

# Mountain Lines

Vol. 19 • No. 4 • Spring 2013



## The Future is Here

The next generation works hard to make a difference!

## Annual Report

Your support: results and vision for the future.

## Mountain Biking

Benefit from riding in the Preserve.



McDowell Sonoran  
CONSERVANCY.



Mike Nolan, Executive Director

An important goal of our work in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve is to create a sustainable Preserve that future generations will enjoy as we do.

One of our strategies for doing that is to create fun activities and opportunities for young people to come to the Preserve on enjoyable outings.

These activities include such things as our Family Friday Sunset Series, a presentation offered every first Friday of the month at the Gateway and designed for children and adults to meet and learn about animals and other natural features of the Preserve. Our volunteer Nature Guides lead curriculum-based programs for school groups along the Bajada Nature Trail. The Hike program offers family-oriented hikes designed for walking trails at a pace and distance that young visitors can enjoy. This year we launched a free "family passport" for children that encourages youngsters to visit every Preserve trailhead while making a game of watching for and identifying desert wildlife and plants.

The Preserve offers many benefits to our community and adds to the character of Scottsdale. It improves the environment,

provides outstanding scenic vistas, valuable open space, habitat to protect plant and animals species, and passive recreational opportunities. It's the kind of place that people and wildlife find special. A place that enhances our quality of life because of the opportunities it affords to hike, bike, ride a horse, watch birds and other wildlife, study plants...or just enjoy quiet contemplation in nature.

The many ways of experiencing the Preserve are reflected in the voices of those who write about it in the pages of Mountain Lines. In this issue you can read about youth in the Preserve, bird watching, and mountain biking. You can learn about animal families, and coveys of quail. About the International Trails Symposium, and the international audience who will learn about the Preserve. You'll hear the enthusiasm of the authors as they share their passions for the Preserve with you.

This issue also includes our annual report, a brief update of our 2012 results, and a celebration of all of you who support us and make our work possible. We've accomplished a great deal in the past year, and I thank everyone who has worked to make the Preserve the outstanding ecological, recreational, and community asset it is today. 🐦

## Table of Contents

Conservancy Up Close.....	3
Youth in the Preserve.....	4
Watchable Wildlife .....	8
Annual Report .....	9
Animal Families.....	13
Birding in the Preserve .....	14
Mountain Biking: Pedaling for Fitness.....	16
Mountain Biking: A Great Activity for Any Age .....	18

Cover Photo: A mountain biker ends his ride along the Gateway Loop. Photo by: R. Terlecki

## About Us

*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.*

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# 21st American Trails International Trails Symposium

The American Trails International Trails Symposium is held every two years and it's coming to the nearby Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation resort in mid-April, 2013. This three-day program will feature almost 100 speakers from across America and around the world, including representatives from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and the City of Scottsdale, who will share ideas and teach new techniques in land planning and management.

The Conservancy and our Scottsdale partners have been deeply involved in planning this Symposium. We were instrumental in developing new concepts including extended "Core Track" sessions to allow in-depth discussion and training in useful techniques. As a result, Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve and the Conservancy and our stewards will be featured during the Symposium. We will be providing field

activities called "mobile workshops" that allow Symposium participants to see what our stewards do on the trail. Our mobile workshop offerings will include guided educational hikes with special emphasis on the development and implementation of our extensive public hiking program.

Most important, the Field Institute research staff and steward volunteers will present a three-hour Core Track entitled "Fact Not Fiction: Measuring Trail Impacts for Better Resource Management." This session will share the lessons learned from the Field Institute's work on a Resource Management Plan for the Preserve. The lessons will help participants develop quantitative methods for assessing the impact of trail use, nearby development, invasive plants, and restoration efforts on the land. ➡

Source: Dan Gruber, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Master Steward

Participants will enjoy hikes in the Preserve. Photo Courtesy: F. Farina







# Youth in the Preserve: The Future Is Here

By Peggy McNamara  
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy steward

If you are in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve and notice a helicopter flying with cargo nets of rocks swinging below it, or see a teenager working on a trail, you might wonder, "What's going on?" Well, the possibility is good that you chanced upon a project organized by an Eagle Scout candidate.

