

FIELD

# NOTES

FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN ARIZONA

**INSIDE**

*New life for bighorn sheep*

*Student nature photo  
contest winners*

The Nature  
Conservancy 

Protecting nature. Preserving life.

SPRING 2017



# Turning Conflict into Opportunity

Dear Friends,

There are times and issues where conflict seems inevitable. Lately that seems more the rule than exception. Other times we marvel at what can get done working together.

At first glance the articles in this issue of *Field Notes* might appear to be a collection of stories about nature: bighorn sheep, birds, rivers and forests. Within many of them there is also the story of conflict turned into opportunity.

Do we shoot more mountain lions or create more bighorn habitat? Do we limit development or invest in solutions that keep our rivers flowing? Do we criticize the Forest Service for the slow pace of forest thinning or work to create systems that are more flexible, responsive and efficient?

Turning conflict into opportunity requires trust — that you will be heard, respected and valued. Reasonable people see the same situation and come to entirely different conclusions. It begins with being curious about the other's point of view and seeking areas of common ground to build upon.

When it works, we turn potential adversaries into partners. Boy, do we need partners. No one has all the answers, all the resources or the time to solve these big challenges alone.

We honor our partners — other conservation organizations, agencies, communities, farmers and ranchers, and more. Their work often goes unseen because it lacks the drama and conflict that makes news. Yet they and we are moved by knowing we are contributing to something much bigger.

Our many volunteers also serve as partners enabling us to do so much more. Many of them work at our preserves and one of those, Hassayampa River Preserve, is changing hands to another partner. After 30 years under our care, Hassayampa, after a carefully planned transition, will be managed by Maricopa County Parks and serve as an important gateway to the 71,000-acre Vulture Mountains Recreation Area. It was a tough decision, like watching a child grow up and leave home. We thank those volunteers who have served at the preserve for many years, and those who will continue to volunteer there.

I hope you are inspired by the articles in this issue. You make them possible through your continued support. Please share these stories with others. We hope they will be inspired as well.

Sincerely,

Patrick Graham, *State Director*

## FIELD NOTES

Published by  
The Nature Conservancy  
in Arizona, for our members  
and friends.

