

Canyon Echo

www.arizona.sierraclub.org

Grand Canyon Chapter

September/October 2005

East and West It's Saguaro National Park

By Sandy Bahr

Saguaro National Park embraces the City of Tucson on both its western and eastern boundaries. Established as a monument in 1933, expanded to include the Tucson Mountain District on the east side in 1961, and designated as a National Park in 1994, this area is home to the icon of the Sonoran Desert, the saguaro, but contains an abundance of other plants and animals as well.



Saguaro Revegetation Effort, photograph by Roy Emrick

The 91,440-acre park consists of two districts — Saguaro West (Tucson Mountain Unit) and the larger Saguaro East (Rincon Mountain Unit). As you might guess, managing and protecting this area is a real challenge. Its proximity to a heavily populated area, the fact that it is split into two units, the ongoing onslaught of invasive plant species, and the fact that the Bush administration continues to starve the parks for dollars to protect their resources all mean the National Park Service has its hands full in protecting this Park.

The Park is now in the process of developing its new General Management Plan to guide how the park and its resources will be managed in the coming years. The Sierra Club supports an alternative that provides maximum protection for the natural ecological processes and biological diversity that defines the uniqueness of the Park. The National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 123 and 4) states:

"The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purposes of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

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It is within that context that we would like Saguaro and all of our national parks managed. The act makes it clear that protection of the resources for future generations is paramount. Where recreation and resource protection collide, the National Park Service (NPS) must act to protect the resources.

We are asking the NPS to:

Manage the Park to maximize pristine resource conditions which protect natural processes, biodiversity, and the ecosystem.

Closely administer and redirect visitation to protect sensitive resources.

Make sure recreational opportunities, particularly in the RMD, are primitive with low visitor use. Reduce fragmented habitats and isolated wildlife corridors to insure biological diversity.

Limit to the greatest degree possible, the invasion of non-native plant and animal species that negatively affect the native flora and fauna. Of particular concern are non-native plants such as buffel grass and fountain grass.



Sandy is the Chapter's Conservation Director

What You Can Do

If you would like to help protect this or other parks, monuments and wildlife refuges in Arizona, get involved with their management, or assist with service projects, please contact Ken Langton at kplangton@msn.com or the Sierra Club office at (602) 253-8633.

Weighing Alternatives What to Do with the Cabeza Prieta

By Kimberly Foss

To take action or not to take action, that is the question looming over the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) when it comes to the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. Recently the USFWS released a proposed plan that would update and implement policies on how the refuge is managed as well as plans for ways to improve the refuge. There are five alternatives up for grabs ranging from taking no new action (alternative one) to making a lot of changes on how the refuge is managed including ramping up human impacts on the refuge itself (alternative five). The USFWS proposed option (alternative four) sets out new changes that may or may not be beneficial to the refuge. Examples include building more water catchments and enabling more monitoring by refuge staff as well as building a "bigger and better" visitor center. The research is not on whether or not human-made watering holes are effective for wildlife. It is certain, however, that more development and monitoring means more foot, truck and off-road vehicle traffic in the refuge as well as a greater need for funding which, currently, is not available.

For the most part each alternative has something to offer, whether it is as simple as allowing the wild to be wild,

or something as obvious as prohibiting hunting of bighorn sheep during drought seasons, to costly measures such as closer monitoring of Sonoran pronghorn populations. With each alternative having both good and problematic qualities, we can only hope that the USFWS will adopt a melting pot method and merge the good with the good and weed out the bad. It should be remembered that the refuge is there for the wildlife and that protecting wildlife and their habitat should be our first priority. The less action taken on the refuge means less human intervention, and hence the better off our precious wilderness areas.

Arizona is one of this country's fastest growing states, with development impeding on our beautiful desert at a rate so fast entire cities seem to pop up over night. We should take the time to realize that not only are we lucky enough to have more sunshine than any other state in the country but we are also fortunate enough to be the stewards of one of the largest wilderness area in the lower 48 states.

Kimberly is a law student at Arizona State University who completed an internship with the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter this summer.

What You Can Do

Take a few minutes to write a letter to the Cabeza Prieta Refuge staff or take a weekend to volunteer at the refuge. Find out about volunteer opportunities by visiting <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/arizona/cabeza.html> or calling the manager at (520)387-6483. The deadline for the comments to the USFWS was August 15, 2005. However, you can still contact the USFWS to let them know that you are proud of Arizona's Cabeza Prieta and that you believe protection of wilderness and wildlife should be the top priority.

Write to:

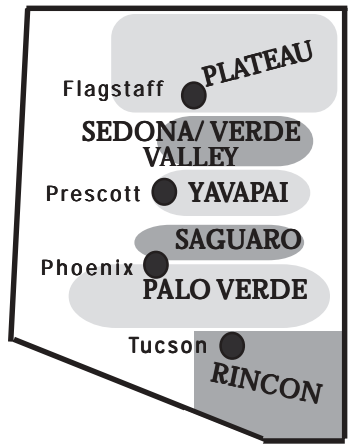
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Grand Canyon Chapter Arizona Chapter Action Directory



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The deadline is the **first day of the month** preceding the two months of the issue. Opinions expressed in the *Canyon Echo* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Sierra Club.

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BECOME INVOLVED:
Contact a representative in your area to voice your concerns and to participate in local activities.

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Grand Canyon Chapter What's Going On

Participate in Chapter and Group Elections

Are you interested in a volunteer leadership position within the Grand Canyon Chapter? Chapter and Group Executive Committee elections are around the corner, and it's time to get involved! With continuing challenges to our environment over water, clean air, sprawl, endangered species and wildlife habitat to name a few, we need strong leaders who are willing to commit some time and energy to further our mission to protect, preserve and enjoy our environment – our home.

You can get involved in two ways:

- 1 Become a candidate for your Group Executive Committee or Chapter Executive Committee.** No experience is necessary. Group and Chapter nominating committees are actively looking for candidates who are enthusiastic about the environment and want to take a leadership role in planning, policy-making and executing plans to protect and preserve our environment – and have fun while doing it! Executive Committees meet on a regular basis to discuss conservation and environmental issues, develop a strategic plan for the Chapter and Groups, make local and state policy decisions within the scope of Club policies, and determine ways to carry out objectives.
- 2 Volunteers are also needed to serve on nominating committees at the Group and Chapter levels,** assisting with recruiting candidates, reviewing candidate statements, verifying membership standing, approving nominations, reporting candidate names to the Group and Chapter Executive Committees, and reviewing the ballot prior to mailing to members.

If you are interested in becoming a **Group** Executive Committee candidate or serving on your **Group's** nominating committee, contact your Group Chair or Group Executive Committee member. If you are interested in becoming a **Chapter** Executive Committee candidate or serving on the **Chapter** nominating committee please contact one of the Chapter nominating committee members:

Kathy Roediger (Chair): kroediger@aol.com, 602-266-6358
 Louis Lantz: louis85331@direcway.com, 480-488-4581
 Tom Slaback: PrescottKid@webtv.net, 928-778-4233

The following are candidate guidelines for Chapter and Group Executive Committee elections:

- 1 Candidates are required to submit their name and membership number in order to be listed on the ballot.** Your membership number appears on your Echo mailing label. Be sure to include contact information along with your submission.
- 2 Submit a candidate statement, indicating the name of the Executive Committee you are running for, to a Chapter or Group Nominating Committee member to be received no later than September 16, 2005.** Candidate statements are limited to 200 words and must be submitted via email to one of the nominating committee members. Candidates must have Internet capability since much of the Chapter and Group business is conducted via email. Statements over the 200 word limit may be returned to the candidate for editing.
- 3 Candidates are not required to submit a written statement, however statements are recommended.**

The official ballot will appear in the November-December 2005 Echo. So become involved! Join a nominating committee or nominate yourself for an Executive Committee.



Send in Old Cell Phones

In July, the office began accepting used cell phones. The Sierra Club will send these phones to EARTHWORKS for refurbishing or recycling. EARTHWORKS will use the proceeds from refurbished phones to support communities impacted by mining. Any phones that cannot be reused will be recycled for metal and plastic in compliance with U.S. laws and regulations.

How do I donate my used cell phone? Send in your used cell phone to the Sierra Club office instead of the landfill, where the phone's toxic contents, including lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic, could leach into soil and groundwater. Send your phone to the Sierra Club office at 202 E. McDowell Rd, Suite 277, Phoenix, AZ 85004. For more information, contact Don Steuter at (602) 956-5057

Thanks to those who have already mailed in their phones!

Transitions

By Sandy Bahr

Moving On, but not Away

As Michelle Pulich Stewart indicated in the last Canyon Echo, she is leaving her position with the Sierra Club. For the past two years she has served as our publications editor and conservation program assistant. Her work for the Sierra Club has been outstanding. She has assisted with putting together numerous events, fact sheets, programs, trainings, and outings, plus done so with enthusiasm and a strong passion for protecting the planet and our piece of it here in Arizona. All of our conservation work in Arizona has benefited from Michelle's involvement in the Grand Canyon Chapter.

Michelle is leaving our employ to embrace a new challenge teaching physical

geography at Mesa Community College. We wish her all the best with this new endeavor. She has also indicated that she wants to continue her involvement with the Sierra Club as a volunteer. So while we will miss her fantastic work as our employee, we will benefit from her continued involvement with our conservation committees, including co-chairing the wilderness committee. Thank you so much Michelle! It has been a pleasure.

Welcome Kate!

As you will see elsewhere in this issue of the Canyon Echo, we have hired a new Conservation Program Assistant/

Publications Editor. Her name is Kate Darby. She recently moved here from Eugene, Oregon where she completed her masters degree in environmental studies. Her experience includes working on renewable energy, sustainability, and climate change issues, as well as developing a naturalist curriculum for a day camp, among others. She has a strong background on organizing projects, working with volunteers, and writing and editing. We are very pleased to welcome Kate to the Sierra Club and look forward to working with her to implement our conservation goals.

Thank you so much Michelle and welcome aboard Kate.

Cast of Characters

Jim Vaaler has been a Sierra Club member since 1973. He is currently the Chapter Outings Chair and Co-chair of the Chapter Wilderness Committee. Jim also serves on the Chapter executive committee. Jim has rafted the Grand Canyon 14 times, as well as many of the other rivers in the American West. Jim's favorite river, however, is our very own Salt River. He was active in the Wilderness campaigns of 1984 and 1990 and believes that leading outings and doing Wilderness work go hand in hand as two excellent ways to involve new and old Sierra Club members at a grassroots level.



