

# Tucson Mountains ASSOCIATION SINCE 1934



**September 2015**  
**E-mail: [TMA@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org](mailto:TMA@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org)**

## Annual Meeting

**Mark Saturday, October 24 on your calendars NOW!**  
**We will hold our Annual Meeting and Potluck at**  
**Milagro Co-Housing (3057 N. Gaia Pl.)**  
**5:30 pm with a tour of the grounds at 5:00 pm.**

**The silent auction was such a success last year that we have decided to hold it again! Of course we plan to have live music provided by the band, Uncommon Folk. They'll be soft dinner music and toe-tapping sounds while you peruse our auction items. Don't miss our fun event. Oh, by the way, if you have something you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact Charlene Pesquiera at 520-358-1783 or [cb1202mail@gmail.com](mailto:cb1202mail@gmail.com) We need your help and support!**

**It's a potluck, so bring a side dish or dessert (entrees and beverages will be provided).**

### Board Member Recruitment:

Are you interested in advocating for preserving open space and our beautiful Sonoran Desert, and westside community? Join our board! We'd love to have you. Please contact Paul Eckerstrom at 520-743-1380 or

[eckerstrom2@gmail.com](mailto:eckerstrom2@gmail.com).

## Fall Newsletter

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**Annual Meeting**  
**Auction/ Party**  
**October 24, 2015**

**President's Column**  
**Water Coalition Update**  
**Board Bios for election at Annual meeting**  
**TMA board members and contact**

### Your TMA Board Members:

**Peter Chesson, President**  
[pchesson@u.arizona.edu](mailto:pchesson@u.arizona.edu),  
743-7223

**Paul Eckerstrom, Vice President**  
[eckerstrom2@gmail.com](mailto:eckerstrom2@gmail.com),  
743-1380

**Debbie Hicks, Treasurer**  
[debhicks@mindspring.com](mailto:debhicks@mindspring.com),  
743-3906

**Ivy Schwartz, Secretary**  
[ischwartz3211@cox.net](mailto:ischwartz3211@cox.net),  
743-4251

**Charlene Pesquiera, Member**  
[cb1202mail@gmail.com](mailto:cb1202mail@gmail.com),  
(520) 358-1783

**Jackie Day, Member**  
[azjday@aol.com](mailto:azjday@aol.com),  
(602)670-8568

**Water Matters: 2015 Update from the Community Water Coalition (CWC)**TMA is a founding member of the CWC, which advocates for a rational and sustainable water policy in Tucson and Pima County.

- **Working with Tucson Mayor and Council to implement the Conservation Effluent Pool project:** This project will provide County-treated effluent water to identified urban waterways to establish and maintain riparian systems for the benefit of people, wildlife and plants. We are highlighting the Upper Santa Cruz River location (between Sweetwater and Ina Rd.) as an initial site. We especially thank Mayor Rothschild and Ward I Councilwoman Romero for their support of this project.
- **Revitalizing Desert Creeks and Springs:** Identifying and quantifying shallow groundwater areas that threaten existing riparian ecosystems, and working with agencies and governments to make improvements in water policy and infrastructure.
- **Sabino Creek Restoration project:** Nurturing a multi-jurisdictional project to analyze groundwater supplies, educate homeowners, well owners and the general public about decreasing groundwater levels, and develop strategies for stabilizing and replenishing water levels at this popular recreational site. These include promoting reductions in potable groundwater used for outdoor landscaping, increasing use of gray water and water harvesting, and native landscaping.
- **Working with county and city officials to support and advocate for improvements in water policy.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Protection of the environment often seems like a miserable endeavor. Hardly a day goes by without bad news of some sort: species disappearing, natural areas destroyed, pollution unabated. Yet, mixed in with all the bad news are many positive notes. Here in Pima County we can experience the successes of grass-roots activity in protecting the environment. Major accomplishments in recent years are the establishment of the Sweetwater Preserve, and preservation of Tumamoc Hill and the Painted Hills. These successes have depended greatly on the residents making their voices heard directly by going to public meetings, writing letters, and by supporting organizations like TMA in advocacy for the environment. But to protect the Tucson Mountains for present and future generations of residents as well as wildlife, much more needs to be done. Fortunately, Pima County is to have a bond election this fall, with the potential to preserve further pristine areas of the Tucson Mountains, in addition to biological corridors that connect the Tucson Mountains with other places—see “Bond Election” in this newsletter.

In the spring newsletter, I introduced the River Corridor Initiative. The idea is to promote the preservation of the land along our major rivers, especially the Santa Cruz River, and connections between them and the Tucson Mountains, as these areas have critical roles as wildlife corridors. The bond election is important in this initiative, and so is the Community Water Coalition (this newsletter), which, among many actions, is fighting to provide valuable water for restoration and river flow. No less important are numerous smaller actions to prevent up zoning in critical areas (Pima Prospers, this newsletter) and promote stewardship of the environment by residents. This is where our habitat competition, announced in the summer comes in (details this newsletter). We can all do our part to make sure our properties, no matter whether small or large, continue to cater for wildlife, and maintain wildlife mobility. We can do this by maintaining and restoring native plants on our properties, keeping them safe for animals, and preserving washes. The rewards are immediate to you by having your own property be a beautiful part of nature. And you also have the satisfaction of making an important contribution to the environment.