*Field Notes* welcomes  
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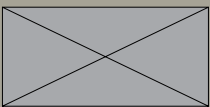
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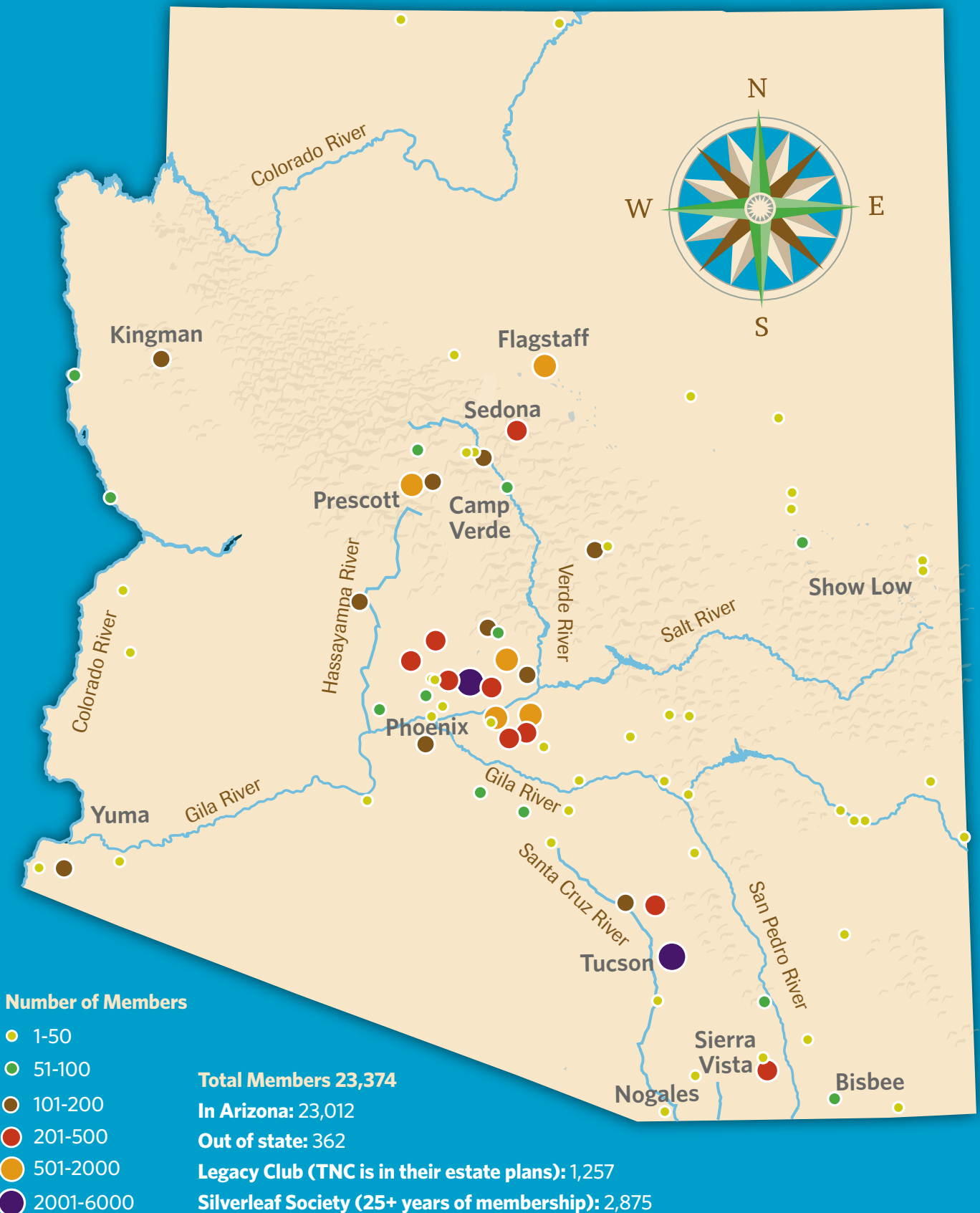
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COVER IMAGE Segoe lilies and  
hedgehog cactus in bloom  
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# OUR MEMBERS BY THE NUMBERS



# New Life for Bighorn Sheep

The gates opened, cameras clicked and 11 desert bighorn sheep jumped to freedom. Within seconds, they had vanished into the rocky, saguaro-studded slopes of the Galiuro Mountains in southern Arizona's Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness.

**A**s they sped away into the wild desert landscape, I thought, "Sorry guys for the disruption, but you're gonna love this place."

These sheep were captured last fall in the Silver Bell Mountains northwest of Tucson. The day after their capture, they were trucked 130 miles to the

Conservancy's Aravaipa Canyon Preserve. Upon release, they bounded into bighorn nirvana, up the craggy, 1,000-foot-tall slopes of the canyon. The Apaches named this place Aravaipa, which means Land of Laughing Waters, because of the shimmering stream that flows year-round through the 10-mile-long canyon.

Meanwhile, an additional 20 bighorns from the Silver Bells were driven to new homes in the southern Galiuros — about 25 miles south of Aravaipa — to Redfield Canyon in the Muleshoe Ranch Cooperative Management Area.

Both groups of bighorns are intended to augment the two existing herds in

the Galiuro Mountain complex, which is the wildest, most remote area of Arizona outside of the Grand Canyon.

## Saving desert bighorns

Capture and relocation are stressful for the animals, but necessary for their long-term survival. Without relocation efforts to balance and support the surviving herds, desert bighorn populations will likely continue to decline.

Desert bighorns, like their cousins the larger Rocky Mountain bighorns, have been on the decline over the last century due to human development, competition with livestock for food and water, and exposure to livestock parasites and diseases.

Approximately 1.5 million to 2 million bighorn sheep lived in North America at the beginning of the 19th century. Now they live on only 4 percent of their historical ranges. Today the overall population of bighorn sheep is about 25,000, with desert bighorn sheep numbering around 4,000, mostly in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts of California and Arizona.



Arizona's Silver Bell Mountains – where the relocated sheep came from – are a relatively small, isolated mountain range with a large number of sheep for its size – about 175. Reducing this herd size will help reduce stress and disease potential, says the Conservancy's Ron Day, who spent many years with the Arizona Game and Fish Department working with large mammals.

