

FALL **Tucson Mountains** 2011  
ASSOCIATION  
SINCE 1934

PO BOX 86117, TUCSON, AZ 85754-6117 • www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org • TMA@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

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**ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC—September 25, 5:00 p.m.**

We are having our 77<sup>th</sup> **annual picnic and meeting** at Columbus Park (Ramada 4 next to Silverbell Lake). And it's back to basics! **Bring two chairs** and a pot luck dish to share. Please also bring serving utensils. Your plate should serve between 8-12 people.

Reminder—Glass bottles are not allowed in the park.

We will supply the chicken, cake, and water/sodas. It will be a fun time for everyone, since we again will have an awards presentation, and music for entertainment and dancing! **SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS, AND PLEASE RSVP** by September 20 with the following information to:

Tucson Mountains Association, PO Box 86117, Tucson, AZ 85754-6117, **or:**

E-mail: TMA@tucsonmountainsassoc.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Pot Luck Plate of: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

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**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – Ed Verburg** The Board has been working diligently on your behalf on a number of issues, and our strategic plan is guiding us as we move forward. Some of our recent activities include:

- **Neighborhood Concerns**—Responded to requests for assistance from TMA members related to zoning violations and other matters where we can add support.
- **City's Water Policy**—Provided input during the implementation phase of the water policy. We recently offered comments to the Council on the proposal to extend the time line to two years for letters of assurance.
- **Painted Hills**—Continued to support efforts for the purchase of Painted Hills by Pima County, which we are hopeful will be achieved in a manner similar to Sweetwater Canyon addition to the Sweetwater Preserve.
- **Tax Exemption**—Promoted our tax exemption for contributions based on an agreement with the Sky Island Alliance. Contributions are being placed in reserve for land preservation and other natural resource requirements, which is consistent with our long-range strategic plan. We retain our not-for-profit status for our operational activities.

It's been a pleasure serving as your President for the last two years, and I want to thank the Board for their outstanding work on your behalf. We greatly appreciate everyone's involvement, which ensures that TMA is one of the best resident organizations in Arizona!

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

We are running behind on our membership renewals. If you have not done so this calendar year, please fill out the membership form on the back of the newsletter and mail it in with \$20 so we can continue to serve you this year. We want you as a member! The more members we have, the more influence we have with the City and County!!

# TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

*by Lissa Gibbs*

Did you know that Arizona is dead last in the nation in per pupil spending of public education dollars and that most classroom teachers in Tucson spend an average of \$1,500 of their own money each year to buy supplies for their classrooms and students? With 70% of the TUSD student body and 30% of the Marana student body qualifying for free or reduced meal assistance during the last school year, many families with school-aged children are simply unable to supplement their schools' classroom supply budgets. Though Arizona is second in the nation in the number of charter schools, more than 80% of Arizona families with school-aged children still choose to send their kids to the schools of their communities' centralized public school districts because they believe their children will be best served there. Right now your neighborhood public elementary and middle school teachers and students need your help.

Many neighborhood public schools within the Tucson Mountain Association membership area would REALLY benefit from a small (or large) in-kind donation of a ream of white or colored photocopy paper, a packet or two of new dry erase markers, two dozen new pens or pencils, or several boxes of facial tissue.

Please take a minute to stop by your TMA neighborhood school and drop off some much needed supplies or bring supplies to the TMA Annual Meeting on September 25 at Columbus Park. It is a small investment in our community's future – our children – and a wonderful way to strengthen our neighborhoods.

## Public Elementary & Middle Schools Serving TMA's Membership Boundaries

Brichta Elementary: 2110 W. Brichta Drive [just west of Silverbell] ( 225-1100)

Robins Elementary: 3939 N. Magnetite Lane [near Sweetwater] ( 908-4300)

Maxwell Middle School: 2802 W. Anklam ( 225-2000)

Tolson Elementary: 1000 South Greasewood (225-3300)

Picture Rocks Intermediate: 5875 N. Sanders Road (616-3700)

Rattlesnake Ridge Elementary: 8500 N. Continental Reserve Loop (352-7000)

Coyote Trail Elementary: 8000 N. Silverbell Road (579-5105)

