**Issue #17** 

An Occasional Cascabel, Arizona Newsletter

January 2024

### In this issue

We review the 15 year resistance to the SunZia project, new construction at the Oasis to ease the hand labor, and some recent multigenerational Cascabel family history.



Dina Kagar

## **Blading the Desert**

# Painful to watch SunZia/Pattern destroy the middle San Pedro Valley

We Cascabelians have been pushing back against this huge transmission line for the last 15 years since the spring of 2009. On January 13, 2010 we held a public meeting with SunZia and multiple agencies and non profits to voice our extreme concern for this wilderness valley. We gave participants a tour of the valley, il-

lustrating the degree to which the fragmented. We emphasized that this dor for the West and that it contains species in North America precisely transmission lines. It has the longest lower 48 states. The more research pressed we were and the more

In this section of the newsletter, you impressive efforts we made to get in one place our efforts to conserve



valley is relatively undisturbed and unvalley is a primary migratory bird corrione of the greatest array of mammal because it is unfragmented by roads or continuous archeological record in the we did for documentation, the more imcommitted to preserving this valley.

will find documentation of various our point across. It is intended to collect the valley. We can always learn from

our past. The project was held up for so long because of a very poor route selection that did not follow existing powerline corridors. Since we were not part of the military-industrial complex, SunZia has steam-rolled over our concerns at every step of the long process. Even at this point, SunZia is proceeding with construction despite two pending lawsuits. The fact that the electrical transmission to other contiguous states will cause this much damage to this Arizona valley with little benefit for Arizona is pretty outrageous.

In 2012, we held a concert in Benson to fund raise against SunZia. It was all hands on deck whether manning the snack bar, selling raffle tickets or purchasing food for the snack bar. The bands donated their time and talent and it was well attended although we didn't get the draw from Tucson we'd hoped for. Sue Newman generated the idea, conscripted the musicians and Lisa Vogel carried out one request after another to mesh all the moving parts. Dave Shreeve created the poster. CCA provided initial cash support.





Maria Troutner spoke of her family's long history in the valley.



Woody Hume spoke with reverence of the valley's crucial importance.

Pat Corbett, Jimmy McPherson. Brenda Brown and Elna Otter at the snack bar cash table.

This banner hung at the concert and over the road.



Anna Lands managed the raffle table.



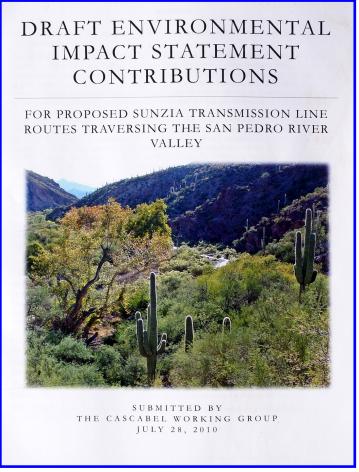




Lisa Vogel and Mike Robertson, arena and stable owner, got into earnest book discussions. Mike later wrote 2 books of his Montana memories.



Principal Author--Daniel Baker. Since the January 13th meeting in 2010 with SunZia hosted by CWG here in Cascabel, Daniel has rededicated the bulk of his time to preparing this heavily researched, thoroughly documented report on the potential environmental impact of the proposed SunZia line on the San Pedro River Valley. This remarkable work of dedicated research is 153 pages long. He is owed a great deal of gratitude from all of us. Several community members have copies. It stands alone as a valuable record of the myriad aspects of this valley, heretofore scattered facts. Daniel also created a similar but smaller document to protect Arivaipa, another proposed transmission route. Bob Evans compiled the bird list for the SP region. Thanks to Monica Stephens for maps, formatting and laying out the document. David Omick for consistent support and from Cascabel Working Group and Friends of Aravaipa Region.



Peter Else first met Mick Meader in person in the summer of 2009 at a meeting in Tucson related to the SunZia scoping process, and coordinated after that. Over the years, Mick, David Omick, Pearl Mast, and Peter exchanged countless emails and phone calls regarding how best to address SunZia's permit processes, both at the state and federal levels.

