

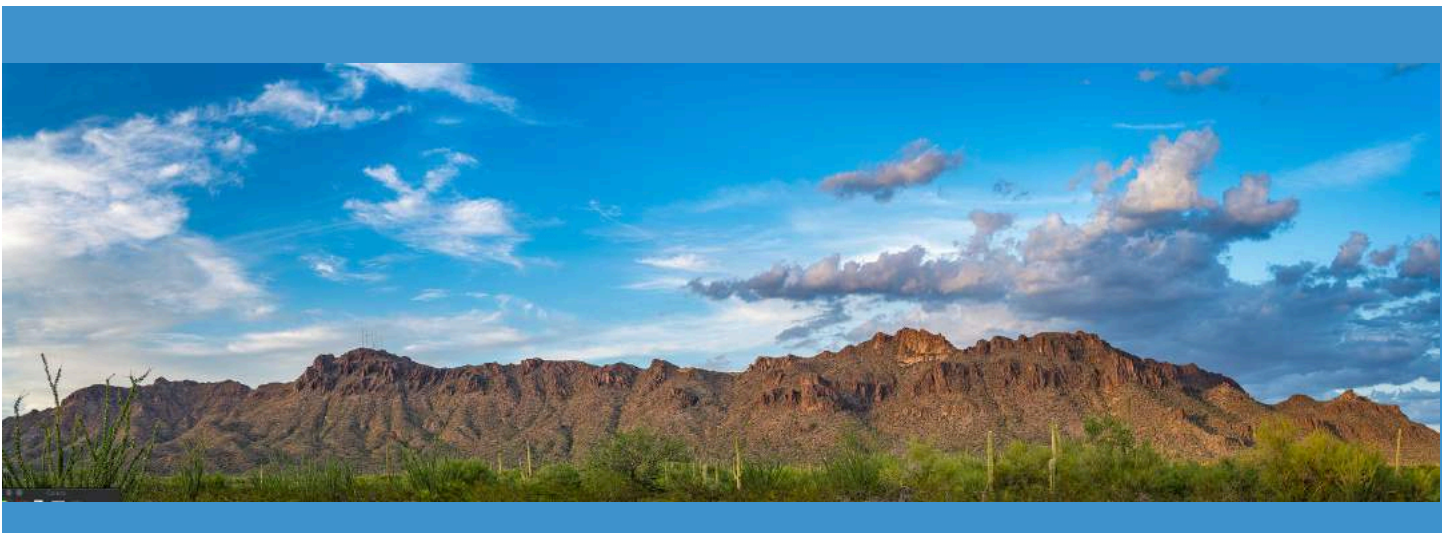
Save the Date:

Annual Potluck Meeting

October 20, 2019

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL EXPIRES SOON!

\$55 for 2 years



Inside this Issue:

Defending the Zoning	p. 1
Annual Potluck Meeting	p. 2
Painted Hills Adopt-A-Park Floodplain Management Plan Update	p. 3 p. 4
TMA Volunteer Feature	p. 5
Board Candidate Bios	p. 6
Board Member Ballot	p. 7

Annual Meeting & Potluck

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Milagro Co-Housing

3057 N. Gaia Place

Music by Ismael Barajas

4:30 Registration & Tours

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Presentation

*A single act of kindness throws
out roots in all directions, and
the roots spring up and make
new trees.*

Amelia Earhart



The Tucson Mountains has a rich history of caring people who want to protect the area for the future. It is more important than ever. Join TMA volunteers today!

Defending the zoning

One of the main reasons for living in the Tucson Mountains is nature. We love our natural landscapes with their various and wondrous plants thriving in our harsh climate, and we continue to be charmed by the animals that live here. But we know also that we have to look after this place, because it is constantly threatened by intensification of development. TMA emphasizes that the Tucson Mountains, from the crests of the peaks to the Santa Cruz River, are one integrated ecosystem. Animals move with the seasons through its various parts, and beyond. Both plants and animals move with the climate. Its sheer diversity of habitats, from its steep slopes to its rolling hills and valleys down to the river, allow the diversity of life to thrive.

