

Tucson Mountains Association

NEWSLETTER

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El Moraga Sale p. 8

33%

Monsoons account
for 1/3 Tucson rain.

Santa Cruz River
Dredging Project p. 7

**Give the gift of advocacy.
Give a TMA Membership.
Your friends and family will thank you.**

Cost: \$30/household
Join at: TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

Help us continue our work.

TMA MEMBER CONNECTION

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Trails connect and divide

▶ Recent controversy arose over trail construction and rules at Painted Hills Trails. TMA, other community organizations and residents fought long and hard to preserve Painted Hills.

There is nothing more delightful than exploring a trail in the Tucson Mountains. Trails into the wilderness allow a connection with nature like none other while at the same time benefitting health through exercise. Pima County maintains a network of trails throughout its reserve system, including the Tucson Mountain Park and the Sweetwater Preserve. But trails can also be controversial. Trails inevitably involve some destruction of nature and natural features, both during construction and through use that can cause erosion and trail widening. They can also disturb wildlife, especially if a trail system is too dense, and the trails are popular. Dogs are prohibited from most of the Tucson Mountain Park, but are allowed on trails in some parks, provided they are on leash. Off-leash dogs can be quite dangerous to wildlife, and if not actually dangerous can nevertheless intimidate other trail users.

Recent controversy arose over trail construction and trail rules in the Painted Hills. TMA along with other community organizations and residents fought long and hard to have the Painted Hills preserved, and so it is not surprising that what happens to them is of deep concern. Recently, a small tractor was in use to create some of the trail system, but caused more disturbance than some of us would have liked. Some people also objected to allowing dogs on the trails in the Painted Hills. The main problem seems to be that although dogs are required to be on leash, many people ignore that regulation. In many ways it is not surprising given the way dogs enjoy being able to run wild. Ideally, the County would enforce its leash rule, but the only hope really is for dog owners to weigh up the rights of the dog versus the rights of wildlife and other trail users. We have invaded wildlife habitat. What rights does it have? *(Please see page 4)*

In every walk with
nature, one receives
far more than he seeks.
John Muir



| Join | Promote | Volunteer | Advocate |
Be a TMA Member

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Steve Dolan

TMA welcomes its newest volunteer and advocate for the Tucson Mountains, Steve Dolan.

Steve worked in Pima County Flood Control for a number of years and is an expert in the area. He brings a positive attitude, desire to bring multiple sides together, sense of stewardship, and great technical background. We look forward to future projects with Steve.

TMA is grateful for all volunteers.

Will you advocate for the Tucson Mountains?

Watch the road for animals!



Deer and javelina have been increasingly hit by drivers in the Tucson Mountains.

Many of us consider it a treat to see our animal neighbors as they pass by our house or weave through the desert as we hike or drive by. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in animal fatalities in the Tucson Mountains.

Both deer and javelina are shifting their activity to evening and night to avoid the heat of the day, leading to the increased accidents reported on Speedway, Painted Hills, Gates Pass.

Deer are fawning this time of year, and all are quick to run across a road, never considering traffic conditions. While javelina may give birth at any time of year, their darker color and slower speed make them a risk because they are difficult to see at night. It is sad for all who care deeply for our Tucson Mountains animals and dangerous for drivers. Be aware of all animals while driving.

If you find yourself in a situation where your car hit an animal we hope you are okay and:

1. Pull off to the side of the road and make sure you are okay.
2. Do not try to touch the animal.
3. Call 911 to report the incident. To leave the scene of the accident is considered a hit and run.

Will you host a TMA Member recruitment party?

It's easy! Here are some ideas to try:

Select a date and location and concept. Combine a presentation with concept like a dinner, barbeque, cocktail party, wine and cheese gathering or brunch.

Form a Party Committee. With a few TMA members, set a goal of number of new member invitees. Send out invitations. Follow up on invitations, post to social media and get RSVPs for food/drink planning.

Party. Mingle. Presentation is given about TMA membership and other ways to get involved. Party event follows.

Registration. New Members register on the TMA website via computer or phone at the party.

Offer a Prize. Use paid confirmation to enter into prize drawing.

SUBMIT YOUR PICTURES



Monsoon rains bring a new tempo to the Tucson Mountains. It is a beautiful time of year, to discover new beauty in the Tucson Mountains.

The Tucson Mountains is waiting to be discovered by you. Photo submissions may be used to represent the Tucson Mountains.

We can't wait to see your pictures!

Email: denise2b@cox.net



TUCSON MOUNTAINS ADVOCATES IN ACTION Board of Adjustment Denies Wildlife Museum Variances

The well-attended March 8, 2018 Pima County Board of Adjustment meeting regarding Wildlife Museum variances spoke loudly. TMA and Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Assoc. joined to voice concerns about expanded facility use, inappropriateness of the proposed LED sign, and years of unpermitted A-frame advertising street signs.

