



The Preserver

February 2013

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy champions the sustainability of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for the benefit of this and future generations. As stewards, we connect the community to the Preserve through education, research, advocacy, partnerships and safe, respectful access.

Board Information and Update	Welcome to Class 35	Steward Education Report	Nature Guides Report	Pathfinder Report	Meet Two Stewards	Inspiration from Arizona
Read about the Executive and Finance Committees.	Meet the members of the latest New Steward Orientation.	How was the first one-day orientation?	First Friday Family series introduces Sage the bobcat.	Chair Bill Parker explains what Pathfinders really do.	Meet stewards and friends Sondra Dorman and Jeanne Murray.	Cowboy Poetry
Page 2	Page 3	Page 4	Page 5	Page 6	Page 7	Page 9

From the Office of the Executive Director



Mike Nolan

I'm pleased to announce upcoming steward leadership opportunities that will become available this spring. I invite you to learn more about them, and to consider applying for one of the positions.

Each of our eleven steward programs is led by a volunteer chair, who oversees the operation of the program, builds a team of assistants,

coordinates the monthly program report, and represents the program at monthly Core Leadership Team meetings. Chairing allows you to bring your perspective and ideas for new enhancements to a program, to help solve problems, and to interact with staff and other program chairs to move the organization forward. You have the opportunity to interact with a group of people who share your passion for the Preserve and want to work to help improve it.

On March 31, five program chairs and the CLT chair will complete their terms. The programs with opening leadership positions are **Patrol, Community Relations, Fundraising, Volunteer Support, and Nature Guides.**

Each program has a program plan that outlines the purpose, goals, and objectives of the program, along with a job description for the chair position. Updated versions of these will be available for each program by about mid-month on the CLT page of the MSC website. Instructions on how to apply for the position if interested are also available.

To learn more, contact the outgoing program chairs or their staff liaison. Program chairs are identified on the CLT page of the website, with their contact information. Current chairs are happy to talk with you about the position and their experience in the role.

The Core Leadership Team chair is elected by the 11 program chairs to organize and lead the monthly meetings and to represent them on the MSC Board. The program chairs have appointed a committee to conduct a search for candidates for the CLT chair position. The committee is led by Paul Staker. Paul is actively soliciting candidates interested in serving as the CLT chair, and welcomes anyone interested in learning more, or applying, to contact him at pstaker@sbcglobal.net. Current CLT Chair Steve Dodd would also be happy to speak with you about the position; he can be reached at stevedodd@cox.net.

I hope you'll consider applying for a leadership role in our steward program. You'll have an opportunity to meet many wonderful people and have a voice in how the organization moves into the future.

Board Information and Update

by Tom Headley, Board of Directors Chair

As we continue with this series of articles in *The Preserver* describing the organization and management of McDowell Sonoran Conservancy's Board of Directors (BOD), this month we will cover two of the five committees that are required by MSC's bylaws.

Executive Committee

Chair: Tom Headley, Steward and BOD Chair

As mentioned above, the Executive Committee is mandated by MSC's bylaws. As also required by those bylaws, the committee is chaired by the Board of Directors Chair and the other members include the Vice-Chair - Jack McEnroe, the Treasurer - Peter Rusin, the Secretary - David Hay, the Immediate Past Chair - Oliver Smith (who votes only if there is otherwise a tie) and the Executive Director - Mike Nolan (who is a non-voting member).

The powers and duties of the Executive Committee are laid out in the bylaws as follows:

"The Executive Committee shall perform its functions as directed by the Board and shall act between Board meetings and report periodically to the Board. The Executive Committee shall: (1) review and help set the Board meeting agenda; (2) prepare evaluations of the Executive Director of the Corporation with Board input and review; (3) make recommendations about performance and compensation of staff; (4) research and make recommendations regarding Board policies, procedures and resolutions; and (5) perform other such duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Executive Committee by the Board of Directors."

