



Shape the Future

Canyon Chatter

Friends of Madera Canyon

March, 2026



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On the Cover. The Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) is a small, 3–3.5-inch bird found in the arid deserts and coastal scrub of the southwestern U.S. and Baja California. Male individuals are identified by their striking, shimmering violet crowns and throat patches (gorgets) that reach to the sides, whereas females display green backs and white undersides.

Costa's Hummingbirds need to visit about 1,840 flowers daily to get enough nectar for their energy needs.

French naturalist Jules Bourcier named Costa's Hummingbird after his friend Louis Marie Pantaléon Costa de Beauregar, a Sardinian patriot and hummingbird collector.

Despite being normally restricted to the Southwest, Costa's Hummingbirds have shown up several times in the Pacific Northwest and have even ventured as far as Alaska and British Columbia, Canada. Though usually found in the Southwest, Costa's Hummingbirds have also appeared in the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, and British Columbia, Canada.

Researchers discovered that Costa's Hummingbirds can enter a torpid state during low night-time temperatures, characterized by a slowed heart rate and decreased body temperature. In this state, their hearts beat around 50 times per minute, compared to 500 to 900 beats per minute when they are awake and resting.

Join Friends of Madera Canyon. Below are links to join as a new member, renew a membership or make a donation. The links will take you to a secure server to use to make an automated payment. Do you have any questions? Let us know. If you prefer to help by writing a check, please make your check payable to Friends of Madera Canyon - mail to:

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From the President

My mother often spoke about how much she valued her “mountaintop” experiences. She was not much of a hiker, so she didn’t have many of those experiences literally on top of a mountain. She did like to camp, though. Being in the outdoors, surrounded by evergreens, embraced by silence broken only by the sounds of nature would be enough to transport her to the mountaintop in her mind. She would have loved sitting by a gurgling Madera Creek in the shade of the sycamores and cottonwoods. I certainly do.

Mom was philosophical about those experiences, though. You can’t live your life in a constant mountaintop experience, she would say, because, soon, you wouldn’t be able to enjoy the specialness of the moment.

I’m guessing that you, like Mom and me, are grateful for your mountaintop experiences.

Opening our shutters each morning, I see the Sierrita Mountains first. When the sun rises high enough, its rays turn the Sierritas into mounds of light brown sugar color ribboned with random dark streaks of shadows. I look at the magic of the sun on the Sierritas and smile.

From the Proctor lot, the Sierritas are subsumed in a miles-long string of mountains and peaks. The view from that map on the trail is its own mountaintop experience.

Sometimes of the year, the sun sets behind the Sierritas. They become a kind of sundial for the seasons. When rain comes from the southwest, our typical weather pattern, clouds hug the mountains and thwart my daily ritual.

Because the slopes are uninhabited, when darkness comes, I can’t see the Sierritas at all. And we have moved to a place where dramatically earlier darkness and later dawn are facts of life as the winter solstice approaches. So, for much of the twenty-four hours of a day in winter, I can’t see the mountains.

Of course, whether I can see them or not, they are still there.

The changing amount of time I can see them, depending on the season, suggests a metaphor for goodness, kindness, and other bedrock values that bind people together in compassionate concern for others. Sometimes, evidence of that bedrock is harder to see than at other times. Sometimes, there is darkness. Sometimes, there are clouds.

But they are always there, to be lit every morning by the sun, to be in the light more each day as a new year begins.

There is something uplifting about mountains.

Dan White



Sky Island Field Notes from Your Executive Director



The sound of Madera Canyon in March is unlike anything else. As the snow melts at the top of the mountain, cool water flows in the creek, creating a rushing, rhythmic melody that signals the true start of spring in our Sky Island home.

Recently, I spent a golden afternoon at the water's edge. I felt a profound sense of gratitude as I watched my two daughters and their friends splash in the refreshing flow. As we explored, we ran into some neighbors and, not surprisingly, a few Friends of Madera Canyon (FoMC) members. Those brief, joyful chats by the water reminded me that while the scenery is breathtaking, it's the people who make this canyon a community.