Much of the steep land in the Tucson Mountains is in preserves including the Saguaro National Park and the Tucson Mountain Park. But much less of the rolling hills and valleys has permanent preservation, and it comes down to us, the resident people, to maintain the natural values. Fortunately, much of the rolling hill country is SR zoned, meaning that no more than one house per 3.3 acres is allowed. The land remains valuable for nature at this density provided people look after their land. Higher densities can still provide valuable habitat for some species, but as the density increases, it becomes much harder to provide for diverse nature.

For these reasons, and others, TMA was strongly opposed to the proposed development of Via Elegante Phase II at the end of N. Cerrado de Beto, which would have put 150 rental home units on 24 acres current zoned SR. This would have been a disaster for the area in many ways, as discussed in the TMA fall newsletter, 2018. Fortunately, the plans have been shelved for now while the owner of the property focuses on development of the adjacent assisted living facility, Via Elegante Phase I. But, the plans have not been abandoned, which means we must be vigilant defending the current SR zoning.

A common argument for upzoning (increasing the allowed housing density) is that adjacent areas allow higher density, and so upzoning would not be out of character, but this is a recipe for everything to be upzoned eventually. So TMA has been vigorously opposing this argument. The most recent instance was for a SR zoned property less than half a mile from the Sweetwater Preserve. The owner asked for an amendment to the County plan, which would have then allowed them to apply for upzoning to 1.2 houses per acre. On the east side of the property, the Pima County Plan currently permits zoning of up to 1.2 houses per acre. On the west side it is SR, but to the south is an RS (resource sensitive) area, a special category indicating important values to the landscape, which here include proximity to the Sweetwater Preserve and to the Sweetwater Wash connecting to the Santa Cruz River. Upzoning next to a resource sensitive zone makes no sense. Moreover, TMA strongly argued against creeping upzoning where the areas adjacent to higher densities become upzoned because "it would not be out of character." We argued instead that its proximity to the resource sensitive zone means its current zoning should be retained. Neighbors also sent in strong objections to the proposed changes. Fortunately, we have some good news. We were recently informed that the application for the plan amendment has been withdrawn. We do not know the reason for the withdrawal, but we can hope that the arguments for protecting nature struck a chord with the applicant.

TMA Annual Potluck Meeting

October 20, 2019, Milagro Co-Housing 3057 N. Gaia Pl.

4:30 pm Registration & Tours – 5:30 pm Dinner – 6:30 pm Presentation

Milagro Co-Housing 4:30

Potluck

Your annual event is here!

Join your TMA friends at the Potluck of the Year with your side dish or dessert. Entrees and beverages will be provided.

If you prefer a special beverage, please feel free to bring it!

Special Entertainment

Ismael Barajas will delight with his talented acoustic guitar music including classical, jazz, Latin, and soul-touching music.



Join the TMA Board

Are you interested in becoming a TMA Board Member?

Do it because you care about the future of the Tucson Mountains and preserving open space.

Be a 2019 TMA write-in Board Member Candidate for the October 20, 2019 Annual Meeting!

Call Denise Baldwin at 520-390-5680 for more information.

The Tucson Mountains need You.



Limited TMA Membership Special*
2 Years for \$55

Join Now!

TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

*Expires 10/31/19

Painted Hills Adopt-A-Park

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Painted Hills Park is a beautiful 289-acre park with four miles of dirt trails that are accessible for different abilities. The trails take you on a journey from washes to the summits for breathtaking views of the Tucson Mountains and the City of Tucson.

You can help clean decades of old bottles and cans throughout the park. We need your help! Together, we can make a difference.

Please join the clean-up effort. Call Denise at 520-390-5680 to volunteer today!

Make your impact.

Join TMA's new program:

TMA Adopts Painted Hills Park

Volunteers needed to clean trails of bottles and cans.

Call Denise: 520-390-5680

PIMA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Tucson Mountains Association (TMA) is one of over 25 Community Stakeholders invited to provide input for the Pima County Floodplain Management Plan (FMP). Pima County Flood Control District (District) is preparing the FMP to be completed by the end of 2019. TMA Board member Steve Dolan has attended several FMP Stakeholders meetings and work sessions. To date the TMA Board input has focused on general conservation aspects to preserve floodplains as open space and to protect natural habitat. Individual TMA members can also provide input to the FMP via a Community Survey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCFC_survey).