However the bylaws also restrict the Executive Committee from the following:

- "(a) Action on any matter that has been expressly reserved by these Bylaws or by resolution of the Board to be solely acted on by the full Board;
- (b) Filling vacancies on the Board of Directors, among the Officers of the Corporation or on the Executive Committee;

- (c) Adoption, amendment or repeal of the Bylaws or the Articles; or
- (d) Any act prohibited by the Act [which refers to Arizona's Revised Statutes] to be taken by a committee of the Board."

The Executive Committee meets every month the week prior to the BOD meeting and at other times as necessary.

Finance Committee

Chair: Peter Rusin, Steward and BOD member

Vice Chair: John Simpson, BOD member

The Finance Committee is mandated by MSC's bylaws. As also required by those bylaws, the committee is chaired by the Board of Director's Treasurer but unlike the Executive Committee, the other members of the committee can come from the BOD, the Steward organization or the general public. This year we have some members from all of those categories. As stated in MSC's bylaws:

"The finance committee is responsible for recommending to the Board actions and financial policies required for the Board to fulfill its financial responsibilities including management of cash accounts, management of investments, risk management and insurance policies, the annual budget, strategic financial planning, the annual audit, tax preparation and filing, and any other duties as the Board of Directors may assign from time to time."

The Finance Committee meets monthly the week prior to the BOD meeting and at other times as necessary, particularly around audit time. If you want to be a Finance Committee member, please let Mike Nolan or Steve Dodd know.

Up next month are the Marketing Committee and the Bylaws and Policies Committee. We hope to see you at our upcoming Board of Directors meeting at the Gateway at 7:30 on February 20.

Welcome to Class 35: the “Naronos”



Top Row from left to right

Rick Fredericksen, Kari Gambino, Scott Gambino, Ed Roberts, Stephanie Darkoch, Peter Tlale (Research Intern), Mike Darkoch, Patty Frank

Second Row from Top from left to right

Rick Millard, Daniel Benhaim, John Mangels, Armond Liebling, Ian Robbins, Terry McAvoy, Dana Reeves, Harry Moore, David Nolte

Third Row from Top from left to right

Don Dreyfus, Larry Landay, Ron Posner, Mike Duh, Bob Goebel, Chris Crum, Steve Holt, Doug Miller, Karen Fieldstad, Wendy Lavorato

Front Row from left to right

Dick Bernstein, Linda Kalbach, Larry Shwartz, Kim Fieldstad, Paul Howard, Don Brockway

Steward Education Report

by Jacques Giard, Steward Education Chair

The New One-Day Steward Orientation: How was it for Class 35?

When you last read something about Steward Education and the New Steward Orientation (NSO) it was all about change and the introduction of a one-day NSO beginning in 2013. This report will inform you on what happened on January 12 when the first one-day NSO was offered to Class 35.

In case you may have forgotten, here is a quick summary of what was being proposed in the new NSO:

- The NSO will now be offered as a one-day (eight hour) session instead of the two-day session previously offered.
- No essential content will be removed from the NSO. That said, the short sessions on flora, fauna, and geology have been eliminated in favor of encouraging new stewards to attend the longer sessions regularly offered. Furthermore, the one-hour hike has also been dropped.
- A one-day NSO was proposed because the MSC needs more stewards and we need to be as inviting as possible when recruiting them. To do so effectively, we need to find a compromise between two worlds: make the NSO as efficient as possible and remove any disincentives to potential stewards. In this vein, it is our belief that dedicating only one day to training is a more reasonable time commitment for stewards in training.
- In addition and in order to offer more opportunities to train stewards as well as to create greater consistency, NSOs will now be offered every second Saturday of every month during our normal hiking season. Moreover, we will be offering most NSOs at Gateway. Again, this is being done for the purpose of consistency.
- Finally, a few additional changes were proposed such as the GPS or Gateway Path to Steward, which helps mentors and mentees plan a course of action towards earning a total of 20 hours in order to become a steward. The

passport no longer exists. The second change is awarding of the blue shirt upon graduation from the NSO. A third change is doing first-time login and fingerprinting at the NSO. Lastly, we have reduced the cost to \$35 from \$50.

