

Tucson Mountains Association – Ballot for Election 2017 (See candidate biographies)

Please note: under our By-Laws, the new Board will meet in January and select one member to serve as president, one as vice-president, one as secretary and one as treasurer. The membership elects the Board members and they, in turn, select officers from among them. You may vote for up to four Board members **if your membership is current.**

Board Members: Choose four (4)

Ivy Schwartz _____ or write in _____

Jackie Day _____ or write in _____

Denise Baldwin _____ or write in _____

Debbie Hicks _____ or write in _____

The Tucson Mountains Association
PO Box 86117
Tucson, AZ 85754-6117

Please return your ballot to TMA, P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, Az 85754 by October 13th, or bring it to the annual meeting and potluck at the Milagro Community Center by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, 2017.

Thank you to all who have recently renewed your membership!

Now is the time to renew your membership \$ 30.00 (household) annual fee, and invite your neighbors to join! You can renew online by going to our website, select “click here to jump to the membership page” and select the one or two year renewal option, or just print, cut out this form, fill out and mail with a check to: TMA, PO Box 86117, Tucson, AZ. 85754-6117

Name _____ Business Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-mail _____

Tucson Mountains
ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1934



September 2017

E-mail: TMA@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

Annual Meeting

Mark Sunday, October 22 on your calendars NOW!

**We will hold our Annual Meeting and Potluck at
Milagro Co-Housing (3057 N. Gaia Pl.)**

5:00 pm with a tour of the grounds at 4:30 pm.

It's that time of year again for us to hold our annual meeting and potluck get together, so bring a side dish or dessert (entrees and beverages will be provided). In lieu of an auction and music this year, our focus will be on visiting with old members and welcoming and meeting new ones. We will also have a speaker discuss the importance of neighborhood preparedness should a natural disaster strike our area. We will be recognizing one of our hard working pima county supervisors and a few volunteers for their contributions to TMA's ongoing advocacy efforts.

Climate Change and Tucson

Remember when it was 115 degrees here? Tucson has a new citizens committee on climate change and sustainability. The mayor and council would like everyone's *specific* ideas about how we can mitigate climate change. If we are to have a habitable city, it is urgent to reduce carbon emissions. Please send ideas via email, phone or letter, and if you can, attend mayor and council meetings and make your voice heard! Please cut and paste this link into your browser window.

http://tucson.com/news/local/beyond-frustrated-tucson-climate-change-proposals-from-went-mostly-unheeded/article_1e2f1595-eb1d-5b11-be38-59fed9a4bac3.html

'mayor1@tucsonaz.gov'; <regina.romero@tucsonaz.gov>;
<karin.uhlich@tucsonaz.gov>;
<Steve.Kozachik@tucsonaz.gov>; paul.cunningham@tucsonaz.gov;
'richard.fimbres@tucsonaz.gov'; 'shirley.scott@tucsonaz.gov'

Fall Newsletter

In this Issue

- Climate Change and Tucson
- El Moraga Property
- Disaster Preparedness Training
- Sweetwater Preserve Signage
- County Trail Policy
- Habitat Competition

Annual Meeting October 22, 2017

Board Bios for Election at
Annual Meeting

Your TMA Board Members:

Peter Chesson, President
pchesson@u.arizona.edu
626-1451

Paul Eckerstrom, Vice President
eckerstrom2@gmail.com
743-1380

Debbie Hicks, Treasurer
1debhicks6@gmail.com
743-3906

Jackie Day, Secretary
azjday@aol.com
(602) 670-8568

Ivy Schwartz, Member
ischwartz3211@cox.net
237-6530

Charlene Pesquiera, Member
cb1202mail@gmail.com
358-1783

Judith D. Meyer, Member
Judithmeyer3785@gmail.com
743-8058

Pima County Pushes Back on Weakening and Canceling Protection for the Environment

We have watched in dismay as executive actions from the Trump administration have weakened environmental protections across the nation, have pulled the USA from the Paris Climate Accords, have proposed building a massive border wall, have proposed reducing our national monuments, and have undermined immigrant protections. These are national and global issues with strong implications for Pima County and the Tucson Mountains region in particular. Climate, water quality, and air quality have obvious direct effects right here where we live. But we cannot forget our connections to the surrounding region. Potential major damage to the Ironwood Forest National Monument, the Santa Rita Mountains and the border with Mexico weakens the web of life in our region and ultimately affects the Tucson Mountains, which cannot maintain its richness of life if it is not maintained regionally. And how can one fail to have compassion for the children brought here illegally, but at no fault of their own, who face being banished from their home and sent to lands they do not know?