Jim Vaaler
Chapter Outings Chair

Prairie Dog Talk

Please join the Sierra Club and the Arizona Wildlife Federation for a presentation on prairie dogs by Dr. Con Slobodchikoff, Professor of Biology at Northern Arizona University.

Wednesday, October 26, 2005
 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 at The Phoenix Zoo in the auditorium.

For more information and to RSVP, please call Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633

Echo News

You can Use Inside

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- Westward Ho!
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- Great Hikes and Trips

On the Web

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grandcanyon.sierraclubaction.org

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www.sierraclub.org

Online News
www.sierraclub.org/news

Sierra Magazine
www.sierraclub.org/sierra

The Planet
www.sierraclub.org/planet

Late Spring Journeys In the Sonoran Desert National Monument

By Chris Trask

The Sonoran Desert National Monument, which is all Lower Sonoran Zone, includes the North Maricopa Mountains Wilderness, the South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness, and the Table Top Wilderness. Each drainage seems to have its own unique botanical community, with the Brittlebush trail passing through a wash paved with white sand and lined with Mexican Jumping Bean, Blue Palo Verde, and Ironwood. The reddish boulder-strewn slopes to either side are dominated by Yellow Palo Verde, Creosote Bush, and Ocotillo and the areas between the wash and the hills are dominated by dense stands of Saguaro cactus.

Early one morning as I was approaching a towering Blue Palo Verde in full bloom, the distinct hum of thousands of bees feasting on fresh nectar could be heard over a hundred feet away, and in the calm mid-morning air the white sand, deep blue sky, and red hillsides created an unforgettable Sonoran Desert scene.

After weaving around boulders and under majestic Ironwood trees, the trail rises above the wash where the vegetation changes to an Ocotillo, Saguaro, and Creosote Bush forest, with occasional large patches of Teddy Bear Cholla. At its end, the trail drops into a wash where it intersects with the Margie's Cove Trail, which crosses the area from roughly east to west by way of a pair of washes.

Traveling cross-country through a broad, shallow valley to the northwest reveals a wash that is much narrower than that of the Brittlebush Trail, and the vegetation is distinctly different, as there is not a single specimen of Mexican Jumping Bean to be found. Instead, this drainage provides a suitable environment for a substantial Saguaro forest, while the wash itself is host to Yellow Palo Verde, Desert Lavender and Fagonia.

Further up the wash there is a broad bend which is dominated by tall Ironwood trees and a forty foot high cliff of sand and gravel. On one occasion, I spotted a solitary specimen of Desert Tobacco at the base of the cliff. Walking towards it to get a closer look, I was startled by a sudden noise and a blur of brown. A large Great Horned Owl with a wingspread of over three feet had just flown from its nest in the cliff face just ahead of me. After watching it disappear into the Ironwood trees, I looked back toward the cliff and found myself looking at its mate, which was staring back at me. We observed each other for what seemed to be an eternity wrapped in white sand and blue sky, and then it flew off in the same direction as the first. I later saw them both perched in the limbs of an Ironwood tree.

As the valley narrows and becomes steeper and rockier, the washes turn into arroyos, cutting deep gouges in the terrain. The valley eventually leads to a narrow pass, and a game trail slowly makes its way through an increasing dense Saguaro forest as it approached the Margie's Cove Trail that passes through a wash that is lined with Ironwood and Blue Palo Verde as well as a few Wolfberry shrubs and an occasional specimen of Pringle's Abutilon. As the wash climbs higher it becomes increasingly narrow, lined on either side by slick granite walls, with more granite exposed on the floor, smoothly polished by millenia of coarse sand moving swiftly with the floods from summer thunderstorms.

At a point about midway along the Brittlebush Trail, there is a low saddle to the west that offers another opportunity to travel cross country. The first time that I took this route, I stood at the saddle and gazed westward at a vista that revealed a three mile long wide valley, the floor of which was a seemingly endless Saguaro forest. The top of the valley was filled with Ocotillo, Yellow Palo Verde, and Mexican Jumping Bean, as well as many specimens of Rock Hibiscus. I was immediately reminded of a passage from *Refuge*, by Terry Tempest Williams:



Mexican Jumping Bean (*Sapium biloculare*) from *Trees and Shrubs of the Southwestern Deserts* by L. Benson and R.A. Darrow

In the severity of (the) desert, I am brought down to my knees by its beauty. My imagination is fired. My heart opens and my skin burns in the passion of these moments. I will have no other gods before me.

I descended into the valley, the rough, rocky geology and volcanic rock giving way to desert pavement cut by deep, narrow arroyos lined with polished granite and carpeted with white sand, sometimes hard-packed and sometimes loose and deep. Yellow Palo Verde and Ironwood trees above the arroyo offered the sensation of greater depth, directing my eyes skyward to an unspoiled powder blue afternoon desert sky. The sense of solitude in places such as these is both unavoidable and irreplaceable, and for those who are unprepared, the isolation can be discomfiting.

The arroyos gradually became shallower, eventually becoming the network of minor washes and sandy basins that characterize the geology of the desert floor. A small peak provided an excuse for the wash to divide to either side, and I choose to go to the left, saving the seemingly more interesting right channel for a later visit, after the winter rains awaken the seeds that are waiting patiently in the sand.

Chris is an active member of the Palo Verde group.

Archaeology in Your Backyard

By Kimberly Foss

When you hear the word "archaeologist" what comes to mind? Indiana Jones, mummies, pyramids? If so, it may surprise you to learn that Arizona has the highest number of archaeologists *per capita* of any state in the country. Right now there are close to fifty private archaeological companies that conduct research in the Phoenix area alone. And that's not including archaeologists housed in the various universities and colleges located around the state.

So why are there so many? The answer is deceptively simple: in Arizona, archaeology is everywhere. For over 10,000 years Arizona has been an attractive destination for farmers, hunters, potters, and countless others and the physical remains of their visits are all over the place. In fact, if you are reading this in Arizona right now, it's very possible that you are standing on an archaeological site. If you live in Tempe, Mesa or Coolidge, it's almost certain that your house was built over a prehistoric village, a canal, or even a ball court. There is a reason why cities like Phoenix and Tucson were built where they are, and it mainly correlates with availability of water and other resources in a fairly hostile environment.

For that reason there are a lot of archaeologists running around and a lot of archaeological sites. The problem is that these sites are disappearing. Fast. Although no figures or statistics are maintained on this issue, I would estimate that between one and five archaeological sites are destroyed *every single day* in Arizona. The reason for this is development. For nearly every neighborhood that goes up in this state, a significant archaeological site is destroyed, replaced with sewer lines, gas lines, and hundreds of other things that collectively constitute the march of progress. In Coolidge, for example, Wal-Mart recently put in a shiny new super center right on the main thoroughfare (and incidentally right on top of a large prehistoric village). The bottom line is that all of the amazing archaeology of Arizona is becoming an endangered species of sorts and just like the moa or the carrier pigeon, when it's gone it's gone.

So what? Archaeological sites share with us the story of people who lived here before us, people who had families, hopes and dreams but had no written language with which to write down their stories and share them with us. You remember the old adage: "those who ignore the past are doomed to repeat it." The Hohokam were able to turn vast tracts of hostile desert into productive agricultural land through the use of an intricate canal system for a thousand years. When the canal system was destroyed the entire society fell. This is an important reminder of how significant water is to survival in Arizona, something we often forget with our golf courses and waterfall-fronted communities. The more we know about the success and failures of prehistoric people, the better we can develop effective strategies today.

How do we solve the problem? Talk to your legislators, your real estate developers, volunteer for a dig, or join the site steward program (see <http://www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/shpo/sitestew.html> for details). The solution is to get archaeology into the public mind to make people aware that there is something uniquely interesting in the Arizona desert; volumes of unwritten history preserved right under our feet. Give your legislators a call and let them know that you don't want to lose this fascinating history.

Kimberly is a law student at Arizona State University who completed an internship with the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter this summer.

Beyond the Slab

By Greg Pentkowski



Call & Echo

Do you ever want some answers to your environmental questions? Ever have conservation questions that you'd like for an expert to answer? In each *Canyon Echo*, we feature a question from our members focusing on environmental concerns. One of our activists who focuses on that particular issue, researches and answers the question. When we don't know the answer, we find someone who does. You do not need to include your name. If you have a question, please send it to:

Sierra Club—Grand Canyon Chapter
Editor, Canyon Echo
202 E. McDowell Dr. Ste. 277
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Call to the Canyon

What is a Wildlife Refuge?

Echo Response

"Refuge": Shelter or protection from danger or distress; a place that provides shelter or protection.

- Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1974

The National Wildlife Refuge System includes 540 units in all 50 states and U.S. territories, encompassing over 93 million acres. Our national refuges provide habitat for hundreds of wildlife species including 25 percent of all federal threatened and endangered species. Most refuges have been established to preserve ecosystems and biodiversity and some have been established specifically to preserve habitat for a single, often endangered, species.

President Theodore Roosevelt established the first refuge, Florida's Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in 1903. In 1929, the Migratory Bird Conservation Act created the National Wildlife Refuge System and in 1940, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) began managing the wildlife refuges.

By the 1960s, in response to increased public demand for recreational use, legislation began to allow recreation in the refuges under certain conditions. The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 established conservation as the priority for wildlife refuges, but allowed for recreation activities that meet "compatibility" standards (i.e., do not interfere with the refuge's primary purpose). As a result, the USFWS designated six "wildlife-dependent" priority activities fishing, wildlife observation, photography, interpretation, education and hunting. Some hunting and trapping is allowed on 60% of refuges.

The refuge system grapples with these issues of recreation and conservation activities while dealing with limited funding. Public involvement is required in development of wildlife refuge management plans and public opinion regarding USFWS's efforts to balance conservation with recreation varies widely.

Arizona has nine National Wildlife Refuges: Bill Williams River, Buenos Aires, Cabeza Prieta, Cibola, Havasu, Imperial, Kofa, Leslie Canyon and San Bernardino. Some hunting is allowed on all refuges except Leslie Canyon.

◆ Halina Szyposzynski, Chapter Wildlife Committee Chair

Office Thanks List

Waves In Motion- Marcus Silving
Maggie Huntington

Transcendence

◆ David Chorlton

I
The dove
who landed on a branch at noon
still perches there
at four,

a silhouette against the heat paled sky.
All that moves

are shadows, edging
their way toward dusk
when quail come chattering
from the thirsty grass

and a breath passes through every tree.