Since 2000, Boy Scouts have worked on projects that improve the Preserve. The first Eagle Scout candidate looking for a project there was Brian Jones from Troop 30. He called Preserve Coordinator Claire Miller that year to ask if it would be possible to do a project in the Preserve. Claire recalls, "I let him know that I certainly had several different project opportunities!"

In 2000, there were no official trailheads in the Preserve but there were many unauthorized trails. Together, Claire and Brian decided that a good project would be to close a trail in the vicinity of Lost Dog Wash. So, Brian made his plans. He obtained the funding and necessary supplies for the project. He also organized Boy Scout volunteers to do the work. They removed all unauthorized trail markers (rocks spray-painted with arrows). They erased evidence of

the unauthorized trail by planting native cacti and spreading desert debris on the trail. They also removed letters painted on a mountainside at the end of the trail. Claire says, "The project was a great success and kicked off a succession of additional projects from Troop 30. This was followed by projects with many other troops."

Over a decade later, Claire still works with troops on their projects. She estimates that an average of 14 Eagle Scout candidate projects are conducted in the Preserve each year. The projects cover a variety of activities, such as restoration, mitigation, and revegetation work; erosion control; trail building and maintenance; cactus salvage; boundary marking and sign installation; fence and irrigation pipeline removal; graffiti removal; restoration of wildlife water catchments; invasive plant removal; and mine closures. One project built an emergency helicopter landing zone near Gateway Trailhead. Claire states, "Scouts have probably helped Robbin Schweitzer and me with just about anything you can think of that needs to be done in the Preserve. Eagle Scout candidate

projects helped with the development of every one of the official trailheads built in the Preserve." Claire estimates that over time, Scout projects account for probably one-third of the larger projects that have been completed in the Preserve.

Recently, I witnessed an Eagle Scout candidate's project with an interesting history. Let us diverge for a moment and reset the clock back to 1995. The first sales tax to purchase land for the Preserve passed on May 23 and Daniel Kovach was less than two months old then. His mother, Christine Kovach, served on the Political Action Committee to get the tax initiative passed. She became a member of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Board of Directors. Christine served in this capacity for many years and also served as Chair for several years. Daniel attended many of these early meetings with his mother, albeit in his stroller.

Now fast forward to September 2012. Daniel is a 17-year-old Eagle Scout candidate, managing an ambitious and extensive project benefiting the Preserve. He has planned, organized and implemented the helicopter

*Two brave kids help their parents capture insects in the Preserve. The insects, captured using a light trap, are identified and counted by Citizen Scientists from the McDowell Sonoran Field Institute and researchers from Arizona State University. Photo by: M. Jensen*



*Boy Scouts working in the Preserve. Photo by: J. Koehring*

transport of over 50 tons of rocks and erosion-mitigation material from the Tom's Thumb Trailhead to various locations on the mountainous Tom's Thumb Trail. To accomplish this, he raised funds and coordinated over 60 volunteers for the six-hour project. On a Saturday in September 2012, volunteers loaded the rocks into cargo nets at the trailhead. The helicopter transported them to groups of other volunteers stationed at various points along Tom's Thumb Trail. These volunteers took the material out of the cargo nets at the trailside. It took several subsequent Saturdays to put the rocks into place for erosion control. However, the project was completed in time for the grand opening of the Tom's Thumb Trailhead in October 2012.

Many of the Eagle Scouts who complete projects in the Preserve return

to work on the projects of fellow troop members. In addition, some Scouts belong to school service clubs and return to work with their school friends on service club projects.

But Scouts are not the only youth working in the Preserve. The Conservancy can boast of a number of high school students who are stewards. These young adults patrol trails, work on Conservancy construction and maintenance projects and participate in research activities with the McDowell Sonoran Field Institute, the Conservancy's research program.

While the focus of the Scouts and young stewards is primarily on working in the Preserve, many youth come to the Preserve for education and fun. The Conservancy offers numerous opportunities for that.

