

From Bylaw Committee:
For discussion at the
June meeting.

The Bylaw Committee has completed their review and recommended consideration of one change. They are asking the membership to consider a bylaw change that would act as a term-limit of sorts by limiting successive terms a PMPC board member can hold. For example, after 6 years of service a board member would be rotated off. The committee feels this would contribute to more PMPC members serving in board positions and has presented it as a discussion point for the June meeting.

JUNE MEETING:

Conference room at Ruth Hamilton's
500 W. Clarendon
Phoenix, AZ
JUNE 6

LOOKOUT

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

www.phoenixmountains.org

Execuative Board:

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



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TO:



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**MOUNTAINS PRESERVE
PROTECTORS HONORED AT
OPEN SPACE CONFERENCE**

Two members of the 1970's Phoenix Mountains preservation effort were honored as pioneers in the protection of open space at a recent statewide conference.

Open Space Pioneers Ruth Hamilton and Maxine Lakin were recognized for their work on the protection of key parts of the Phoenix Mountains Preserve. That effort required citizen, government, and voter action to achieve the goal of adding the areas known today as North Mountain, Dreamy Draw, and Piewestia Peak to City of Phoenix Preserve system.

Their work was recognized as having an even more profound effect on the state as a whole. Since the 1970's other communities have begun to protect portions of native desert from development and voters statewide continue to demonstrate a willingness to do what it takes financially to protect Arizona's finest natural assets. Today, the model of conservation provided by the initial core of PMPC members continues to foster open space protection efforts within Phoenix and throughout Arizona.

Current Issues of Concern:

Lincoln Drive and 40th Street housing development overturns deed restrictions that provided for a portion of the land to become Mountains Preserve and also threatens a reduction in public access.

Water line bisecting a portion of the new Sonoran Preserve near Skunk Creek and the Carefree Highway in conflict with Chapter 26 that defines protections for Phoenix Mountains Preserve.

Edge Guidelines and the appointment of a citizens advisory committee to review and update guidelines covering new Phoenix Sonoran Preserves.

Abandonment of unused street easements that border existing Mountain Preserves by the City of Phoenix. Result is larger lots for a few and more impacts to Preserves for everyone else.

7:00 PM
RENEW YOUR PMPC MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone(s): _____

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Check if you wish to receive the PMPC newsletter via e-mail.

MAIL TO:
PMPC Membership
P.O. Box 26121
Phoenix, AZ
85068-6121

MEMBERSHIP CATAGORY (please circle)

Family / Individual \$20
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AREA OF INTEREST/EXPERTISE

(please circle)
Communications Membership
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Trail Maintenance Legislative Action

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT (please circle)

Slope Protector \$50 - \$100
Cliff Protector \$100 - \$500
Peak Protector \$500+

Spring 2005

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UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL DECISION

City Water Line Contradicts Chapter 26 Protections for Mountain Preserves

On paper the quarter mile water line looks innocuous enough but on the ground it represents a possible precedent setting issue for the Phoenix Preserves.

Only one small section, in the extensive north Phoenix water distribution system, this six-foot diameter water line is now being called a "treatment facility" so that the city can run a crosscut route through a new portion of the Sonoran Desert Preserve.

Not surprisingly, city departments (water and parks), both say they were unaware of what the other was doing. In the case of the city parks department, they were obtaining a small piece of new preserve land. And in the case of the water department, they had long planned a water line from Lake Pleasant across this same parcel.

Now the parcel is part of the Sonoran Preserve and the city attorney has interpreted the water line to be a "treatment facility" and thus allowable under Chapter 26 of the City Charter that defines protections and exemptions for the Phoenix Mountains Preserves.

The city water department prefers a water line route across this new preserve parcel but trenching could create a long, diagonal scare across the preserve between 80

and 150 feet wide. Difficulties with amending a nationwide federal 404 permit and the added costs associated with any route other than the original alignment are among the rational offered for keeping the route as is. The water department also is on a short schedule to have the treatment plant operational so they view any change as a delay and view any delay as problematic.

Keeping a large water line on schedule and delivering water to the rapidly growing north phoenix region is a reasonable city goal but it should not be at the expense of recently purchased desert preserve land.

Chapter 26 allows the city to use preserve land for water treatment facilities. In this case, the city is now defining this large water line as part of the physical treatment plant. PMPC disagrees with this new definition.

Members of PMPC have offered a variety of solutions to this problem. These suggestions centered on moving the pipeline north to the Carefree Highway easement. (This is where the water line ends up *after* it crosses preserve land under the current proposal.) Also, an elevated pipeline and tunnel have also been suggested.

Various city departments have



TRAVEL WRITER RECOUNTS HIKES

Trails are the backbone for recreation within the Phoenix Mountains Preserves and Christine Maxa knows trails.

Travel writer and book author, Ms. Maxa was the featured speaker at the Phoenix Mountain Preservation Council annual dinner May 2.

Many Arizonians know her from the varied hiking guides she has written and from the 'Hike of the Week' column that she contributed for more than two years for the *Arizona Republic*.

Recounting many days hiking within the Phoenix Mountains Preserves (especially the Piestewa Peak area) she pointed to the wide variety of wildlife and plants that reward all visitors to the island refuge provided by the Preserves.

Ms. Maxa also spoke of the values for everyone that the greater outdoors offer. And, she reminisced about great hikes where she felt touched by the wildness of an area. Providing ample examples with photographs of beautiful and unique areas, Ms. Maxa said "it doesn't matter how old you are the backcountry awaits you".

Ms. Maxa's credits have included articles for *Arizona Highways*, *Backpacker Magazine*, *National Geographic Traveler*, and *Southwest Art*. Currently, she is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Arizona State Committee on Trails.



Spring Trek coffee by L.V. Yates.

Despite a forecast of rain the storm broke and brilliant shafts of sun light greeted Spring Trek participants on the 29th anniversary of the first trail outing hosted by PMPC.

Reminiscent of the first Trek was the Biscuit Flats Chuck Wagon that started the day off with coffee and acted as the staging area for hikes and rides at Dreamy Draw Recreation Area. Displays covered many of the unique aspects of the Sonoran Desert and the education goals of PMPC were bolstered by hike leaders Tice Supplee and Wendy Hodgson who provided detailed insights during bird and wildflower hikes into the Preserve. A variety of bicycle rides and short hikes showcased various portions of the Dreamy Drew Recreation Area during an outstanding spring morning!

A delicious breakfast by Robert's Catering served over 100 according to Spring Trek coordinator Leslie Spencer-Snyder. She added that an estimated 300-500 participated in the activities hosted by PMPC volunteers, organizations, and the Parks Department staff.

Mayor Gordon and Councilman Tom Simplot plus other city staff members stopped by and in Spring Trek tradition enjoyed hot coffee *and* updates about current Mountains Preserve issues.

This year's fund raising effort was bolstered by a very generous donation from Robert's Catering - which deserves a special "thank you" to Robert! Likewise, other donated items from generous supporters included items ranging from gift certificates to horse feed! In total, these contributions raised over \$1,700 which will be used on a project to enhance this portion of the Mountains Preserve.

Plan now to be part of Spring Trek 30 in 2006!