II
We look so out of place along the semi-desert road
where meadowlarks fly from mesquite
to mesquite, the three of us:
a man and woman with binoculars slung
around our necks, and the small
white dog

pulling her leash to lead
the way with the mountain, San Jose,
to the south of us, the Mules
straight ahead, and the wide Huachuca range
at our backs

as we stride away from the smell
of burning in our car, the latest
failure of technology.

III
Eleven thousand years ago
at this spot
the people killed mammoths,
scraped the bones
and lit their fires beneath a million stars.
When day returned
they looked around at these same peaks
as the gods were waking.

IV
The cactus wren laughs at our broken car.

His voice
rubs against the heat
like sandpaper.

V
I have come to a place of green light where the
slow river flows to wait for the yellow-billed
cuckoo. Perhaps the call heard yesterday
downstream will return as solid form and the bird
will flash its plumage against the deeper shades
of cottonwood. It is silent here, except for the
dove whose voice is like nature passing from our
lives. Song sparrows peck the water, blue
grosbeaks make loops from the bank. and the
day sinks into its bed. For a last time I scan the
canopy take in a long breath, give it back to the
air, and walk away with silence laid inside me as
if an egg.

VI
Night appears first
as the chevron on a nighthawk's wing.
Then the toads
come from the underworld.
And moths: the white,
the grey, the ones with arabesques
inscribed on their wings,
steer a passage
between the stars.

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The Grand Canyon Chapter
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The Verde River and Prescott's Reasonable Growth Initiative

By Thomas Slaback

On December 7, 2004 at the weekly Prescott City Council meeting, the Council held the first and only public meeting to discuss the City land purchase of the Big Chino Wash at the headwaters of the Verde River as a water ranch. The City Council also discussed the possibility of the City of Prescott entering into an intergovernmental agreement to split the cost of the project and the water allocation 54/46 with the City of Prescott Valley. The two communities had previously agreed on how to partition the Granite Dells/Point of Rocks ranch land for annexation purposes.

A year and a half earlier the City of Prescott and the developer signed a development agreement which required a 1.25 homes/acre density, a 612 acre feet/year water allowance from Granite Creek (which usually is not flowing), a golf course (prohibited in the City General Plan), a requirement that the City was to use the best means to provide water to the development, a stipulation that the development was allowed to retain the effluent generated from that water provision; and included no annexation fees. If annexation takes place, all of these requirements would become law. The City of Prescott would annex 10,800 acres, creating a residential development that would increase the population from 40,000 to 67,000 at a cost in excess of \$60 million in subsidies to the developer. It would increase the water overdraft in the Prescott Active Management Area (AMA) and threaten the flow of the upper Verde River.

Earlier, state Senator and real estate agent Carol Springer spearheaded special legislation that allows Prescott to be the only city in Arizona that can go outside the boundaries of its AMA to import groundwater. In 1998 the State of Arizona declared that the Prescott AMA was mining ground water and had until 2025 to attain safe yield, when the amount pumped out can not exceed the amount of aquifer recharge.

The purchase of the ranch cost \$22 million and the estimated price of the delivery pipeline is \$80 million, up \$20 million in a year's time. Prescott will pump approximately 8,000 acre-feet/year for delivery to the developer, with an additional 3,000 acre-feet from retired land designated towards safe yield and/or Verde River mitigation. An additional 3,000 acres of land could be retired, allowing another 9,000 acre-feet/year to be pumped and transferred. The town of Chino Valley just purchased 612 acres of land for this purpose. The bottom line is that a minimum of 17,000 acre-feet of water per year may be permanently removed from the headwaters of the Verde River.

Community Response

The City Council moved their December 7, 2004 meeting to the old Armory building to accommodate the 250 citizens who attended. After over two hours of public testimony against the proposals, the City Council invoked the Emergency Clause, denying the right of

referendum based on health and safety issues, and passed the motions unanimously.

Immediately after the City Council meeting a group of outraged citizens got together and formed the Citizens for Reasonable Growth committee. After four months of wordsmith and legal review the Reasonable Growth Initiative was presented to the Citizens of Prescott. It was crafted to avoid the possibility of being declared unconstitutional as previous growth moratorium initiatives had been. Instead the Reasonable Growth Initiative requires:

1. A 60-day period for public comment and discussion before any annexation of 250 acres or larger is approved by the City Council.
2. A supermajority (3/4) vote of the City Council to pass such an annexation.
3. All effluent (treated sewage) produced by such an annexation will go to permanent recharge of the aquifer.

In 3 months time the Citizens for Reasonable Growth obtained nearly 3,000 signatures on the petition. On July 7, 2005 the group presented the City with 2,800 signatures that we found to be valid. The City threw out seven pages of signatures based on various technicalities leaving 2,704. Out of a random check of 136 signatures, the County found 14 to be unqualified. We still had a large margin over the required 1966 signatures to get the initiative on the November 8 general election ballot.

On July 29 former supervisor and Ruskin lobbyist for the Yavapai Land Exchange, Bill Feldmeier, filed suit against the City Clerk, the County Recorder and the Citizens for Reasonable Growth to invalidate all of the petition signatures. Lisa Hauser of Gammage and Burnham is representing Mr. Feldmeier. Scot Mussi, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs for the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona, located in Phoenix, researched the "evidence," (as documented by the County Voter Registrar's Office) under the PAC "Reasonable Leadership For Prescott," presented by Mr. Feldmeier as an individual plaintiff. Bill is a better comedian than he is a contractor, but then he does not write his own material. The Citizens for Reasonable Growth views the 50-page complaint as a ploy to force the initiative to miss the cutoff printing dates for the ballot and arguments pamphlet. The City of Prescott in executive session has decided not to defend their City Clerk of the charges brought forth in the complaint. They also oppose putting the Initiative directly on the ballot, thereby disenfranchising the nearly 3,000 petition signers and the rest of the Prescott electorate. As we get closer to the November General Election this issue should become even more interesting.

Tom chairs the Yavapai Group in Prescott.

What You Can Do

The campaign VOTE YES ON 400 FOR REASONABLE GROWTH has begun. Visit www.reasonablegrowth.com or email Info@reasonablegrowth.com for more information.

Chirp to Growl: Sensible Cohabitation With Our Wild Neighbors

The Open Space Alliance (of which the Yavapai Group is a member), in partnership with the Sharlot Hall Museum, will host a free-to-the-public regional wildlife symposium and expo in Prescott on Friday evening, September 23rd, 6:30 PM at the Elks Opera House and continuing on Saturday, September 24th, 10 AM-3 PM at the Sharlot Hall Museum. Participants will learn about many issues, including: making property less attractive to nocturnal wildlife; preventing pets from becoming prey; mitigating threats to human safety from large predators; minimizing predation on farm/ranch livestock; the status of pronghorn antelope, elk and endangered species habitat; and much more.

If you wish to participate in the event (as an exhibitor, expert talk session host, or financial donor) or desire additional information, please contact: Chris Hoy, OSA Wildlife Symposium Planning Committee Chair, (928)445-4218 cehoy@northlink.com or Tom Slaback, Yavapai Group Chair, PrescottKid@webtv.net (928)778-4233.

Ecological Monitoring Training

The Citizen Science Institute is launching a new Ecological Field School to train volunteers in scientific methods that will better prepare them to help support conservation projects. The Citizen Science Institute has a goal of creating a corps of highly trained volunteers who can collect valid data for researchers, agencies, such as the Park Service, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations.

The 6-day field courses, beginning this November, will teach the basic protocols and techniques of ecological monitoring across subject areas ranging from geology, soils and hydrology to botany, biology and archaeology. The courses include lectures, seminars and hands-on instruction. The first class will be held Nov. 6-13 in the Florence Junction area. Participants who successfully complete the course will be awarded the title "Certified Citizen Scientist" and attendees at future workshops will be able to add endorsements to this basic certificate.

For more information, please contact Dr. Vanda J. Gerhart, Citizen Science Institute P.O. Box 63514, Phoenix, AZ 85082 (602) 286-3890, csi@libertywildlife.org On-line: <http://citizensi.org>

Becoming a Master Watershed Steward

By Elna Otter

Last year I took a series of 12 three-hour classes focused on watersheds and water resources and had a chance to participate in two engaging field trips. I am now a "Master Watershed Steward," and am looking forward to continuing to do interesting volunteer work. The Master Watershed Steward program is a partnership of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Its mission is to train and educate Arizonans to volunteer in the protection, conservation, restoration, and monitoring of their local watersheds. Watershed Stewards are designated after an intensive 50-hour course, and attain their "Master" status after completing an additional 40 hours of volunteer service.

For my volunteer service, I plan to assist in identifying and eliminating exotic species, as well as assist in water quality monitoring within the San Pedro watershed. Numerous other volunteer opportunities are available to Watershed Stewards throughout Arizona.

Most of the instructors in my course were from the University of Arizona. They cover many topics including hydrology, soil, Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping, biotic communities, and local and regional water issues. My classmates were other adults from totally different backgrounds, united only by an interest in the environment.

If this sounds intriguing, consider signing up for the next class in your area. The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension will offer them this fall on a once-a-week basis in Tucson,

Flagstaff, and Cottonwood. There are plans for courses this fall for Mohave and Navajo counties, and for Maricopa and Gila counties in the spring. The estimated class fee is \$125 and class size is limited. Be advised though, that the sponsors do expect graduates to commit to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service upon graduation from the classes. (A more esoteric goal is to have the students also become better informed and more involved in decision-making.)

Elna chairs the Chapter's Water Committee.



What You Can Do

For more information or an application visit: <http://cals.arizona.edu/watershedsteward/> or contact Robert Emanuel at the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, (520)621-1268, or emanuel@ag.arizona.edu.

Westward Ho!

Your BLM Lands Need Protection

By Sandy Bahr

When people in Arizona look west, they often think of the Colorado River or the land beyond in California, neglecting to consider the vast expanse of land between Phoenix and Yuma. Four wilderness areas — Eagletail Mountains, Muggins Mountain, Trigo Mountains and New Water Mountains, a portion of the Anza National Historic Trail, and two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) including Gila River Cultural Area (Sears Point) and Big Maris, are in this 1.3 million acre area managed by the Yuma Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The area is home to 12 threatened and endangered species including one plant, the Pierson's milkvetch.

Currently, the Yuma BLM office is working to develop a resource management plan (RMP) for these lands. The most protective preliminary proposal would add four new ACECs totaling over 600,000 acres. One area under consideration is the Palomas Plain located between the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness and the Kofa

National Wildlife Refuge. Adding protections to this area is a real plus for animals like bighorn sheep which have historically moved among mountain ranges. Protecting the Gila River terraces and trails will afford greater protection to cultural resources in the area.