Let's take a look at the Family Friday Sunset Series. Programs in this series occur on the first Friday of every month from November through April and are organized by Conservancy Naturalist, Judi Irons, and her team of Nature Guides. The events focus on educating children about the Sonoran desert and are geared to their interests. The hour-long event features an expert in some aspect of the Sonoran Desert. The expert gives an interpretive talk about animals, plants, people, ecology or the geology of the desert. Often, the speaker brings desert creatures or artifacts to show and pass around.

Judi and her team of Nature Guides also host many school field trips. They give tours and interpretive talks along desert trails, and hand out activity sheets to the students. The field trips



target students from kindergarten through fourth grade. The focus is on encouraging students to use their senses to make observations while on the tour. Nature Guides offer all kinds of hands-on items to pass around such as animal skulls, cactus skeletons, seeds, and even prickly pear candy. As many as 100 children per tour attend and there are as many as 10 tours each year. These tours are limited only by school resources to plan the field trips.

Nature Guides also conduct youth group tours for Scouts, church groups and other child-centered organizations. The purpose of these tours is to connect kids to the outdoors and show them the hidden treasures in the Preserve. Each tour spends one-and-one-half hours on the signed Bajada Nature Trail, and

provides hands-on opportunities for children to learn about the desert. Judi and her team average about 20 youth group tours each year.

The Conservancy also offers Preserve hikes specifically geared toward youth. An appropriate age is suggested for the hike. Sometimes hike leaders also prepare special activities for the children on the hike.

From October through April, a trailside naturalist station is set up every Saturday at the entrance to the Gateway between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Nature Guides are there to talk to families about how to make mesquite cookies, about who dug the hole in the saguaro, about what that sticky stuff is on the creosote leaves, and other fascinating desert secrets. A table dis-

plays desert artifacts to see and touch, such as a saguaro boot or a tortoise shell. Sometimes a craft table is set up for the kids.

Since the beginning of Scottsdale's preservation effort in the early 1990s, the vision has been "preserving land for future generations." The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy feels so strongly about this responsibility that it is part of its mission statement. Now it's 2013 and the next generation is in the Preserve. They are there to learn about the desert and have fun in it. Some of them are also working in it. In the words of Christine Kovach, "The next generation is here. They are taking responsibility for their legacy and they are working to preserve it." 🦋

*Youth tours connect kids to the outdoors. Photo by: R. Raish*





# Watchable Wildlife: A Covey of Quail

By Kellie Elliott  
McDowell Sonoran  
Field Institute intern



*Quail chicks looking for food. Photo by: M. Jensen*

**A**rizona in the spring has an undeniable charm. The desert is lush, a flood of color coats the landscape, and the air is warming but not yet hot. One of the most adorable gifts of this season is the Gambel's quail chicks, peeping and toddling along with their parents. These little puffballs emerge from their eggs beginning in late April all the way through summer. The chicks are born precocial, meaning they are already covered in a layer of down, with their eyes open, and ready to move around. From day one they will need to keep up with the gang to learn proper life lessons and avoid predation.

A quail family is referred to as a covey. A covey can range in size depend-

ing on the season. Most of the year the covey is comprised of extended family members, offspring from previous seasons, and whoever else can work their way in. In the springtime, when a male and female pair up to breed, they will separate from the larger group. The female will select a location near the ground for the nest that is safe from predators, and provides nice foraging. The male keeps watch, acting as a guard; he will alert his partner whenever there is danger. They will work hard to protect their growing family.

If you are so lucky to have a growing quail family in your backyard, do your best to keep away and let the parents do their work. The eggs should

hatch in 23 to 28 days. While these parents always have the best of intentions they sometimes select a location for their nest that is not exactly suitable. Every year quails nest in flower pots, planters, and such locations that allow the parents safe entry and escape, but the poor little ones just can't get out! If you fear the chicks will be unable to exit the nest you can build a small ramp that allows them access. Do this, at a time that least disturbs the parents. If this is not an option please call Liberty Wildlife at 480-998-5550 in the event of any wildlife emergency. 🐦

*Photo by: R. Grebe*



# McDowell Sonoran Conservancy 2012 Annual Report





# A Sustainable Preserve for Future Generations



Board Chair Tom Headley  
and Past Chair Oliver Smith.  
Photo by: D. Bierman

Thanks to the combined efforts of our Stewards, donors, Board of Directors, staff, and research associates, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy had another successful year ending in 2012. As you can see by the accompanying numbers and charts, we ended the year with assets of \$1.23 million, up \$196,041 from 2011. Our income, which includes contributed hours and services, was \$1.29 million, up \$72,136 from the previous year. A copy of our full, audited 2012 financial statements can be obtained by contacting Mike Nolan.