On the other hand, the two existing bighorn herds in the much larger Galiuro Mountain complex are small (an estimated 125 sheep), having declined over the last century due to habitat degradation and livestock conflicts. Without new genes, these bighorn herds would become inbred.



This relocation is meant to augment these populations and enhance their genetic diversity.

## Fire for life

The Conservancy's efforts to protect this landscape over the last four decades bode well for the bighorns. But just as important for bighorn survival is fire. Regular fires on the landscape keep shrubs at bay – important for bighorns. They like open terrain where they can see predators such as mountain lions.

One of the main keys to bighorn survival is their ability to move to food and water without sacrificing security.

The Nature Conservancy noted fire's beneficial effects in the mid-90s, when it collaborated with public land managers on a large-landscape fire plan that has led to natural and controlled burns.

After a controlled burn on the Aravaipa Canyon rim in 2015, bighorns were immediately attracted to the fresh grass shoots of the newly burned areas. In 2016, the Conservancy and partners burned 22,000 acres on the Muleshoe Ranch as part of a long-term plan to burn 137,000 acres over the next nine years.

These burns have not only helped bighorns, but many other wildlife species, including native fish. Fires stimulate the growth of grass which provides shady overhangs and reduces soil runoff into the streams.

All this burning could help re-unite the two populations of bighorns in the Galiuros. GPS-enabled collars put on some of the relocated sheep will help scientists track this process and should provide clues on where more burning would be advantageous.



## What happens next with the relocated bighorns?

They'll explore, looking for water, food and protection. And of course, they'll keep a watchful eye out for predators.

Muleshoe preserve manager, Ron Day, says the sheep from the transplant have been staying close to where they were released. "That indicates high quality habitat and probably means they are lambing," he says. "They are tucked into spots and spending a lot of time in one location."

GPS monitors have indicated only one sheep death since the transplant; it was killed and eaten by a mountain lion, part of the natural cycle of life. The good news, says Day, is that "we're getting data and learning what areas they like to be in."

For a sheep, there's a lot to like in the Muleshoe's red canyon walls and the Land of Laughing Waters.

— Tana Kappel



# The San Pedro River

## A Formula That Works

**E**

fforts to replenish groundwater near the San Pedro River are working. Groundwater levels are rising near two recharge facilities along the river in southern Arizona's Cochise County.

The two facilities are storing water in the ground that would otherwise have been lost, thanks to the efforts of the Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network. Given the success of these efforts, the network is planning two additional recharge projects.

“Instead of losing the extra runoff that is generated in developed areas, or losing treated wastewater to evaporation, Cochise County and Sierra Vista are recharging almost 1 billion gallons of water back into the aquifer each year,” said Holly Richter, water projects director of The Nature Conservancy.

The first aquifer replenishment project at Sierra Vista's Environmental Operations Park began operating in 2002, and has demonstrated that it could increase groundwater supplies and protect the river's flows.

“Monitoring data show that groundwater levels have risen for miles around that facility since it first became operational,” said Richter.

The second facility — the Palominas Flood Control and Recharge Project — came on-line in 2014. It is capturing stormwater runoff and increasing the amount of water going into the ground to sustain the aquifer.



**The formula:  
1 billion gallons of  
water captured**

**+**

**1 billion gallons saved  
from historic and  
future pumping that  
will no longer occur**

**=**

**2 billion gallons  
yearly helping to  
protect groundwater**

The Conservancy purchased part of the Palominas site after research showed it was along a reach of the river where aquifer replenishment would be needed to sustain the river's flows. The county already owned an adjacent parcel closer to the river, and was interested in flood reduction in that area in addition to recharge. The two parcels together were the perfect site for the project.

**"This is a whole new way to manage our water in a way that meets the needs of people and nature. I'd say this is a template for the West."**

**Pat Call, Cochise County Supervisor**

The facility — designed, constructed and now owned and operated by Cochise County — was completed in 2014. It has received several awards, including an international award for its unique design and construction.

"This project is truly a win-win. It not only reduces flood hazards in the neighborhood, including the roads, homes and the school, but it also recharges the aquifer in an area where it can help the most," she said.