Because of an ill-conceived directive from Secretary of Interior Gale Norton, the BLM is not allowed to identify Wilderness Study Areas in the RMP. They can, however, identify areas with wilderness characteristics which are defined as "outstanding opportunities to experience naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation." The Arizona Wilderness Coalition has identified 317,339 acres with these wilderness characteristics, but BLM is proposing only 147,918 acres in their most protective proposal. The Sierra Club will be working with the Coalition and others to increase the areas identified for protection.

Probably the most critical issue for this area is the use of offroad vehicles, which

rip up the landscape and affect the fragile vegetation as well as animals like the Mojave desert tortoise, an endangered species, plus affect the opportunity for solitude sought by hikers and hunters alike. Offroad vehicle use is not being addressed adequately in the preliminary proposal but instead the managers at BLM indicate that they will do a route designation within five years of completion of the RMP. Areas are supposed to be designated as open, closed, and limited to existing routes. The only areas that are closed in this plan are the wilderness areas, which are by law, closed to mechanized vehicles. Because this issue affects all of the efforts to protect the land and often conflicts with other uses, it is critical that BLM aggressively manage this use.



Sandy is the Chapter's Conservation Director

What You Can Do

While the official comment period on the proposed draft alternatives is past, it is not too late to get involved with working to protect these important lands. You can write:

Bureau of Land Management – Yuma Field Office
Attention: Micki Bailey
2555 E. Gila Ridge Rd.
Yuma, AZ 85365
AZ_YM_RMP@blm.gov

And ask to be included in the planning of this area. For more information or an application visit <http://cals.arizona.edu/watershedsteward/> or contact Robert Emanuel at the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, (520)621-1268, or emanuel@ag.arizona.edu.

You can also join the Sierra Club's wilderness committee as it seeks to protect existing wilderness and wilderness characteristics of our public lands. Contact Jim Vaaler at jimvaaler@msn.com or Michelle Pulich Stewart at sun7river@yahoo.com or call the Chapter office at 602-253-8633.

Excellent Opportunities

Join a Committee

Conservation Chair: Don Steuter,
(602) 956-5057, donsteuter@aol.com

Energy Chair: Jon Findley,
(480) 756-2912, jonaz@learnweb.com

Environmental Justice
Chair: Keith Bagwell,
akbagwell@hotmail.com

Forest Conservation
Chair: Sharon Galbreath,
(928) 774-1571, sharoneg@earthlink.net

Grand Canyon
Chair: Jim McCarthy, (928) 779-3748

Mining Chair: Don Steuter,
(602) 956-5057, donsteuter@aol.com

National Parks & Wildlife Refuges
Chair: Ken Langton, (520) 749-3829
kplangton@msn.com

Water & Watershed Protection
Chair: Elna Otter, otter@theriver.com

Wilderness
Co-Chairs: Michelle Pulich Stewart,
sun7river@yahoo.com & Jim Vaaler,
jimvaaler@msn.com

Wildlife & Endangered Species
Chair: Halina Szyposzynski,
hkubus@yahoo.com

Keep the Canyon Grand!

Power Point Program at Maricopa Audubon Meeting

October 4 (Tues) 7:30 p.m.
The Desert Botanical Garden
1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix
Dorrance Hall

Learn about the Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter's campaign to protect and restore Grand Canyon National Park and associated ecosystems!

The Grand Canyon is much more than a spectacular piece of scenery; it is a link to our past. The concept of setting aside wild places that represent the beauty, solitude and power of nature is an important part of the American psyche. Today, the wilderness character of the Grand Canyon is diminished by noise from scenic tour flights, motorized raft trips and visitor traffic. Valuable habitat is at risk from over a century of fire suppression, logging, grazing, mining and road building.

Roxane George, campaign coordinator, will present a beautiful and informative power point program that gives an overview of the threats facing one of our greatest natural treasures and the actions we can take to preserve the canyon for future generations. For more information, contact Roxane at: (928) 774-6514; roxane.george@sierraclub.org.

*All nature
wears one
universal
grin*

- Henry Fielding

West Valley Group Hosts Design Workshop

By Tom Lazelle

On Saturday, April 30 I attended a River Corridor Design Workshop at Estrella Mountain Community College. Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor hosted the workshop to present design concepts for the New and Agua Fria rivers. The Maricopa Flood Control District led the efforts of the Agua Fria Watercourse Masterplan. This master plan for reusing gravel pits, trash dumps, ATV trails and shooting galleries for multi-use recreation was formally initiated in 1998 by community leaders and developers in the West Valley. Several agencies have made the effort to produce scale models and display them at open houses since then. One such open house was at the West Valley Art Museum in Sun City hosted by the Maricopa Association of Governments in 2001. Public comments presented there were developed for inclusion at the April workshop. The Sun City Art Gallery is located in the in the Agua Fria river channel, one of the rivers considered in the corridor.

The Master Plan for 32 miles of this corridor between Lake Pleasant and the Gila River would provide for groundwater recharge and flood control. The Plan would change the floodplain designation for more than 1600 acres of land along the way and allow for parks, ballfields, playgrounds, equestrian and hiking trails, wetlands, riparian zones and wildlife habitats.

The workshop began with an oral overview, illustrated by a slide show, presented by board members of the Friends. We then broke into table team groups to discuss and consider uses for 3 sites:

Site 1: The Agua Fria River Channel at I-10 bridge adjacent to Avondale's Friendship Park. Perched water, steadily supplied by the I-10 Outfall Channel, has created a wetland that could be enhanced as an interpretive park.

Site 2: The CEMEX sand and gravel site located north of Bell Road. Reclamation options could a park, reclaimed farm land, inert landfill regional retention basin, an ATV recreational use area, ora a CAP recharge basin.

Site 3: McMiken Dam Outfall is now an ATV area. The site is owned by the Flood Control District on the west side of the Agua Fria river. The outfall could be a trailhead or regional park with access to trails extending to Lake Pleasant and the Gila River.

The three teams then selected a person to present their ideas on charts to the team members at large. A brief discussion and recapitulation followed and the meeting adjourned with lunch.

Tom is an active member of the Palo Verde group.

Sierra Club Job Opening

Arizona Monuments Organizer for Sierra Club's campaign to protect Arizona's five newest national monuments. We're looking for someone who wants to protect public lands, is effective at recruiting others to get involved, can work well in diverse coalitions, can present the issues to the media and the public, and can be effective with government agencies. Full-time, \$30,000/year, health benefits. Office in Phoenix. Apply to: AZ Monuments Organizer at: rob.smith@sierraclub.org (email preferred) or c/o Sierra Club Southwest Office, 202 E. McDowell, #277, Phoenix, AZ 85004. Include cover letter, resume and references. Please apply by September 20, 2005.

Note From the Editor

In the future, I will ask contributors to the Canyon Echo to choose one of the following three licensing options:

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If you do not indicate which option you prefer, the default choice will be standard copyright. Future editions of the Canyon Echo will include the explanatory box below.

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Contact: Gayle Lawrence - Florida for information. 1-727-785-5563
whalesongs@earthlink.net

The Creative Commons License

By Chris Gehlker

The Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) has approved a motion encouraging contributors to the Echo and the chapter's website to use a Creative Commons license. The motivation for this was to make clear the terms under which environmental activists can reproduce material from the Echo. The ExCom also wanted to support the free culture movement in recognition of the many links between the environmentalism and free culture.

Creative Commons is an organization dedicated to preserving part of our culture as a shared creation against increasing powerful forces that would reduce most of us to passive consumers who are allowed to express ourselves only with permission from the culture cartel. The very phrase "Freedom of expression" is now copyrighted and is used here with permission. The seminal work of the Creative Commons movement is "Free Culture" by Lawrence Lessig.

First let's deal with some confusion surrounding the phrase 'Creative Commons License'. When the lawyers at the Creative Commons organization conceived of the license they thought of it as a whole family of licenses and invented an elaborate procedure to generate custom licenses that would address the specific desires of creators. In practice, however, at least for text and still graphics, one version of the license seems to fit the needs of most people. This standard version, known technically as the Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Creative Commons License, is described below. It is the version that will be applied to your work if you simply tell the Canyon Echo editor that you want to use a Creative Commons License. If you want to explore other versions, visit <http://creativecommons.org/about/licenses/> on the web or ask the Echo editor for a copy

of "A Spectrum of Rights", a comic strip describing license options.

Perhaps the most important thing to understand about the Creative Commons license is that it is not a surrender of copyright on the part of the author and that none of the rights that it grants are exclusive. Any conditions in the license may be waived if the user gains permission from the copyright owner. In particular, the author, artist or photographer is not prohibiting the use of their work commercially. They are only saying that the user must negotiate appropriate compensation with them prior to any such commercial use. Photographers in particular will often release their work under a Creative Commons license as a way of exposing it to potential commercial buyers.

What the authors are doing is granting permission for anyone to copy, distribute, display, and perform the work and to make derivative works only so long as they abide by the following conditions:

- They must attribute the work to the author.
- They may not use the work for commercial purposes.
- If they alter, transform, or build upon this work, they may distribute the resulting work only under a license identical to this one.

So if I'm making a movie about environmental activism and there is a scene where Sandy is reading your poem out of the Echo I'm OK as long as I list you as the author of the poem in the movie credits and I license the movie under the Creative Commons license. If I want to do anything else, I need your permission.

Chris is the Chapter membership chair.



Giant Sequoias are the most massive trees on the planet—some stand as tall as the Statue of Liberty and date back over 3,000 years, making them among the largest and oldest organisms on Earth. Today, plans to open the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the chainsaws of the logging industry threaten its conservation. We need your help now—only an active citizenry can stop this destructive action that will forever damage treasures such as the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

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Looking for a Thanksgiving Outing?

Join us for a Thanksgiving hike and potluck feast at Usury Park. The park entrance fee is \$5.00 per car. Seven tables (on the south side of Area 10) are reserved from 10am to 2pm. Come early to hike and visit. We will be dining at Area 10 at noon. If you would like more information, or want to arrange a car pool to the site, contact Deb: azhappyhiker@yahoo.com

Also, look for more information in the November/December Canyon Echo!

Celebrating Sierra Club Volunteers Picnic

Sunday, November 6th Noon - 3PM

Join us for our annual Potluck and Volunteer Awards Recognition Picnic. This will be fun! Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a beautiful fall day in Papago Park. The Grand Canyon Chapter will provide drinks, plates, and utensils. This is a free event all you need to bring is the dish you wish to share. For more details or to RSVP contact the Chapter office at (602) 253-9140 or (602) 253-8633.