The Board of Adjustment voted 4-0 against the Wildlife Museum's requested variances.

Great job Tucson Mountains advocates!

Tucson Mountains Plant Survey Celebration!

Survey results from Renee Rondeau, et al, *Flora and Vegetation of the Tucson Mountains*, updated 2/2000

There is something of the marvelous in all things of nature.
- Aristotle

- *Geographic location*
- *Elevational range*
- *Habitat diversity*
- *Biseasonal rainfall*
- *Mild winters*
- *Diverse microclimates*

Why is our area special?



Annuals that grow in response to rains

Winter/Spring	61 %
Wummer/Fall	33 %
Both	6 %

Home to 29%
of 68 native AZ
varieties of cacti



How do Tucson Mountains plants compare?

	Organ Pipe Mon.	Tucson Mountains	White Tank Mtns.
Plant Species:	550	630	332
Shared with Tucson Mtns.:	70.9%		81%



And forget not that at the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.

Kahlil Gibran

Trails

(Continued from page 1) TMA is not greatly concerned about the trail system in the Painted Hills that the County is constructing, as it seems to strike a good balance in not being too dense, yet allowing good recreational opportunities. However, TMA has donated \$5,000 to the development of the Painted Hills as a natural preserve. These funds fulfill a pledge we made while lobbying to save them. We have asked the County to use those funds to restore disturbed areas. It is a general concern that our natural area parks become degraded over time, or have degraded areas when established. Not enough effort is put into recovering degraded areas. The County has a policy of closing social trails in the belief that these often do not follow sustainable paths, but the County does not do a great deal to recover these closed trails, which left to their own devices can take decades or more to recover on their own in our arid environment. Moreover, some people have strong attachments to social trails they have long used, and strongly object to their being closed.

TMA is concerned that decisions are made by the County on trail construction and park development without sufficient involvement of the public. TMA was notified about a public meeting for the Painted Hills, but we and others were never notified of the outcome until we complained. The word seems to get out to mountain bike users and immediate neighbors, but these parks belong to us all. We should all be involved in the decision making and learn the outcomes before it is too late. These parks are precious, and in our view, at least as much effort should go into recovering degraded areas as goes into trail construction.



The Tucson Mountains: Connect, Inspire and Heal

Books like *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative* by Florence Williams remind us of this great source of connection, inspiration and beauty and reinforce our commitment to plan and preserve the parks, trails and corridors within the Tucson Mountains.

In Williams book, she talks about scientists are now quantifying nature's effects on mood, well-being, and our ability to think. The Romantic movement saw nature as the salvation of the mortal soul and the mortal imagination. Beethoven even hugged a linden tree in his backyard. He dedicated symphonies to landscapes and wrote, "The woods, the trees and the rocks give man the resonance he needs."

"The woods, the trees and the rocks give man the resonance he needs."

RATS! PACK RATS

The best practice to coexist with the environment is to NEVER use poison to remove pack rats. Poison always enters the food chain.

Modern poison traps use food poisoned with an anticoagulant. Insects and similar sized animals are attracted to the food. Any animal that eats the insects/animals (lizards, hawks, great horned owls, bobcats, mountain lions) will now be sick/die from the anticoagulant. The goal of an anticoagulant is that a scratch will kill the target animal after ingestion. Unfortunately, nature's rules are in force, not our ideas. Many unsuspecting animals have been impacted. If you see your role as a steward of the land you live and a student in how to coexist, don't buy poisons.

WHAT TO DO?

- 1. Think like a pack rat.** They are nocturnal critters who love dark clutter to shelter. Keep yard, prickly pear, patio and car engines clean and free of pack rat dens.
- 2. Car engines.** Make the pack rats uncomfortable with no unlit corner of the engine and noise. Try several bright solar landscape lights to illuminate the engine from the top/down and bottom/up. A motion door chime on the hood/bottom and a portable radio have all combined to deter their presence. Best products to help from Amazon: DrawGreen 1400 Lumen LED Solar Flood Security Light \$35.99/2 pk, Apoteck 36 LED Solar Motion Sensor Wall Light 3 Mode \$25.99/2 pk, Kerui Wireless PIR Motion Sensor Door Alert \$9.99 (Don't expect to leave home quickly!)

What are your non-poisonous solutions to deter pack rats! Email: denise@denise2b@cox.net

The only alternative to coexistence is codestruction. Jawaharlal Nehru

TMA Habitat Competition

Promotes preservation, restoration and understanding of the natural habitat of the Tucson Mountains. Enter in one of six categories.

KIDS: Summer is upon us, it is a good idea to think about the habitat competition, especially for kids. They need summer projects. There is nothing more exciting and worthwhile than nurturing and paying attention to the local environment.