Our members fuel everything we achieve, from our vital conservation efforts to the educational programs that inspire the next generation of naturalists and lifelong learners. You are the reason we can protect this delicate ecosystem while keeping it accessible for everyone to enjoy.

To demonstrate our commitment, my family became an official member of FoMC this month! While we've been enjoying Madera Canyon for years, we realized it's never too late to officially be a part of this amazing organization in a bigger way.

Our members are the foundation of FoMC. Whether you are a long-time supporter or considering joining for the first time, your contribution directly impacts the canyon's future.

Individual Memberships: Start at just \$35.

Household Memberships: We encourage you to add your family members to your plan! It's a wonderful way to foster a legacy of stewardship in your own home.

Share the Opportunity: If you have friends or family who love the canyon, please invite them to join our mission.

Join or Renew Today: friendsofmaderacanyon.org/join/

Thank you for being the heart of Madera Canyon. I look forward to seeing you on the trails!

With gratitude,

Kristin Wisneski-Blum

Executive Director, Friends of Madera Canyon





Announcements

The Tucson Bird Alliance

The Tucson Bird Alliance will be offering talks again in Green Valley on the 2nd Tuesday at 11am. This year the talks will be held at Canoa Hills Center in the Saguaro Room. Here is the last talk scheduled.

Tuesday March 10 @11am with Stephen Vaughan "Exploring Arizona's Pygmy-Owls"

Save these Dates

Advanced call for Volunteers for March 13, March 14, and March 15.

We will be sending out a call for volunteers for 2 events in March.

Hawk Watch in Tubac on March 13

and the Tucson Festival of Books on March 14 & 15.



Bob Pitcher

A BUNCH OF ARIZONA

Bradford Torrey arrived in Tucson on January 31. It was his first time in Arizona, in fact, his first experience of the West, apart from the prior week he'd spent in San Antonio and El Paso. He came to look for Arizona's birds and to write about them. Torrey was charmed by the Sonoran Desert and stayed here for two full months. The year was 1903.

Torrey was a well-known writer. A New Englander born in 1843, he began writing in the 1880s, mostly about the birds of his region. By the turn of the century, he was ranked with John Burroughs as an essayist on nature and wildlife, and was engaged back home in Boston in the long-term project of editing Thoreau's journals for publication.

What Did Torrey Do Here?

Tucson was in 1903 a town of 8,000, its built-up area extending only from maybe Speedway (then Feldman Street) on the north to 17th or 18th Street on the south. To the east, the University buildings marked the end of town, and, then as now, there wasn't room for much of anything west of the river except St. Mary's Hospital.

Torrey found a place to stay, not easy for a healthy man, he says, in a place otherwise so full of tuberculosis sufferers, and then he ventured out to see the birds. Except for an occasional lift in a wagon, he went on foot. He says he never felt safer than he did in Tucson – the first wild days of the city seemed to have vanished without a trace. He wandered about Tumamoc Hill and Sentinel Mountain (A Mountain) and into the hills beyond. He often walked the "six or seven miles" beyond town to what was left of Fort Lowell, "a relic," he calls it, "of the Indian wars." Those wars weren't yet thirty years in the past, but to Torrey, they were a distant past; so much had times changed. He made friends with a pair of campers at the Fort, and they once made an expedition of it, going some way up Sabino Canyon. Closer to the city, Torrey explored along the river south of town, but not apparently very far.

Though he mentions "the snow-capped Santa Ritas" in the distance, he didn't make it to Madera Canyon. It just wasn't feasible then for a traveler in his circumstances. There wasn't yet a rail connection to Canoa; that came only in 1910. A trip down by wagon might well have taken two full days, and, once he was here, there would have been nowhere to stay. Torrey would have known of the reputation of Arizona's mountains for unusual birds, but he had to be satisfied with the desert – and he was.