To see how MSC has flourished in our mission to provide stewardship for Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve, however, we need to look beyond the financial numbers. The Preserve continues to grow; during our fiscal year ending 2012 Scottsdale added 4,410 acres to the Preserve and further added 6,393 by the end of calendar 2012, an increase of 63% in just 12 months.

Our Stewards are supported by sophisticated training and continuing education programs that provide the knowledge they need to serve the Preserve. This year the Stewards gave nearly 30,000 hours of their time, increasing the value of donated services we provide by more than 10% over the previous year, to \$627,535. They devoted thousands of hours to patrolling trails, repairing damaged trails, and providing a

welcoming presence, answering questions and conducting many, many outreach programs and other key activities.

Working with scientists and institutional partners of our McDowell Sonoran Field Institute, Stewards as citizen-scientists helped complete the second year of a biological inventory of the Preserve's flora and fauna, launched efforts to monitor human impacts along trails and along boundaries with urban development, and helped rediscover the forgotten route of the 150-year-old Stoneman military road.

Looking forward, MSC will have another high-growth year as we continue to assist our partners at the City in stewarding the existing 27,800 acres of the Preserve and the 2,365 acres of new land Scottsdale hopes to add to the Preserve in the coming year. We currently steward about 60 miles of trails and three major trailheads with a plan to add some 150 miles of trails and a fourth major trailhead in the not very distant future. We will have more science and knowledge at our fingertips through the growth and development of the Field Institute to help us do a better and better job. We thank all of our supporters; those who donate their hours and those who donate their dollars. It is because of them that we are able to accomplish our mission to steward the Preserve for this and future generations.

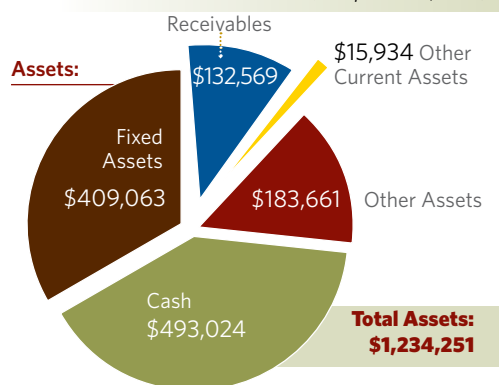
Tom Headley  
Chairman, Board of Directors

Mike Nolan  
Executive Director

## How We Measure Success

### Financial Position

(As of June 30, 2012)



### Liabilities and Net Assets:

\$19,191  
Total Liabilities

\$1,215,060  
Total Net Assets

**Total Liabilities And Net Assets: \$1,234,251**

### Statement of Activities

(As of June 30, 2012)

#### 2012 Revenue:

**49% Contributed VOLUNTEER Service:**

41% Cash & Pledges  
6% In-Kind Donations  
5% Program Service Revenue and Special Events  
(1%) Investments

**Total Support and Revenue: \$1,286,161**

#### 2012 Expenses:

84% Program Services  
9% Management and General  
7% Fundraising

**Total Expenses: \$1,099,007**

*Audited financial statements available upon request.*

### Science-Based Conservation in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve

(as of December 31, 2012)

Plants  
**334**

Mammals  
**21**

**25**

Reptiles and  
amphibians

**115** Birds

**225** Invertebrates

**Total of 720 plants and animals identified through our Field Institute.**



# McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Honor Roll of Donors

## We gratefully acknowledge our supporters

(gifts and pledges received July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012)

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continued from pg. 11

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Myron and Billie Klevens  
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Eric and Kaylene Kovach  
Tracey Kramer  
Mary Lynn and Kent Kretchmar  
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Barb and Jim Zeller

## Hiker Circle (\$1-\$99)

Although too numerous to list, we thank each one of the generous members of the Hiker Circle!



