



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - TOM PURDON

It seems like the summer has flown by, and, for weather, we are soon into some of the best months of the year to do just about anything you would like to do out-of-doors. Of course we are anticipating more comfortable weather to see the fall bird migrations and enjoy hiking or a picnic in Madera Canyon.

The big event this fall is our Friends of Madera Canyon 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. We had to postpone the event this past April because of inclement weather (rare in Arizona, but it does happen). The big event will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2012, and after researching the weather tables, we should enjoy really nice weather with moderate and comfortable temperatures. I hope you will plan to come up and join in the activities. We will have some nature walks, some children's activities, and many displays by various organizations and groups like ours who are dedicated to education and conservation of our wonderful and unique "sky island" environment. And, yes of course, we will have some food available to enjoy, or you can pack your own picnic. Please see the article about this celebration in the next column for more details. We hope you will join us.

We could use some volunteers to help with some of the activities. Please call Louise Gibbeson (648-1068) or Doug Moore (682-0459), if you are able and willing to help out.

As usual, your FOMC board is busy with many other activities. We were pleased to see the completion of the repairs and re-coating of the wheel chair accessible nature trails between Proctor and Whitehouse locations (page 3). Draft proposal plans are being drawn up for a major partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to make some major improvements in the Amphitheatre area. You will be hearing more about these plans in the upcoming months. Of course we are busy with the usual activities of events for the fall and winter season.

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to help with some of the various projects and events. I want to

put out a special call to anyone who might wish to get involved with the FOMC in any capacity such as event committee work, docent and nature event work, and even a place on the board. It will soon be time to consider board nominations and we would appreciate and request anyone who would like to serve on an active "do something" board to contact me to discuss possibilities at (648-7080).

I look forward to seeing you in the Canyon!

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### SECOND TRY FOR THE FOMC 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 6, has been chosen as the alternative date for the FOMC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in the Canyon. As members may recall, the original event was cancelled in spring due to extremely inclement weather. October weather is historically sunny and bright, so we are going to give it another shot then!

The USFS has declared a "fee free day" in the canyon for the event. The day's main activities will center upon the Proctor Parking Area from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. At the Education Ramada there will be an FOMC info/merchandise table, several kid's nature art and activity tables, USFS information table, nature displays, and a reptile table/presentation by the Tucson Herpetological Society. Free nature, geology, and history walks start from the Proctor trailhead. Additionally, a lunch by Outlaw BBQ will be available for purchase at the Whitehouse Picnic Area with music provided by Yvette Gonzales; FOMC president Tom Purdon and USFS ranger Larry Pratt will speak. All canyon trails and facilities will be open for the day and we hope to have local artists working out in the canyon during the day's festivities.

Planning and scheduling for the festival is ongoing, so please visit the Friends of Madera Canyon website, [www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org](http://www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org), for current information as the

(continued on page 2)

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## NEW MEMBERS

Since May 2012

The Efficiency Experts (Diana and Dennis Makes), Gordon and Patricia Hill, and Gene and Sally Wilson.

## DONATIONS (SINCE MAY 2012)

**GENERAL FUND** - Madera Artists, Belinda Chisholm, Tom Purdon, Willem Van Kempen, and Carolyn Fowler (for matting Joan Lewis' watercolor paintings for the auction/fund raiser this fall - see page 3).

## MEMORIALS

*For Betty McNeal* - Lore Bissell  
*For Linda Hall* - Eileen Buckel and Joanna Fitzjarrald  
*For Diane Williamson* - Gene & Sally Wilson and Members of the Viewpoint Hiking Group  
*For Hank Backlund* - Dorothy Backlund  
*For Jan Vail* - Louise Gibbeson, Eileen Buckel, Mike & Mary Staples, and Tom Purdon.

The Friends of Madera Canyon thanks all new and re-newing members and donors for their contributions that will be used to further the conservation and educational goals of the Friends in the Canyon.

### (25th Anniversary - Continued from page 1)

date approaches. This should be a fun-filled day for adults and kids and a great opportunity to discover and enjoy our beautiful Madera Canyon. So please, contact your neighbors, friends, and family about our party! Ask them to come up and help us in celebrating 25 years of service and education in the canyon and community.