When he walked out, Torrey carried only a pair of eight-power field glasses; he let us know. He sometimes calls them his opera glasses, then refers to them as the general use for such things. He carried no camera – no Kodaks in his day. He had a field guide to the birds with him, which it's plain he'd studied well before he came west. It was Florence Merriam Bailey's Handbook of the Birds of the Western United States: Including the Great Plains, published the year before. (Mrs. Bailey's books were well thought of in her day; Wikipedia calls them the first bird field guides. The one Torrey used is available from Amazon.) Torrey carried no gun, as birders then were still apt to do. And though he takes an interest in bird nests and eggs, he was no egg collector.



What Did Torrey See?

First of all, he saw the desert. In Tucson, he says, you can start in any direction you like, and within a few minutes you're out in the desert with little but creosote bush and cactus. He seemed to have loved it, though he was frustrated by the lack of a botany guide to tell him what plants he was seeing. He could pick out lupine, evening primrose, and California poppy, and of course saguaros and mesquite; most else baffled him. Apparently, it had been a cold, wet winter. The week Torrey arrived, it had snowed three times. So by March, there were flowers aplenty. He stayed the second month to see

As for mammals, there were plenty of jackrabbits and ground squirrels, and he saw a pair of coyotes. The last were evidently shyer than they are now; he was told it was rare to see coyotes, though not to hear them. Javelinas hadn't yet colonized this area from Mexico. No reptiles, apart from one lizard, he says he saw merely "as a streak."

Birds he saw – a good selection of those one expects to find in the drier parts of the desert and foothills today. He had favorites, of course. Most brilliant were Vermilion Flycatchers, which he was delighted to find quite common by the time he left town at the end of March. As brilliant and engaging as the two Painted Restarts he found below Tumamoc Hill, one of which flew about him and posed, as Redstarts do. Torrey saw his first-ever Golden Eagle here, soaring above the desert on the way to Fort Lowell.

Torrey lumps wrens in with thrashers as a single family – and they are fairly closely related – and finds the Sonoran desert a haven for them all, of which, counting the wrens, he saw ten species. His favorites are the Canyon Wren for its song – the most beautiful thing he heard in Arizona, he says, along with the sound of Sabino Creek – and the Mockingbird, which was not yet a bird of New England. In Torrey's day, the field guides encouraged birdwatchers to pick out bird subspecies when it was easy to do so. Torrey, therefore, calls Baird's Wren what we know as Bewick's, and Palmer's Thrasher what we call the Curve-billed. And Torrey saw his first western hummingbirds here, first a fine male Costa's at a wolfberry bush in bloom (Torrey couldn't put a name to the bush, but his description is good), and later in March, the returning Black-chinned.



The Vermilion Flycatcher.

Torrey's prize for most genteel-looking bird goes to the Phainopepla, which he saw many of as March progressed. But most beautiful to him was the Pyrrhuloxia, both for its shape and coloration. An odd choice, you may think but look harder at the next Pyrrhuloxia *you* see. (There was no Arizona Cardinals yet in this area in 1903.)

What Didn't Torrey See?

The most interesting part is the birds Torrey *doesn't* report seeing in Arizona, birds that are much a part of our birdlife here today, even in winter. First, Tucson was still blessed not to have introduced Starlings, feral pigeons, Collared Doves, or House Sparrows, though my guide to the area suggests Torrey only missed the sparrows' arrival by a few months. Other native birds hadn't made it here yet either, such as Cardinals and Great-tailed Grackles, both still on the move up from Mexico. While Torrey mentions several species of sparrow, Lark, Black-throated, and even the rare Sagebrush Sparrow, which he knows as Bell's, he leaves out others that, to us, should be found in the desert here: Rufous-winged, Brewer's, and especially White-crowned. Of course, the numbers of winter sparrows as a class fluctuate a good deal; perhaps 1903 was an off year for them.

Other gaps in Torrey's sightings are just incomprehensible to me: no Gambel's Quail and no woodpeckers of any kind: no Gilded Flickers, no Ladder-backed, not even one Gila! The food plants of all these species were here – why not the birds?