So, what happened on January 12 when the new one-day NSO was first offered? First, we had an amazing turnout. There were 32 prospective volunteers who came to the NSO. This high number was more the result of some superlative recruiting activities by many of you. Nevertheless, it permitted the MSC to graduate 32 new stewards-in-training, a few of whom have already become full-fledged stewards. Second, there were very few hiccups, which I attribute to all of the stewards who participated – directly or indirectly – in the NSO. Everything went off as well if not better than we expected.

Were there some learning moments? Clearly, there were. Two come to mind. The most obvious one was the sheer number of stewards in training. A group of 32 eager students was too large, not only because of the lost intimacy when teaching but also because Gateway cannot accommodate a group that large. We are now going to cap future classes at 25. The other learning moment was the fingerprinting process. It took more time than originally anticipated, in part because we had a few stewards from Class 34. We have modified the process and are convinced that fingerprinting for Class 36 will run much more smoothly.

Developing the new NSO took a great deal of time and involved many people from the MSC. From our experience with Class 35, that time and energy were well invested. There is every indication that the new NSO is the appropriate strategy to meet the challenge of training more stewards as the Preserve opens more trails, beginning soon with those at Brown's Ranch.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or wish to comment on Steward Education. I can be reached at jrgiard@me.com.

Nature Guides Report: Sage the Bobcat

By Jim Fischer, Steward

That beautiful eight-month-old female bobcat, Sage, actually purred as her handler took her out of the cage on a leash. The children and their parents oohed and aahed at the beauty of the creature as the sun went down on another breathtaking Arizona afternoon at the Gateway trailhead.

Picked up at four days of age by a resident from New York, Sage was mistaken for a house cat. About five days later when feeding became too tedious, the new owner took Sage to a shelter, where he learned that Sage was a young female bobcat.

Sage was taken to Southwest Wildlife, a wonderful organization located on ten acres near Dynamite and 156th that rescues, rehabilitates and releases and/or provides sanctuary for injured or abandoned wild animals. Today, Southwest Wildlife is home to 8 black bears, 10 mountain lions and 16 Mexican grey wolves. They get 30-40 bobcats to care for each year. They invite you to come visit, donate and feed the animals treats as you walk by.

Sage got sick at Southwest Wildlife. As the vet cared for her, she got better and she is fine now. She also got human imprinted with all of the human handling, so she identifies with people, not her brothers and sisters. She is being raised by her handler, who was giving the interpretive bobcat presentation.

Sage cannot survive in the wild, so she will always live at Southwest Wildlife, thrilling and enlightening children and their parents with the stories of the bobcats that live and thrive in the incredibly diverse McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

This was my second Family Fun Friday presentation since becoming a steward for the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy in late 2012. I can't wait for the next one!



Family Fun Friday at the Gateway amphitheater



Sage walking on leash with her handler



Beautiful bobcat close up

Pathfinder Report

by Bill Parker, Pathfinder Program Chair

Happy New Year to all! "2013—The Year of the Steward"

I thought I would take this month's *Preserver* article as an opportunity to tell you about the wide variety of experiences your fellow stewards have in our role as Pathfinders, as we assist literally thousands of the 300,000 or so annual visitors to our wonderful Preserve.



Pathfinder Sherrill Sigmen giving information to a visitor at Lost Dog Trailhead

Pathfinding stewards get to be part of some unique events in the Preserve. One Pathfinding shift at Gateway saw the return of a wedding party, coming down from the ceremony held up at Bell Pass in late October, complete with a wedding cake and the groom wearing a tuxedo-style running outfit. What a great way to combine two passions! We also had a couple of hikers get engaged up at Tom's Thumb, with one of the pair arranging for a guitarist to serenade them upon their arrival back at the Tom's Thumb trailhead. LOVE IS IN THE AIR IN THE PRESERVE!

In another cute episode, Pat Catalano, Sunrise Trailhead Leader, tells about her shift at Gateway (yes, many Pathfinders volunteer at a number of trailheads to enjoy the various beautiful vistas): "A four-year old

girl, who was waiting with her Grandpa for her parents to return from a hike up on 'Thompson Peak's Thumb' came up to me and said 'Can you explain this hiking thing to me? I don't understand it.' Her Grandpa trotted her away before I could try to explain."