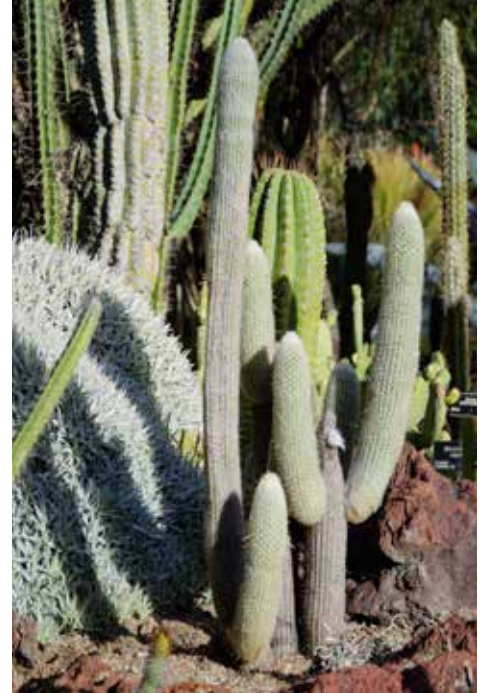
As the monsoons arrive, life and vitality abound as the rains flush growth, quail families charm us, and the saguaro fruit brings in birds from everywhere. Kids enter the competition by telling what they understand about wildlife habitats, even at home! Photos, drawings and text is all it takes.



See the TMA website for more details of what kids can do and how to enter. Questions? Just contact TMA.

ADULTS: TMA has had enthusiastic entries from adults in past years too. Why would you enter? Because it is a very simple way to participate in environmental education. The idea is to promote stewardship of land in the Tucson

Mountains. If you look after the natural values of your property, tell others about it so they will be inspired to do the same. You do not have to have an impressive property or have made changes. .



YOU CAN WIN! Keeping it natural is the way to go. You can win for doing just that. Why? Because it shows you value sharing your property with your natural inhabitants, and you help promote environmental stewardship.

Deadlines:

Kids Competition August 1, 2018

Adult Competition October 1, 2018



Habitat Competition Entry Categories

1. Best preserved natural habitat, 3+ acres
2. Best preserved natural habitat, < 3 acres
3. Best habitat restoration
4. Best provision for wildlife corridors
5. Best provision for species at risk


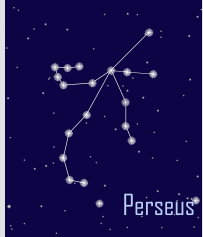
Habitat Competition Entry Categories

6. Kids entry:
 - I. How you help preserve habitat
 - II. How you help restore habitat

See details at: TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

Backyard Astronomy

The Tucson Mountains, summer nights and backyard astronomy are a perfect match. Enjoy the moon or get out your telescope. A vast universe awaits your exploration and celebration/contemplation.

<p>6/28/18 7:16 pm Rise</p>	<p>7/27/18 Mars in Opposition</p>			<p>7/27/18 7:30 pm Rise</p>	<p>8/26/18 7:22 pm Rise</p>
<p>Strawberry Moon Named after</p>	<p>Mars: Close, bright and visible all night</p>	<p>Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower 20/hour from Aquarius</p>	<p>Persid Meteor Shower Runs between 7/17-8/24, peak- ing now. From Perseus.</p>	<p>Micromoon Moon at apogee, Moon's orbit is farthest from Earth and appears smaller.</p>	<p>Full Moon</p>



WATER CONSERVATION

Water is a limited resource in our desert. Conservation solutions can range from simple to complex.

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT IDEA?

1. **Share your solutions with TMA.** We are better together! List: Degree of difficulty (Easy Med. Difficult), Cost \$ (<\$100), \$\$ (\$101-300), \$\$\$ (301-600), \$\$\$\$ (601+), Materials used, DIY/Prof. install, Assessment of benefit and water gallons saved. Email Ivy at: ischwartz3211@cox.net
2. TMA will share the Best of Water Conservation list.



NEW! TMA Social Hour

Seis at Mercado San Agustin
Wednesday, July 18
6:30-8:00 pm
No Host

New Members Welcome!

RSVP by July 13

denise2b@cox.net



Santa Cruz River: Grant - Trico Rd.

A meeting for planning addressing the next phase of the Santa Cruz River project involved many ideas and parties to decrease flood flow. TMA's Water Issues Committee is advocating for you.

The Pima County Regional Flood Control District (PCRFC) is now planning the Grant Rd. to Trico Rd. leg of the Santa Cruz River Management Plan. The Sonoran Institute, CMG Drainage Engineering, and Earth Economics are participating in the planning process. At the first meeting held May 31, PCRFC and CMG presented preliminary information, including comparing decades-old river maps with those more current. The current maps indicate a water flow that is much less tortuous now, changes in vegetation and river banks, and development in the flood zones.