The San Pedro projects are unique in that they are the "first to be designed specifically to sustain the flows of a river system and to help rural communities," said Richter. "The benefits to the aquifer — the increases in groundwater — will be as important for water users on wells, as it will be for the river."



Pat Call, Cochise County Supervisor, who has been an avid supporter and partner in this effort, is even more ardent in his praise for the effort. "This is a whole new way to manage our water in a way that meets the needs of people and nature. I'd say this is a template for the West."

Other aquifer replenishment projects in the West have used treated wastewater or stormwater to boost groundwater levels in large metropolitan areas.

Based on the success of the first two recharge efforts, the network is looking to bring additional projects on line, on properties that also show great potential for water replenishment.

The Conservancy, with funding from the U.S. Army's Compatible Use Buffer Program, purchased the 2,984-acre Bella Vista property and the 1,811-acre Riverstone property. These properties were recently transferred to Cochise County, and planning for an additional facility is focused on the Bella Vista property, which includes several major tributaries that drain from downtown Sierra Vista. Engineering studies are underway to determine how to best harness the increased runoff from downtown, to get it back into the ground and to help replenish the aquifer on this property.



The Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network plans to launch another project near Bisbee this year on the privately owned Ladd ranch. That project will recharge stormwater and prevent destructive flooding and erosion downstream, while also recharging some stormwater.

Almost 1 billion gallons annually are being conserved on the lands now under management by Cochise County and the city of Sierra Vista. That's because wells near the river that had the most impact on its flows are no longer pumping water, and no additional wells will be allowed to pump in these sensitive areas in the future. These properties, purchased by the network, encompass more than 6,000 acres.

Given extended drought, increasing the amount of water stored in the underground aquifer is a “no regrets” strategy for both local communities and the San Pedro River. “It’s an investment for both current and future generations, and today’s wildlife,” said Richter, whose well at her Palominas-area home also depends on these limited groundwater supplies.

“Partnerships have been the key to these projects – particularly the Palominas and Horseshoe Draw efforts,” said Call. “Without significant funding from the Walton Family Foundation and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, completion of these projects might never have happened.”

**Almost 1 billion gallons annually are being conserved on the lands now under management by Cochise County and the city of Sierra Vista.**

He adds: “By providing leadership through partnerships, the members of the network are committed to protecting the river as well as the quality of life for all residents living in the Sierra Vista subwatershed.”

— Tana Kappel

## COCHISE CONSERVATION & RECHARGE NETWORK PARTNERS

- Cochise County
- City of Bisbee
- Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District
- City of Sierra Vista
- The Nature Conservancy



## BY HORSE OR BY FOOT

Join us in our annual effort to map the flows of the San Pedro.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed to map the 170-mile length of the river plus key tributaries. Mapping is scheduled for June 17.

### FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT

Brooke Bushman,  
520-309-4812 or  
bbushman@tnc.org





# SCALING MOUNTAINS

## Freddie Carter's Life in the High Country

Anyone who has scaled the highest mountains knows how exhilarating and exhausting getting to the top can be. It can also be dangerous and unforgiving, especially before high-tech gear and gadgets made climbing safer.

Freddie Carter made her first technical climb at age 13 — the 13,776-foot Grand Teton in Wyoming — in 1938.

# W

“We were on our own,” said Freddie, now 92. “We had a rope, some food and water, and we set out. Nowadays, climbers wear hard hats and a complex harness, and they carry cell phones. If you get in trouble you call in a helicopter for rescue.”

Now a resident at Prestige Assisted Living in Green Valley, she still walks regularly at one of her favorite places – Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson.

Freddie grew up in Chicago, where her father was a University of Chicago geology professor. Her mother and father were adventurers. They owned a property in New Hampshire that later became famous as Golden Pond, and often took Freddie hiking in the White Mountains. At age 11, she hiked to her first U.S. high point: 6,288-foot Mount Washington. She went on to climb 185 peaks in New Hampshire, some many times. When she was 13, she and her father scaled the Grand Teton.



In 1962, she became the first woman — the only woman among a group of seven — to climb the West Buttress route to the summit of 20,320-foot Mount McKinley (Denali) in Alaska, the highest peak in North America. “There was no radio, no contact of any kind, no rescue available, and we carried flags that we planted in the snow to find our way back down.”