I was pathfinding at Gateway when a woman from Connecticut came up to me and asked about the animals in the Preserve. When I told her we had five or six known kinds of rattlesnakes, she looked at me in shock and asked "WHY???"—I had to explain the difference between a "Park" and a "Preserve". She still went out on the trails, but with some trepidation....

We also get to meet some fascinating people. Pathfinders report they have met people from all 50 states, as well as visitors from all ten provinces of Canada, along with England, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Scotland, South Africa, Romania, Russia and Thailand—all just this hiking season.

But, we have our serious moments, also. One of our functions is to try and prepare visitors for their hike into the Preserve by discussing the proper footwear. (Yes we many who think that sandals and flip-flops are fine to hike in.) We also try to ensure that visitors have the proper amount of water. with little or no water. (Yes, we have many who think that they can go out into our desert with little or no water.) Pathfinder



Pathfinder assisting a hiker with improper footwear

Wendy Rennert, a frequent volunteer, tells of being at Gateway when a hiker came up to her and reported another visitor was out of water out on the trail and

Pathfinder Report, cont.

was in need of help. Fortunately, Claire Miller, Preserve Manager, happened to be at Gateway and she took the hiker water and electrolytes. She then walked the hiker back to the trailhead and he was fine. Thank you Wendy and Claire.

Pathfinders also find themselves dealing with mountain rescues—on average about one person a week falls on the trails and needs some type of assistance, including the occasional helicopter rescue. In addition, we get approached by a number of visitors who are concerned about dogs being off-leash. We have had to deal with visitors bitten by dogs; and, sadly, even the occasional death of a dog due to heat exhaustion. Part of the challenge of Pathfinding is the wide variety of people and situations we encounter—Never a dull moment!!

Pathfinders are an amazing bunch of volunteers. On more than one occasion Umberto Broggi, amongst others, has taken the time to pick up bags full of litter left by visitors in the trailhead parking lots, as well as sweep up broken glass. Many Pathfinders have gone out from the trailheads to pick up those brightly colored little blue bags dog owners leave. When the

trailhead verandas are covered with gravel, Pathfinders man (or woman) the brooms and sweep them, so our visitors will leave with a great impression of the Preserve. I could go on and on. Pathfinders rock!!

Why do we do it? Pathfinders love helping people. We love meeting people, and we love the whole concept of the Preserve. So, if you have ever thought of Pathfinding as just “standing at the trailheads and handing out maps,” I encourage you to come out and observe a shift or two. You will soon be hooked, realizing Pathfinding is a key element in helping our visitors “have a safe and enjoyable experience in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.”

Happy New Year to you all! You do an amazing job of making the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and the Preserve a fantastic experience for thousands of people from all over the world; making us the envy of such organizations throughout this great country. Thank you!!

Meet Two Stewards: Jeanne Murray and Sondra Dorman

by Peggy McNamara, Steward

You can always see Conservancy stewards out in the Preserve working - including Jeanne Murray and Sondra Dorman. However, Jeanne and Sondra are better known for their activities in the culinary corner at our steward retreats. They're the ones who direct the team of Volunteer Support people who dish out the goodies! How this came to be their job is an interesting story.

Jeanne was born and raised in Tempe. In 1956, she married Richard Murray (also a steward) and they moved to Scottsdale. After years of hiking in the Preserve and witnessing the good things being accomplished by the Conservancy, she and Richard decided to become stewards in November



Stewards Sondra Dorman and Jeanne Murray

Meet Two Stewards, cont.

2008, which makes Jeanne a member of the Enlightened 18 Class. Since then she has patrolled the trails and helped with food for MSC retreats.

But what was Jeanne doing between 1956 and 2008? She attended Phoenix College and Lampson Business College and worked as a claims examiner and as a private investigator in the insurance claims industry. She and Richard also raised two children. Now they enjoy playing with three grandchildren.

Jeanne has always been active in athletics. She has played tennis most of her life and still enjoys water aerobics and hiking. On vacations, she and her family hiked, biked and climbed all over Arizona and the Southwest.

