) to cross the river and explore the rim. Either way, we'll find beaver dams, wildlife, and stories about the river. We'll learn about the natural history of and the conservation issues surrounding the upper Verde River. Bring your camera. Reservation required; 15-hiker limit. Contact Gary Beverly at gberverde@cableone.net. **Prescott**

NOV 5 (SAT) "B+" Chalk Mountain, South Peak (12 mi., 800' EC). This hike will take us to the summit of the south peak of Chalk Mountain near Horseshoe Dam. Much of

the hike will be fairly level on a dirt road. But the ascent will involve an interesting 800' climb over steep terrain and through vicious vegetation (leather gloves recommended). We also may hike through mud, weeds, and sand in the lakebed if it's dry. But the view from the summit is well worth the struggle. Drive 43 mi. from Scottsdale. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

NOV 5 (SAT) "B-" Atascosa Lookout (4.5 mi. RT, 1500' EC). This hidden gem will take us to the summit of the Atascosa Mountains, near Peña Blanca Lake. This peak is one of the Coronado Twelve, making it, at 6,400 feet, the highest peak in its division of the Coronado Forest. The hike begins slightly steep for a short period and then levels out. It includes enchanting, panoramic views of canyons below and neighboring peaks in every direction. Contact Colleen Collen at 520-577-4543 or cmavender@gmail.com. **Tucson**

NOV 9 (WED) "C" Thunderbird Park (3.5 mi. loop, 500' EC). Hike Cholla Loop and part of Coach Whip Trail. This hike loops around and then up to the top of a hill on the east side of the park. The last 2 mi. are a gradual downhill and offer nice elevated views of much of the West Valley. Contact Pete Weinelt at 623-388-2209 or vitalpaw@yahoo.com. **Phoenix**

NOV 12 (SAT) "B+" Tortilla Rim (8 mi.). This trek will take us off-trail from Tortilla Ranch Rd. to Mesquite Flats in Superstition Wilderness, following ridges and rims and bagging high points. There will be plenty up- and downhill travel and rough, rugged, slickrock terrain with steep and slippery slopes, cliffs and drop-offs, and catclaw and spiny brush aplenty. We'll also enjoy some of the finest vistas in the Superstitions along a rarely traveled route. Cameras and leather gloves recommended. Drive 50 mi. from Tempe. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

NOV 13 (SUN) "C" Rocks and Wine in the Dragoons (5 mi., 500' EC). Our hike in the Dragoon Mountains will cover one of the most incredible granite formations at Cochise Stronghold, Rockfellow Dome. After exploring this area and other spectacular formations at Cochise Stronghold, we will enjoy a relaxing wine tasting adventure in

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Find more events and opportunities on our online calendar at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/outings>.

the vineyards near Willcox. Jim Brower, employed with wineries in the area, will guide this part of the tour. The cost of the wine tasting will be \$14. Limit 12. Contact Mitch Stevens at 520-991-1199 or mitchstevens@stevensloydgroup.com. **Tucson**

NOV 13–16 (SUN–WED) “C” Canoe or Kayak the Colorado River. Carpool to Walter’s Camp to camp and leave cars. We’ll travel 40 mi. from Walter’s Camp to Fisher’s Landing through the Imperial and Cibola wildlife refuges. Get picked up at noon on Wed. for the shuttle back to our cars. Cost: \$200, includes the canoe or kayak rentals (your choice), camping and parking fees, shuttles, and meals from Sunday dinner to Wednesday breakfast. Contact Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or bfull@cox.net.

NOV 19 (SAT) “B” Tortilla Ridge (8 mi., 1000’ EC). On this mostly off-trail hike near Tortilla Flat in Superstition Wilderness, we will follow Tortilla Ranch Rd., drop down and cross Tortilla Creek, and then hike along a 3955’ high ridge paralleling Tortilla Mountain, hiking to Tortilla Ranch, bagging high points, and enjoying fine views. We’ll finally drop to Tortilla Creek and follow the road back to our cars. Expect thorny vegetation (leather gloves recommended), steep and slippery slopes, and possibly wet feet crossing the creek. Drive 50 mi. from Tempe. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

NOV 26 (SAT) “B” First Water Canyon to Canyon Lake (8 mi.). This off-trail hike in Superstition Wilderness will explore the spectacular First Water Canyon and then cross a rugged and scenic slickrock highland to Canyon Lake. Expect bushwhacking (leather gloves recommended), steep slopes, possibly wet feet, and high adventure. Drive 40 mi. from Tempe. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