TMA is very much about people as part of nature, coexisting with nature. So we get involved with infrastructure that supports our lives here. As the area continues to develop, the question is, How can infrastructure be made environmentally friendly? Sometimes the concerns go beyond environmental impact to visual impact. And in such areas residents may disagree on which designs are the best. The role of TMA then is to facilitate the hearing of all voices, and the TMA board may not take a strong position. Such was the case with the cell tower proposed for the Camino De Oeste Fire Station.

Whatever your involvement with these various issues, it is picnic time. Come to the picnic for discussions of your favorite topics and more fun with music, our silent auction, and friends. I hope to see you there.

Peter Chesson

President

## Candidates for Board of Directors of Tucson Mountain Association: Vote at the Annual Picnic! October 24, 2015

Debbie Hicks

Debbie's love of the Sonoran Desert goes back to her early college exposure in the 1970's. Thirty years later, it was fortuitous to be able to buy a home in the Tucson Mountains, and equally lucky to become a member of the Tucson Mountains Association in 2003. She has been a Board Member since 2004, was President in 2007, and Treasurer since 2008 working on many zoning and open space issues. It's been a wonderful way to give back to this special part of the desert. Debbie's background has been in resource management issues, having graduated with a B.S. in Natural Resource Management and an MBA in International Business.

Ivy Shwartz

Ivy moved from Philadelphia to the San Carlos Apache Reservation in 1982 to work as a primary care doctor and fell in love with the desert. Her family has lived in the Tucson Mountains since 1995, and she has been a member of the TMA Board since 2009. She is currently TMA's representative to the Community Water Coalition. She has many years of experience in community organizing as an advocate for health care for all, environmental conservation, civil rights and peace and justice issues. She hopes to continue her service on the TMA Board to help further its mission to preserve and protect our fragile and beautiful Sonoran Desert ecosystem.

Jackie Day

I moved to Tucson in the Fall of 2002, from Tempe, where we raised five adopted children. I served as secretary for the BOD of our local food co-op in Tempe. My late husband and I had been actively involved in creating the co-housing community of Milagro in Tucson. I have been chair of the landscape committee and co-chair of the facilitators' committee in addition to serving on other committees. I have also been active in the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers group here in Tucson, serving as the newsletter editor for two years. I am currently the President of Democrats of Greater Tucson. Before being elected President in 2013, I was the Secretary for two years. I have been an Inspector for city and county elections since moving to Tucson. This involves organizing the election board for our precinct and being responsible election-day for accurate results. I am excited to have been appointed to the board of TMA and would love to continue serving in any way that I can.

Charlene Pesquiera

Charlene Pesquiera is a Tucson native and co-founder of the National Institute of Contract Management specializing in the areas of: negotiating contracts for commercial, government and nonprofit agencies; research, project management, process design and implementation, development, grant writing and marketing. She graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Master's in Business Administration, and holds a Bachelor's in Pre Law and Liberal Arts from Prescott College and a Criminal Justice, and Corrections Associates of Arts degree from Pima Community College. Charlene was elected to the Arizona State Senate in 2006. She served on committees Education K thru 12, Government and Higher Education. Special committees included the Veterans Investigative Committee and the National Committee for Criminal Justice. Charlene is passionate about maintaining the beauty of the Sonoran desert and the preservation of the peaks and ridges of the west foothills, as well as protecting the wildlife and the regulations mandating those policies. She wants the next generation to appreciate and enjoy our natural habitat by raising awareness whenever necessary.

**Bond Election 2015: Support proposition 430, Natural Area Conservation and Historic Preservation**  
The good news is that the County Board of Supervisors recently voted to hold a bond election this fall with \$112 million for natural area conservation and historic preservation, including \$95 million for purchase and protection of critical open space. Among the properties eligible for purchase are key parcels of land providing connections between the Tucson Mountains and the Tortolita Mountains and the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Other properties eligible for purchase would provide further preservation within the Tucson Mountains. For the Tucson Mountains to retain its wonderful wealth of wildlife it is critical that it remain connected to other areas by corridors of open space. Isolated areas lose species because the animals cannot migrate from place to place to find habitat right for the season, and have difficulty recovering from harsh times. Both plants and animals need to breed with others outside their local area to remain genetically healthy. And to survive changes in the climate, they must be able to move to new places. Now is the time to save the connections between the Tucson Mountains and elsewhere as urban encroachment threatens to cut them off and make this place poorer for us all. So we urge you to support the bond election and especially proposition 430, the open space part of the bond election. It is a wonderful investment in our future. To see TMA's full arguments in favor of proposition 430, check our website. For information about supporting the bonds in general, see [www.yesonpimacountybonds.com](http://www.yesonpimacountybonds.com), and also the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection: <http://www.sonorandesert.org/>

#### The Pima Prospers Plan, and an Overcome Exception

In May, the Board of Supervisors adopted a new comprehensive plan for Pima County. It is an exciting aspirational document, and you can view it at [PimaPropers.com](http://PimaPropers.com). Many County officials and staff spent two years working hard to develop this plan, to reflect the values of our community.