We owe Mick an enormous debt of gratitude on multiple fronts. His love of this valley drove him. He explored the area of proposed routes and found undocumented Native American ruins. Mick gave every ounce of effort he had left in him once his cancer diagnosis left him on a down hill slide. But his legacy lives on.



Peter Else, with his grandson, to whom much of his enormous efforts are dedicated, has soldiered on without Mick. He has dedicated himself to the protection of the ecological integrty of the Lower San Pedro watershed since his retirement from managing the University of Arizona farm properties. He lives on his farm in Mammoth, AZ.

We are forever in his debt for his steadfastness.

The community wanted to thank Mick Meader for all his efforts. We gathered to work on repairs to his small cottage in the desert when he had become so weak. He lived only another half year with Hospice nurse Karen McKelvey by his side.



Mick Meader, Peter Else and Christina McVie were accepted as formal intervenors by the Arizona Corporation Commission Line Siting Committee in October of 2015. It sounds like a simple statement but considerable effort went into overcoming prejudicial opposition by three Committee members to secure their acceptance. Peter said he observed first-hand that the hearings were a hostile environment for citizen intervenors who are not wealthy enough to have a law firm by their side. The whole hearing process, Peter said, was biased toward protecting corporate interests and discouraging intervention by those opposing the corporate proposals. The ACC Phoenix decision (3 to 2 in favor with the Chair voting against) and Line Siting meetings were well attended by Cascabel residents.

In September 2022, when Arizona Corporation Commission, Line Siting Committee hearings were held regarding amendments to the SunZia Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC), David Omick and Peter Else were able to negotiate a new condition that was added to the CEC. It limits certain aspects of Cascabel Road use as follows (copied from the CEC):

#### Condition 38



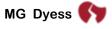
Between the intersection with Three Links Road and north to the Pima and Cochise County line, no existing roads nor any new roads will be used or established off of Cascabel Road for Project purposes. There will be no widening or vegetation management of this portion of Cascabel Road unless required by county or required for safety, and there will be a speed limit of 20 miles per hour during construction. If additional construction areas are needed on this designated portion of Cascabel Road, Project managers will consult with the designated contact person of the Cascabel Conservation Association during the site selection process. However, this condition shall not apply to the extent that this condition is inconsistent with agreements

with any county or Arizona Department of Transportation requirements. The Project will use its reasonable efforts to be consistent with the terms of this condition in any agreements entered into with any county or the Arizona Department of Transportaion.

At the same time, planned monthly meetings of Pattern Energy staff with local community members of Cascabel and Oracle were established. At this time the Cascabel representatives of the local organizations (CCA, CWG, and CCC) are Pearl Mast, Anna Lands, and Barbara Clark. The meetings serve as a forum for Pattern to let us know what is happening relative to construction and for local community members to ask questions or make complaints. If anyone has questions or complaints they would like shared at one of these meetings, please feel free to contact one of us. Pearl Mast, 520-221-5824.

Some of the companies supporting the transmission line construction with logos that might be seen on trucks. **REPORT THEM.** As Anna has reminded us, remember the Grandmothers:

"Show up. Pay Attention. Speak your truth. Don't be attached to the outcome."



Quanta Services: Phasor Engieerng Inc and CRUX









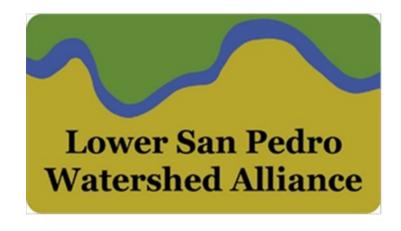
**Summit Line Construction** 

Valard Construction: Canadan



Speeding? Call to report: Shelton Bankston 318-557-5661

During this early stage of renewable energy development in America, it is essential to avoid unnecessary damage to our last remaining wildlands. Instead of passively surrendering or selling out to the SunZia transmission proposal, LSPWA answered a decade-long call for taking legal action against irresponsible land use planning. Doing the right thing is never easy in the face of overwhelming political pressure.



On December 8, 2023 the Tohono O'odham Nation and the San Carlos Apache Tribe <u>notified</u> the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) that the BLM's Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) filed with the ACC to fulfill Condition 12 of the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) is "illegitimate and incomplete." The Nation and Tribe also state that Pattern Energy violated Condition 27 of the CEC by starting construction before a cultural landscape study was conducted. They further state that the BLM refused to do this study.