Last, in winters today here in Tucson, there are fifteen or twenty species of waterfowl, and half a dozen of herons, along with innumerable Mourning Doves, species of Blackbird, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. That Torrey mentions none of these seems easier to explain. We think of Tucson as dry, as, of course, it surely is compared to many places. But nowhere near as dry a place as Tucson was in 1903. Today, every sizable city park has ponds or small lakes, and water-reclamation and sewage-treatment facilities encourage the creation of wetlands. Many parks, large and small, also have expanses of lawn, or at least regularly water their desert landscaping. Waterbirds, waders, and just birds that need to drink regularly, like Doves and Abert's Towhees, now do well here. But none of that water was here in 1903. Had Torrey been able to make his way down to San Xavier Mission, he would have found a flourishing mesquite *bosque* along the river, which appears there briefly above the surface. Probably, he would have seen many of the birds he didn't find otherwise.

Finally, Torrey didn't report seeing Anna's Hummingbirds here, now the most common wintering hummingbird in Tucson. He was on the lookout for hummingbirds, as any variety was a novelty to an easterner, and he didn't see any. Does Anna's need just a little damper habitat than the Costas' and Blackchinned Hummingbirds that Torrey did see – or is it possible that the proliferation of hummingbird feeders in the years since then has drawn and kept Anna's here all year around?

Torrey's Book

Torrey made his living from his writing on the birds, plants, and places he saw. When he wasn't out wandering the desert here in Tucson, I expect he was writing up his field notes into essays. These he forwarded to the *Atlantic Monthly*, his regular outlet, which published them in July 1903 under the title "A Bunch of Texas and Arizona Birds." The next year, Houghton, Mifflin lumped the Texas and Arizona essays with some on New Hampshire and Florida that Torrey had written in 1901 and '02, and published the lot in book form as *Nature's Invitation: Notes of a Bird-Gazer North and South*. Both versions (and I don't know that they differ much, if at all) are available online. The book, which I have used in writing this piece, is at the Gutenberg Project, along with eleven of Torrey's other books and the Thoreau *Journals* he edited. See here: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/search/?query=bradford+torrey>.



A Costa's hummingbird in vibrant plumage rests on the branch of a mesquite tree.
National Parks Gallery



Update on the Mexican Gray Wolf

In the January **Chatter**, we discussed the Mexican Gray Wolf as a critically endangered but recovering species. The once widespread subspecies underwent a population decline due to human persecution, leading to near-extinction. A small group was captured for a captive breeding program. Through coordinated recovery efforts and reintroductions since 1998, the Mexican Wolf population has grown, with several hundred now living in the wild and captivity, making it a conservation success story. However, an Arizona congressman wanted to reopen a hunting season on this apex predator.

Each January (including 2026), state wildlife agencies in Arizona and New Mexico collaborate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to count wolves to track their recovery. Before the Endangered Species Act took effect in 1976, wolves were nearly driven to extinction. Since then, under a cross-state management program, they've made a strong comeback.

Now, Mexican Gray Wolves in the Southwest have come back -sort of. There were probably no wolves in the wild 30 years ago. Today, there are several hundred. But the Mexican Wolf is not yet safe from human persecution. The current political environment continues to threaten Mexican Wolves.

State and federal wildlife agencies counted 319 endangered Mexican Gray wolves inhabiting Arizona and New Mexico this past year. Thirty-three more than last year, and it marks a decade of steady recovery. And an increase in tensions between legislators, conservationists, ranchers, and wolves. Several proposed bills seek to upend the wolf management approach, and a Fish and Wildlife permit has sparked controversy in a rural New Mexico county.

Two separate measures passed the Arizona House and Senate on Feb. 24. State Rep. Lupe Diaz proposed House Bill 2159, which would require the Arizona Game and Fish Department to grant permits to landowners who wish to kill wolves that come onto their property. State Sen. David Farnsworth sponsored a bill to ban the relocation of Mexican Gray Wolf pups into Arizona, which could hamper the joint wildlife agencies' captive breeding program.

The season also includes a petition spearheaded by state representatives asking Congress to remove the Mexican wolf from the endangered species list. In Congress, Arizona Rep. Paul Gosar's bill looks to do just that. In January, it was approved by a House committee.

While Mexican wolf numbers have increased over the last decade, they would need to maintain a population of 320 for eight years to be considered for complete delisting.