# Animal Families

By Susan Aufheimer  
McDowell Sonoran Field Institute volunteer



*One-year-old coyote pups are ready to go out on their own. Photo by: R. Babb*

**D**esert animals of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve raise their families in some familiar and not-so-familiar ways:

## The Single Mom

Take a mother scorpion, for example, who wants to protect her babies just like any other mother. But unlike humans, she carries her babies on her back—all 100 of them!—until they are ready to go off on their own. Dad is nowhere to be found because he was probably eaten by mom after mating! In 10 to 20 days, after their exoskeletons harden, the baby scorpions walk off their mother's back and she never sees them again!

## The Nuclear Family

The coyote family is more traditional. Mom and dad form a monogamous pair to raise their 5 to 10 pups. Mom nurses her pups safely in a den and dad supports them with regurgitated food. A single den can house other coyote moms, and related moms will care for each other's young. Coyote pups live and play in the den for about six weeks when their mom starts taking them outside with dad to hunt with the rest of the pack. After a year, coyote pups are ready to go out on their own. Fun fact: Coyotes "sing" as a way of commu-

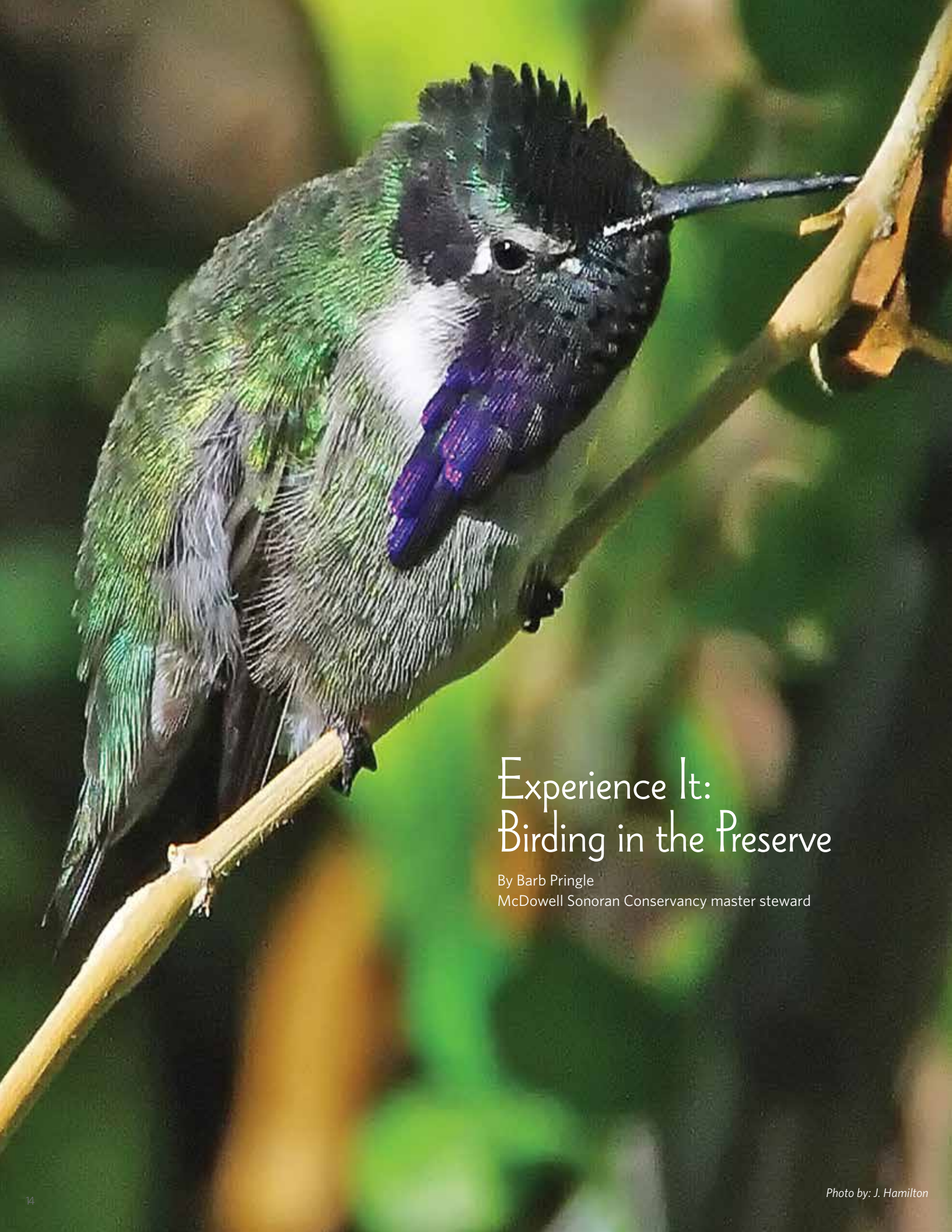
nicating with other coyote families and keeping track of their own family members.

