



McDOWELL Messenger

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA ♦ FEBRUARY 2008

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

MPA MEETING – FEBRUARY 27 – 7 PM
Rio Verde Community Center

Come out and meet the Park's new Interpretive Ranger, Emily Habinck

Our speaker at our next meeting of MPA will be Emily Habinck. For those who don't know, Emily is the new Interpretive Ranger at McDowell Park and she'll be telling us a bit about how she is adapting to her new job and also talk about some of the exciting plans being made for future programs at McDowell Park.

Emily started at the Park in November 2007. She is from Des Moines, Iowa. She did her under-

graduate studies at the University of North Carolina Charlotte and graduate work at North Carolina State University. Her major was in botany.

She did work for six months as a naturalist at Reedy Creek in Charlotte, NC and also spent a year as a schoolteacher in rural North Carolina (and I do mean "rural" she said. She may do a book on those experiences!).

Emily recently moved to Fountain Hills.

Come on out to the meeting and meet Emily and also hear about some interesting things in the works for McDowell Park.



Badgers released in Park

By RAND HUBBELL, Park Superintendent

On January 31, staff and a volunteer from the Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation Refuge on 156th street, just north of the park, brought two badgers to McDowell Mountain Regional Park. This brother and sister pair were picked up by Southwest Wildlife on the west side of the valley in the midst of construction. Their home was disrupted and they were found cornered within the new walls of new subdivision. CONT. NEXT PAGE➔



President's MESSAGE

Jim Urban

Long-standing plans to link trails in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve to those in McDowell Mountain Park have now been accomplished, and relatively soon the Fountain Hills Preserve will be linked as well. We salute the ongoing efforts of those who have expended much time – and money – to realize these objectives. Congratulations also to the trail builders, particularly in the Fountain Hills Preserve, where the trails have been completed by volunteers, under the direction of long-standing MPA member Roy Kinsey. According to new MPA Board member Dave Gillman, Roy leads by example – working as hard (or harder) as any of the volunteers.

It is now possible (for the truly energetic hiker) to go from the west side of the Scottsdale Preserve, on excellent trails across the McDowells, on eastward into McDowell Park. West side access is from 104th Street and Bell Road, or from Thompson Peak Parkway. I had an opportunity recently to hike with Roy, Dave, and another Fountain Hills Preserve volunteer, to experience new trails, both in McDowell Park and in the Scottsdale Preserve west of the Park. We began in the Park on the Dixie Mine Trail, then headed west on the road to Thompson Peak. After a quarter-mile, we started northwest on the new Prospector Trail in the Preserve. This linked to the Bell Pass Trail, which in turn joined the Windgate Pass Trail and allowed us to head back east into McDowell Park. We completed the loop, returning to the Dixie Mine. Beautiful country and spectacular views!

Soon we will be hearing more about McDowell Park's future, included in the new Maricopa County Parks Long Range Plan. This envisions more trails for hikers, horseback riders, and bikers, as well as more entry points to the Park. As is the case with the Park, we can be thankful that our neighbors in Fountain Hills and Scottsdale are dedicated to preserving the beauty and openness of the magnificent Sonoran Desert.

The two badgers were released in the center of the park, approximately half a mile from each other. Like many siblings, they fought constantly and could not be kept together while in captivity or upon release. The most recent release join a single badger released in the park in November 2006. More than a year passed before the first badger released was sighted again in the park but has been seen in the park several times since then.

OTHER PARK NEWS...

■ When the Dixie Mine extension trail was flagged during initial work to build it, several new archeological sites were found. The park asked at that time to have a Site Steward assigned to the park to monitor some of the new sites. Site Stewards are volunteers registered with State Parks and who work with the State Historic Preservation Office to monitor archeological sites around the state. These trained volunteers visit sites to check on vandalism or increased level of visitation and monitor the condition of known locations and examples of the early habitants of the Arizona.

■ Park Supervisor Rand Hubbell met with Doris Findling, MPA President Jim Urban, Government Liaison Committee Chair Dick Oliver and Rio Verde resident Fay Schlotfeldt to walk along the powerline easement, west of Rio Verde. The group discussed the location of the initial planting of ten trees in locations where all future use will be stopped along the powerline. A second phase of maintenance is still anticipated to be done in mid February and following that work more trees and bushes will be planted and hydroseeding done along the easement.