The Pima County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has been pushing back on all these issues through a series of resolutions passed at successive meetings of the BOS opposing weakening of environmental protections, supporting sensible compassionate immigrant policy, and joining the Paris Climate Accords. The City of Tucson has passed similar resolutions. Of course resolutions are much better if they are backed by action. The County is taking direct action through its own energy program and other environmental efforts. Many of you may have noticed how County parking lots, for instance, are now largely covered by solar panels. Resolutions are also much more effective if they are seen to be supported by the people. This is where you can show your support by attending BOS meetings, and better yet, speaking at the call to the audience. You do not have to say much, just that you support or do not support the issue at hand. TMA has been at all these meetings making its support known, and in most cases we have alerted you through our Action Alert emails. If you come and say you support the TMA position, our effectiveness grows. Finally, resolutions are much more powerful if they are supported across party lines, but this has been sadly lacking with Republican BOS members voting no. But why should these be partisan issues? They have not always been, and you can help. Tell your Republican elected officials that they can and should join in, and that it is the right thing to do, which ever party you belong to. Let them know what you think. This is how you can make democracy work.

El Moraga Property

TMA owns a parcel of land at the corner of Sweetwater and El Moraga Roads, as long-term members may recall. It was donated to the organization in the 1950s with the thought that we might build a clubhouse. But there never were funds or an inclination to make any use of the property. The Board has decided to try to sell the property. We have hired Nicole Brule-Fisher, a realtor who has sold several nearby parcels with in the last year or so, and who was once on the TMA Board herself. On our realtor's recommendation, and based upon recent sales in the area, we will list it at \$65,000.00.

Disaster Preparedness Training

If the grid goes down for several days, or a week during a severe heat or other weather-related emergency, how prepared are you to survive a lengthy disruption in water and electric service? If emergency services are overwhelmed in a wide-ranging blackout, your neighbors may be your life-line. Building Resilient Neighborhoods, a program sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility, has been conducting workshops to help bring groups of near neighbors together, to create a plan of readiness. At our annual meeting, we will have a brief presentation about the program. The full program they will describe includes free interactive workshops, guided by a Power Point presentation, for groups of fifteen or more neighbors. Come to the annual meeting for more information!

Sweetwater Preserve Signage

The County has a wonderful amount of preserved open space in the Tucson Mountains with the Tucson Mountain Park, the Sweetwater Preserve, the Painted Hills, and areas that even now keep getting added. Trails allow us to visit and enjoy these areas, but in many cases conspicuously absent from these preserved

areas is information on the natural values that are being preserved. Feliz Paseos Park is an exception with its interpretive trail signs telling visitors about the visible and not so visible life that the park supports. TMA believes that all County natural area parks could be like this. So we are taking action. We are designing five interpretive signs for the Sweetwater Preserve, in collaboration with the County, highlighting the animals and plants that live there and the role of the Sweetwater Preserve in biological conservation in the Tucson Mountains. You should start to see these signs in place in 2018.

County Trails Policy

The many wonderful trails in the County parks of the Tucson Mountains give us the ability to get right into nature, and enjoy its beauty while at the same time having healthful exercise. There are few things more pleasurable than seeing wildlife in its natural habitat, but you can be assured, the feeling is not mutual especially if you have your dog with you off leash. And too many well-used trails just mean you will see less wildlife. So what density of trails should we have, and where should they be to balance human enjoyment and exercise with the needs of wildlife? Before constructing trails, the County often has public meetings to take input, but no one invites the wildlife to these meetings. A few of their advocates may come, and some people are now becoming very upset and vocal about new trail construction. But what do we know about the needs of wildlife, and how can this knowledge be translated into policy? Pima County has a 224 page document, "Pima Regional Trail System Master Plan," and while explaining that the needs of conservation have largely driven the acquisition of open space, the prevailing message is the opportunity that this provides for trails while at the same time arguing that trail needs sometimes lead to land preservation. So TMA has initiated discussions with the County on how to get a better trail policy to meet the needs of conservation. More comprehensive criteria are needed for trail density, and trail location, and more effort needs to be put into trail repair, and restoration of the habitat on trails that are taken out of service. We would like to hear from you to inform our discussions.