## The Polygamist

Javelinas look like thin, bristly pigs, but they're not pigs. Although javelinas are related to pigs, they are actually peccaries. Javelinas live in a small herd of 6 to 12, in one big family led by the dominant male who is the father of all the babies in the herd. A mother javelina usually gives birth in isolation to 1 to 3 babies, which must be protected from the rest of the herd because the adults will eat the newborns! After only a day, the babies are safe to rejoin the other adults. The extended family eats, sleeps, and forages together. They enjoy eating prickly pears and even reptiles. Javelinas recognize their territory and each other by their very strong scent that some say smells like old cheese.

Scorpions, coyotes, and javelinas are only three of the many animals living and raising families in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Take a hike and look for other family units, such as quails with their parade of chicks or a group of mule deer with a fawn sticking close to its mother's side. Enjoy family life in the desert! 🐾





# Experience It: Birding in the Preserve

By Barb Pringle  
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy master steward

Photo by: J. Hamilton



You rise before the sun when the hunting is best, eager to get started. This time, you're going to hike the northern part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, up by Brown's Ranch. With its higher elevations, cooler temperatures and diverse wildflowers and plant life, you might spot that one bird you've wanted to see for years. Yet if you don't, you won't be disappointed, for your love of birding isn't just about hunting for a new species, or growing the tally of birds on your list. You're a "birder" because there's something deeply satisfying about getting out in the morning and joining nature as she wakes up; as desert wildlife stirs and the birds call to one another as they start their search for seeds, insects, water, or mates.

Experienced birders agree it isn't just about seeing a rare species, though that's always a thrill. Our own Mike Nolan, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy executive director, has been birding since 1981, when he worked in the Washington, DC, area and began joining his colleagues for a lunchtime walk to watch the springtime migration of wood warblers. Their rainbow of colors hooked Mike into the beauty of birding. Additionally, "bird-watching gives you a great excuse to get outdoors. Instead of just walking from one point to the other, you learn to slow down and really pay attention to nature," says Nolan. "When you look for birds, you look for movement and listen for a distinct call. As you walk and watch for motion, you end up seeing all kinds of other wildlife that you would probably have missed otherwise."

Did you know that Arizona is one of the top 10 places in North America for bird watching? People come from all over the world to go birding in our beautiful and diverse state. Even here in metropolitan Phoenix, birding opportunities abound.

Our own McDowell Sonoran Preserve is home to at least 115 species, identified through a year-long bird survey in 2012 managed by Melanie Tluczek, the Conservancy's McDowell Sonoran Field Institute research coordinator.

This is the first year of the survey and Tluczek says she's pleased with the diversity of species found so far. When the Field Institute completes its bird survey, it plans to publish the results in a scientific journal and provide a list of Preserve birds that can be used for hikes, education and outreach.