Twin Peaks Elementary: 7995 W. Twin Peaks Road (579-4750)

For more information about other ways to support your neighborhood public schools, please contact the community-based non-profit foundations dedicated to supporting them:

The Educational Enrichment Foundation/EEF (TUSD): 325-8688, [www.eeftucson.org](http://www.eeftucson.org)

Marana Foundation for Educational Excellence (MUSD): 731-8811, [www.maranafoundation.org](http://www.maranafoundation.org)

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## **PARTY FOR PAUL CUNNINGHAM—September 17, 4:30 p.m.**

As a City Council member, Paul Cunningham represents Ward 2 on the east side. Many of you may remember it was his initiative that brought back the Painted Hills issue to the Council for reconsideration. After much discussion, and presentations by the conservation community, the Council voted unanimously to reverse the previous annexation actions. They further agreed to cooperatively work with Pima County to help preserve the land for open space. Come join us for a chance to talk with Paul about some of the issues he cares most deeply about. The party will be at 5555 W. Lazy C Drive. Please RSVP to Ed or Joyce Verburg at 743-7728 or [eaverburg@yahoo.com](mailto:eaverburg@yahoo.com) by September 14 or before.

# **BIOBLITZ 2011 IS COMING TO OUR NATIONAL PARK!**

*by Judith Meyer*

The National Geographic Society and the National Park Service will hold a very exciting 24-hour event on October 21 and 22, a BioBlitz. The goals of the BioBlitz are to count, catalog, map, learn about and celebrate all of the organisms in our national park, from microscopic bacteria to migrating birds, mountain lions and, of course, saguaros and other flora. School children and members of the general public will have an opportunity to work directly alongside scientists to conduct field research. The event is intended to highlight the importance of protecting biodiversity in this extraordinary place. In addition to the fieldwork, there will be a Biodiversity Festival with music, art, entertainment, exhibits, demonstrations and activities. The National Geographic Society and NPS select one park each year, for the 10 years leading up to the NPS's Centennial in 2016, and we are thrilled that Saguaro National Park was chosen for this year, out of 394 parks! The Desert Museum and Friends of Saguaro National Park are also sponsors.

To make the event a great success for the community, they will need many volunteer Ambassadors. You can learn more at the BioBlitz websites, <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/bioblitz-2011.htm> or <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/bioblitz/bioblitz-az-2011/>. Or you can contact Natalie Luna Rose, BioBlitz Public Affairs Coordinator, at 733-8602 or [Natalie\\_Rose@nps.gov](mailto:Natalie_Rose@nps.gov). All events are free and open to the public!

## **CANIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### Bob Gilby

Bob Gilby is a high school and community college math teacher with former careers as an industrial engineer in the steel, copper and finance industries, a Forest Service firefighter and seasonal farm worker. Bob has a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Masters in Engineering. Bob was born on a Michigan dairy farm and has lived in Southern Arizona since 1991.

Bob and his wife Donna Branch-Gilby live at Milagro Cohousing, a sustainable Tucson Mountain community that they co-developed with the future residents. Bob served as the financial officer for the \$8.4M project. Developing Milagro required resolving the diverse concerns of prospective neighbors, bankers, engineers, city elected officials and bureaucrats, and our own community members. As a candidate for State Representative, Bob deepened his appreciation for the issues relevant to our neighborhoods.

Bob is a vice-president of the Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

### Debbie Hicks

Debbie's love of the Sonoran Desert goes back to her early college exposure in the 1970's. Thirty years later, it was fortuitous to be able to buy a home in the Tucson Mountains, and equally lucky to become a member of the Tucson Mountains Association in 2003. She has been a Board Member since 2004, was President in 2007, and Treasurer since 2008 working on many zoning and open space issues. It's been a wonderful way to give back to this special part of the desert.

Debbie's background has been in resource management issues, having graduated with a B.S. in Natural Resource Management and an MBA in International Business. Before moving back to Arizona, she worked for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game focusing on fisheries management, and Saltwater Inc, a company in Anchorage, Alaska that dealt with fishery and marine mammal resources.