Federal land managers temporarily suspended work on the SunZia transmission project along a 50-mile segment after the Tohono O'odham Nation asked for immediate intervention, saying bulldozers were clearing a stretch of the San Pedro Valley and that one or more historic site were demolished. The tribe was joined in their plea by the San Carlos Apache Tribe and Archaeology Southwest. Zuni Pueblo in neighboring New Mexico and other tribes in the Southwestern U.S. also have raised concerns, saying the area holds cultural and historical significance for them as well. From the Associated Press Nov 13 '23

Peter Else's attorneys, Tully Bailey, filed their <u>opening brief</u> in the Arizona Court of Appeals December 14, 2023. The case challenges the Arizona permit for the amended version of the SunZia Transmission Project, issued by the Arizona Corporation Commission on November 21, 2022.

### Peter's statement

I continue to point out the false and contested statements memorialized in the November 2022 decision by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Rather than acknowledging that a radical change had taken place in the plan of electrical service for the amended SunZia project, the Commission's staff presented a materially misleading narrative to our elected Commissioners for a vote. The decision made by the Commission must be based on facts in their formal order, not false statements about there being no change in the anticipated use of the project.

The Commission's staff has passively and uncritically accepted the push from the Biden administration and various politically aligned environmental groups to deliver New Mexico wind energy primarily to the high-priced electricity markets in California, in the process blazing new power line corridors through Arizona rather than following existing corridors to the highest degree possible. The amended version of the SunZia project is now an overpriced vertical monopoly that would harm Arizona's electricity ratepayers. It is a radical change from SunZia's previous claims of assuring multiple grid benefits and economical renewable energy for southern Arizona.

Other far less damaging energy development alternatives have existed throughout SunZia's 17-year history of haphazard planning in Arizona and New Mexico. I feel compelled by conscience to continue to object to this poorly planned project.



We created a Go Fund Me account, this postcard and Kai Staats created **protectthesanpedro.net** website to publicize our need to support the legal expenses this for this lawsuit.

We were able to find a crack legal team eager to support the case.

Please continue to financially support the effort.
Contributions should go to

Cascabel Conservation Association
SunZia Legal Fund
N Canyon Rd.
Cascabel, Az 85602

Thanks to Michael Puttonen for his design work.

#### As We Move Forward

To track the history moving backward and forward, search the Cascabel Working Group's website. Carefully shepherded by Anna Lands and ably maintained and organized by Dave Shreeve over the years. Easy to use.

Cascabel Working Group https://www.cascabelworkinggroup.org

To access the ACC file on SunZia, here is the information pathway:

L-00000YY-15-0318-00171 is the docket # for SunZia at the Arizona Corporation Commission.

## COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF BILL DOELLE

## By Daniel Baker



Dr. William H. Doelle, founder of Archaeology Southwest (formerly the Center for Desert Archaeology) is retiring from his position as president and CEO. Bill, as he is familiarly known, and Archaeology Southwest (ASW), have had an outsized impact on our Cascabel community, the San Pedro River Valley, and indeed the entire Gila River watershed.

In the most recent edition of Archaeology Southwest Magazine (Volume 36, Numbers 1&2), in a sort of farewell to his position, Bill composed what he called "a love letter to the Gila" wherein he recounts his nearly fifty year archaeological career spent within the Gila River watershed. The issue reveals the expansiveness of both Bill's archaeological knowledge and his charac-

ter that have made his career so successful. He notes his lifelong belief in collaboration, a theme which he avers "must be built upon relationships of trust and respect." He notes further that, in contrast to archaeology's history of disrespecting Indigenous People's rights, ASW has "worked diligently to incorporate more Tribal voices and perspectives."

That expansiveness is evidenced in ASW's practice of "Preservation Archaeology, a holistic, collaborative, and conservation-based approach..." which advocates for landscape-scale protection. Locally that has most notably resulted in the joint ownership and protection by Archaeology Southwest and the Cascabel Conservation Association of "Baicatcan." Former Archaeology Southwest Preservation Fellow Jim Vint's researches on the site identified it as the likely site of San Salvador de Baicatcan, where Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino visited in 1692. ASW has also locally protected the Redington Ballcourt, José Solas Ruin, and the Elliott Site Complex (see 'Places We Protect' at archaeologysouthwest.org).