“It took us 17 days — 12 up and 5 down. It was cold, below zero at night, and my sleeping bag wasn’t adequate. I froze.” When she returned home, she was surprised to have made the national news.

In 1964, she did a solo climb of 11,250-foot Mount Hood in Oregon.

Other notable climbs include 16,644-foot Mount Steele in the Yukon, Canada, and the 14,692-foot Matterhorn in Switzerland, which Freddie describes as a “thrilling climb, one of the most beautiful peaks I’ve climbed.”

There have been some scares during her adventures. While climbing the 13,809-foot Gannett Peak in Wyoming with the Colorado Mountain Club, the hike leader fell and broke his leg. Freddie and her husband, geologist Dave Carter, spent the night with him above



Freddie, a 40-year Nature Conservancy member, has spent much of her life summiting mountains throughout the world, including peaks in North America, South America, the Swiss and French Alps, and New Zealand. In October of 1980, she became the first female to reach the high points of all 50 U.S. states.

**“Many of my best days have been climbing, and I want to give back to nature, which has been a big part of my life.”**

“It really got to me,” she said. “Since then, I’ve always wanted to climb mountains. When I see a mountain, I want to climb it.”

timberline. A helicopter came the second night at dusk to take him off the mountain.

In 1952, while climbing near Banff, Alberta, Freddie and two others spent a night perched atop a limestone ledge on the face of 8,799-foot Mount Louis, unable to descend in thick fog. Out of food and water, they dared not sleep for fear of rolling off the edge.

Freddie and her husband, who lived in Pueblo, Colorado, for 20 years, climbed most of the 14,000-foot peaks in that state.

Freddie has also enjoyed Arizona's mountains, especially the San Francisco Peaks. Arizona's high point is the 12,633-foot Mount Humphries, which she climbed in 1975.



Freddie met her husband Dave while hiking in New Zealand with the Colorado Mountain Club and they were married for 20 years until his death in 1988. Shortly after that, Freddie moved to Arizona, where early in her life she had gotten her bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona, and where she and Dave had spent time.

She's lived in Green Valley for almost 28 years, and used to lead Green Valley Hiking Club hikes that included Picacho Peak, Carr Peak and Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains.

As Freddie will tell you, traits critical for surviving mountain treks are to know your limits and respect the weather.

"By challenging herself, my Aunt developed extreme focus, steadiness, and grit that enabled her to push through obstacles and reach difficult summits," said her nephew, Andy Kerr.

Freddie continues to support environmental causes.

Over the years, she has made generous gifts to support the Conservancy's work, and she has the Conservancy in her estate plans. She has supported the Conservancy's work in Arizona on the San Pedro River and Aravaipa Canyon Preserve, as well as Conservancy programs in New Hampshire, Colorado and other states.

"Many of my best days have been climbing, and I want to give back to nature, which has been a big part of my life."

— Tana Kappel

PASS ON  
**YOUR**  
VALUES

## Want to give back to nature?

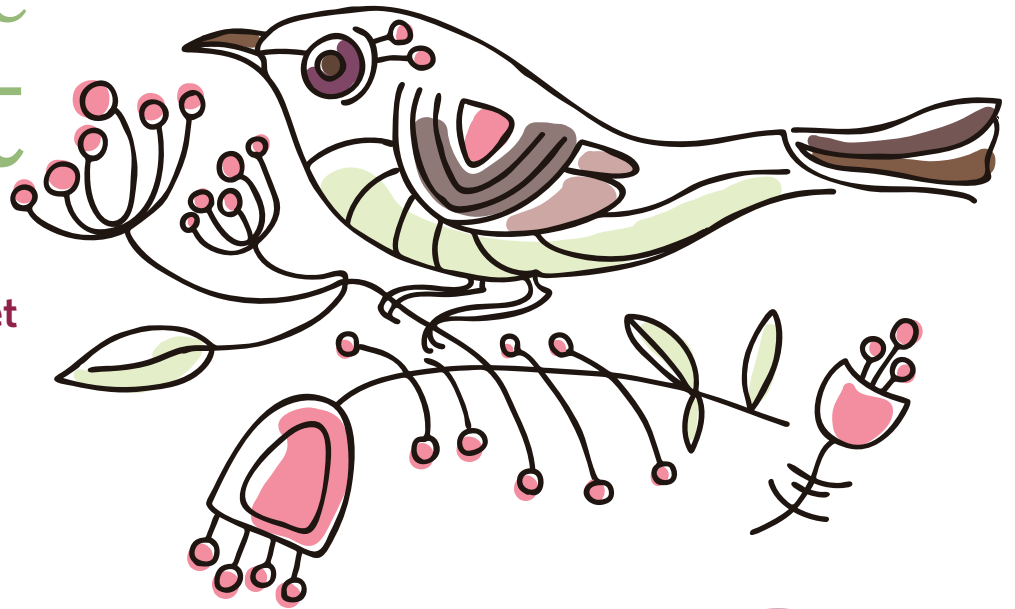
Join the Conservancy's Legacy Club & share your values with future generations.