DEC 2–3 (FRI–SAT) “C” Aravaipa Canyon East. Get your cameras ready! This slow-paced hike will emphasize photography and sightseeing amidst the colorful fall foliage of Aravaipa East. We will carpool to the canyon entrance Friday afternoon and enjoy the nighttime skies – a great opportunity for aspiring night photographers! The next day, we will explore a slot canyon a couple of miles from the trailhead after sloshing through

the stream and enjoying the canyon. We will discuss the unique geology and botany in this riparian area. Limit 10. Contact Mitch Stevens at 520-991-1199 or mitchstevens@stevensloydgroup.com. **Tucson**

DEC 3 (SAT) “C” Nature Hike on the San Pedro River (3–4.5 mi., <500’ EC). Join us for this moderate early morning hike in the San Pedro Riparian Area. Don’t expect a high-speed hike; we’ll pause to observe birds, plants, and the beautiful scenery. Novice hikers are welcome. Limit 8–10. Sign up at http://bit.ly/gcc_meetup or contact Beth Ann Krueger at 520-405-5470 or yardengine1919@hotmail.com. **Sierra Vista**

DEC 3 (SAT) “B” Pusch Peak (4.1 mi. RT, 2645’ EC). Pusch Peak forms the western extreme of the Santa Catalina Mountains and is the high point of the distinctive Pusch Ridge. The peak offers spectacular views of the Tucson and Oro Valley metropolitan area as well as Mount Kimball, Mount Lemmon, Picacho Peak, Baboquivari, and the Santa Ritas. The hike to the summit is only 2 mi., yet we climb an impressive 2645 feet in that short distance. Contact Donald Smith at 520-591-9938 or donsc@the3smiths.com. **Tucson**

DEC 3 (SAT) “B” Yellow Peak (11 mi.). This on- and off-trail hike in Superstition Wilderness will take us from First Water Trailhead to the 3061’ summit of Yellow Peak. The trails will be easy walking. The off-trail section will involve steep slopes and vicious vegetation (leather gloves recommended). Views should be excellent. Drive 25 mi. from Tempe. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

 **DEC 4 (SUN) “C” Saguaro National Park East, Hope Camp Trail** (6 mi., 200’ EC). Take a break between the holidays and explore a little-visited area of Saguaro National Park in the Rincon Valley. This route follows an old road through beautiful saguaro stands at the foot of Tanque Verde Ridge. The area became part of the park in 1991. This will round out our year of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Limit 18. Contact Meg Weesner at 520-290-1723 or mweesner@att.net. **Tucson**



DEC 5 (MON) “C” Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle National Monuments. Carpool to Tuzigoot to hike and explore the many archaeological sites. Bring lunch. On the return, we’ll stop at Montezuma Castle National Monument. Contact Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or bfull@cox.net. **Phoenix**

DEC 6 (TUE) “B” Sugarloaf Ridge (9 mi., 200’ EC). This exploratory hike in the southern Mazatzal Mountains near the Four Peaks Road will take us along a low ridge paralleling SR87. We will have abundant up- and downhill travel. If there are few, if any, annoying plants or rocks, this will be a pleasant stroll. But you never know, so leather gloves are recommended. Drive 32 mi. from Scottsdale. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

DEC 10 “B” (SAT) Black Canyon (9 mi.). Looking west from Sunset Point Rest Area off I-17, one gets a good view of the wild Black Canyon country at the base of the Bradshaw Mountains. This interesting hike will follow an off-trail route down Black Canyon, may require some wading, and will involve rock hopping and vegetation confrontation (leather gloves recommended). We’ll also see the remains of placer mining in the creek. Drive 55 mi. from Phoenix. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

DEC 12 (MON) “C+” White Tanks Park (7.5 mi. loop, 1300’ EC). We’ll hike part of Mesquite Canyon Trail onto Willow Canyon Trail, then a 0.7-mile section of Ford Canyon Trail around to Mesquite Canyon Trail back to the start. Nice hike with some good uphill (but not too steep) and many good elevated views. Contact Pete Weinelt at 623-388-2209 or vitalpaw@yahoo.com. **Phoenix**

DEC 17 (SAT) “B” Black Canyon Trail, I-17 Bumblebee Exit to Rock Springs (10 mi.). This exploratory hike will take us through a scenic area along the foothills of the Bradshaw Mountains near Black Canyon City. The trail is relatively new and in good condition, and we’ll be mostly be traveling along level ground or downhill. Wet feet are possible if there’s water in the Agua Fria River. Drive 55 mi. from Phoenix. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

DEC 20 (TUE) “C” Butcher Jones Trail (4–6 mi.). This highly enjoyable hike will follow Butcher Jones Trail for 3 mi. along Saguaro Lake and return by an off-trail route. Expect excellent views of the lake and surrounding mountains, some up- and downhill walking, and possible encounters with thick and thorny vegetation (leather gloves recommended). The Forest Service charges a fee

See Outings continued on p. 20.

