

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

February 2010

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Saguaro on Rock
Photo by Bob Evans

Knitting with Jane

Jane Matson is returning to Cascabel for her annual visit in March. Gather up your knitting and crocheting materials for Wednesday, March 17th from 10:00 AM to Noon at the Community Center. Jane will show us how to make knit slippers ~ perfect for winter ~ and anything else we can glean from her experience. She'll gladly share.

Community Center Update by Anna Lands

Our Annual Meeting in mid-October was short and fun. The newly elected board members are: Erik Revere, Janet Trumbule, Secretary and Events Co-ordinator, Barbara Clark, Treasurer, Donna Quisenberry, Jess Rigel, Bob Evans, and Anna Lands, Chair.

We'll be having our Annual Workparty on Saturday, March 20th. It's led by Erik. You can phone him for details at 212-ROCK or just arrive about 9 a.m. with whatever tools you want to use ~ loppers, ladder, various tools ~ and for sure bring your hat and gloves. On the porch we will have the various planned jobs posted so you can choose whatever suits you. In addition to the usual jobs, we'll be building loose rock dams along the north side of the drive. This will be a great opportunity to get practical knowledge in erosion control. We'll provide morning snacks, our famous lunch, and afternoon snacks too.

Our waterharvesting project of 2009 is now in action! The gutter on the porch roof sends 17% of the total roof-harvest into a barrel. When this one is full, it overflows into a second barrel. When that one is full, the water flows into a hose which goes out into the swale and waters the four trees. Water from the 1st barrel can be accessed any time using a spigot just in front of it. Look this system over and see one way you can harvest water at your place. Folks who took this class have information and materials to share with you. Thanks to the Redington NRCD for the class materials and classes taught by Carmen Miller of the U of A Extension Waterwise Program. Thanks to the Cascabel Community Center for the materials for building this waterharvesting system. For information about the Community Center, visit www.cascabel.org or telephone Anna Lands at 212-9853.



Wildflowers. Photo by Bob Evans

NEWS:

Cascabel Working Group 2010 Annual Meeting

Submitted by Barbara Clark

The CWG held their annual meeting at the Cascabel Community Center on Sunday, February 21, 2010. After a delicious and generous breakfast, a brief recap was given of the past year's effort to inform proponents of the SunZia Powerline Project and the Bureau of Land Management (the agency charged with studying the impacts of proposed routes for the high-voltage transmission lines) about the cultural and ecological features of the San Pedro Valley that residents want to see protected.

Fifty members paid the annual \$1.00 dues and nominations for the 2010 Board of Directors were accepted, ballots conducted, and the new board members are Anna Lands, Pearl Mast, Bob Evans, Chet Phillips, Elna Otter, Daniel Baker and Barbara Clark.

Generous contributions to the donation jar and a fun and lively silent auction of donated items raised about \$ 900.00 that will help fund upcoming work. Sincere thanks to every neighbor who contributed to the effort.

Anyone interested is encouraged to participate in CWG meetings. You can keep posted on CWG meeting dates by checking the Calendar of Events at the <cascabel.org> Community Center website or activities on the <cascabel-workinggroup.org> website, or give a board member a phone call. Together we can make a difference in the future landscape of the San Pedro Valley.

Report on CWG activities from July 2009 to January 2010

Submitted by Anna Lands and Bob Evans

In June we received notice that SouthWestern Power Group (SWPG) was well into the planning stages of their SunZia Transmission Project and that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was the Federal Agency over-seeing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS is required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The BLM engaged the Environmental Planning Group (EPG) to develop the EIS. The applicant, SWPG, is responsible for the payment to EPG for its service.

In early July we sent out notices to residents and landowners alerting them that the SunZia Project intended to route two 500 kilovolt (kV) lines with 130' to 160' towers north and south through the San Pedro River Valley from the Winchester substation to San Manuel then west. Included in the notice was a BLM/EPG-generated comment form. We asked respondents to let us know their thoughts too. The responses were clearly and strongly in opposition to the siting of transmission lines through the valley. With this confirmation we embarked upon our efforts to support this opposition and to prevent further incursion by such infrastructure. Supportive information for our activities is available at our website: www.cascabel-workinggroup.org.

From then until December we went about learning everything we could about the issue and its legal process. We spent most of December and early January preparing for a meeting

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with Project, BLM, and EPG representatives. Prior to this evening meeting on January 13th, about 30 people toured Soza Mesa and Hot Springs Canyon. In addition to BLM, EPG and SunZia Project, representatives from The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy, The Natural Resource Defense Council, The Center for Desert Archaeology, The Center for Biological Diversity, Redington and Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation Districts, Friends of Aravaipa Region, The Audubon Society, Saguaro-Juniper, the Office of Representative Gabrielle Giffords, Cochise County, media, and many residents of the Middle and Lower San Pedro Valley attended.

The tone of the evening was thoughtful and courteous but the content indicated that we will need to pay very close attention. Three CWG members serve as liaison to the Winkelman and Redington NRCs which have invoked their right to coordinate with the BLM. We all can anticipate a very active and educational year.

Upcoming Events

A week of events at Cochise College ~ Celebrate the Arts ~ beginning March 13th. For more information contact Shryl Miles at smiles@powerc.net or call Rita Fenn Miller at the college ~ 586-1981.

Knitting with Jane. March 17th, 10 AM at CCC

For a complete list of upcoming events, check the online Community Center calendar at <http://cascabel.org> and click on Calendar.

Redington NRC Board of Supervisors Meeting: March 16 at 9 AM at CCC.

COME JOIN US
SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH
FOR THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY
CENTER WORK PARTY

Join your friends and neighbors to spruce up, repair and clean our beautiful community center. Snacks and coffee will be available for your pleasure, then we will have mesquite grilled hamburgers and fixin's for lunch.

The fun starts at 9:00 AM

For more information, contact Erik at 212-7625 (leave message) or Anna at 212-YULE



Desert Marigold with Grasshopper. Photo by Bob Evans