The McDowell Park Association...

MCDOWELL PARK ASSOCIATION WEB SITE:

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

OFFICERS:

President: Jim Urban, 471-3818

Vice-President: Dick Oliver, 471-7070

Secretary & Membership Chairman:
Merideth Hale, 471-1003

Treasurer: Ralph Donnelly, 471-0471

Membership REPORT

by Merideth Hale

Secretary & Membership Chairman

The following list is of members, both new and renewals since the November 2007 Messenger. Postcards are sent at the beginning of each month your renewal is due. Your membership is good for one year. It is a membership to the McDowell Park Association which is an advocacy and support group to the McDowell Park. It does not cover entrance fees into the Park. Our dues are not high enough for this benefit.

Annual passes for seniors are \$65; Annual passes for under 65 are \$75; vehicle entry without a pass is \$6 per car. Hikers and bikers are \$1 per person. We truly appreciate your support because the McDowell Park with its 22,000 acres of open space and recreational opportunities is a tremendous asset to Fountain Hills, Rio Verde, Tonto Verde, The Rio Verde Foothills Area and Scottsdale.

Thanks. Please continue to watch for the Postcard and then please respond! We do need you.

New Members

Jon and Cynthia Boline – H
Dave and Donna Gillman – T.B.

Steve and Carolyn Long
Othol and Betty White

Donations: Hikers = to \$49

Trail Blazers = \$50 to \$99

Mountain Climbers = \$100 +

Renewals

Chet Andrews
Michael and Patty Baker
Robert Barbanica
Bill and Kathy Berry
William and Ardis Brandt
Bill and Delora Bridwell
Dave and Judy Burns
Ed and Linda Carpenter – H
Jeanette and Mark Carpentier
Claire Cartmell
Don and Susan Caum
Pam Cissik – H
Donald and Lynn Cooke
Steve Distel and Suzanne Friedrichs
Bob and Leone Eidsmoe – H
John Elken – M.C.
Larry and Roberta Ernst
George Frazier
Jim and Corrine Gaughan – H
Don and Nancy Graf
Pam Griffin and Judy Riley
Bob and Annetta Haack – H
Jack and Merideth Hale – T.B.
Harris and Lois Hawkins

Ernst Hirschbiel and Rosie
Brandorff – T.B.
Kim Hines Family – T.B.
Phil and Susan Horltd
Dale and Linda Humiston
Bill and Betty Huntress
Sudelle Irons
Clarke and Alice Isackson
Steve and Marie Jacobs
Frank and Grace Jakubs
Len and Sharon Janssen
Al and Maureen Keeley
Ed and Delores Kehe
Roy and Bev Kinsey
Shelly Knuths – H
John and Ann Kovacs
Bob and Marcia Krane – M.C.
Jack and Marie Kubitz
Jack and Penny Kuehn
Mary and Bob Kuopus – H
Norma and Bob Lazor
Lin Lundgaard
Jon and Jean Lynch
Bob and Edith Malone – H
Steve and Erna Miller

Ron and Mary Morton
Dave and Marilyn Nasman
Len and Linda Olson
Bob and Phyllis O'Roark
Jim and Nancy Otte
George and Birdie Pasenelli
Safford and Betty Peacock – H
Andy and Mary Ries
Rio Verde Horseman's Assoc. – T.B.
Jan and Bob Rohloff
Janet Runkel
Lois Ann Shearer
Phoebe Smith
Jim and Judy Spinner
Peter and Janice Strand
Manny and Ann Tharp
Gerd and Hannsi Toepfer
Jim and Robbie Urban – T.B.
Mark and Maria Van Boeckel
Stan and Barb Von Drashek
Robert and Nancy Warden - H
Millie Wesley – H
Will and Peggy Williams
John and Barbara Wyman
Mary Zicarelli – H

Trivia question: How big is the Park's 30 Acre Lot? Answer on last page.



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

McDOWELL
Messenger

P. O. Box 18613
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269

Inside:

MPA MEETING:

February 27 – 7 PM

Rio Verde Community Center

Join us and welcome the Park's new
Interpretive Ranger!



More badgers join Park
residents – STORY PAGE 1