Stewards help with the bird surveys in several ways. Some accompany principal investigator Walter Thurber on bird surveys. Each season they walk along six different transects. A transect is a specific area that they return to each year, be it a wash, a ridge or a canyon. While hiking they count the number of species seen and how many of each they find. Other stewards participate by taking photos of birds they see in the Preserve and sending them to the Field Institute, along with time, date, location, weather and behavior data. The data collected is important

to better understand seasonal movement, behavior, habitat components and environmental changes. "Birds can provide indicators of climate change, habitat alteration and pollution," explains Tluczek.

How do you become a good birder? It's not that complicated. Bird-watching requires persistence and patience. To get the best results, you get up early in the morning. You observe visual details. You learn to shut out other distractions. You listen carefully and talk quietly, if at all. You read and study and don't expect to be an overnight success. These skills are all important for our kids to learn too, which is why many birders bring their family along and introduce their children to the fun of bird watching.

If you enjoy the call of quails beckoning to one another or the majestic sight of the great horned owl, the colorful cardinal, the rare clay-colored sparrow, or the brazen roadrunner, the Preserve is a great place to visit. You might want to join one of the Conservancy's regular birding hikes and start your journey to become a birder. 🐦

Photo by: B. Sargent





*Photo by: T. Roche*

# Mountain Biking: Pedaling for Fitness

By Nancy Howe, MS  
Certified trainer and McDowell Sonoran  
Conservancy steward

Mountain bikers are the newest cadre of McDowell Sonoran Conservancy stewards patrolling the south and north sections of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. With the recent acquisition of 6,400 acres of land in the north section of the Preserve, there is an urgent need to recruit additional volunteers for the bike patrol, according to Class 30 Steward Carole Burton, who recently assumed leadership of this patrol. The northern section of the Preserve has approximately 140 miles of beautiful trails and some of the most spectacular scenery in the valley.

"The area of the Preserve around Brown's Ranch offers some of the best mountain biking in the valley," says Carole. She recalls the first time she rode in the area of Alma School and Dynamite Roads with former bike patrol lead, Mike Millilo. "I had been riding in the valley for several years and



never knew there were such awesome trails so close to home. The trails are very diverse in composition and elevation, and offer challenges such as learning to ride in sandy conditions, building strength in climbing, and navigating the rollercoaster terrain," said Carole. "You could ride every day of the month here and do a different ride each day."

Mountain biking is a great outdoor sport, but it is also an enjoyable recreational activity that offers numerous fitness benefits. Mountain biking develops good cardio conditioning and allows one to burn significant numbers of calories, because the performance requirements are similar to those of interval training. Carole explains, "There are parts of the trails that are flowing and you are pedal-

ing consistently, then you begin a climb which requires added exertion, then you descend and allow your heart rate to come down."

Handling the "whoop-de-doo" (parts of the trail that have short, close hills) is best done by engaging your entire body to pull up when you are on the uphill and relaxing and pushing down on the down hill, she advises. In short, the Brown's Ranch trails provide a great workout in serene, quiet surroundings.

You don't need to be in top physical shape to ride a mountain bike, but consistent riding will definitely enhance the level of your conditioning. Many of the riders in the groups that Carole organizes are over 40 and several are in their 60s and 70s. The group is a mix of

men and women.

"It is never too late to start learning to ride a mountain bike. I started in my late 40s and I am having a blast riding, discovering new trails, and staying healthier than I have ever been," Carole said.

Carole also organizes a Meetup group for mountain bikers and is partnering with a sister mountain bike group that will be offering beginner mountain biking classes. To learn more about the classes (and about Meetup), go to [www.meetup.com/mtbike/](http://www.meetup.com/mtbike/). 🐦

Photo by: N. Howe



# Mountain Biking: A Great Activity for Any Age

By Jace McKeighan  
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy steward

**A**rizona offers some of the best mountain biking trails in the world, and many of them are located in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. As a result, you can get a great workout very close to home and enjoy some of the best scenery in the world all at the same time. That is amazing any way you look at it.

While the Preserve includes some very difficult and technical terrain, it also offers trails and conditions for all riders. I've seen riders under five out there grinding up the hills. I've even seen a mountain unicyclist! Many people have a false impression that mountain bikers are all daredevils, catching air on every bump as they scream down the trail. Yet, mountain biking is a great sport for nearly everyone, and most of us are interested in having a good time without risking serious injury to ourselves or others.