## Ivy Schwartz

Ivy moved from Philadelphia to the San Carlos Apache Reservation in 1982 to work as a primary care doctor and fell in love with the desert. She has lived in the Tucson Mountains since 1995, and has been a member of the TMA Board since 2009, currently serving as vice president of the Board. Ivy has worked at El Rio Health Center, Carondelet Medical Group St Mary's office, and Compass Behavioral Health. She has many years of experience in community organizing as an advocate for health care 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.

## Dave Slutes

A native of Tucson and a graduate of the University of Arizona, Dave spent most of his adult life as a songwriter and touring professional musician. He has been the Entertainment Director at the Hotel Congress since 2004 and has been responsible for most of the over 300 events produced each year. Dave works closely with the City of Tucson as an advisor of community event planning. He is a member of several local artists and musicians healthcare organizations, serving on the board of several, and is a current advisory board member of Local First AZ, a statewide organization dedicated to promoting local business. Among his other civic activities, Dave is the current Board chair of the Tucson Centennial Committee and the creator and director of the Hoco Festival, one of Arizona's leading musical festivals. He currently lives with his family in the Painted Hills neighborhood.

## Earl Van Swearingen

Earl spent the last years of his military service stationed at Davis-Monthan. He returned to Tucson, the year after his discharge, to attend the University of Arizona; receiving a BS Business degree with a minor in transportation in 1968. Freight transportation management would become his career. Prior to his retirement, Earl worked for UPS Supply Chain Solutions in metro Atlanta. After returning again to Tucson in 2009, Earl decided to contribute time and energy during his retirement years, helping protect the beautiful mountains, that surround the city, from harmful development. Earl is Vice President of his condominium homeowner's association. Recently, Earl became a TMA board member; filling the position recently vacated by Peter Chesson.

## Barbara Whitaker

Barbara is a native of Tucson. She was born when Tucson's population was about 40,000. She was an educator, teaching at Palo Verde HS. She then moved to Washington DC and served on the national staff of a vocational student organization during the Nixon administration. She served as a state consultant in the Ohio Department of Education in Career and Technical Education, working with students, teachers and administrators. Lobbying for education on a state and national level was part of her job in Arizona, as well as Washington DC and Ohio. After retiring and moving back to Tucson in 2003 she became active with issues relating to the increased development around Silverbell Road. She served as co-chair of the Silverbell Corridor Neighborhood Transportation Committee. This led to the designation and eventual rezoning of approximately 135 acres of City of Tucson land to Open Space on the West side of Silverbell Road between Grant and El Camino del Cerro. Most recently she was appointed to the Silverbell Road Task Force Citizen's Committee formed to make recommendations to the design of Silverbell Road from Grant.

## **Members of the Board of Directors who will serve the second year of a two year term:**

Lissa Gibbs    Paul Eckerstrom    Alan Tonelson    Ed Verburg

# Tucson Mountain Association Board of Directors Election Ballot

Please note that under TMA's By-Laws, the new board will meet in January and select four members to serve as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The membership selects the Board members who then select the four officers. You may vote for up to six board members.

**Board Member Candidates--Choose up to six (6):**

- Bob Gilby                    \_\_\_\_ (√)  
or write-in                    \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Debbie Hicks                \_\_\_\_ (√)  
or write-in                    \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Ivy Schwartz                \_\_\_\_ (√)  
or write-in                    \_\_\_\_\_
  
- David Slutes                 \_\_\_\_ (√)  
or write-in                    \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Earl Van Swearingen      \_\_\_\_ (√)  
or write-in                    \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Barbara Whitaker         \_\_\_\_ (√)  
or write-in                    \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your ballot to TMA, P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, AZ 85754  
Or bring it to the TMA meeting at Columbus Park by 5 PM, September 25, 2011.**

Comments? Concerns? Would you like to be a Board member?

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

[www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org](http://www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Addresses:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Dues:**  \$20 for one year  \$40 for two years  Other \$\_\_\_\*  
\_\_\_\_Renewal \_\_\_\_New

**Save Trees and Postage: Receive TMA newsletters via email?** \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**\*Sponsorship Levels:** \$50, 100, 250, 500, and 750+ (anything over the annual membership fee is now tax deductible)