Diaz and Gosar have both cited the financial burden ranchers face when their livestock are lost to wolves.

"Since being reintroduced to the wild in Arizona, Mexican wolves have preyed on cattle, livestock, and even family pets, causing significant financial losses and economic hardship on family-run ranches," Gosar said in a news release.

Typically, ranchers are financially compensated for livestock losses from wolves through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Livestock Indemnity Program, after an investigation confirming the cause of the kill.

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Sandy Bahr of the Sierra Club Wolf advocates view the legislation as politically motivated, he said, " We don't want the Arizona Legislature to be deciding on these things. They should be science-based decisions."

" We're seeing the undermining of the Endangered Species Act protections," said Greta Anderson, deputy director of Western Watersheds Project.

Bickel et al. (2020) investigated wolf-livestock interactions and noted that they can lead to economic losses for ranchers, both directly from depredation and indirectly through physiological impacts on livestock, such as weight loss. Ranchers report that, in addition to economic losses, they incur additional management costs due to wolves. Using a survey of Arizona ranchers, the study explores ranchers' attitudes toward wolf re-introduction, identifies and estimates the costs of management practices implemented by ranchers to avoid or reduce wolf-livestock conflicts, and examines how spending on preventive management practices, including the value of ranchers' time, compares with net returns per cow under three price scenarios: a low-price, mid-price, and high-price year. Building on literature that finds ranchers are motivated by lifestyle and other non-monetary benefits of ranching, the study posits that factors beyond profit maximization influence ranchers' decisions to implement management practices to limit wolf-livestock conflicts. The study found that spending on preventive management practices can be large relative to net returns. It is also found that negative attitudes toward wolves are not well correlated with experiences with or losses from wolf depredation. These results illuminate the complexity of rancher attitudes and management decisions, with implications for predator coexistence and conservation efforts.

Permit to kill wolves draws opposition. In New Mexico, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife granted two ranchers' permission to shoot and kill a Mexican gray wolf on Feb. 19. The permit allows the ranchers to kill any wolf who wanders onto private land on two grazing allotments near the Gila National Forest in Catron County, as well as on federal land within the allotments, if the wolf is actively hurting livestock.

" It's unusual to see a take permit issued that doesn't identify the history of depredations or any of the coexistence measures that the ranchers might have taken to avoid the conflict in the first place," Anderson said.

Wildlife Service memos from last year also documented repeated wolf attacks. Two documents cited specific wolf packs in Hail and Bear Canyon in New Mexico, provided detailed timelines of attacks, and outlined attempts to curtail them using non-lethal force. The Hail Canyon memo prescribed killing one wolf, AM2764, and a second uncollared wolf in the Bear Canyon pack.

The latest permit does not reference specific depredations but states that it's intended to address chronic livestock attacks in the area. It's valid until April 4th or until a wolf is killed, whichever occurs first.

"This isn't about being anti-wolf," said Audrey McQueen, one of the ranchers granted the permit and a Catron County commissioner. "This is about repeated livestock depredation in a federal management system that is not working for rural New Mexico families."

From July to September last year, the Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed 25 livestock deaths from wolves in New Mexico, bringing the current 2025 total to 108. Data for the last quarter of the year are not yet available. Ranchers working near wolves say it's no way to live. Last March, Catron County Commissioners issued a press release urging residents to take precautions because of "a high volume of sightings and livestock depredations," and said that wildlife services' efforts to manage the wolves with non-lethal methods weren't working.

"We are asking for improved management, timely responses, and meaningful consultation with local communities. This does not have to be a fight between conservation and ranchers. It must be a functional management plan," McQueen said.

But conservationists say the permit is a federal overreach. "This is not how to solve livestock-related conflict, and it's certainly not how species are recovered," said Greta Anderson, deputy director of Western Watersheds Project. "It's basically a blank check for the revenge killing of wolves."

Wolf advocates welcomed the rising numbers but warned that the reintroduction program still has a long way to go before the species is sufficiently abundant — and genetically healthy enough — to ensure long-term survival.