If you have an interest in mountain biking, the best way to begin is to find an experienced rider who can give you sound advice on bikes, equipment (especially equipment that is suited to our desert environment), beginner trails and proper riding techniques. Before you go, make sure that you understand the rules of the trail. For example, within the Preserve boundaries, mountain



Photo by: C. Collins

bikers are obligated to yield to both hikers and horses at all times.

Mountain biking for about five years, Carole Burton, Conservancy bike patrol leader, is a fantastic example of someone who came to the sport later in life, at least by mountain biking standards, and did not let misconceptions about the sport or its participants deter her from trying something new. She describes mountain biking as an "awesome sport" that comes with responsibili-

ties, including riding safely and observing proper trail etiquette.

If you have an interest in mountain biking, you can learn more about beginner trails and the physical benefits of mountain biking at [www.MSCFit.org](http://www.MSCFit.org) or visit [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org) for trail maps of great mountain biking rides.

Until next time, we'll see you on the trails—maybe you'll even be on a mountain bike! 🦋



# Preservation Partner Profile: Wells Fargo

Volunteers from Wells Fargo enjoy one Saturday each month working in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Their efforts help to mitigate human damage to the Preserve, close segments of unauthorized trail, install "rock checks" as erosion control structures, "brush" trail scars by covering with dead plant material, and re-vegetate sites with cacti. Volunteers are trained by Conservancy stewards each month, and some months we have more than 25 people working on a project.


Wells Fargo & Company is Arizona's third-largest private employer, with more than 14,500 team members. Wells Fargo opened its first office in Arizona in Tucson in 1860, a stop on the Overland "Butterfield" Stage route. By 1870, gold discoveries prompted two more offices, in Yuma and Ehrenberg, to serve mining camps, and by 1918, Wells Fargo served customers in 103 locations across Arizona, the nation's newest state.

Wells Fargo is proud to support local environmental organizations through contributions and volunteerism", says JoAnn Holland, Vice

President of Community Relations for Wells Fargo. "Our team members enjoy volunteering their time to make a difference in the Preserve and across our great state."

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy is proud of the support we receive from corporate, community, public and private foundations, and recognizes this support through our Preservation Partners program. Through financial contributions and by join-

ing with us on volunteer work projects, Preservation Partners acknowledge the public value of the vital work we do.

For more information about the Preservation Partner program, please contact Linda Raish at 480-998-7971, extension 101. 

*Wells Fargo volunteers, Susan McCusker and Kathy Roediger, present a check to McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Board Chair Tom Headley.  
Photo by: D. Bierman*



## Join Our Circle of Friends

As a community member who values the outdoors, and specifically the Sonoran Desert, you understand the importance of preserving and maintaining open space now to ensure its availability in the future. This shared appreciation of the desert is why we are inviting you to join us today as a Friend of the Preserve by returning this membership form.

<input type="checkbox"/> McDowell Sonoran Society (\$1,500+)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trailbuilder Circle (\$500)	<input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Circle (\$250)
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward Circle (\$1,000)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hiker Circle (\$50)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pathfinder Circle (\$100)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card	<input type="checkbox"/> A check is enclosed	
Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____		
Name as it appears on the card _____		
Name(s) by which you would like to be acknowledged _____		
Address _____ Email _____		
_____ Phone _____		

☐ I would prefer that my gift remain anonymous

**Mail to: McDowell Sonoran Conservancy • 16435 N. Scottsdale Rd. • Suite 110 • Scottsdale, AZ 85254**



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Get the latest McDowell Sonoran  
Conservancy info at:



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# Earth Day Community Project Saturday April 20, 2013, 8 a.m.

Want to make a difference in your community? Our Earth Day Service Project is good for the environment! Perfect for teens, volunteers will work with experts from scientists to city planners. Enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded people and contribute to the preservation of one of Arizona's precious natural resources. Call Melanie Tluczek at 480-998-7971, extension 105, for more information and to get involved. 🐦

Photo by: B. White