ASW also contributes to several larger scale protection efforts within the Gila River water-shed. They include the "Great Bend of the Gila" as part of a coalition seeking permanent protection for public lands in the river corridor stretch between metro Phoenix and Yuma, and "The Greater Chaco Landscape" as part of a broad coalition to protect the area from oil and gas threats. Recently such landscape scale efforts have expanded into our own valley with a new San Pedro River program.

The program has already occasioned some notable results. First, our own local Alex Binford-Walsh has been employed as the full-time San Pedro Community Steward for Archaeology Southwest. Alex has a complex list of duties and has already been active on a

number of fronts. He is "looking forward to promoting Preservation Archaeology and Tribes' interest in the San Pedro Watershed and adjacent territory." (see <Community Stewardship in the San Pedro Valley - Archaeology Southwest>)

In addition, ASW also committed to support a Tribal protest against the SunZia transmission project in conjunction with the Tohono O'odham, Western Apache, Zuni Pueblo and Hopi Tribe which prompted a temporary halt to SunZia's San Pedro Valley activities ordered by the Secretary of the Interior. Recently that protest has morphed into a lawsuit by the Tohono O'odham Nation and the San Carlos Apache Reservation supported by ASW and the Center for Biological Diversity. The suit portends to be a significant blow to Sun Zia's failure to acknowledge the Lower San Pedro River Valley as a "traditional cultural landscape" and to abide by the laws and procedures pertaining thereto. The long-term impacts of that protest remain in flux, but it is again noteworthy of Bill's and ASW's long history of efforts in the valley.

That long history and the supporting research for this Tribal protest of the SunZia project is documented in History is in the Land: Multivocal Tribal Traditions in Arizona's San Pedro Valley by T. J. Ferguson and Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2006). As noted in the foreword, "This pathbreaking book... has its origins in the archaeological research of William H. Doelle... and Henry Wallace...." With the support of the Hopi, Zuni, Tohono O'odham and San Carlos Apache tribes, four groups with historic ties to the valley, the Center for Desert Archaeology (now ASW) submitted a successful National Endowment for the Humanities grant application. Much of the archaeological frame of reference of the project stemmed from the San Pedro Preservation Project instituted by the Center for Desert Archaeology in 1996. That program was founded on the results of five years of archeological survey from 1990 to 1996, during which nearly 500 archaeological sites were located in the Lower San Pedro River Valley between Winkleman and Benson.

Indigenous peoples, historic communities, and current valley residents can all be grateful for the knowledge and conservation efforts bequeathed by Dr. Doelle and ASW. With the hiring of the new ASW CEO and President Dr. Stephen Nash, along with the ongoing efforts of Alex and John Welch, we can expect ASW and Bill's legacy to continue to be felt here. As for Bill's future, he notes that, "I don't see a lot of 'free time'—and certainly no boredom." Privately he has expressed that he expects the San Pedro Valley to occupy a good deal of his retirement energies, so hopefully we will continue to see more of Bill.

## <u>After</u>

When grief wakes you at 2am an infant demanding to be fed

Nourish it with the moon luminous and predictable

Swaddle it in desert silence sacred and persuasive

Arrest it with the bright fascination of a constellation of stars



Karen McKelvey

AP Report Jan. 7 2024 Another Jaguar sighting in southern Arizona

Month	<u>Clayworks</u> Clark	<u>Narrows</u> Wilkinson
Jan	1.11	.0.57
Feb	0.89	0.67
March	0.32	0.24
April	0.00	0.00
May	0.73	1.05
June	0.00	0.00
July	1.64	1.38
Aug	0.91	1.23
Sept	1.00	0.58
Oct	0.50	0.06
Nov	0.09	0.06
Dec	1.44	1.36
'23 Total	8.63	7.20



Greorge and Donna Bushno



At Elna's... Gail, Elna, Pearl, Erik & Jimmy Photo Dave Shreeve

CASCABEL BOOKS

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Thank you, Michael, for your assistance with so many community graphic efforts!



