

MOUNTAIN TOPS LIST of HIKERS

A recent *Arizona Republic* reported that Piestewa Peak is one of the highest urban peaks in the world and it is the one most hiked.

City of Phoenix lists Piestewa Peak at 2,608 feet high and over 1,200 feet above the surrounding elevation. The City thinks the estimated 500,000 hikers each year make the Phoenix urban location the most hiked in the United States.

Estimates are from 4,000 to 10,000 hikers per-week, year around on the 1.2 mile trail. Hikers in Japan (Mt. Fuji) and Mt. Monadnock, New Hampshire have been rated as the highest and busiest respectively. But city staff feel data could show Piestewa Peak as the most hiked in the world.

Cont. PMPC SPRING EVENT

could be in danger from a developer.

Last was "Status of the Preserves" from Parks Supervisor Jerry Waehner and the annual talk of what we can do to help with the stewardship of our Preserves. This was the most popular of our series from last year's Spring Trek and was very popular again this year. The overall health of the Preserve is good.

We finished with a hike led by the combined talents of Ms. Wendy Hodgson and Ms. Tice Supplee pointing out the plants and birds respectively around the Center on trail #100.

Hope to see you there next year!

This shows the brilliance of protecting the Mountain Preserves in the 1970's and the need we have today for additional areas. Maintenance of existing areas and the creation of the new Sonoran Preserve need help.

Remind your friends and neighbors on Tuesday, May 20th to preserve the Mountain Preserves by voting YES on Proposition "A".

CALENDAR

MAY 3, 2008

Annual PMPC Dinner
see inside panel for details or
visit www.phoenixmountains.org

**TUESDAY
MAY 20, 2008
VOTE YES on
PROP "A"**

LOOKOUT

Phoenix Mountains Preservation
Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 26121
Phoenix, Arizona 85068-6121

Executive Board:

Tice Supplee, *President*
Ken Gometz, *Vice President*
Robin Salthouse, *Treasurer*
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Susanne Rothwell, *Corresponding Secretary*

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The Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council
is dedicated to protecting our
Phoenix Mountains Preserves.

<http://www.phoenixmountains.org>



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P.O. Box 26121, Phoenix, AZ 85068-6121

TO:



LOOKOUT

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ANNUAL SPRING EVENT INCLUDES INFORMATION SESSIONS PLUS BIRD AND WILDFLOWER HIKE

By Leslie Spencer-Snider

This year's Spring in the Mountains was a great success starting with the weather.

A wet winter provided a number of green plants in the desert and the North Mountain Visitor Center looked like a gardener had been busy there was so many plants looking green and blooming. The Sheriff's Posse was a wonderful start to the day where Shirley Ward cooked up a scrumptious breakfast with her Dutch Oven magic.

Tice Supplee, PMPC President, noted all of the dignitaries present and Councilwoman Maria Baier gave an inspiring talk on what the Preserve land has meant to her personally and how we have to continue to protect and maintain the Preserve, North, South and the new Sonoran Preserve.

This was a speech near and dear to the PMPC member's hearts and she received a very loud ovation. Ms. Baier laughed and said she doesn't really like to give speeches but it was easy when the subject

meant so much to her. Phil Richards, Parks Board Chairman, spoke of the important sales tax initiative that would continue the \$0.001 tax that has helped purchase most of the Sonoran Preserve to date and helped so much with the existing park new builds and renovations.

The dramatic use of visual aids by Cynthia Peters, of the Parks Department, really got the point across to the many attendees on the many areas that this money supports. The COP budget short-fall affects on the Parks and Preserves makes this all especially important. The next speaker was Todd Bostwick who has an amazing slideshow and wonderful depth of information on petroglyphs within the Preserve that is astonishing. He reminded us of a specific area that is not yet preserved that has a particular petroglyph called "Spiral Man" that he has not seen duplicated anywhere else. Unless we can preserve this area, "Spiral Man"