Legacy Club members have included The Nature Conservancy in their wills. For more information, please contact Mark Ryan at [mdryan@tnc.org](mailto:mdryan@tnc.org). Or visit [nature.org/legacy](http://nature.org/legacy)

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# Birds of the Forest

We welcome the birds of spring, but let's not forget the winter birds, the real friends of the forest.



S

Spring is like heaven for birders. Some 200 species will flock through the Arizona high country on their way north, following the river corridors like the East Verde, the Verde and the Salt. They'll drop from

the bright blue sky in their brilliant plumage — yellow tanagers, scarlet cardinals, painted redstarts, sassy orioles. They winter in the tropics where life is easy — and venture north only when the cottonwoods and sycamores leaf out.

But despite the flash of color from our fair-weather friends, I vow to not forget the humble birds of winter — the hardworking chickadees and nuthatches.

After all, these plucky survivors deserve the credit for knowing and loving this forest — like the overlooked descendants of the ranching families who made a hard living in a stingy land.

Turns out, these overwintering, bug-eating, ponderosa pine loving itty, bitty brown birds contribute mightily to the health of the forest, according to researchers from the

University of Colorado Boulder, writing in the scientific journal *Ecology*.

The researchers discovered that the efforts of these tiny birds to scour the bark, branches and needles of ponderosa pines for insects boost the growth rate of the trees by one-third.

**They found the trees without their bird protectors had 18 percent less foliage and 34 percent less wood growth over the course of the three years.**

Not only do the birds gobble insects, they also somehow prompt the tree to change the chemistry of the terpenes (oils) the trees produce to battle insects, fungus and mistletoe. So the little birds effectively boost the trees' immune systems.

Furthermore, the chickadees and nuthatches also disrupt the remarkable relationship between some species of ants and aphids. The ants "herd" the aphids, protecting them from



predators like ladybugs and lacewings and even taking the tiny, leaf-sucking aphids back down into their ant hills for safe-keeping at night. In return, the aphids produce a sweet drop of “honeydew” to feed the ants.

However, the chickadees and nuthatches prey on the ants and aphids, triggering big declines in the aphid populations — thereby enhancing the growth of the trees.

For three years, the researchers swathed trees in mesh to exclude the birds from ponderosa pine limbs of 42 trees in

**They survive the cold by dramatically slowing their metabolism at night and huddling together in hallows and beneath layers of bark — found mostly on dead snags.**

an experimental Forest Service plot in northwest Colorado. They also could exclude ants — so they could separate the impact of the birds from the impact of the ants, which also prey on other insects.

They found the trees without their bird protectors had 18 percent less foliage and 34 percent less wood growth over the course of the three years. The dogged researchers collected some 300,000 insects representing 300 species, a measure of the complexity of the world created by the ponderosa.

And here’s another interesting footnote to the study, which underscores the complexity of playing God in managing a complex system like a ponderosa pine forest.

Those overwintering birds barely make it through most winters and die in droves in cold years. They survive the cold by dramatically slowing their metabolism at night and huddling together in hallows and beneath layers of bark — found mostly on dead snags. Sometimes 100 birds



will pile into such refuges in squeaky bundles of feathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, cousins — once and twice removed. In addition, they stash seeds in the easy times in hidden places for those bleak days of winter — again taking advantage of the nooks and crannies of the snags.