News from the Grand Canyon

Jacob-Ryan: One Win for the Old Growth - Back Into the Fray

By Roxane George

The great news is that on July 13, the Sierra Club won our appeal of the Jacob Ryan project, thereby halting the logging of thousands of old growth trees on the North Kaibab National Forest near Grand Canyon National Park.

The bad news is that the Forest Service, contrary to any notions of good faith or stewardship, is claiming that they can just "fix some errors" and proceed with the same destructive logging project by writing a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As usual, they are also claiming that they're only

cutting "on average" several large old growth trees per acre over 22,000 acres. This would be around 44,000 old growth trees, no matter how you count them!

We're not sure when the new EIS will be out, so please take a few minutes to write or email the Forest Service, telling them you want to comment on the new Jacob-Ryan plan. You can include one or all of the points below.



Suggested Comments for the Jacob-Ryan Plan

- In a so-called "thinning" project, logging old growth trees is unjustified. Most of the trees in the Jacob-Ryan area are 5 inches in diameter or smaller. It is these small, young trees that pose the fire and forest health threat; the already rare, fire resistant old growth should be left alone.
- Since 95% of our historic old growth has already been logged, even 1-2 trees per acre, on "average" or otherwise, is too many.
- Using averages does not represent the situation on the ground. In reality, the Forest Service was planning to cut a 100 foot wide swath of old growth trees on scenic portions of Highways 89A and 67 leading to the Grand Canyon, as well as to remove a significant portion of the old growth in other parts of the project. While it may sound better to say they are cutting 1-2 trees per acre, that isn't true and it isn't insignificant. They aren't trying to cut "several" old growth trees on each acre; they're proposing to cut many old growth trees on some acres and none on others.
- Paradoxically some of the best wildlife habitat remaining in the area is along the road. For decades the Forest Service logged old growth in the area, leaving an unlogged "beauty strip" along the highway. Now those stands along the roadside have some of the biggest trees remaining. Ironically, the Forest Service claimed that logging the old growth would "improve" the scenic quality of the forest-lined drive by reducing what the Forest Service called a "monotonous" and "tunnel-like" driving experience. The Forest Service cannot justify logging these trees to improve visual quality, nor should they be logging them under the excuse that some day, some of them may die and fall down, even though they're alive and posing no public health threat now.
- The appeal decision said that the Forest Service violated its own Forest Plan and the National Environmental Policy Act in this decision. It is not acceptable that the Forest Service should just re-release the same bad logging proposal with some new justifications thrown in to support what they already decided to do. The point of environmental analysis is to make an informed decision, not to justify a predetermined outcome. Yet the Forest Supervisor for the Kaibab has declared to the press that "he'd fix what he called some errors and misunderstandings, then logging would proceed" (AZ Daily Sun, July 25, 2005).

We aim to see that this doesn't happen. The Forest Service contact is: Jill Leonard, North Kaibab District Ranger, PO Box 248, Fredonia, AZ 86022; Fax (928) 643-8105; email: comments-southwestern-kaibab-north-kaibab@fs.fed.us.

Please copy us at the Sierra Club on anything you send so we can track our efforts. We can also put you on our list to send an update when the new EIS comes out: phone/fax: (928) 774-6514; email: roxane.george@sierraclub.org; mail: 318 W. Birch, Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Grand Canyon Area Management Plan Expected Soon

By Roxane George

The Bureau of Land Management is expected to come out with a draft Resource Protection Plan for Vermilion Cliffs and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monuments this fall. These two monuments north of Grand Canyon National Park were designated by Presidential Proclamation in the year 2000, and constitute a significant portion of the protected areas within the greater Grand Canyon region. The monuments' important habitats, from Mohave desert shrublands to springs and old growth forests, are threatened by human activities. Strong public support and participation in the planning process will decide the future of their outstanding natural and cultural values. The Sierra Club will work to ensure that Vermilion Cliffs and Grand Canyon-Parashant will still hold bighorn sheep,

California condors, mountain lions, pronghorn and desert tortoises, as well as the history of ancestral Pueblo cultures, Spanish explorers, and Mormon settlers embodied in its richness of cultural artifacts, for generations to come. We will provide updates in future issues of the Echo.

Meanwhile, contact our Grand Canyon Protection Campaign for updates and information on these and other important planning processes for the greater Grand Canyon Ecoregion: (928) 774-6542; roxane.george@sierraclub.org.



Limiting North Rim Development NPS Issues Environmental Assessment

By Roxane George

The North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park provides unique opportunities for relatively primitive, un-crowded viewing and recreational experiences. Maintaining these qualities is one of the goals of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon protection campaign. This summer, the National Park Service (NPS) put out an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim Development Plan. The EA proposes actions to "improve visitor orientation and interpretation, vehicle and non-vehicular circulation, employee housing and the use of various buildings ..." (EA, summary), with a primary objective to "Preserve the rustic character of the North Rim" (EA, pg 6).

Only one action alternative, Alternative B, is proposed to accomplish the Park's goals. For the most part, Alternative B includes low impact actions, emphasizing re-use and rehabilitation of existing structures and already disturbed areas; the Park has taken a conservative approach consistent with the Sierra Club's recommendations in previous planning processes. These actions include: the installation of an informational kiosk south of the entrance station; enhanced interpretive media along area trails; expanded interpretive exhibits and media in the existing visitor center and the Lodge; reconfiguration of the Lodge road and parking area; widening of the North Kaibab Trailhead parking area; construction of a Greenway trail segment between the North Kaibab Trailhead and the Lodge; adaptive reuse and/or rehabilitation of various buildings throughout the developed area; redesign and expansion of Norton trailer court; and establishment of a seasonal work camp on CC Hill and; improvements to visitor facilities and support functions in the Lodge area.

Of these proposed actions, the Greenway trail segment is a concern. This proposed "trail" is an approximately 9-foot wide multi-use section of hardened soil that would stretch

between the North Kaibab Trailhead and Grand Canyon Lodge, using the alignment of the existing Bridle Trail. According to the EA, the NPS 1995 General Management Plan for Grand Canyon includes the development of a rim trail to connect CC Hill, Grand Canyon Lodge, and the Transept Trail, which the Bridle trail does poorly, because it is a narrow, often steep footpath that is not accessible to people with disabilities and unsuitable for bicycles. While we support improvements to the existing trail to increase its usability and reduce the number of social trails, the EA fails to justify creating what will essentially be a road along the north rim. The Greenway trail, as proposed, is excessive and unnecessary.

The Chapter submitted comments on the plan, asking the Park Service to either change its preferred alternative to include a modified version of the Greenways Trail, or to analyze another alternative with a modified trail in the final analysis. We also asked the Park to analyze the impacts of winter snowmobile use at the Park and commended their use of existing structures and already disturbed areas to reduce ground impacts and save trees.

The comment deadline ended on August 16, but you can still let the Park Service know how much you want the primitive, serene beauty of the North Rim protected by addressing a letter to: Joseph F. Alston, Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Attention: Sara White, Compliance Officer, P.O. Box 129/I Village Loop, Grand Canyon Arizona 86023.



Every bit as exciting as a walrus herd, the Grand Canyon Action Network is worth your attention... Check it out and keep up to date on your local Sierra Club Action Alerts.



Photo courtesy of geekphilosopher.com

Grand Canyon
Action Network

<http://grandcanyon.sierraclubaction.org>

Sign up today to make your voice
heard on the issues affecting our
home, the environment.



Happenings Around the State

Welcome! Six Groups make up the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter (see pg.2 for listings). Conservation, political and legislative activism, administrative work, and outings are a few ways we work to protect this amazing state. And there are many more! **All the events and meetings listed below are open to members interested in learning more about the Sierra Club.** We aim to make this world a better, more livable place. **We need your help!** You can find out more at our website: www.arizona.sierraclub.org - click on meetings.

Keeping Groups in the Loop

Meetings are open to the public. For directions, please call or email the contact person listed.

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix and suburbs)

Phoenix Inner City Outings An outreach program of the club providing wilderness opportunities to Inner City Youth. New volunteers & interested parties welcome! **2nd Friday of every month, 7PM, at the Willow House**, 3rd Ave. & McDowell. Please contact us at phoenix.ico@grandcanyon.sierraclub.org or (602) 867-3017 to confirm meeting time & date.

Sept 13 (Tues) Mountain Lion presentation at PhoenixZoo A presentation entitled "Living with Mountain Lions: Big Cats Need Big Spaces" at 7:00 at the Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Pkwy. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 or sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Sept 20 and Oct 11 (Tues) Palo Verde Group Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings. The Palo Verde Group Conservation Committee meets at 7:00 pm to discuss issues related to desert preservation, forest protection, wildlife and endangered species, energy conservation, growth management, etc. At the Sierra Club office, 202 E. McDowell in Phoenix (2nd floor conference room in the southeast corner of the Los Olivos - Econolodge Suites). Contact **Don Steuter** (602-956-5057 - donsteuter@aol.com). The Group Ex-Comm meets at 8:30 pm to review matters related to group policies, outdoor activities, finances, and other business. Contact **Paul Zemboy** (canyontrekker@hotmail.com or (602) 989-1977). Both meetings held at the Sierra Club office, 202 E. McDowell in Phoenix (2nd floor conference room in the southeast corner of the Los Olivos - Econolodge Suites).

Sept 22 (Thurs) Outings Leaders Planning Meeting. Join us for our bi-monthly get-together to talk about all the hiking, biking, backpacking, camping, and other outdoor activities we'll be leading in November/December, and beyond, as well as happy hours, dinner and movie nights, and other socially responsible activities. Have you ever thought about being an outings leader? Come to this meeting and see what it takes! Feel free to attend if you would like to plan an event (current outings leaders), offer suggestions, or just see what the heck we're up to. If you can't make it to the meeting, but have an event that you're planning to put on the calendar, then it would be most thoughtful of you to send your idea in advance to me so that the rest of us can be aware of it. For more information or the location (TBD) contact Darrell Foster at AZ-Outdoorsman@cox.net (preferred) or 602-569-5549.

