

The Sonoran Conservancy of FOUNTAIN HILLS

Newsletter #4 12/15/04

Dear Friends and Members,

We look forward to a New Year of Sonoran Conservancy sponsored activities. First on the list is the training of more Trail Guides to accommodate recently acquired approval for a series of hikes and trail building in the Fountain Hills Preserve.

Now is the time to attend a classroom review of the duties and support we offer those who volunteer to become Trail Guides. There will be a meeting for Trail Guides and those interested in becoming involved on Monday evening January 3rd at 7:00 PM in the Community Center. Our discussion that night will center on how to handle any emergency issues.

With a group of thirty trained guides, individual commitment to guide should be no more than four hours every six weeks.

Schedule of Guided Hikes

in the Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve

Day	Date	Start	Finish
Saturday	01/08/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Wednesday	01/19/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Saturday	02/05/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Wednesday	02/16/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Saturday	03/05/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Thursday	03/17/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Saturday	04/02/05	7:30 AM	by 12:00 Noon

Spring flowers

Wednesday	04/06/05	7:30 AM	2:00 PM
Saturday	04/16/05	7:30 AM	2:00 PM
Sunday	04/17/05	7:30 AM	2:00 PM
Saturday	04/23/05	7:00 AM	2:00 PM
Sunday	04/24/05	7:00 AM	2:00 PM
Thursday	05/05/05	7:00 AM	2:00 PM

Mountain Month

Saturday	10/08/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Saturday	10/15/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Sunday	10/16/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Saturday	10/22/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon
Thursday	10/27/05	8:00 AM	by 12:00 Noon

Every hiker must register for their choice of a given date. To register, contact Nancy Walter, Parks & Recreation receptionist in the Community Center. Those unable to visit the Center in daytime hours may phone Nancy at 816-5252 to discuss options.

All events will leave from the end of Eagle Ridge Dr. +As part of registration, all individuals will be given a copy of Town Code, Sect. 5-9-3, to read at time of registration.

NOTE: "START & FINISH" TIMES may vary depending on specific themes (photo shoot, picnic lunch, plant recognition, etc.)

Plan to take a hike a month to enjoy the View from this wonderful mountain location.



photo by Karen Holloway

Trail Guides Interacting With Hikers

The Conservancy provides the Guides with name tags, distinctive vests, first aid supplies, and radios for each group. Guides will direct you to the location of trails that are open, trail maps, plans for construction of the Trailhead, and mention other Preserve matters.

We appreciate the response from those who have renewed their membership in The Conservancy. Remember, the entire membership fee is tax deductible when you join or renew by year end. Memberships run from Jan.-Dec. It is your fees and gifts that support program costs.

Plan to make a habit of visiting the Preserve through this new access program. You will enjoy a good walk through the Adero canyon (1.7 miles), and the views from the mountain on clear winter days are spectacular.

Recent Action from McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission.

- 1) Following Town Council approval of the Master Plan for the Preserve, MMPC requested the Council vote for rezoning the Preserve land to Open Space-Conservation. This will help insure perpetuity status.
- 2) The Council approved a contract with J2 Engineering to complete detailed grading plans for the Central Trailhead.
- 3) The Town completed negotiations with MCO Properties on Golden Eagle trailhead site. This site provides for 20 parking spaces, a drinking fountain, bathroom, and outside water tap. Current timetable for completion of construction will allow access to the County Park by late Summer.