However, for decades the Forest Service paid loggers extra to cut down dead trees and limbs, thinking they would attract lightning strikes and start fires. Only after decades of pursuing this strategy did researchers discover that these snags and fallen trees offer the most important and productive wildlife habitat in the forest.

So, I can’t promise I won’t get distracted by the showy cardinals, with their flaming head pieces and their piercing call.

But I’ll still listen for droll, rubber-ducky calls of the pygmy nuthatches, knowing you can’t judge a bird by its feathers. In the end, we owe much to the friends of the hard times.

— Peter Aleshire of the Payson Roundup, reprinted with permission

**Editor’s note:** Today’s forest restoration emphasizes retaining snags for birds and wildlife, and in some cases, creating snags in areas where they are deficient.



# CONSERVATION BRIEFS



## Gita's a Wall of Famer

A colorful bug, waist-high sacaton grass, a leopard frog, kids moving rocks at Las Cienegas: All are guaranteed to elicit a beaming chuckle from The Nature Conservancy's Gita Bodner.

Gita, an ecologist, loves her work and so do her partners at the Cienega Watershed Partnership. For her contributions as a scientist, a youth

mentor, and a collaborator, the Cienega Watershed Partnership has selected her for its Wall of Honor.

For the last 12 years, Gita has been a partner with the Bureau of Land Management's Tucson Field Office in leading the development of a robust ecological monitoring program for the 45,000-acre Las Cienegas National

Conservation Area. Las Cienegas is in the Cienega watershed that is an important water source for Tucson. Gita worked with Nature Conservancy volunteers to monitor the health of the uplands, riparian areas and fisheries. Her evaluation of the monitoring has

resulted in changes to make these protocols more robust yet efficient for the BLM. The monitoring process that Gita developed at Las Cienegas has also been shared and implemented at Agua Fria National Monument.

Since 2014, Gita has mentored students in the Youth Engaged Stewardship (YES!) program who are working to

restore a sacaton grass site at Las Cienegas. She has helped lead the students in designing study plots, monitoring grids and conducting erosion

control experiments.

She is also working with the Cienega History Project to provide mapping resources to better understand past and present human uses of the Empire Ranch and surrounding landscapes.



**Since 2014, Gita has mentored students in the Youth Engaged Stewardship (YES!) program who are working to restore a sacaton grass site at Las Cienegas.**



## Vacation, the Verde River Way!

*By Melinda Ching, Senior Attorney for the Conservancy*

People always ask me, “You live in Kailua, Oahu, five minutes from the beach. Where do you go on vacation?”

Arizona, of course! This March, my husband, Glenn, and I had a most fun and rewarding trip to central Arizona to participate in two community work events sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, REI and Friends of the Verde River Greenway.

I had been introduced to the area last year by the Conservancy’s Arizona protection team and was looking forward to making my own contributions, other than the

emails and documents for which I’m usually known!

On our first day, we were part of an enthusiastic, young team of REI employees, led by “REI Bob.” He tutored us on the fine art of trail making using rakes, shovels and another tool called a McCleod. We created a “bypass” section of trail at Riverfront Park in Cottonwood to allow hikers to walk along the water without getting hit in the head by a frisbee from the nearby frisbee golf course.

I have to admit, we old people did a pretty decent job cutting trail! The next day we headed to Rezzonico

Family Park in Camp Verde to help the Town of Camp Verde Parks and Recreation clean up the park area, create new trails, reduce erosion-creating features and generally beautify the area for community use.

My favorite part was working with four-year-old Cade, son of the Conservancy’s Kim Schonek, in planting wildflower seeds in former trail-bike ruts.

Throughout our two days of work and fun, it was a pleasure to witness the enthusiasm and passion that our Conservancy team shares with partners and community about the work they do. Their energy and dedication, words of encouragement and great humor kept us city folk motivated and interested. They also stressed the positive impact we were making in protecting the Verde River and building community support.

Glenn and I will definitely be back for another work experience in Arizona... we’ll bring the macadamia nuts!



## New Name, New Management

### Hassayampa River Preserve at the Vulture Mountains Recreation Area

The Nature Conservancy in Arizona has completed the transfer of the Hassayampa River Preserve visitor center and lands containing the trail system to Maricopa County Parks and Recreation. The Conservancy will retain a conservation easement on the land – a voluntary agreement that allows the Conservancy to monitor Hassayampa’s ecological health into the future.