Oct 18 (Tues) Colorado River Rafting presentation at Phoenix Zoo. 7 PM Palo Verde Group general meeting. Jim Vaaler will do a slide presentation on rafting in the Grand Canyon. Jim is a veteran of 14 GC raft trips as well as having rafted many other rivers in the American West. This presentation will feature a trip from June of 2004 when Jim rowed an 18 ft. Maravia as partial kayak support for 10 kayaks. Jim would like

Plateau Group (Flagstaff and surrounding area)

Oct 13 (Thurs), 7:00 p.m., General Meeting Representative Tom O'Halleran is a key water issues leader in the state legislature. He will come up from his home in Sedona to help us understand this upcoming critical issue. This will be an informative and interesting discussion. Please attend at the Federated Church in Flagstaff, 400 W. Aspen, just west of the Flagstaff Main Library. Call Jim McCarthy at 928-779-3748 for further information.

Yavapai Group (Prescott and surrounding area)

Sept 29 (Thurs) General Public Meeting will be held from 7-9 PM at the Adult Center, 335 E. Aubrey. The Citizens For Reasonable Growth will provide a power point presentation and discussion of Prop. 400 The Reasonable Growth Initiative. Light refreshments will be served. For information contact Tom at (928)778-4233

Sedona/Verde Valley Group

The **Sedona/Verde Valley Sierra Club Group is looking for** individuals who would like to get involved as leaders in our Executive Committee and other equally critical posts. We need spirited people who think outside the box, don't mind a little work, and like to have a good time while working on some of our region's most pressing environmental challenges. If you would like to help set direction for your Sierra Club Group, or you're an experienced hike leader, have ideas for service outings, or like to plan events, please contact Carole Piszczek-Sheffield at (928) 204.1517 or email carolepiszczek@yahoo.com.

Chapter Announcements

The **Chapter Political Committee** meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30PM in the Sierra Club's Phoenix office. All members are welcome to discuss legislative and federal issues, and act as advocates for conservation by taking political action. Contact Lynn DeMuth at Imdemuth@cox.net for details.

Sept 15 (Thurs) 6:30 PM Wildlife Committee Meeting Interested in protecting Arizona's amazing wildlife? The Chapter wildlife committee meets the third Thursday of every other month to discuss ongoing work on behalf of wildlife protection. Location: Sierra Club Office (2nd Floor, 202 E McDowell Rd, Rm 277) in Phoenix. Please contact Halina at hkubus@yahoo.com or Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633.

Sept 27 and Oct 25 (Tues) 6 PM Energy Committee Meeting The revitalized Energy Committee meets to discuss the current state of energy production and use in Arizona. We will also talk about the national scene and local energy issues. Everyone is invited to come and participate no matter how much or how little you know about energy issues. Sierra Club 2nd floor conference room in Phoenix. Please contact Jon Findley at (480) 756-2916 or email jonaz@learnweb.com

Sept 30 (Fri) Copy Deadline for Nov/Dec 2005 Canyon Echo, Theme: Water Submissions of articles, drawings, photographs, poetry, essays, calls to action, and brief epiphanies are welcome. See writer guidelines on pg. 2. We recommend contacting the editor before writing (602) 253-9140 or kate.darby@sierraclub.org to discuss word count, issue topics and other writing details.

Oct 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Chapter Conservation and Executive Committee meeting in Flagstaff. Conservation meeting is Saturday, ExCom meets Sunday. Call (602) 253-8633 for more information.

Oct 31 (Weds) Canyon Echo Mailing Party, 2:00-7:00 PM (stop by anytime). Club volunteers save the chapter thousands of dollars every year by preparing the *Canyon Echo* for mailing. Thank you! The job is easy to learn and takes only a few hours once every two months. We all have a **good time**. Work begins at 2:00PM and continues until all copies are addressed, bundled and sacked, usually around 7:00PM or earlier. You're free to arrive as your schedule allows and any amount of time is appreciated. Contact Jerry Nelson at (602) 279-4668 (peakbagger2@cox.net) or Bill Gill at (gill512@cox.net) for location and other details.

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)

Sept 21 (Weds) Global Population and Impact on the Environment Talk Annette Souder of the Sierra Club National Population Committee will speak at 7 pm at the Desert Retreat Center, 7415 E Elbow Bend, Carefree. The program will focus on how global population "fits in" to the Club's mission, why now is the time to raise concerns about population at home and abroad, how family planning affects the environment, what are some solutions to the problem, and how we can become involved. Group discussion will follow; refreshments will be served. North on Scottsdale Rd, past Carefree Hy, right after Basha's on Carefree Dr, 2nd right on Sidewinder, 1st left on Elbow Bend. Retreat is on right, park in rear. Contact Louis Lantz for information: (480) 488 4581.

Oct 19 (Weds) Saguaro Group Excom Meeting Harris Bank Community Room, SE corner of Scottsdale Road and Carefree Hy. 7 PM. Call Louis Lantz (480) 488-4581.

Rincon Group (Tucson and surrounding area)

Sept 8 (Thurs) Evening Program 7 PM The Tumacacori Highlands: Can We Preserve Them as a Federal Wilderness Area?

This program will feature Mike Quigley of Sky Island Alliance, who will be discussing Sky Island's new wilderness campaign, with particular focus on designating the Tumacacori Highlands a Federal Wilderness Area. Included in his talk will be discussion of various species making the Tumacacori Highlands habitat their home, with special focus on the jaguar. Tucson Botanical Gardens. 2150 N. Alvernon. Free, ample, on-site parking. Refreshments. For more information, call (520) 747-5078

Sept 15 & Oct 20 (Thurs) Rincon Group Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM to discuss local environmental issues. Location: main floor conference room of the Historic YWCA. 738 N. 5th Ave. at University Blvd. Call Jan Anderson at (520) 682-8850 for details.

Sept 22 (Thurs) Global Population Evening Talk New Location. At 7 PM we will be offering a special program when national Sierra Club Senior Washington Representative on Global Population and the Environment Annette Souder joins us for a special presentation on this most critical topic. Please note the new location for this one program only. This program is jointly sponsored by the Rincon Group and Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona. Location: Clarion Hotel, Randolph Park, 102 N. Alvernon Way (between Broadway & E 5th Streets) For further information or directions, please call: (520) 747-5078.



Enjoy and Explore Arizona

SEPT 3 (SAT) Rockclimbing at The Druid, Mt. Lemmon Escape the heat and join us at this great climbing area overlooking Tucson. A variety of routes will be set up on top-rope in the 5.8-5.10+ range. Located at approximately 8,000' among an array of ponderosa pines and juniper trees, participants will experience Mt. Lemmon's biodiversity in comparison to the desert flora at lower elevations. This will also be an opportunity to see regrowth affected by the Aspen Fire of 2003 and learn more about fire ecology. Optional overnight at Bear Wallow Campground near MP 21 on Mt. Lemmon Hwy. (See Sept 4 Ridgeline climbing outing). A day-use pass (\$5 - good for 3-days) or annual pass is required, which can be purchased en route to the climbing area. We'll meet at the Palisades Ranger Station at MP 19.9. Sponsored by the Rincon Mountaineering Section, this outing requires Sierra Club membership, rock climbing experience and the following: climbing harness, climbing shoes, helmet, belay device, three locking carabiners and personal anchor sling. Bringing ropes, extra slings and carabiners are always appreciated. Contact Janet Krisinski-Saxer or Chris Saxer at (520) 743-8017 (jski@cox.net). **Tucson**

SEPT 4 (SUN) Rockclimbing at The Ridgeline Mt. Lemmon, Santa Catalina Mountains. Join us as we continue our Labor Day climbing weekend to escape the heat. A variety of routes will be set up on top-rope in the 5.5-5.10+ range. Located at approximately 8,000' elevation our group will further appreciate the beautiful vistas while experiencing Mt. Lemmon's biodiversity in comparison to the desert flora at lower elevations. See Sept. 3 trip description for additional information, overnight option and equipment requirements. **Tucson**

SEPT 10 (SAT) "B" Mountain Humphreys Trail Day Hike (9.0 miles RT, 3843' EC) This steep mountain trail leads to the highest point in Arizona. Along its 4.5-mile course is a thriving alpine forest streaked with huge rock slides and avalanche tracks which hug the mountain's slopes. Humphrey's trail is steep, long and extremely rocky in its higher reaches. At the summit ridge you'll feel like you're standing on top of the world. Located 14.5 miles northeast of Flagstaff. Trip Leader: Nancy Sutherland, (928) 774-9309, for meeting time and location. **Flagstaff**

SEPT 10 (SAT) "B" Sycamore Canyon, Pajarita Mountains, Coronado National Forest (6-8 hours, leisurely pace). We'll explore a verdant, magnificent canyon that reaches the international border with Mexico. We'll meet at Starbucks at University and Euclid at 8 a.m. In-and-out route of approximately 10 miles; net elevation change of 50'. Call Stu Williams at (520) 465-0322 or az_kuaaina@yahoo.com. A minimum of five persons and maximum of 12 persons applies. **Tucson**

SEPT 11 (SUN) "A" Tonto Creek Hike/Swim (8 mi, 500' EC) Come see the towering cliffs and beautiful pools of Tonto Creek, as we study the diverse, abundant life forms of this rich riparian area. We'll access Tonto Creek via Gisela, hike about a mile to the creek, then do another mile above the creek. After that it's down into the creek, continuing upstream, with lots of swimming, boulder-scampering, and wading. A flotation device, water-proofed bag, and quick-drying clothes are recommended. Must be strong, agile hiker, good swimmer. Limit is 15. Gary Hendrickson: ghendri450@aol.com, (480) 423-3898. **Phoenix**

SEPT 16 (FRI) 5:30 Rustler's Rooste Happy Hour/South Mountain Moonlit "D" Hike Join us for some socializing and then a moonlit stroll through the South Mountain Preserve - come for one or both. We will meet in the upstairs bar area, where a complementary buffet and happy hour specials run until 6:30. Around 7:30 we will hit the trail that offers great views of the city's lights as well as some darker valleys to enjoy the lunar light. We will hike 2-3 miles at a very leisurely pace. Bring a small flashlight. Rustler's Rooste is located at 7777 S. Pointe Parkway West in Phoenix, (602) 431-6474. For more information contact Darrell Foster at AZ-Outdoorsman@cox.net (preferred) or (602) 569-5549, otherwise just show up. **Phoenix**