The comprehensive plan includes many elements, two of which are long-range zoning goals, and changes to the "Major and Scenic Roadways" ordinances. TMA was pleased that several of the main roads on the Westside were downgraded from "Major and Scenic" to merely "Scenic," alleviating concerns about overdevelopment and wider roads. TMA worked to oppose the efforts of one developer to "up-zone" her property, at the intersection of Sweetwater and Silverbell Roads, through this master plan. Thanks in part to our advocacy, the Board of Supervisors decided to put aside the support of some staff and adhere to the basic zoning for most of the surrounding land, which requires 3.3 acres per housing unit, for this parcel, which has viewshed value for the wider community. That parcel, sitting as it does on a major corridor soon to include a multi-use trail, has exposure for all northern Westsiders and visitors to our community. Its location as part of the Santa Cruz River corridor, and adjacent to a critical wash leading to the Santa Cruz, also argue strongly against intensification of land use to maintain wildlife movements.

#### **Taking the Lead to Secure Water for the Santa Cruz River: An update from the Watershed Management Group (WMG)**

Did you know that a 23-mile stretch of the Santa Cruz River as it runs north out of Tucson enjoys year-round flow supported by effluent, or treated wastewater, released into the river channel daily? Along this stretch, native willow, palo verde, and mesquite trees, as well as other wetland plants have established a rich ribbon of riparian habitat for birds and other desert critters. In addition, this verdant corridor provides cooling shade and a beautiful escape for people along The Loop bike and pedestrian path. However, with no formal agreement to keep this water from being designated for other uses, there is no guarantee this will continue to flow into the future. Therefore, the Community Water Coalition, of which TMA is a founding member, has sent a proposal to the City and County asking them to dedicate an allocation of water from the Conservation Effluent Pool (CEP) to maintain this established habitat along the Santa Cruz. The CEP, which sets aside 10,000 acre feet of water annually for conservation purposes, was created in 2010. Our proposal would be the first designation of CEP water, creating an important precedent for utilizing the CEP and expressing a community value for sustaining flows in our rivers. Our west-side City Councilmember Regina Romero and Mayor Rothschild have been very supportive of this proposal.

**We're asking you to help. Please take a minute right now to contact County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry to encourage him to support this proposal.**

For more information please see the WMG website:

[watershedmg.org](http://watershedmg.org)



## TMA's First Annual Habitat Competition

Be proud of your own property and what you are doing for the environment. Enter the habitat competition. Anyone except current TMA board members can take part.

2015 TMA Habitat competition Categories

1. Best preserved natural habitat, properties 3 acres and more
2. Best preserved natural habitat, properties less than 3 acres
3. Best habitat restoration
4. Best provision for wildlife corridors
5. Best provision for species at risk

Eligibility: Anyone not on the TMA board can enter property they own or manage that lies on the eastern side of the Tucson Mountains between the crest of the mountain range and the Santa Cruz River.

Entries must consist of a brief description, address of the property, contact information, map of the property indicating the part of the property that is habitat, and photos. The description must detail how the property preserves habitat, the efforts the owner or manager has made to protect and restore habitat, and how the habitat fulfills the aims of specific competition categories. The photos and map should provide documentary evidence. Properties of finalists will be visited by a board member.

Entries can be sent at any time, but those sent before the annual meeting will be part of a photograph display. Winners will be announced after it has been determined that entries of sufficient quality have been received. Entries can be submitted as zip files to the TMA email address (TMA@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org) with subject line *habitat competition*. Guidelines for entries are posted on the TMA website.

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Tucson Mountains Association – Ballot for Election 2015

(See candidate biographies)

Please note: under our By-Laws, the new Board will meet in January and select one member to serve as president, one as vice-president, one as secretary and one as treasurer. The membership elects the Board members and they, in turn, select officers from among them. You may vote for up to four Board members.

Board Members: Choose four (4)

Jackie Day \_\_\_\_\_ or write in \_\_\_\_\_

Debbie Hicks \_\_\_\_\_ or write in \_\_\_\_\_

Charlene Pesquiera \_\_\_\_\_ or write in \_\_\_\_\_

Ivy Schwartz \_\_\_\_\_ or write in \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your ballot to TMA, P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, Az 85754 before October 24th, or bring it to the annual meeting and potluck at the Milagro Community Center by 5:30 p.m. on October 24, 2015.

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