The decision to transfer was based on the Conservancy’s expectation that the county will be able to invest far more in visitor services and manage the site as the gateway to the much larger Vulture Mountains Recreation Area.

“Hassayampa has been an important part of the Arizona chapter of the Conservancy for more than 30 years,” said Pat Graham, the Conservancy’s state director. “It is hard to let go of something we care so much about. Yet it is a beginning of a new chapter for the preserve, and it will allow the Conservancy to focus on the many important challenges we face conserving the lands and waters in Arizona.”

The Conservancy and the County both thank the Friends of Hassayampa and other Hassayampa volunteers

that have helped out during the transition period. “We are deeply grateful to these volunteers, and we look forward to continuing with a strong volunteer program,” said R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director.

This gift from the Conservancy is the first addition to the Maricopa County Parks system in 15 years, added Cardin.

**The Conservancy and the County both thank the Friends of Hassayampa and other Hassayampa volunteers that have helped out during the transition period.**





## A Hummer of a Summer at Ramsey Canyon

Curious about hummingbirds? Satisfy your curiosity at Ramsey Canyon Preserve, where a new interactive Hummingbird Hike will help you learn about the 15 species of these dazzling birds that may be seen here.

Thirteen-year-old Jordan Fesser of Sierra Vista designed the hike to fulfill her Silver Media Award for Girl Scouts. She developed the idea for the hike, having participated in a scavenger hunt in Greenville, South Carolina,

and the Nature Ranger's program of the National Park Service.

Jordan said she wanted to create something similar for Ramsey Canyon, "one of my favorite local hikes."

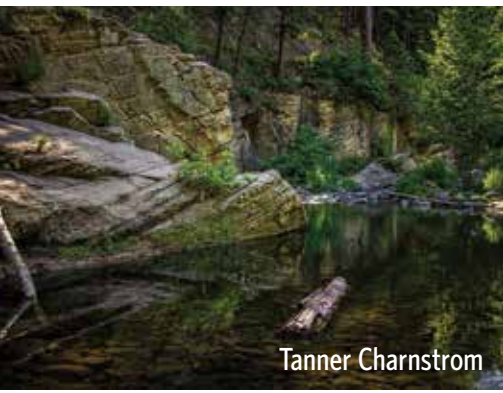
She worked with a Ramsey AmeriCorps member and preserve staff to develop the 1.3-mile-long trail, which features silhouettes of hummingbirds as well as a set of questions available at the preserve's bookstore. Upon

completion of the hike, participants will receive a hand-drawn button commemorating the fun they had on the trail.

### ALSO AT RAMSEY

**Kids Camps:** 3 half-day, week-long camps, starting July 10

**For information, contact:**  
Ramsey Canyon Preserve  
at 520-378-4951



Tanner Charnstrom



Cristian Portillo



Damian Galasso



Kayla Sklar



Zoe Marks



Lucy Song

# Winners of the 2017 Adventures in Nature Student Photo Contest

**1ST PLACE:**

Griffin Roeger, Gilbert, for "Wild Stallions"

**2ND PLACE:**

Braden Matsuzawa, Oro Valley, for "Caterpillar"

**3RD PLACE:**

Damian Galasso, Tucson, for "Lightning Flash"



Griffin Roeger



Brian Medrano



Atharva Rao



Braden Matsuzawa

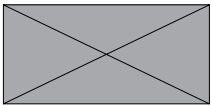
**HONORABLE MENTIONS:**

- Cristian Portillo, Goodyear, for "Busy Bee"
- Zoe Marks, Tucson, for "Bee"
- Lucy Song, Mesa, for "Midnight Beauty"
- Brian Medrano, Tucson, for "Mount Lemmon"

- Daniel Tanner Charnstrom, for "Peaceful Reflections"
- Kayla Sklar, Scottsdale, for "The Summit"
- Atharva Rao, Scottsdale, for "Nature's Creation"

**SPONSORS:**





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FOR NATURE IN  
**ARIZONA**

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**Navajo artist Shonto Begay**

To mark our 50 years of conservation in Arizona,  
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painting of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve.

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