SEPT 17 (SAT) "B" Willow Creek/ West Clear Creek Water-Hike Join us for a nontechnical canyoneering adventure through a spectacular, remote riparian canyon with large "slotted" pools and lush vegetation. Our destination is Willow Creek and the headwaters of West Clear Creek in the WCC Wilderness on the Mogollon Rim. We will scramble 400' down the side of the canyon to Willow Creek. We will immediately hit a few pools that require a swim/float in the Coconino sandstone narrows, giving us an opportunity to study the hydrologic effects on the canyons geology. We continue down stream under towering canyon walls until reaching the confluence with Clover Creek, where WCC originates. We'll follow the Tramway Trail out of the canyon. Scrambling, off-trail hiking, rock-hopping and swimming are all included in this awesome adventure. You must be a strong, agile hiker and able to swim. High clearance vehicles are needed, please volunteer. The complete OW hike is about 7 miles (-700'+700' EC, harder than it sounds), with a short shuttle. The TH elevation is 6,800'. We will gather afterwards at a favorite restaurant near Camp Verde. Limit 15. Contact Darrell Foster at AZ-Outdoorsman@cox.net (preferred) or (602) 569-5549. **Phoenix**

SEPT 20 (TUES) "C" Bev's Tuesday Hike 7 AM - Cave Creek Park Overton Trail 3-mile loop. Breakfast after at Flapjack Café in Cave Creek. Contact Bev: (480) 595 2306 **N. Phoenix**

SEPT 22 (THURS) "C" Say Goodbye to Summer! Start at Little Horse Trailhead south of Sedona, hike through Red Rock country to the base of Cathedral Rock, easy out-and-back, 6.4 miles round trip. We'll back in time for coffee in the Village! Call Carole at (928) 204-1269 for details. **Sedona**

SEPT 23-24-25 (FRI-SAT-SUN) Grand Canyon Music Festival Weekend, "D" hikes & Potluck Picnic. Attend one or two of the Chamber Music Concerts (Fri. & Sat. nights), hike on Sat. and hike with potluck picnic on Sun. Fri. & Sat. night concerts artists include the quartet Ethel and the Native American Composers Apprentice Project. More info at: www.grandcanyonchambermusic.org. Our special group rate is \$20 each evening. On Saturday our hike will be a leisurely rim hike in the Zuni Point area including ancient Indian ruins (less than 3 mi. & 500' EC). Bob Audretsch will lead hikes. On Sunday we will hike out to Shoshone Point for an early afternoon potluck picnic (2 mi. RT, little EC). Hotel info: www.grandcanyoninformation.com or www.xanterra.com. For more info and registration contact Susan Blanchard at s.v.blanchard@earthlink.net or (928) 284-1833. **Sedona**

SEPT 24 (SAT) "B" Indian Maiden Falls/ West Clear Creek Water-Hike Join us for a nontechnical canyoneering adventure as we continue explore the middle section of West

Clear Creek in the WCC Wilderness just outside of Camp Verde. We will scramble 1,600' down the side of the canyon on Trail 17 until we hit the cool waters of WCC. Then head upstream, in and out of the creek, until reaching Indian Maiden Falls. Here in the Supai sandstone formation we will enjoy our lunch and take in all of the wondrous geology of this red-rocked riparian paradise. Most of this hike has no trails. Scrambling, rock-hopping and swimming are all included in this awesome adventure. You must be a strong, agile hiker and able to swim. High clearance vehicles are needed, please volunteer. The complete hike is about 7 miles RT and EC is -1,600'+1,600' (very steep, sun exposed), starting at 5,800'. We will gather afterwards at a favorite restaurant just outside Camp Verde. Limit 15. Contact Darrell Foster at AZ-Outdoorsman@cox.net (preferred) or (602) 569-5549 **Phoenix**

SEPT 24 (SAT) "C" Weatherford Canyon Trail Day Hike (4.0 miles RT, 1000' EC) This trail features high mountains and aspen groves as it climbs through a scenic canyon on the southeast face of the San Francisco Peaks. Located 8.7 miles N of Flagstaff. Trip Leader: Nancy Sutherland, (928) 774-9309, for meeting time and location. **Flagstaff**

SEPT 27 (TUES) "C" Bev's Tuesday Hike 7 AM, Jojoba Trail at Bartlett Lake. Hike approximately 5 miles along the lake. Lunch at the Pancake House in Carefree. Contact Bev (480) 595-2306. **N. Phoenix**

SEPT 30 - OCT 3 (FRI-MON), POINT SUBLIME CAMP-OUT, GRAND CANYON NORTH RIM. "D" Hikes along rim. This is a "slow and steady" vehicular venture through ancient ponderosa forest, with aspens in full autumnal splendor, to a climactic Canyon vista point and 2-night camping spot aptly named Point Sublime. We'll learn about the historic, scientific, literary and artistic accomplishments there 125 years ago that led the Sierra Club to recently nominate the site as a national historic landmark. We'll survey the site, swoon at the sunset and check out the contrasts between its natural quiet and the helicopter air tour situation nearby. Point Sublime is a focal point in our effort to restore the natural quiet of Grand Canyon.

Our group campsite for Oct. 1-2 is reached by a primitive 17-mile road. There are a couple

of picnic tables. Bring own water and food, no facilities. No cell phones there, please. (Optional: Those arriving at North Rim early enough on Sept. 30 can join the leader at a very special sunset vista area) Contact trip leader Dick Hingson t dhingson@infowest.com or Roxane George at (928) 774-6514.

SEPT 30-OCT 4 (SAT-WED) Green River, Utah Canoe/Kayak Float Trip. Drive or carpool to Moab on Sept 28. Shuttle to the river on the 29th. Camp 4 nights on sandy beaches. Explore side canyons. Enjoy social hours, delicious meals, nightly camp fires, and good company. Everything provided except your own tent, sleeping bag, eating utensils and water. Donation requested: \$275 for Chapter conservation projects. Mail a \$100 deposit to Chapter Canoe Outing, 202 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix AZ 85004. Call Bev Full for information at (480) 585-2306. **Phoenix**

OCT 1 (SAT) "C" Kachina Trail Day Hike (6.5 miles, 800' EC) This trail starts at 9,400' and winds easterly across the Flagstaff side of the San Francisco peaks. We will pass through forests of aspen, fir and spruce with breathtaking views of Fremont and Doyle peaks. This is a must for viewing fall colors! Car shuttle will be required. Trip Leader: Nancy Sutherland, (928) 774-9309, for meeting time and location. **Flagstaff**

OCT 8 (SAT) Bartolo Mountain, Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Proposal Area (5 miles & 2000' EC) (Maps are Ruby & Murphy Peak quads) (200-mile RT drive) This hike will be an all cross country loop from the area south of Apache Pass Dam. I will distribute information about the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Proposal. (See Rincon Group's Sept. 8 program.) We will need high clearance 4x4 vehicles to get to the parking area. The hike is suitable for people who have easily done cross country peak climbs of similar elevation gain and distance in the past year. Bring food, water, and appropriate clothing for a rough cross country hike. Limit 12. Trip Leader, Peter Bengtson (520) 219-3507 **Tucson**

OCT 8 - 9 (SAT- SUN) A Pair of Perfect "Secret 10s" Weekend (Sedona/Rim - Car

See Outings continued on pg. 12

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 phone the contact for directions, reservations, time and additional information.

RESTRICTIONS: NO FIREARMS, RADIOS OR PETS.

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

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://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> 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 or her own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately. If you leave the trip, with or without the leader's permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Hikers are encouraged to carpool and share the driver's fuel expense. Suggested compensation is 5 cents/mile. Donations 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, call Jim Vaaler, (602) 553-8208. Hikes and outings are also listed in the Rincon Group newsletter and in the Palo Verde Group Sierra Club Singles newsletter.

Enjoy and Explore Arizona

Outings continued from pg. 11

Camp, "A" & "B" Hikes Join us for this weekend adventure as we hike along the Rim of Secret Mountain on Sat. and drop down through Secret Canyon on Sun. Early Sat. morning we will drive up to Sedona and leave two vehicles at the bottom of the Secret Canyon TH. We will then drive up onto the Rim and set up our camp, and then we'll do an out-and-back on the Secret Mountain Trail. This "B" 10-mile hike with 2,500' EC parallels the Rim and gives spectacular views of the Red Rock Country below. Sun. we scramble down into the top of Secret Canyon and hike through to the bottom. Few have been completely through this beautiful canyon. We'll have an opportunity to study the canyon's turning flora and majestic geology including Coconino and the red Supai sandstone. This "A" 10-mile hike with 2,000' EC will involve scrambling, off-trail hiking, rock-hopping and pushing through some brush. After exiting the canyon we will shuttle back, break camp and drive home. Vehicles must be high-clearance, buddy-up with someone if possible. Limit: 10 (strong & fast, of course) Darrell Foster at AZ-Outdoorsman@cox.net (preferred) or (602) 569-5549. **Phoenix**

OCT 15 (SAT) "C" Hike 6 Miles in See Canyon on the Rim This is an easy pace hike with time allowed to enjoy the creek, springs, and views. Carpool from Phoenix. Optional dinner in Christopher Creek following hike. Contact Richard Hand for information. (480) 595-9977 **N. Phoenix**

OCT 15 (SAT) "B" Barnhart Trail Day Hike We will hike the Barnhart Trail in the Mazatzal Wilderness and inspect nature's recovery effort after last year's forest fire. Leader: David Mowry (623) 915-5509. **Phoenix**

OCT 15-16 (SAT-SUN) "A+" 8th Annual John Mogk Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim Hike (23 mi., 9,500' EC - 5,000 down, 4,500 up) This hike's founder moved to Vancouver, but in his honor we are carrying on the tradition. Join us for a strenuous north to south hike down the North Kaibab trail and up the Bright Angel trail. No time to stop and smell the roses as you travel through geologic time, feast your eyes on spectacular views, waterfalls and the raging Colorado River, and occasionally observe wildlife (condors, rams, deer). Depart Sat. 9am from the Bell Road and I-17 Denny's in rented vans (leave your car) and drive to the North Rim to Jacob's Lake Inn in the beautiful Kaibab forest for a welcome dinner, camaraderie, and restful night in rustic cabins. Arise early to hike all day and return home on Sun. Well-conditioned hikers only. [Optional south to north hike for the ambitious on Sat.]. We suggest a light day pack with adequate food and drink for the trail and appropriate clothing. Be prepared for all weather possibilities. Availability is limited. RSVP to Jim Miller at JMiller@ciwood.com (602) 863-6230 or Loraine Gilbreath at lgilbreath@nmpct.org (602) 955-3000. Fee: \$150 for transportation, gas and lodging. **Phoenix**

OCT 16 (SUN) Ruby & Chiminea Peaks Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Proposal (5 miles & 1900' EC) (Map is the Ruby Quad) (Driving distance is 200 miles) We will do an all-cross country hike from a FS road west of the peaks. We'll climb Ruby, then go to Chiminea and return to the cars by a different route. I will distribute information about the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Proposal. (See Rincon Group's Sept. 8 program.) We will need high clearance vehicles to get to the parking area. The hike is suitable for people who have easily done cross country peak climbs of similar elevation gain and distance in the past year. Bring food, water, and appropriate clothing for a rough cross country hike. Limit: 12. Trip Leader, Peter Bengtson (520) 219-3507 **Tucson**

OCT 16 (SUN) "B+" Wilderness of Rocks (9-10 miles RT, 2000' EC). We will start from the top of Mt. Lemmon and descend into the Wilderness of Rocks making a loop with the Mt. Lemmon Trail, the Wilderness of Rocks Trail and the trail passing the Lemmon Rock fire tower. Expect to see fantastic rock formations, flowing water and dense forest. Bring plenty of water and expect to have a relaxing lunch about halfway through the hike in the Wilderness of Rocks. The pace will be fairly relaxed and exploring will be encouraged. Contact Drew Milsom at (520) 908-1087 (evenings) or (520) 621-2678 (daytime). **Tucson**

OCT 18 (TUES) "C" Bev's Tuesday Hike - Cactus Trail loop, McDowell Mt. Regional Park Hike a 5 mile loop around Granite Mountain. Lunch at Carefree Inn in Carefree. Contact Bev (480) 595-2306 **N. Phoenix**

OCT 22 (SAT) "B" Kelly Canyon through Pumphouse Wash Hike Join us for a rock-hopping, scrambling adventure through a couple canyons that feed the headwaters of Oak Creek Canyon. The fun begins at Kelly Canyon just off I-17 and south of Flag. After setting up the shuttle, we'll drop down into the canyon with its old growth ponderosa pine, on our way to Pumphouse Wash. The scrambling and rock-hopping intensifies here under the turning color of the bigtooth maples, giving us ample opportunity to study the geological effects of flash flooding until reaching the lower bridge crossing on Hwy 89A. You must be a strong, agile hiker. High clearance vehicles are needed, please volunteer. The hike is about 7 miles OW, with a considerable shuttle. The EC is -1,000' from the trailhead elevation of 6,700'. We will gather afterwards at a favorite restaurant. Contact Darrell Foster at AZ-Outdoorsman@cox.net (preferred) or 602-569-5549. **Phoenix**

OCT 22 (SAT) "B" Heart of Rocks Loop, Chiricahua National Monument, Chiricahua Mountains (6-8 hours, moderate pace). Meet at the Starbucks at Broadway and Houghton at 7:30 a.m. We should be at the trailhead at 9:30 a.m. Loop is 8.5 miles. Terrific geology! Contact Stu Williams at (520) 465-0322 or az_kuaaina@yahoo.com. Minimum:5, Limit: 12. **Tucson**

OCT 22 (SAT) "B" Mesquite Ridge Day Hike (8 miles, +500'-1400' elevation change) This educational trek will take us off trail from the Tortilla Trailhead Road to Mesquite Flat in the Superstition Wilderness, following ridges and bagging high points along the way. There will be uphill and downhill travel over slickrock terrain with steep, rocky slopes, cliffs and drop-offs, and prickly brush aplenty. We will parallel Mesquite Creek from high above and enjoy some of the finest views in the Superstitions along this geologically significant route. Gloves and cameras recommended. Call Ted Tenny (480) 396-3389. **Phoenix**

OCT 22-23 (SAT-SUN) "C" Sierra Ancha Wilderness Hikes Camp out on Saturday night in a National Forest campground. Hike into the wilderness on Saturday and Sunday. Return home with a dinner stop in Globe. Call Louis Lantz (480) 488-4581 **N. Phoenix**

OCT 25 (TUES) "C" Bev's Tuesday Hike Hike 4 miles down to and along the Black Canyon of the Agua Fria in Agua Fria National Monument. Lunch in Black Canyon City. Contact Bev for meeting place and details. (480) 595-2306 **N. Phoenix**

OCT 28-30 (FRI-SUN) "A" Ash Creek Backpack This on trail backpack will take place in the Mt. Graham Wilderness Study Area (Pinaleno Mtns) near Safford. Starting at 9,400', we will pass the Mt. Graham Mill Site and

continue on, negotiating the Ash Creek catwalk and then pass scenic Slickrock Falls and Ash Creek Falls before descending to our basecamp at Oak Flat (at 6,400'). Participants can spend the layover day hiking down Ash Creek past an area of falls, cataracts, and beautiful Canyon Scenery, or doing absolutely nothing. Hiking distance (not counting layover) is about 16 miles RT. Your leader will talk about the environmental and wilderness history of this area: red squirrels, telescopes, politics, and fire have all played a central role here. Through all the controversy runs the thread and hope of Wilderness. For reservations, meeting time and place; call your leader, Jim Vaaler, at (602) 553-8208. **Phoenix**

OCT 29 (SAT) "C" Woodchute Wilderness Day Hike (8 miles RT, 700' EC). Enjoy some fall color, a mountain pond in a scenic bowl, a peaceful forest on top of 7,200' Woodchute Mountain, and remarkable views from the precipice where logs in years past were chuted down for the Jerome mines. After the hike enjoy a snack in colorful, historic Jerome. Contact Henry Mellon (928) 646-5484 for meeting location and time. **Sedona/Verde Valley**

OCT 29 (SAT) "C" Spur Cross Dayhike Hike Spur Cross with special guests, members of the Arizona Ecumenical Council Earth Friends. Coffee after hike at Cave Creek Coffee Company. Contact Louis Lantz for details and reservations. (480) 488-4581. **N. Phoenix**

OCT 29 (SAT) "C" Walnut Canyon Link (Arizona Trail) Day Hike (11.5 miles RT, 200' EC) This trail features a scenic forest and canyons as it goes over a segment of the Arizona Trail, which joins at a road near Walnut Canyon National Monument. The hike runs into a tributary canyon and then west along the

Walnut Canyon rim to Fisher Point. Located 12.8 miles east of Flagstaff. Trip Leader: Nancy Sutherland, (928) 774-9309, for meeting time and location. **Flagstaff**

OCT 29 (SAT) Rockclimbing at Paradox Rock, Mt. Lemmon, Santa Catalina Mountains Facing S-SE, Paradox Rock is a great place for cool weather rock climbing. A variety of routes will be set up on top-rope in the 5.7-5.10+ range, ranging from slabs to cracks to overhangs. Near 6,000', participants will experience this area's biodiversity while appreciating spectacular vistas. Because this area was affected by the 2003 Aspen fire we'll further our knowledge of fire ecology. A day-use pass (\$5 for 3 days) or annual pass is required (can be purchased en route to the climbing area). We'll meet at Le Buzz Coffee at the corner of Tanque Verde Rd and Catalina Hwy. Sponsored by the Rincon Mountaineering Section, this outing requires Sierra Club membership, rock climbing experience and the following equipment: climbing harness, climbing shoes, helmet, belay device, three locking carabiners and personal anchor sling. Bringing ropes, extra slings and carabiners are always appreciated. Janet Krisinski-Saxer or Chris Saxer at (520) 743-8017 (jski@cox.net). **Tucson**

NOV 5 (SAT) "B" South Goldfield Arches Day Hike (7 miles, +-1100' elevation change) Bring your camera as we hike to the heraldic Trumpet Arch, the shy Echo Arch, golden hill 2725, and other scenic treasures of the southern Goldfields. On the way up we'll walk past the historic Rock House and then climb the foothills south of peak 3089. Our conservation-minded exploratory return route features panoramic views of Hat Top Hill, the mighty Superstitions, and the wild western ranch land. Call Ted Tenny (480) 396-3389. **Phoenix**

Sierra Service Outings

SEPT 2-5 (FRI-MON) Arizona Trail Maintenance Project-Kaibab Plateau The Arizona Trail Association and the Sierra Club will be working on the Arizona Trail - Kaibab Plateau North. Come up and experience camping, fun, and meaningful work in the cool pines. Plan for 1-2 days of trail work and 1-2 days of fun at the North Rim. Time may be flexible. RSVP to Roxane George at: 928-774-6514; roxane.george@sierraclub.org.

SEPT 9-11 (FRI-SUN) North Kaibab Old Growth Protection Trip An educational, informative, and enjoyable weekend in the North Kaibab National Forest. Perched on the north rim of the Grand Canyon, the Kaibab Plateau has long been recognized for its unique ecological values. With less than five percent of our historic old growth ponderosa pine forests remaining, the Kaibab Plateau represents our best opportunity to preserve old growth in the Southwest. The trip will include light hiking and a number of stops to explore and observe old growth areas as well as areas where timber sales and implementation of the goshawk guidelines have decimated the forest. We hope to see wildlife along the way. We will plan a side trip into Grand Canyon National Park to an area with a largely intact old growth forest. We will leave Friday afternoon and return late in the day on Sunday and will car camp in the national forest. Please plan to bring your camping gear, water, food for breakfasts and lunches, and your favorite drinks. We will plan to provide group meals for dinner, so let us know if you have any dietary restrictions or needs. Contact Sandy Bahr at (602) 253-8633 to RSVP or for questions.

SEPT 17 and OCT 15 (SAT) "C" McDowell Mountain Road Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup Project (3 mi. RT, 300' EC) In the eastern foothills of the McDowell Mountains, our 5-mile stretch of blue highway meanders in and out of McDowell Mountain Regional Park, located between Fountain Hills and Rio Verde. Situated between Four Peaks, the Superstitions, the McDowells, and the Mazatzal Mountains, there's no better place for community service. We'll clean up the road while absorbing the great Sonoran desert environment. We may visit "McGinty's Hidden Spring," a secret and seldom seen Shangri-La, known only to Adopt-a-Highway alumni, or "McGinty's Kitchen Sink," otherwise known as the "Grand Canyon" of McDowell Mountain Road. We'll finish before noon leaving the afternoon free. Each trip participant receives an official Adopt-a-Highway t-shirt and gloves courtesy of Maricopa County's Adopt-a-Highway program! Call Michael Brady (602) 534-1355.

SEPT 23-25 (FRI-SUN) Lees Ferry and Colorado River Invasive Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration Sierra Club volunteers will join park biologists at Lees Ferry for one, two, or all three days of hands-on activities including invasive exotic plant removal, social trail rehabilitation and garbage collection. On the boundary between Grand Canyon NP and Glen Canyon NRA with water, and gorgeous views. Limited space, so sign up soon. RSVP to Roxane George: 928-774-6514; roxane.george@sierraclub.org.