



MCDOWELL Messenger

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA ♦ APRIL 2007

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MCDOWELL PARK ASSOCIATION & FRIENDS OF THE MCDOWELL AREA

County starts work on park system master plan

What will McDowell Park look like over the next 50 years? We may be getting a glimpse before the year is out.

The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department is working to develop the framework for a System Strategic Master Plan for its parks—one that it hopes will meet the needs of our ever-expanding population in the future.

During the next few months the department will conduct ten sessions around the county to get public input.

This is the first time since 1965 that the park system is re-evaluating its master plan.

It was only natural that at the Fountain Hills meeting, the main concerns were issues relating to McDowell Mountain Park.

Participants at the meeting gave the following as “issues” relating to the park:

*Park access, especially at the northern end primarily for horses and also an entrance for Rio Verde and Tonto Verde residents.

* More single use tracks needed in the park. But it was pointed out that there are no problems with bikers and horses at McDowell Mountain Park—which isn't

always the situation at other parks.

*Equestrian needs separate parking area.

*Emergency access road needed north of the park.

When asked about programs for the park, participants stressed that they were satisfied with current programs and wanted to keep activities in the passive mode.

Asked about short term/long term needs, those present mentioned new fencing at the northern end and it was reported that this is in the park budget. They also wanted to be sure we connect to the regional park trail system now in progress and that is being done. Long term needs brought up finances as a major issue and more events.

The Maricopa Park system collects little from taxpayers compared to most other parks and government programs. It was reported that county homeowners pay only 12¢ per \$100,000 of valuation in their home per year for the parks (our parks are mostly self-sustaining).

Readers can follow what is happening with the ongoing master plan by going to this web site: <http://maricopacounty.prosconsulting.com>



ATTEND THE PARK ASSOCIATION'S GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 25 – 7 p.m.

Fountain Hills Community Center

Hear McDowell Park Superintendent Rand Hubbell tell us what's been going on at the Park, and what's more important, what will be happening. A must meeting to attend!



President's MESSAGE

Jim Urban

Our own 'treasure'

When you are entertaining out-of-area guests, think of your Park as a place to take them. You can spend an enjoyable morning or afternoon, with only a short trip to get there. I have two suggestions for relatively easy (that is, no elevation change) three mile hikes in the Park. Both have ties to the Park Association.

One is the hike to the Pemberton Ranch site, about one and one-half miles each way, leaving from the Trailhead Staging Area. Several years ago MPA volunteers helped with clearing brush from the area around the old water tank and wellhead site. Water continuously trickles out of the pipe in the concrete well pad. Now, this flow has been channeled toward a holding pond nearby, providing a water source for the animal inhabitants of the Park.

The other is the North Trail, a three mile loop which (as its name implies) is at the north end of the Park. Signs along the trail identify plant and tree species. Picnic areas are located near the trailhead; one area has an exceptional playground for children. Hiking the loop, you will encounter two rest spots with concrete benches. One bench honors Jack Fraser, a founder and the initial president of MPA. The other is in memory of Myrna Smith, our immediate past president, who died last year after a battle with bone cancer. Stopping at these spots provides a chance to rest and remember them.

Learn more about the Park at our next General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, April 25, at the Fountain Hills Community Center. Park Superintendent Rand Hubbell will discuss the many uses of the Park and plans for making it even better in the future. The Maricopa County Parks Department is formulating a new long range plan for the park system. Consultants to the county have recently completed stakeholder interviews to learn which issues are most important to park users.

See you at the meeting!

Bike race a success

By RAND HUBBELL, *Park Superintendent*

The 2007 Nova National Mountain Bike race was held at McDowell the last weekend of March and it was a great success. The race at McDowell kicked off the 2007 race series to determine the United States Mountain Bike Champion.

The pros that raced and won at McDowell were rewarded with cash prizes, points toward qualifying for the 2008 US Olympic team and this year's championship.

In every race, the current United States 2006 Champion was at McDowell to defend their title. In the women's Cross Country race on Sunday, the 2006 Mountain Bike champion raced the 2006 Cross Country champion. The current number one ranked women in the world raced. The same type of representation was present in the men's races. The turn out of racers was very impressive and the race held in Fountain Hills on the Avenue of the Fountains received great reviews from the organizers and the racers.

The McDowell Park Association...

is a volunteer citizen organization dedicated to promoting the preservation of the McDowell Mountain Regional Park and adjacent mountain and desert areas. MPA works to maintain the integrity and boundaries of the Park, while protecting its values for scientific, educational and recreational experiences.

MCDOWELL PARK ASSOCIATION WEB SITE:

<http://www.mcdowellparkassociation.org/>

OFFICERS:

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Vice-President: Dick Oliver, 471-7070

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Interpretive Ranger position may be filled by end of May

By RAND HUBBELL, *Park Superintendent*

Former Park Interpretive Ranger "Crash" Marusich has interviewed, had the job offered and has accepted the position of Park Supervisor at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. With that completed, the position here at McDowell and the same position at Cave Creek Regional Park will now be advertised in the paper for three weeks. Following that period, the qualified applicants will be passed on to the

Supervisors at both parks and a committee will be formed to interview the candidates.

The earliest that we will be able to have the position filled, and this is assuming that the candidates are good and qualified, is the end of May. That period positions the new ranger to start slowly, spend several months learning the park and start a full schedule of new programs in the fall.

Membership REPORT

by Merideth Hale

Secretary & Membership Chairman

The months January through May are the most active renewal period of the year. The following new and renewal memberships have occurred since the February Messenger. We welcome all of you because the McDowell Mountain Park, with its wonderful open space and recreational opportunities, is so important to each of us.

Donations: H = to \$49; T.B. = \$50 to \$99; M.C. = \$100 +

New Members

Marjorie Barritt
Larry and Joan Meyer

Renewals

Mike & Patty Baker
Jim & Betty Bayne – H
Bob & Margaret Bohannon – H
Lee & Karen Carlson
Ed & Linda Carpenter
Claire & Bill Cartmell
Anne Chase & Dave Bakke
Pam Cissik
Keith Clayton – T.B.
Harriet Crotty
Maree Lee Eger
John & Mary Jo Eichler
John Elken – M.C.
Paul & Susan Erickson
Jim & Susan Everitt – T.B.
Frederick & Anne Fandel – H
Robert Freund
Charles & Gail Gauthier
Don & Nancy Graf
Sunniva Graves
Robert & Annetta Haack – H
Carla & Bruce Hamilton
Norm & Gloria Hawk
Jerry & Mary Hillhouse

Bill & Betty Huntress
Clarke & Alice Isackson
Leonard & Sharon Janssen
Walter & Janet Johnson
Shelly Knuths
Mary & Bob Kuopus
Dick & Madrienne Larson – H
Marguerite & Dick Lawler
Robert & Norma Lazor
Mary & John Leavitt
Hugh, Mary Sue & Rhoda Lindsay
Daniel & Sidra Luciano – H
George & Carol McKinley – MC
Jack & Pat Meinert – H
Steve & Erna Miller
Dave & Marilyn Nasman
Mike O'Connor – H
Mary Ellen & Gary Prosper
Bill & Dorothy Ruhe – MC
Robert & Janet Ruggles – H
Fay & Jan Schlotfeldt
Phebe Smith
Allen & Lynn Stevens
Frank & Ruth Stroble – H
Stan & Barb Van Drashek – H
Patricia Waterman – T.B.
Millie Wesley
Margaret Wilson
Robert & Janet Witzeman
Mary Zicarelli – T.B.
Rio Verde Horseman's Association – T.B.

Please attend the April 25, 2007 General Meeting in Fountain Hills at the Community Center. Meet other members. Bring a friend. Use the park. Remember the picnic facilities and the children's play equipment when you have guests. Have a wonderful summer. And please, renew when you receive your postcard.



McDowell Park Association
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s): Please print names of family members to be included. (List one if individual membership.) _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Tax deductible donations, in addition to membership, will be most welcome!

ENCLOSED: Individual (\$15) _____
 Family (\$20) _____
 Donation \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Please send this form with check payable to:
McDowell Park Association. Mail to:
 McDowell Park Association
 P. O. Box 18613
 Fountain Hills, AZ 85269

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THE McDOWELL PARK ASSOCIATION

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