Sue Newma

### **Cascabel Community Center**

Board of Directors:
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Submissions/corrections to Editor/ Valley View Newsletter Sue Newman 5851 Cascabel Rd Cascabel 85602 Snewsy@rnsmte.com



### The Oasis Service Center

By Neal Rudikoff

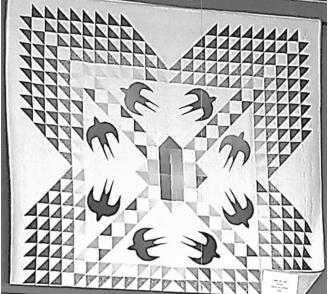
Phase 2 construction is the Service Center, the central hub of daily field operations which will contain a commercial-style kitchen designed specifically for food preparation of the varied, specific diets of our residents.

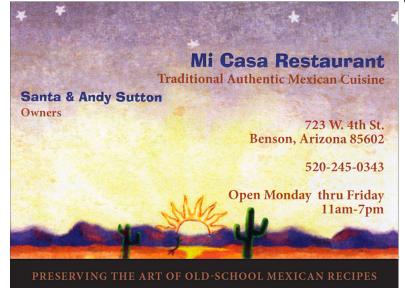
- Commercial dishwashing and sterilizing equipment with designated food prep and cooking area.
- Efficient drop-off design for dirty food and water bowls, and pick up of clean sterilized bowls with fresh food and water.

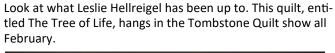


Separate area for laundry, employee restrooms with showers, employee area, and volume food storage. We are hoping for a February completion with inspections to follow. Its been 7 years in the planning.











Soaptree yucca sunrise Bushno

## Some Taylor Family History, 1969 To The Present

### By Morris and Suzy Taylor

Max and Mary Taylor purchased the ¼ section of land on the West side of Hot Springs Wash at the Cascabel Rd in 1969. No one was living there at the time. The house had burned. The property had a stone cabin, a well, two air strips and one semi load of burnt adobe bricks on it. On weekends they would drive down from Coolidge and work on building the pump house out of the adobe bricks with the help of their son Morris and his wife Suzy. The outhouse for the cabin was a long walk, over to where Sue's chicken coop is now.

Over the next ten years they and their family enjoyed staying in the stone cabin and exploring the area. In 1980, Max retired and moved to Cascabel and had a single wide trailer moved in. They placed it where a house had been originally built into the mesa, similar to the cabin. Mary retired in 1983, sold their place in Coolidge and moved to Cascabel. Later they moved the single wide trailer out and had a double wide moved in. Over the years they build a barn and corrals for Mary's Arabian horses and a hanger for Max's ultralight airplanes. Mary organized many horseback rides in the area and participated in roundups for the local ranchers. Max could be seen flying his ultra light in the area, many times scouting out routes for Mary's rides. Max organized and hosted several ultra light fly ins. Their phone service was a radio telephone. They'd drive to the top of the mesa to place calls early evenings. No phone service until 1994.

Mary and Max organized and housed the community library in the 'penthouse' over the well-house. Mary served as its librarian until it moved to its new home. Mary was active in the Redington NRCD as a board member and Editor of the NRCD newsletter. After the floods of 1983, Max and Mary were very active in organizing and working on the Hot Springs Wash Project that stabilized the banks at the Hot Springs, Cascabel Road crossing. They were both active in fundraising

for the creation of the Cascabel Community Center and were involved in its activities, such as fund raising, work parties and board meetings.

Max passed away in 2003 (85 years old) and Mary was able to stay for two more years and moved to Coolidge because of health issues. Mary passed in 2012 (90 years old). The Northern portion of the Cascabel property was sold and the southern 15 acres were kept as a Taylor family camp ground and continues to be enjoyed.





