

# McDOWELL MESSENGER

The McDowell Park Association, Maricopa County, Arizona

October 2005

A Newsletter for Members of McDowell Park Association and Friends of the McDowell Area



## **McDowell Park Association Annual Meeting Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. Rio Verde Community Center 18816 Four Peaks Blvd, Rio Verde**



**Fire Chief Dave Bunce  
Of the Salt River Pima Maricopa  
Indian Community  
will discuss  
*Wildfire in the Sonoran Desert*  
Featuring a video of the 1995 Rio Fire.**

In addition there will be an election of board members for the 2006 – 2008 term.

For more information, please phone 480-471-3818

### **NEWS FROM THE PARK**

Have you visited the new Visitors' Center at the Park? It's located along the main Park road on the right side. It contains displays pertaining to the Park and offices for Park Superintendent Rand Hubbell and Ranger "Crash" Marusich. There is also an office for the Park Hosts. Ask to see Houdini, the Gila monster, who has a room of her own (sometimes shared with a rattlesnake).



If you haven't taken a hike in the Park with "Crash", add one to your **to do list**. "Crash" offers a variety of informative and entertaining hikes of various lengths featuring various topics. These are advertised in local and regional newspapers. You may also pick up a hike schedule at one of the kiosks in the Park. Also, a monthly hike schedule is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Rio Verde Post Office.

## **A Message from Jim Urban, President of the McDowell Park Association**



As cooler weather arrives, Park activities and visitor numbers are increasing. Park staff are settling into the new Visitor Center. There is much more space for offices, for meetings, and for displays. Some displays are currently on view, and others will be added. Two types of McDowell Park tee shirts are available for sale.

At the request of a new organization, Friends of San Tan Park, members of your board met with representatives of their group in late June. They were most appreciative of information about our organization and ideas on how to structure theirs. We provided copies of our bylaws. We look forward to further interaction with them and with other Maricopa Country Parks support groups.

The speaker at the general meeting in Fountain Hills September 28 was Chad Davis, Curator of Agaves and Aloes at the Desert Botanical Garden. He gave an excellent presentation on historical and current uses of agaves. There's much more to them than just tequila production!

Our next general meeting will be in Rio Verde on Wednesday, November 16. The speaker will be Dave Bunce, Fire Chief for the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. This is the tenth anniversary year for the Rio Fire, which burned through about one-half of the Park. As was the case in 1995, we had a wet spring this year, followed by a hot summer which dried out the abundant vegetation. Complicating the situation has been the spread of non-native grasses (such as red brome and buffel grass) which result in dry carpets across the desert. There were many summer fires in Arizona, and we are fortunate to have avoided one – this time.

On September 28, MCO Properties held a dedication ceremony at the new entrance to the Dixie Mine Trail. This trail has been closed for the past year and a half, during development of the roads and infrastructure for the MCO development in north Fountain Hills. Until January, 2006, access to the trail will be restricted to organized hiking groups. On October 6, MPA members joined volunteers from the Fountain Hills Preserve group to do maintenance on the trail, under the direction of Park Ranger "Crash" Marusich, preparing it for resumption of hiking. This trail offers an outstanding (and convenient) hiking experience – consider it for this winter season.

Our immediate past-president and continuing board member, Myrna Smith, is currently in Mayo Hospital, after completing the final stage of her treatment – a final course of chemotherapy followed by a stem cell infusion. She will be in the hospital until late October. She continues to be in good spirits and would love to hear from you. We all wish you well, Myrna!

### **Bylaws change regarding the number and election time for directors.**

Your current board has discussed and approved a change to the MPA bylaws, relating to the election of directors. Article IV, Section 4 (Number and Election of Directors) currently includes the sentence, "The Board of Directors shall consist of five, seven or nine members, elected by the current members present at the Annual Meeting", This will be replaced by "The Board of Directors shall consist of seven to eleven members, elected by the current members present at the Annual Meeting. A director also may be elected at any general meeting, to fill a vacancy, provided that 30 days written notice is given, and the candidate receives a two-thirds majority of those present at the general meeting. The term of office for a director so elected will expire the following December 31." The reasons for this bylaws change will be presented at our November 16 meeting, and a vote will be taken.

## Membership Report, By Merideth Hale

Most of the McDowell Park Association memberships are up for renewal during the months of January through May. In October, we have another surge of memberships. Every current member will receive a reminder when it is renewal time for his/her/their membership. We appreciate your prompt response to the reminder because each and every member is important to the effectiveness of the organization. Donations received this year will go toward the refurbishing of the Pemberton Ranch Site and the purchase of the Windmill for the site.

Hiker (H) = donations up to \$49; Trail Blazer (TB) = donations \$50 to \$99;

Mountain Climber (MC) = donations over \$100. Thank You!

The following memberships have been received since the April Messenger.

### New Members

Caroline Cline  
Michelle & Gary Holcomb – TB

Phoebe Smith  
Frank & Marge Sweeny  
Robert & Janet Thune  
Robert Witzeman – H

### Renewals

Senator Carolyn Allen  
Joe & Nancy Bill  
Keith & Mary Clayton - H  
Ned & Judy Dickey  
Nancy & Don Graf  
Dave Hammel  
Jayne Haynes - H  
Mary Lou Houge – TB  
Bob & Donna Kern  
Rick & Christine Kovach  
Sue Livingston  
Bob & Dottie Mason - TB  
Dick & Jackie Oliver – H  
Hank & Teddy Preusser  
Susan Pringle  
William & Dorothy Ruhe - H  
Fay & Jan Schlotfeldt – H  
Lois Shearer

### Donations

Janet & John McKelvey – TB

***The yellow line on your address label is a signal to you that your membership is lapsing. Please renew!***

***Welcome new members and returning members! Thank you all!***

#### **MPA Board of Directors**

Jim Urban,	President
John McNeill	Vice President
Merideth Hale	Secretary & Membership Chair
Frank Jakubs	Treasurer
Bob Bohannon	
Margaret Scott	
Ed Kehe	
Dick Oliver	
Myrna Smith	Messenger Editor



## **MPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**NAME(S):** Please print names of family members to be included. (List one if individual membership.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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** to: **McDowell Park Association,**  
**PO Box 18613, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269**

*Thank You*



When he saw the Grand Canyon for the first time in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt said,

*"I don't know exactly what words to use in describing it. It is beautiful and terrible and unearthly . . . Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it – keep it for your children, your children's children and all who come after you."*

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