The solutions for Grant to Trico Roads will be the result of several departments, engineers and community stakeholders, including TMA members. Assessment of the terrain will utilize new technology that is more advanced and will provide more accurate information than prior riverbed management plans. Several ideas for decreasing flood flow were bend way weirs, multiple channels and rockford. PCRFC's goal is to have the plan ready by July 2019, followed by community feedback and implementation. In the meantime, community members and organizations will be providing their valuable input.

The Sonoran Institute (SI) has conducted community outreach to define community values regarding the river, indicating that maximizing wildlife habitat, aquifer recharge and restoration of upstream tributaries, followed by food safety, recreation, and environmental sustainability were the preferred river management objectives. Currently the SI is assessing areas where effluent can best be used, and will help coordinate strategy to reflect community values.

Earth Economics (EE) will do an analysis of ecosystem services provided by the Santa Cruz (water, habitat, flood control, nutrient management, and cultural benefits) and quantify these. EE has previously done this work with Sabino Creek.

TMA and the Community Water Coalition of S. AZ (of which TMA is a founding member), and others have been advocating for an approach to flood control which integrates best practices regarding conservation and sustainability. For example, placing 10,000 check dams by tributaries would decrease flood flow in the river by 10-20%, making removal of vegetation in the river unnecessary. In addition, the management plan must take into consideration changes in CAP

water availability, drought and heat, which could make the plan obsolete in the not-so-distant-future if care is not taken.

It is TMA's hope that dredging the river, which is the "old school" approach to flood control, will be a minor element in the plan. TMA is also advocating for an overall restoration plan that would lead to perennial water in the river.

TMA MEMBER CALL TO ACTION: Please contact TMA if you are interested in participating in the Pima County Regional Flood Control District discussions and please contact PCRFC and the Pima County Board of Supervisors to make your views known regarding the management of the Santa Cruz River.

Contact TMA: Ivy Schwartz 520-237-6530

Contact Board of Supervisors:
http://webcms.pima.gov/government/board_of_supervisors

Thank you for lending your voice.



**PIMA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
(Pictured from left to right.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Ally Miller, Dist. 1 | 520.724.2738 |
| Ramon Valadez, Dist. 2 | 520.724.8126 |
| Sharon Bronson, Dist. 3 | 520.724.8051 |
| Steve Christy, Dist. 4 | 520.724.8094 |
| Richard Elias, Dist. 5 | 520.724.8126 |

ANNOUNCING THE SALE OF TMA's EL MORAGA PROPERTY

SOLD

The TMA Board is pleased to announce that we have sold the land at the corner of El Moraga and Sweetwater Roads. Many of you will recall that we had made several attempts to market the property over the course of the last fourteen years or so, through professional realtors, with no success. (The land was donated to the organization in the 1950s, with the idea that TMA might build a clubhouse on it.) It is a challenging parcel in several ways, and we were convinced at last to reduce the price so that it could be used to build a home. After all costs, TMA has realized net proceeds of slightly over \$30,000.

Community Corner

The Tucson Mountains is home to organizations that provide community services and invite members to join the community efforts.



DESERT ASHRAM

Longtime TMA members from the Desert Ashram, invite Tucson Mountains members to two great community activities.

Tai Chi for Women Offered once a week.

Community Garden A substantial fruit and vegetable garden is on the property. The ashram welcomes TMA members to share in the gardening work and in the resulting produce.

For more information contact the Desert Ashram at:

3403 W. Sweetwater Drive
Tucson, AZ 85745-9301
520.743.0384
truthconsciousness.org

COOPER CENTER for ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING

For over 50 years, Camp Cooper has been the intersection of kids, environmental education and the Tucson Mountains. On Trails End Road, it is located in the heart of the Tucson Mountains.

The Cooper Center provides inspiring learning experiences for grades K-8, including overnight programs in our Sonoran high desert environment. These are often the first serious learning experiences children have in the natural world, that resonate a lifetime.

With electronic devices grabbing evermore attention, the natural world we live can be forgotten or remote and abstract. Engagement of children with the environment determines its future.

The Cooper Center inspires learners of all ages to live more lightly in our Sonoran desert and beyond.

The Cooper Center survives on donations and Arizona taxpayers for survival.

TMA encourages support of the Cooper Center and its programs. Here is how you might want to support:

1. AZ Tax Credit, Contributions Made to Public Schools, Form 322 to support school field trips. This is a dollar for dollar credit of your Arizona taxes owed, redistributed to a local school, \$200/\$400 individual/married. Call 520.626.1825 for an updated list of participating field trip schools.
2. For more information go to: coopercenter.arizona.edu.
3. For donations, please visit: <https://coopercenter.arizona.edu/content/support-cooper-center>.

Whenever I have found myself stuck in the ways I relate to things, I return to nature. It is my principal teacher, and I try to open my whole being to what it has to say.

Wynn Bullock