"We are heartened that the population of Mexican wolves has grown this past year, though it remains very small," said Mary Katherine Ray, wildlife chair for the Sierra Club in New



Mexico. “Importantly, it isn’t just a numbers game. The wildlife agencies must do more to improve the population’s genetic health, which is deteriorating even as numbers increase.”

Added Craig Miller, senior representative for the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Defenders of Wildlife: “Today, the threats are very real, and stripping Endangered Species Act protections now would mean dead wolves and a derailed recovery.”

Once found across the Southwest, the Mexican subspecies of gray wolf was listed as endangered in 1976, after it was all but wiped out by a century-long, government-sponsored, predator-eradication campaign.

Newly announced population figures have sparked early talk of downlisting for endangered Mexican gray wolves, such as this one released in Arizona in 2024.

Although it could be downlisted to threatened based on its U.S. population and diversity alone, the wolf won’t qualify for delisting under the current recovery plan until it reaches an eight-year average of at least 320 animals in the U.S. and 200 animals in Mexico, with a sufficient genetic mix on both sides of the border.”

In addition to the wild population, there are now roughly 350 wolves living in captivity at facilities



The Mexican Gray Wolf cannot runaway from its problems. Wikimedia Commons.

throughout the U.S. and Mexico as part of a binational breeding program.

So far, though, recovery efforts south of the border have fallen well short of expectations. In a 2025 analysis, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that its Mexican counterparts had released only about half as many wolves as planned and failed to document any animals with tracking collars still living in the wild in 2023.

References

Bickel AK, Duval D, Frisvold G. 2020. Paying for prevention: Evaluating Arizona rancher spending to avoid or reduce livestock conflicts with the Mexican Gray wolf. In Proceedings of the Vertebrate Pest Conference (Vol. 29, No. 29).

Henry S. 2026. Mexican gray wolf numbers have rebounded. Are they still endangered? Arizona Republic. Updated Feb. 26, 2026, 3:14 p.m. MT

The Last Page



Driving toward Madera Canyon on Whitehouse Canyon Road or south on I-19 offers views of Elephant Head in the Santa Rita Mountains. It is a prominent, rocky peak composed of coarsegrained quartz monzonite, dated at ~70 million years old (Late Cretaceous). This igneous stock formed from slowly cooling magma deep underground, which later faulted, exposed, and weathered into its distinctive shape, making it protrude westward from the surrounding range. This sunset picture was taken by Rusty Lombardo.

Send comments, articles, & announcements to:
Friends of Madera Canyon Chatter Editor
email: FOMC.Chatter@gmail.com

Music in the Canyon

Tickets available March 10th

This year Music in the Canyon will once again be held in the Canyon. The concerts will be held at the Proctor Ramada, which is located in the Visitor Information turn off at the entrance to the canyon. There will be limited seating in this venue so tickets will probably sell out quickly. The concert tickets will be \$40 and the concert times will be 3-4 30PM.

Our concerts will take place March 29, April 12, 19, and 26, in addition there will be a performance October 25. Tickets will be available online on March 10 and can be purchased at friendsofmaderacanyon.org. If you have any questions or issues, call Carole deRivera at 847 702 5101. All sales are final and tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Artists and dates are listed. We look forward to another great season of a well-loved tradition of Music in the Canyon and hope to see you there!

Chelsee Hicks and Alassane Diarra-March 29



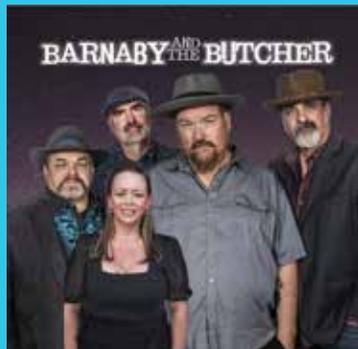
Chelsee Hicks has been a long time entertainer in Green Valley and Tucson and has done national and international tours with the female trio Manhattan Dolls. She graduated from the U of A and started singing professionally in 2016. You may recognize her from her frequent performances with Ken Daulton in Double Take. Alassane Diarra is a pianist and singer songwriter currently based in Tucson. He was a former jazz major at ASU and has been playing professionally for almost 20 years. This duo will be singing jazz standards as well as contemporary tunes. They will be covering artists such as Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald and Diana Krall.

CMS April 12



Coy, Serres and Murphy (CSM Trio) is an acoustic folk-rock group featuring three part harmony from such classic acts as the Eagles, America, the Beatles, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young and so many more! The trio is made up of three guys (Fred Coy, Mike Serres and Joe Murphy) who've been delighting sold-out audiences throughout Southern Arizona for a decade or so. Listeners enjoy the mix of upbeat and mellow tunes, mixed with a bit of whimsy. (These guys don't take themselves too seriously). This trio also performs as a 50's classic rock trio (The Cadillacs) as well as the band Way Back Machine.

Barnaby and the Butcher Apr 19



Barnaby and the Butcher is made up of a group of six: Damon Barnaby-electric guitar, Joshua Butcher-vocals & acoustic guitar, Robin Messing-backup vocals, Doug Floyd-electric guitar, John McIntyre-percussion and a bass player to be determined. This will be a musical experience defined by Damon Barnaby's madly skilled heritage electric guitar and Joshua Butcher's rich and powerful vocals. Their sound is complex and fervent, vacillating between dark country rock songs, bittersweet honeyed ballads and traditional country riffs. Their catalogue of originals is ever-expanding and their uniquely chosen covers include artists such as Chris Stapleton, Bonnie Raitt, John Hiatt and the Indigo Girls. This band frequently plays at the Gaslight theater, several venues in Tucson and has toured the country spreading their dynamic and individual Tucson style!

Mindy Ronstadt
and the One Bill Band
April 26



Mindy has been performing with her famous family all her life. She has recorded and appeared on stage with her famous Aunt Linda and now continues to perform with a variety of musicians in and around southern Arizona. There will be times you could swear you are watching and listening to Linda Ronstadt!

Bill Martin hails from the Hollywood music scene where he collaborated with several artists as well as recording as a solo artist for CBS records. Bill and Mindy have been performing together since 2002 and have fashioned a unique blend of harmonies and solo performances.

Women of Country
October 25



All American Girls, A Celebration of
Women in Country Music!

Three incredible singers join an all-star group of musicians to celebrate some awesome country music in three-part harmony! You will hear songs like “Before he Cheats”, “Jolene”, “Man, I Feel like a Woman”, “How Great Thou Art” and many more great hits by female country stars, with a few surprises along the way! Starring Heather Stricker, Chelsee Hick and Vanessa Helms. This is a group that performs at CPAC and Gaslight Theater in Tucson. This is a chance to see them in our very own mountain setting!

Easter in the Canyon

What is the busiest day in Madera Canyon? For those of you that have been there on Easter, it is certainly a memorable day. Easter is a beautiful day to get outside, picnic, go birdwatching or take a hike in Madera Canyon. Due to the large amounts of traffic, the Forest Service blocks off the road and directs everyone through the VIS. We have more volunteers that provide support starting at 6am until 2pm on that day (rather than the 8am -12pm typical April schedule). Anyone who has been in Madera Canyon or has volunteered on that day knows how busy it gets. With the ~120 parking spots in Madera Canyon, it comes down to “the luck of the draw” or “the early bird gets the worm” if you are able to secure a coveted parking spot!

For the folks who folks planning to come up for Easter, it is recommended to carpool if you can and arrive folks planning to come up for Easter, it is recommended to carpool if you can and arrive are planning to come up on Easter, it is recommended to carpool if you can and come early to secure your favorite picnic spot. Madera Canyon now has 2 electronic parking kiosk (at the Proctor and Mt. Wrightson Picnic Areas) that allow you to use a credit card to buy a parking pass for the day (\$8). You can also use the National Parks Pass, Senior Annual/ Lifetime Pass, Military Parks Pass, 4th Grade Parks Pass, or the Coronado Annual Pass. The parking envelopes are still available at each location if you do have cash.

If you are planning to come, please be patient with the volunteers and other visitors.