Until recently, she volunteered at the Area Agency on Aging in Phoenix and Scottsdale where she helped people with their Medicare problems, as well as their insurance claims and issues.

As Jeanne was growing up in Tempe, Sondra was doing the same in Salt Lake City. During the early days of the Alaskan pipeline construction, when Sondra was in her early 20's, she moved to Fairbanks and later to Port Angeles, Washington. But Alaska lured her back. She spent 10 summers in Kodiak helping to run her family's commercial salmon fishing operation while wintering in Port Angeles.

While living in Port Angeles, she began to hike and backpack in nearby Olympic National Park. She once backpacked there for 10 days, completing a circuit around Mt. Rainier.

After Sondra's three children left for college, she moved back to Salt Lake where she became friends with two river guides from St. George, Utah. Because of her previous experience working in fish camps, along with her outdoor cooking and knot tying skills, they invited her to join them as an assistant river guide on a 37-foot motorized raft. She enjoyed rafting for four years.

But in 1993, she and a friend had the opportunity to go to Patagonia to be camp cooks on a scientific expedition. They cooked for 30 people on propane stoves and open campfires. Sondra says, "That was a bit dicey during the windy, rainy three weeks there."

When the expedition ended, she returned to Salt Lake City. While working in an art gallery there, she met her husband, Michael, a professor at ASU. They married in 1994 and began to take adventure trips. They traveled to East and West Africa, Bhutan, Nepal, Greece, Turkey, Peru, Ecuador and Chile. They most recently traveled to Jordan to see the ancient city of Petra.

All the while, Sondra wove tapestries, particularly abstract landscapes. She showed them in galleries while she lived in Washington State, and she still continues to weave today.

Along the way, Sondra and Jeanne became tennis friends. Both husbands are avid tennis players also and the two couples belong to the Scottsdale Athletic Club. Three years ago, Jeanne and Dick encouraged Sondra to become a steward. She graduated with Class 24, The Almost Dirty Dozen. Sondra began doing patrols in the Lost Dog Wash area where she enjoys interacting with hikers.

One day, Nancy Howe asked Sondra and Jeanne to help out with food and beverage at the retreats. They innocently agreed and quickly found themselves in charge of the activity. Now Sondra and Jeanne take the leadership role in purchasing, preparing and setting up the food and drink served at the steward retreats. "It's a lot of work," they say, "but we have lots of good volunteers to help us and the retreats have given us some very enjoyable memories."

So, what is your favorite retreat memory? Mine is the feta cheese with fig spread. Wait, I forgot about the chocolate chip cookies. Then there's always the champagne punch . . . I think it's time for another party!

Inspiration from Arizona Cowboy Poetry

Note: I heard this poem recited on *A Prairie Home Companion* when it recently aired in Tempe. The poem was read by the author's grandson, Gail Steiger, a songwriter, filmmaker, and cowboy who is the foreman of a remote ranch in Yavapai County, Arizona. I couldn't help thinking of the Preserve and how important it is to take delight in the pleasures it provides.
-Editor

Hail and Farewell

by Delia Gist Gardner

(Reflection from a cabin in Skull Valley, Arizona, over an old Indian camping ground, 1945)

Think not on my brittle bones mingling with dust, for
These
Are but a handful added
To those gone before.
Think, rather, that on this borrowed hilltop
One lived joyously, and died content.

In this dark soil
I found reminders, saying:
"You, too, will pass; savor for us
The wind and the sun."

From the smoke-blackened earth
I dug
A frail shell bracelet, shaped lovingly, skillfully,
For a brown skinned wrist, now dust.
The broken piece of clay
Was a doll's foot and leg, artfully curved,
Made for brown-eyed child.

Pottery shards saying:
"Yours for a little time only
Take delight in this, as we did."

The tree will die; the vine wither and rattle in the wind.
For I broke a law of Nature.
I carried the water to the hilltop. Nevertheless,
For those after me there will be
These things I have loved:

Morning sun rays, slanting across the hilltop,
Lighting the great trees in the green meadow.
Wind, the great blue sky,
Peace of the encircling hills.