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)		
“B”	8–16 miles and 1,500–3,000 ft. EC		
“C”	3–8 miles, 500–1,500 ft. EC	RT	Round Trip
“D”	<3 miles and 500 ft. EC	OW	One Way

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 our 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 Bev Full at 480-221-2554. Hikes and outings are also listed online and in the Sierra Singles newsletters. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Sierra Service Opportunities

Get involved and make a difference! Join us for these exciting service outings!

Water Sentinels Monitoring

Verde River: Saturday, October 1

San Pedro River: Thursday, October 27, November 10, December 8

Contact: Jennifer Martin, 602-254-8362, jennifer.martin@sierraclub.org

Get your feet muddy and your hands wet with the Arizona Water Sentinels! These are great opportunities to help protect our important rivers. Volunteers are needed to take water samples and to make field observations. A group also monitors shallow groundwater levels in wells in the Murray Springs Clovis Site and near the San Pedro River near Sierra Vista. These data help track impacts to the rivers and to advocate for their protection. What could be better than spending a day in gorgeous scenery while working to make a difference?

Lower Verde Water Monitoring

Saturday, October 1

Contact: Doug Murphy, 602 329-3690, dbmurphy@cox.net

Join the Saguaro Group and Arizona Water Sentinels for the last water monitoring event on the Lower Verde River for this season. We will be sampling water quality, recording data, documenting the river's condition, and picking up trash at Needle Rock beach on the Lower Verde, just minutes from north Scottsdale. Call for carpool information.

Rio Salado Habitat Restoration

Sunday, October 2, November 6, December 11

Contact: Jennifer Martin, 602-254-8362, jennifer.martin@sierraclub.org

Help us restore habitat! Join us for an invasive weed pull and clean-up at the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, just south of downtown Phoenix. Once a dump site, the area is now a lush riparian corridor that supports a variety of wildlife and recreation opportunities. We need help removing trash and buffelgrass, a non-native, invasive species that alters habitat and increases fire risk. In April, we'll also be planting native cottonwood trees! Snacks, drinks, gloves, and tools provided.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Maintenance

Saturday, October 15

Contact: Doug Murphy, 602 329-3690, dbmurphy@cox.net

Join the Saguaro Group as we work to repair monsoon damage to trails in this conservation area with flowing streams just minutes from north Phoenix. With just one full-time ranger, the conservation area is always in need of a variety of help. Tools and snacks will be provided. Call for carpool information.



River Clean-Up at Tumacácori National Historical Park

Saturday, October 22

Contact: Meg Weesner, 520-290-1723, mweesner@att.net

We will help this small historical park by cleaning up the Santa Cruz River corridor. Important riparian habitat was added to the park some years ago, but monsoon flows bring debris and trash into the river corridor. We will clean up trash as well as enjoy the birds and cottonwood-willow riparian forest adjacent to the mission. A tour of the mission and the restored orchard and courtyard garden is included. Limit 15.

Signs for Seven Springs in Tonto National Forest

Saturday, November 19

Contact: Doug Murphy, 602 329-3690, dbmurphy@cox.net

Over the years, signage has taken a beating in the popular Seven Springs area of Tonto National Forest, north of Carefree. Join the Saguaro Group as we replace old signs with new, spruce up trails, and make needed repairs to the area. Tools and snacks will be provided. Call for carpool information.



Top: Dean Brian helps other volunteers remove non-native buffelgrass from the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area. Bottom: Devin Rankin and Josh Knight help monitor the Verde River. Photos by Jennifer Martin.

Outings continued from p. 19.

for parking at the trailhead; bring your America the Beautiful or other pass if you have one. Drive 35 mi. from Scottsdale. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

DEC 27 (TUE) "B" Lost Goldmine Trail (7 mi.). This scenic exploratory trail hike will take us along the southern boundary of Superstition Wilderness near Apache Junction from Peralta Trailhead to Hieroglyphic Canyon and up the canyon to Hieroglyphic Springs. We also may engage in some off-trail exploration, so leather gloves are recommended. Drive 60 mi. from Tempe. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

JAN 7 (SAT) "B+" Thompson Peak (14 mi.). This on-trail hike in Scottsdale's McDowell

Sonoran Preserve will take us from Gateway Trailhead across the McDowell Mountains and up to the 3969' summit of Thompson Peak. We'll follow the Gateway Loop, Bell Pass, and Prospector trails and the nearly vertical Thompson Peak Rd. Expect steep slopes, sore feet, and fine views. Drive 15 mi. from Scottsdale. Call Ken McGinty at 602-265-2854. **Phoenix**

JAN 8-11 (SUN-WED) "C" Sunrise Ski Area. Downhill or cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking as weather determines. Rentals are available at Sunrise ski area. Stay at very nice but inexpensive Motel 6 in Pinetop; eat at local eateries. Contact Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or bfull@cox.net.