### FOMC Calendar

October 6, 2012 – FOMC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, Madera Canyon  
 October 23, 2012 – Keith Sandford – Apache Legends with hand signs and Native American Flute (Nature series)  
 November 9, 2012 – Tea with Flowers, St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church  
 November 10, 2012 – Sahuarita Pecan Festival (volunteers needed)  
 January 15, 2013 – Richard Conway – Geology of Madera Canyon (Nature Series)  
 January 25, 2013 – Tea with Flowers, St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

### 2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you are an annual member of the Friends, now is a good time to mail us your dues for 2013. Dues sent now to P. O. Box 1203, Green Valley, AZ 85622 will be good until December 31, 2013. Or you can go on line and use our easy renewal application form on our web site.

If we don't hear from you soon, we will send a reminder letter in the mail with an envelope to return your dues. If you are a Friend member at the \$35 level, please consider upgrading to the next level or beyond! Your dues are critical to maintaining the adult and 4th grade school education programs as well as all events and activities that we sponsor for our members.

## PAVING AND RESEALING OF PROCTOR and WHITEHOUSE AREA TRAILS COMPLETED

By George Cottay

Have you gone for a great walk in the canyon lately? Thanks to a generous grant from the Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation Community Investment Fund and the work of Friends of Madera Canyon, the United States Forest Service, and Pima Paving, the Accessible Trail project is complete. The entire trail from Proctor to Whitehouse, including the loop between Whitehouse and Madera Creek, was repaired and resealed. Cement sidewalk was laid at the Proctor Road trail crossing and the Proctor and Whitehouse accessible restrooms.

Although especially important for those with limited mobility, the Accessible Trail is also popular with many canyon visitors who are looking for a walk rather than a hike. The trail's route along and near the Riparian Corridor of Madera Creek extends from Lower Sonoran desert scrub into Upper Sonoran grasslands and woodlands. Interpretive signs offer bits of education. Visitors from all over the world are often found on the trail.

Results of this corporate/non-profit/government/small business partnership will enrich canyon visitors for years to come.

## LOSS OF FRIENDS

By Louise Gibbeson

This summer has been a sad one for the Friends of Madera Canyon. We have lost two faithful volunteers.

Chuck Lobeck passed away in July. Chuck served on the Board of Directors and was instrumental in designing the Friends of Madera Canyon Bud and Mary Gode Scholarship Fund. He visited schools and worked on the applications for the first Scholarship winner. He has been a consistent financial supporter of the Friends.

We lost a valued member in August when Jan Vail passed away. Keep her husband, Carl, in your thoughts and prayers. She and Carl always volunteered together and headed the Preservation Committee for many years. They were always on the schedule at the Visitor Information Station, the Wednesday Farmers Market, and were always there to help at any event while they were in Green Valley. Carl said that he will see us in Green Valley this fall.

## FARMERS' MARKET

We will have our table at the Wednesday Farmers' Market starting in October so now is the time to think about volunteering for a 9:30 to 12:30 shift. It's a great way to introduce Madera Canyon to newcomers to Green Valley and to let visitors know that it's a wonderful place to go for a picnic or a hike. If we get enough volunteers, we might

## FUNDRAISING EVENT "A TEA AMONG FLOWERS"

Joan Lewis, author of "A Field Guide to Madera Canyon Wildflowers," donated her original watercolors she painted for the book to the Friends of Madera Canyon.

Forty watercolors will be offered in a silent auction at the tea. A matted and framed watercolor (page 42 in the field guide) will be a raffle item at the November 9<sup>th</sup> tea. Some of the watercolors will be on our web site soon.

The committee is planning a wonderful tea to be served at the event. "A Tea Among Flowers" will start with an assortment of tea sandwiches, featuring an edible fruit arrangement at each table, and finishing up with delectable dessert items. The committee is searching for different and exciting teas for your taste enjoyment. Tamara Kahrmanis will provide piano music and Carl Perry will play his Native American Flute during the tea.

The date is November 9, 2012. The tea will be held at the St Francis-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, 600 S. La Canada Drive. Doors open at 11:30 AM, with the tea from noon to 2:00 PM. Tickets may be purchased on our web site or from the Chamber of Commerce beginning in October and will be \$10.00 each.

Put this date on your calendar and plan on joining us for a fun afternoon. This is the first of two teas. The second "Tea Among Flowers" will be held on January 25, 2013.