Habitat competition

TMA has a habitat competition to promote care of private land for conservation of wildlife. We have some wonderful protected public lands in the Tucson Mountains, but it will all remain much richer if private lands are wildlife friendly too. Private lands often provide important connections between publicly preserved areas, and in general extend the amount and diversity of habitat. Have you maintained the natural values of your property? If so, let us know by entering the habitat competition for 2017. Everyone entering the competition provides an example for others. So please enter and encourage others to enter too. And don't forget, the habitat competition is open for kids as well. Kids participate by documenting their knowledge of wildlife, its needs, or what they have done to encourage habitat preservation. Get your kids involved. For details see the TMA website under "Habitat Competition."

Go to this link for the details of the habitat competition

<http://www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org/habitat-competition.html>

Special Guest – Supervisor Sharon Bronson

Sharon Bronson, of the Pima County Board of Supervisors represents our area, and her support for TMA and many of our issues over the years has been very much appreciated. This year she has had a major role in the County push back on damaging federal policies discussed in this newsletter. Earlier, she spearheaded the decision to sue the Arizona Legislature for passing too much of the cost of traditionally state-funded programs to local property owners. You may remember that Supervisor Ally Miller was the lone voice in opposition to that lawsuit. But the suit went forward, Pima County won, and this Board has managed once again to keep our property taxes reasonable. Ms. Bronson has shown herself to be pro-business development, even as she has championed land conservation and services for our people.

TMA has often had reason to advocate before the Board of Supervisors and other County officials and boards. We have not always won every battle, but we feel we have always been treated with respect, and our suggestions have been seriously considered even when not adopted.

We look forward to visiting with Supervisor Bronson and appreciate her taking time out of her busy schedule to attend our meeting and potluck.

Candidates for the Board of Directors of Tucson Mountain Association: Vote at the Annual Meeting Potluck October 22, 2017, or mail ballot by October 13, 2017.

Ivy Schwartz:

Ivy has lived in the Tucson Mountains since 1995 and has been a member of the TMA board since 2009. She is currently TMA's representative to the Community Water Coalition. She has many years of experience in community organizing as an advocate for healthcare for all, environmental conservation, civil rights and peace and justice issues. She hopes to continue her service on the TMA Board to help further its mission to preserve and protect our fragile and beautiful Sonoran desert ecosystem.

Jackie Day:

Jackie moved to Tucson, from Tempe, in 2002 with her family. She and her late husband were actively involved in creating the Milagro co-housing community. She has been an active member of the community serving on a number of committees. Jackie has been involved in local politics and has been an inspector for city and county elections since moving to Tucson. Jackie has served on the TMA board for two years and is willing to continue to do what she can to further the mission of TMA. Thanks for your vote. Jackie Day.

Denise Baldwin:

Denise holds an MBA, is an Arizona Licensed Fiduciary and lifelong Tucson Mountains resident. She has worked with several nonprofit organizations that serve and strengthen our community. She graduated with an MBA from the University of Arizona and also from Salpointe High School. Denise looks forward to working with TMA to further its mission, protect the environment and strive for harmonious environmental coexistence.

Debbie Hicks:

Debbie's love of the Sonoran Desert goes back to her early college experiences in the 1970's. She has been fortunate to live in the Tucson Mountains since 2001, and became a member in 2003. Debbie has been a Board Member since 2004, was President in 2007, and Treasurer since 2008 working on zoning, water conservation, open space and climate change issues. It's been an opportunity to give back to this special part of the desert.

Board Member Recruitment:

Are you interested in advocating for preserving open space and our beautiful Sonoran Desert, and west-side community? Join our board! We'd love to have you. Please contact Paul Eckerstrom at 520-743-1380 or, eckerstrom2@gmail.com.