Continued on back panel



AROUND SOUTH MOUNTAIN

By Michael Goodman

In one of the first tests of how well the new City Council supports the preserve and lands adjoining it the mayor and council voted 8-0 (Councilman Mattox was absent) to support a zoning request that went against several policies protecting views of the preserve. The area is at 42nd St. and Baseline; east of the new fire station. This area is within Councilman Johnson's area and is the closest the Preserve comes to Baseline road. It is the beginning of the foothills area with this property adjoining the preserve. The Mayor and Council voted to allow 3 story townhouse type buildings south of Baseline and custom home lots up to the 25% slope line. They granted density bonuses and hillside waivers. Until this time no residential has been allowed above 2 story outside the core south of Baseline road since the Baseline master plan, to protect views to and from the preserve. Speaking in opposition to this case were a number of people from the area including at least three PMPC members Heidi Fisher, Laurel Arndt, and Michael Goodman. Fisher and Goodman spoke on change of policy and protecting views, while Arndt asked about edge guidelines applying citywide. The Mayor and Council refused to answer any questions. Notes: The Planning Dept. supported this action while the Parks Dept. only supported the need for trail connections in the area. The first Parks staff report was against the project for allowing development over the 10% slope line and blocking views. They have been told not to comment on planning issues.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FREEWAY

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) continues to push for a freeway that will blow up the South Mountains. Once again ADOT left out the Sun Circle trail connection. The citizens committee continues to meet and has not taken any formal position. The Gila Indian River Community has as yet to make a public statement as to their concerns, except to formally object to the freeway being on GRIC property. No public draft statement has been issued as of this date and no time has been set for the release.

STATE TRUST LAND - SOUTH SIDE / SOUTH MNT.

The 620 acres of State Trust land on the south side of South Mountain looks like it may finally come to auction sometime this fall. The city hopes to buy the land north of Chandler Road and has begun working on conceptual plans for the area. The city believes the price will be about \$110,000 per acre and has the money for this purchase.

PROTECT the PRESERVES by VOTING YES on "PROP A"

FROM Phoenix Parks Board at <http://www.PhxParks.com>

Proposition A, the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative (PPPI), will extend the program originally passed by Phoenix residents nearly a decade ago with an 80 percent approval.

In 1999, Phoenix voters approved a dedicated funding source to preserve our Sonoran deserts and construct and renovate the city's regional and neighborhood parks.

The Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative (PPPI) has upheld the trust of the voters. The funds have been utilized to provide significant improvement in all areas designated by the program including regional parks, community and neighborhood parks, and desert preserves. Over the past eight years the PPPI Program has allowed the City of Phoenix to realize numerous accomplishments, including:

- **Six regional parks** have been completed and are open to the public. These include Steele Indian School and The Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, both near our neighborhood.
- **More than 160 park** improvements have been made to neighborhood and community parks throughout the city.

- **3,700 acres of pristine** desert has been added to the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve using PPPI and matching grant funds.

On May 20, 2008, Phoenix voters will be asked to continue this program by voting YES on Proposition A. Since 1999, over 3,700 acres have been acquired and added to the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve System and more than 160 community and neighborhood parks have received modern, up-to-date renovation.

Voting YES on Proposition A will ensure the City of Phoenix continues to build more regional and city parks and is able to continually maintain and update over 200 park facilities throughout the city. In addition, Proposition A will allow the City of Phoenix to protect and expand our precious Sonoran Preserve.

Election will be held on Tuesday May 20, 2008.

- **Program recommended** for a 30-year renewal by the Phoenix City Council, and the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board.
- **Funds raised** from this initiative shall only be used for Phoenix parks and preserves and shall not be supplanted or used for any other purpose.

- **Accountability for all** expenditures will be reviewed by a citizens' oversight committee established by ordinance to review expenditures and will be subject to an annual public audit.

The new revenue raised shall be spent specifically in the following manner:

Sixty percent of the funds raised will be used to complete the regional parks started with current Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative funding, purchase land and create new regional, community and neighborhood parks, upgrade existing parks with better shade, green space, and recreational features, add more park rangers, lighting, security, and maintenance for parks and recreational facilities, add shaded pedestrian and bike paths throughout the city, and add recreation programs for youth to fight drugs, gangs, and crime.

Forty percent of the funds raised will be used to purchase land for mountain and desert preserve open space, create new/better trailheads, trail, parking and interpretive centers for preserves, more park rangers, security and maintenance of the preserves.



One of a million reasons to protect the Mountain Preserves (Desert Chicory).

Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council

ANNUAL DINNER

**Saturday,
May 3, 2008
6:00 pm**

Sheriff's Posse Clubhouse

SPEAKERS

Eric Gorsegner

Assistant Director

Sun Corridor Legacy Program

Sonoran Institute

Joe Yarchin

"Watchable Wildlife in Our Preserves"

Project Manager

Urban and Watchable Wildlife

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Questions?

Call Shelley at 602-674-5063 or visit: www.phoenixmountains.org

RSVP by April 25