## NPLD COMMUNITY NATURE WALK

Saturday, September 29, is National Public Lands Day (NPLD). To participate in the event, the Friends of Madera Canyon will sponsor a "Community Nature Walk" open to members and the public. Begun in 1994, NPLD is now the nation's largest single-day volunteer event on public lands.

People interested in attending the NPLD Community Nature Walk should meet at the Proctor Nature Loop Trailhead at the Proctor Parking Area (1<sup>st</sup> recreation/parking area on the right as you enter Madera Canyon) on Saturday, September 29, at 8:00 AM. Participants should wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring water, sunhat, sun screen, trail snack, and binoculars. Doug Moore will lead the walk that will be exploring the Proctor Nature Loop, a paved, easy to moderate walk, looking at plants, flowers, birds, insects, and other canyon wildlife.

The USFS has made this a "Free Fee Day" in the canyon.

try to staff a table at the Monday Market as well. Please let Judy Maury know if you are available at: [mauryje@aol.com](mailto:mauryje@aol.com), or by phone at: (520) 777-4993.



**2012 ANNUAL AUDUBON SOCIETY WALK****NATURE SERIES - FALL 2012 and SPRING 2013**

By Doug Moore, Education Director

On Saturday, August 25, I met seven Tucson Audubon Society members at Proctor for our annual monsoon bird/nature walk. Every year since 2007, the FOMC has sponsored this summer walk. This year, FOMC president Tom Purdon and his wife, Kathryn, attended and walked along with the Tucson Audubon Society members.

The morning was crystal clear and bird song filled the air. Varied Bunting, Lesser Goldfinch, and Black-throated Sparrow were singing from around the parking area. Good monsoon precipitation had turned the canyon foliage an emerald green with many summer annuals and perennials growing well and flowering. Several species of grasshoppers chewed on the trailside foliage as butterflies and other insects flitted between blossoms. With the creek burbling in the background, the group explored the lower canyon loop under the comfortable shade of mesquite and oak.

The heavy foliage made spotting birds more challenging, but Mexican Jay, Hepatic Tanager, Bell's Vireo, Rock Wren, Canyon Towhee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue Grosbeak and several other species were seen. Arizona Sunflower Weed, Velvet Pod Mimosa, Ivyleaf Morning Glory, and Smooth Bouvardia were among the showier flowers. The group also saw Pipevine Swallowtail, Empress Leilia Hackberry, and Arizona Sister butterflies, as well as an assortment of sulphurs and blues. Large leaf-footed bugs and long-horn beetles buzzed noisily from tree to tree. The fall "caterpillar season" is ramping up too, with a variety of different tiger moth "wooly bears" seen munching down leaves. Clark's Spiny and Ornate Tree lizards displayed from tree limbs, while whiptail lizards scampered up the trail beneath our feet. Particular highlights were a honeybee hive in an old oak and several Canyon Treefrogs hanging out on the railing of the upper bridge.

**October 23, 2012** - Our first program is by Keith Sandford who was with us at an April "Music in the Canyon" performance. Keith has researched and studied the Apache Legends from their Arizona History. He will tell us the legends (using his own tapes), discuss and show us their hand signs, and play their songs on his Native American flute. Keith is well known in the Native American Flute Circle. Keith also teaches beginning Native American flute and has written several books on the flutes.

**January 15, 2013** - Richard Conway returns to share with us more on the Geology of Madera Canyon. He intrigued us last fall with the geology of the Santa Rita Mountains and will make it specific to Madera Canyon this season. Richard, George Cottay, and Doug Moore have created a brochure on the geology of Madera Canyon that will be available at the program. The Geology Brochure joins our other brochures available in the canyon to advance education and enjoyment of Madera Canyon.

**Spring 2013** - Doug Moore, Director of Education, will present a program on the "Birds of Madera Canyon" in the spring. No date has been set as yet. Those of you who have been at a presentation by Doug, know that it will be worthwhile.

All Nature Series Programs will again be held at the Community Performance and Art Center on Continental Road. Programs will be held in the theater and will begin at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and will be available after September 15 either on the Friends web site ([www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org](http://www.friendsofmaderacanyon.org)) or at the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce.



**FRIENDS OF MADERA CANYON**  
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