

Tucson Mountains ASSOCIATION SINCE 1934



WINTER 2013 NEWSLETTER

President's Column – Ivy Schwartz

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2013 and a belated Happy New Year! We have a number of exciting things to report.

TMA-Supported Candidates Who Won Their Elections on November 6th

Congratulations to AZ Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford, and Pima County Supervisors Ray Carroll, Richard Elias and Sharon Bronson. We appreciate their support of TMA's mission.

Annual Picnic and Meeting

Our meeting at the Milagro Co-Housing Community on October 21, 2012 was a huge success! Many participated in the tour of Milagro's green building features such as water harvesting, solar panels, native desert plantings and vegetable garden. Pima County Supervisors Sharon Bronson and Richard Elias shared the 2012 Public Servant of the Year award.

Our **silent auction** raised nearly \$1,300. Please thank the many businesses that donated to the auction by supporting them!

Western National Parks Association

Silverbell Dental

David B. DeBruyne, photographer

Antigone Books

The Sanctuary – Hair Cut & Style

AIO Financial

San Carlos Grill

Loft Cinema

Teresa's Mosaic Café

Delectables Restaurant

Rusty's Family Restaurant and Sports Grille

Yoga Connection

New Asia Chinese Restaurant

La Cabana

Bianchi's Italian Restaurant

Shall We Dance Studio

Wild Bird Store

J A Daly, Artist

B Line Cafe

Tucson Audubon Society

Café Poca Cosa

Hotel Congress

Dr. Richard Baim, Silverbell Eye Care

Brooklyn Pizza

Native Seeds Research

4th Avenue Yoga

San Agustin Brasserie Restaurant

Downtown Kitchen

Beyond Bread

TUSD Westside Schools Closures

TMA was very concerned when the TUSD Board announced the proposed closure of 3 Westside schools. The increased bus and other traffic in Westside neighborhoods could lead to unsafe traffic patterns, more wear and tear on roadways, empty school buildings, which could result in decreased property values and crime, and more smog and dust. TMA strongly urged that they

remain open. Thankfully, Manzo Elementary, which was nationally recognized in January by the US Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools as *The Best Green School of 2012*, escaped the chopping block.

Desert Springs Development

A proposed re-zoning that would allow home development adjacent to the Catalina State Park, disrupting wildlife habitat and linkages between the Catalina and Tortolita Mountains, was pulled by the Oracle Town Council after protests by community members and conservation groups, including TMA. Thank you to all who worked against this shortsighted plan.

Mark Your Calendars!

The TMA Spring Musical and Raffle will be held Sunday, April 28, 2013 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Milagro Community Center, 3057 N. Gaia Place. Tucson's own John Coinman and his band will be our main feature performing Southwestern music. They are a nationally recognized group, just back from their tour in Russia. Since we are trying to raise money for our open space and conservation efforts, we are asking attendees to consider making a \$15 donation, which will include a ticket for our raffle drawing at the end of the evening. Of course, we welcome donations in excess of that amount as well! Food and drinks will be provided.

Please RSVP by April 21st to:

Tucson Mountains Association, P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, AZ 85754-6117, or email: TMA (at) TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

Name: _____ Number Attending: _____

Water Matters

Gray Water Ordinance: The City Council recently considered a proposal to eliminate the gray water ordinance for new residences. Alan Tonelson, a former TMA Board member, attended the public hearing on this matter and spoke in favor of amending, but not eliminating, the ordinance. Amendments will be focused on making the use of gray water more feasible for homeowners (e.g., installing above ground outlets instead of below grade outlets). Speakers from the Sonoran Institute and Community Water Coalition made similar comments. Council members directed staff to work with the Community Water Coalition (CWC) related to any proposed amendments to the ordinance prior to April of this year.

Effluent to Establish Riparian Areas: TMA is a founding member of the CWC, and we have a member serving on its Advisory Committee. They recently formed a task force made up of CWC, City, and County representatives to identify project sites for the use of water from the Conservation Effluent Pool (CEP). Both the City and County approved a set aside of 10,000 acre feet of CEP water for the restoration of riparian habitat two years ago. The purpose of the task force is to identify several possible project sites, seek endorsement by City and County officials for at least one location, and obtain resources to create a riparian area using CEP water. The plant material established on the site must be self-sustaining after five years.

Pima County Multi-Species Conservation Plan

After 13 years of work, the Pima County Multi-Species Conservation Plan has been submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for approval. This plan works to balance conservation of our Sonoran Desert ecosystem and its flora and fauna with appropriate development in Pima County. Open space, mainly in Pima County, approved by the voters and purchased via Bond funds, is used to help protect ecosystems and mitigate damage to native flora and fauna, especially endangered and threatened species, which may occur in the development process. This Open Space also serves the community by providing recreational and tourism value. The Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection (TMA is a coalition member) worked with the County on this plan. Public meetings in January-February were organized to review the plan. For further information, see:

http://www.pima.gov/cmo/sdcp/MSCP/MSCPdocs/Pima_County_MSCP_Summary.pdf

3 Ways You Can Financially Support TMA

- Send in your membership dues for 2013 and beyond
- Donate toward TMA's operating expenses
- Send a donation to our conservation account (tax-deductable)

Your support makes it possible to continue our work! Please talk up TMA with friends and neighbors and share the newsletter. The larger our membership, the more influence we can have with city and county officials in advocating for your concerns.

Another Way To Support TMA: Through DESERT DREAMS ***Desert Dreams :: Celebrating Five Seasons in the Sonoran Desert*** *A film by Thomas Wiewandt (A TMA Member and Supporter!)*

An immersive multimedia experience with no narration, a creative blend of HD video footage, time-lapse imagery, stills, natural sounds, and "organic music" performed by world-class musician Gary Stroutsos. This pictorial and musical chronicle of 5 seasons in Sonoran Desert lowlands of the American Southwest and northwestern Mexico showcases weather phenomena and 182 species of plants and animals.

Trailer: <http://www.wildhorizons.com/desertdreams>

DVD Specs:

Price: \$20 + \$6 S&H (for one or more copies)

Purchase online or by mail. Checks Preferred, made payable to Wild Horizons. PLEASE INDICATE YOU ARE A TMA MEMBER in your order – TMA receives a \$5 donation for each DVD sold.

Mail orders to: Custom BackOffice Solutions, att'n Jean Reehl
1931 W Grant Rd – Suite 320
Tucson, AZ 85745

Tucson Mountains Association Board of Directors

(note that e-mail addresses have been 'disguised' and automatic e-mail links have been disabled)

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PLEASE CONTRIBUTE
&
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
(Cut this form out and mail it in!)

Name: _____
Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email Address: _____

TMA Address: P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, AZ 85754-6117

Dues: \$30 for one year \$60 for two years Other \$___*
____ Renewal ____ New

Save Trees & Postage: Receive TMA newsletters via email? ____ Yes ____ No

***Sponsorship Levels: \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$750+. Anything over the annual membership fee is now tax-deductible.**