

Sonoran Conservancy to launch new Walk with a Naturalist program

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(SCFH)

Becky Collman and Tim Schoenfelder are launching their Walk with a Naturalist series through Sonoran Conservancy Fountain Hills starting March 10.

Becky Collman and Tim Schoenfelder are kickstarting Walk with a Naturalist from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on March 10 at the Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve's Adero Canyon Trailhead and continuing it with a walk through the Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on March 23.

These in-depth, leisurely paced walks invite participants to slow down, look closely and discover how much the Sonoran Desert reveals with every step, according to a press release. These walks provide an educational look into the soil types, geology, birds, wildflowers and desert ecology of the Sonoran Desert.

“Our walks is a deep dive from the soil to the sky, and what makes Sonoran Desert unique.” Collman said. “It looks at how plants and animals have changed and adapted to the desert climate, the heat and the lack of water.”

Participants are encouraged to ask questions and stop and point out any curious sights they see while on the trail.

“If they walk along the trail and they see a hole or plant in the desert and they’re wondering what’s in that hole or what that plant is, then we can talk about why that hole is there or why that plant is growing there,” Schoenfelder said.

Collman said she hopes participants learn about the delicate balance of nature in the desert.

“I think that participants will learn the relationship of soil, plants and animals and how they all need each other and rely on each other,” Collman said. “For example, some butterflies pollinate only certain plants. And without that plant or without that butterfly, the other can’t survive.”

She hopes it sparks their curiosities, too.

“We hope they get a little more historical depth of why, for example, this flower is here and what purpose it serves and what plants or animals depend on it,” Collman said. “We hope they get a better understanding of our Sonoran Desert in our local area.”

To register for Walk with a Naturalist and other SCFH events, visit <https://tinyurl.com/8yvt6xzm>.