Identifying forward-looking floodplain management practices is the purpose of the FMP. Community Stakeholders inform the District of their most important concerns in the FMP and identify anything missing, such as specific problems in watersheds. The District has information about many large watersheds. For instance, the large Tucson Mountains watershed includes 810 acres of federal floodplain, 888 acres of locally identified floodplain, and 2,575 acres of Pima County Regulated Riparian Habitat.

General TMA concerns for the FMP have been provided to the District for the Tucson Mountains watershed and the Santa Cruz River. Within the TMA area of the Tucson Mountains are 10 smaller watersheds or watercourses identified by the District. In smaller watersheds the specific location of problems, such as roadway drainage crossings and erosion hazards to property, were provided to the District. More research will be done by the TMA Board.

You can provide input to the Pima County FMP. If you have a drainage, flood, habitat, or related issue in a Tucson Mountains watershed or along a watercourse, contact the TMA Board or Pima County Regional Flood Control District. The District has produced FMP maps and an action plan document is expected by the end of 2019. This Fall there will be more Stakeholder meetings and opportunities for TMA members to provide input about the Tucson Mountains.

TMA MEMBER CALL TO ACTION: Please contact TMA for questions about the Pima County Floodplain Management Plan or to discuss Tucson Mountains watershed concerns. TMA members can visit the Pima County Regional Flood Control District website for more information and answer a Community Survey at the Floodplain Management Plan webpage or at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCFC_survey. [In Survey link include underscore "PCFC_survey"]

Contact TMA: Steve Dolan 520-743-3770 or stevedolan@comcast.net

Contact Floodplain Management Plan: www.pima.gov/fmp/



*What is the essence of life?
To serve others and to do
good.*

Aristotle

Volunteer Spotlight: Jackie Day

TMA THANKS JACKIE DAY FOR HER BOARD SERVICE

Jackie Day has had a long history of volunteerism and community activism. We are fortunate Jackie has included TMA in her basket of interests. She has been a long-standing TMA Member and has served many important volunteer roles throughout the years, including TMA board President and Secretary.

Jackie's positive attitude and outlook spreads through a room with ease and always makes it easier to achieve positive results. We will miss her on the TMA board, but look forward to seeing her at TMA Calls to Action or social events.

TMA thanks Jackie Day for her time, talent and hospitality. Jackie's kindness and dedication to the ongoing issues of the Tucson Mountains has made it a joy work with her and to be a representative of Tucson Mountains Association. Thank you, Jackie!

Meet Your 2019 TMA Board of Director Candidates

Volunteers unite communities and bring caring people together to serve a greater purpose. With your help, you can vote on the volunteer board members to help meet the needs of TMA Members and the Tucson Mountains. Submit your vote at the Annual Meeting and Potluck on October 20, 2019 or mail it in. Thank you!

DENISE BALDWIN

Denise is an Arizona Licensed Fiduciary. Core lessons resulted from being a lifelong Tucson Mountain resident: picking jojoba seeds to save the whales, while wisdom continues from observing the desert insects, plants and animals and the impact of changing seasons. Denise's passion is to work with nonprofit organizations and find solutions to serve and strengthen our community. An alumnus of the University of Arizona, she twirled for the Pride of Arizona, has two double-major bachelor's degrees and an MBA.

*The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.
Coretta Scott King*

Denise enjoys opportunities to work with the Members of TMA, further the TMA goals, protect the environment and strive for harmonious environmental coexistence.

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 learn about and 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 heartfelt honor to give back to this unique part of the Sonoran 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 issues, and Saltwater Inc, a marine resources company based in Anchorage, Alaska that deals with sustainability of our oceans.

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 and her spouse have lived in the Tucson Mountains since 1995, and she has been a member of the TMA Board since 2009. She is TMA's representative to the Community Water Coalition of Southern AZ, and serves as President of the Board of Directors. 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.