## **Community Center Winter Reflections and Updates from the Chair:**

I was rather amazed recently by a billboard on the state route going south through Safford. Its message seemed so simple, so clear, so right and yet so obscured these days:

#### - WE THE PEOPLE MEANS EVERYONE -

Perhaps it came to mind again as I started this update because I just want to share some messages about doings at the Center and how do I do that in a personal and interesting way? I am just one member of the Center and each member

brings their own perspectives, thoughts, certainly equal in that, *que no?* So, let's in this reach of the San Pedro Valley and support a resilient Place where we can to have that <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" elbow so we don't need water flowing from our well to the

The Center is automatically membership area. It was created by residents in the year as we use it. If you are curious ter, see photos and anchor article about Some residents choose not to engage at dues of one dollar for the privilege of who are tasked with keeping the lights teers and they serve to ensure the place all members and to support them when ways beneficial to themselves and/or



and emotions to our community. We are continue to celebrate all our diversity here let us continue to do everything we can to feel secure in the fact that *somebody* has got to make a separate trip to town to keep the drinkers, the shop, or the kitchen sink.

owned by every resident in the Cascabel early 1980's, and is created again every about the building of the Community Cenit in Valley View #5 on the CCC website. all. Some residents choose to pay annual voting for a 7-member board of directors on, so to speak: those directors are volunendures and that it is managed to welcome they want to use the—our—facilities in their larger community.

And some members choose to physically participate in a wide variety of ways. Last year, many gifted cash to fund a complete roof renewal—to the tune of over 50k. Some participated in the quilt fundraiser by leading the endeavor or by contributing squares or by purchasing raffle tickets. Some dedicated themselves to post-covid restarting of the Wednesday Coffees. Some volunteered labor to maintain the swamp cooler and water filter, haul and chop wood, install the new rainwater tank and reinstall the old tanks post-roof replacement, manage the flow of Library books, the Zoom and the Website accounts, create the new audio and visual area, publish the Valley View Newsletter, manage the e-Bulletin Board, participate in the spring work party (where we resealed the wooden exterior wood, thoroughly cleaned the building's interior and chimney, and installed a pad for another rainwater tank), donate to and stock Nikki's Pantry, manage the flow of recycled items on the Viking table, monitor the Center's notice boards, oversee the refrigerators and cupboards (are we still in need of teaspoons?), purchase and deliver Holiday meals for those in need, marshal and provide a picnic for volunteers to clean up Cascabel Road from Pomerene north to the County line, and to ensure that the Commons trail is hikeable and that the Heli-pad functions for medical emergencies.

I'm sure the above list of accomplishments, however impressive it is, is incomplete. I get the independent/homesteader/survivalist stances (bedrock pride says I take care of myself and family and don't be a burden on society), but I also believe in the network of social reciprocity that knits a community together is a blessing to cherish and the best homeland security available.

And, thanks to member-sponsored events, we certainly celebrated the last couple of months! Starting with a Veterans Day red chile paste cooking class followed by an enchilada dinner, then on to a Thanksgiving Day potluck dinner, and the following month another two large gatherings: one on December 16<sup>th</sup> to make tamales and feast on them for dinner and even for the first time a Christmas Day dinner where not only the solo residents but also those of us with visiting family broke bread together.

Late last month, the Center joined four other local organizations in sending a thank you letter to the four Native American Nations who, along with their partners Archaeology Southwest and the Center for Biological Diversity, are suing the Bureau of Land Management and the Arizona Corporation Commission for derelict of duty to properly follow the existing statutes and laws when approving routes for large infrastructure projects. They, like us, have opposed the SZ routing decisions during every phase of the comment periods, and we wanted to thank them for their continued efforts and let them know the current residents on their ancestral lands wish them the very best.



Established in 1997, the internationally recognized Oasis Sanctuary is the most highly regarded life-care facility for parrots in the United States. Nestled in the San Pedro Valley in southeastern Arizona, The Oasis provides permanent care, shelter and rehabilitation for parrots and other captive exotic birds.

Our first priority is, and will remain, the well-being and safety of the extraordinary birds entrusted to our care. These intelligent, social, highly complex, exotic animals are guaranteed a lifetime of care and compassion.

The Oasis survives solely on the donations and generous contributions of the public.

Help us, help them. Please donate today!



Visit our website for information on volunteer opportunities, estate planning and planned giving or to make your gift to the birds! © 2013 Oasis Sanctuary Foundation, Ltd. Is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, EIN #86-0885646. Accredited by the American Sanctuary Association (ASA) and Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS).