

L.V. YATES IN MEMORIAM

By Dale Slocum

L. V. Yates became a member of the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council shortly after the organization was formed. He remained active with the organization until his death December 19, 2009 at the age of 90.

The annual Spring in the Mountains event was his idea of getting people to spend a day in the Preserves learning the importance and value of the North and South Mountains.

The program was started with a breakfast held at one of the ramadas. Following breakfast the purpose of the Preserves was outlined many times by the Mayor of Phoenix, a City Councilman, a representative of the Parks Board or someone who could give the history and the value of the Preserves not only for the people of Phoenix but for the entire State.

Following this introduction of the Preserves, Yates would lead a hike on one of the many trails in the Preserves. Many times there were several hundred hikers participating.

In addition to the hikers another member of the organization would lead horse riders on a different trail. Arrangements were made with different stables and riders could rent one of their horses or one could bring their own horse.

About midway through the hikes or rides a coffee break with donuts or rolls would be enjoyed by everyone. It was an educational program not only of getting people into the Preserves but to teach them the value of a true out of doors experience in their own back yard.

This was Yates' idea of getting people out and into the Preserves so they could appreciate the value of the areas.

Whenever there was a City Council meeting, a Parks Board meeting or a Department of Transportation meeting or any kind of a meeting that might affect the

Preserves PMPC could count on Yates to be at the meeting and report the results back to the PMPC Board.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of PMPC throughout his entire membership he also was twice President.

The Phoenix Parks Board honored him naming a trail in North Mountain Preserve the L.V. Yates Trail (#8). The trail is reached via the 40th Street entrance on the north side of Piestewa Peak.

PMPC is planning to plant a tree at the head of the trail in his honor. Also, donations in his memory may be made by sending it to Save Our Mountain Foundation (501C-3) in care of: Maxine Lakin, 511 W. Rose Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85013.



L.V. at PMPC Annual Dinner 2009

CALENDAR

February 20, 2010 - Saturday.
A Natural Reality event by PMPC, Sonoran Audubon, REI, at South Mountain. Fun for families!
For details see: www.phoenixmountains.org.

March 1, 2010: Monday
7:00 p.m. PMPC Board Meeting
5501 N. 44th Street (at Arlington Road).

LOOKOUT

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

The *LOOKOUT* is published by the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council & is dedicated to protecting our Phoenix Mountains Preserves.

www.phoenixmountains.org



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TO:



LOOKOUT

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South Mountain Family Event - Saturday

Join us at South Mountain Environmental Center this Saturday afternoon (3:00 - 5:00 PM) for a variety of hikes and fun activities. Your family and friends will have a great time at the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council's early spring 'A Natural Reality' event!

Enjoy activities ranging from a short walk (handicap/stroller accessible trail) with nature interpreters to a nature quest! Or, you can try a more challenging hike up the Holbert Trail.

Teaming up to provide an afternoon of outdoor fun for all ages at the South Mountain Environmental Educational Center will be REI staff, City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Rangers, the Sonoran Audubon Society, Maricopa County Parks staff, Papa Murphay Pizza, and PMPC members!

Plus, REI will be providing their PEAK program that educates children about enjoying and caring for our beautiful preserve.

Activities will be free and will run from mid-afternoon to approximately 5:00 p.m. Saturday (February 20th). See more details on PMPC web site: www.phoenixmountains.org.

BUDGET MAY REDUCE RANGERS - AGAIN

From city web site.

“City of Phoenix continues to experience unprecedented declines in revenue. For the third straight year, the city is faced with making difficult cuts to bring its budget into balance. In fact, since 2002-03, the city has made program and service cuts of more than \$360 million from our General Fund budget. The city budget is comprised of three separate categories - enterprise funds; federal funds and other restricted money; and the General Fund.”

The city report focus is on the General Fund because it finances most basic services, including police, fire, libraries, parks, streets, senior centers and many others. You can review this budget outline at - <http://phoenix.gov/CITYGOV/budgridx.html>. You also can send your comments to budget.research@phoenix.gov or call 602-262-4800.

plan on attending an upcoming budget meeting in your district...

Districts 1 and 5

6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16
Manzanita Senior Center
3581 W. Northern Ave

District 7

6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16
Burton Barr Central Library
Auditorium
1221 N. Central Ave.

District 1

6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17
Goelet A.C. Beuf Community Center
Multi-Purpose Room
3435 W. Pinnacle Peak Road

District 6

6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17
Madison School District Office
Board Room
5601 N. 16th St.

District 3

6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18
Cowden Center Barb's Room
9202 N. Second St.

District 6

6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18
Pecos Community Center
17010 S. 48th St.

District 2

6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23
Paradise Valley Community Center
Multi-Purpose Room
17402 N. 40th St.

District 3

6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23
Shadow Mountain Senior Center
3546 E. Sweetwater Ave.



Photograph by Shelley McDonald

The Preserves are mute. They need you to speak for the land, wildlife, plants, and great scenery that make them a distinctive part of Phoenix.

Please plan on attending one of the upcoming budget meetings near you.

Increasing damage to Preserves (like the graffiti above) are increasing the need for Rangers.

Stewardship of the Preserves is a responsibility that many adopt in a variety of ways. Those elected share the responsibility of stewardship of the preserves. Contact your City Councilperson in support of preserving the preserves with needed Rangers by calling, e-mail, or attending budget meetings.

District 7

6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23
Cesar Chavez High School
Auditorium
3921 W. Baseline Road

District 4

7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24
Steele Indian School Park
Memorial Hall
300 E. Indian School Road

Protecting South Mountain

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY MAY CONSIDER 202 FREEWAY ALIGNMENT

By Mike Goodman

Here is summary of recent Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) meeting on the 202 freeway.

After 14 months, ADOT finally had a meeting of the citizens committee for the South Mountain freeway. Most of the meeting was a presentation of what Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) wanted to do. ADOT seems to have turned over most of the responsibility for the project to MAG. Now MAG wants to push for a freeway that goes through South Mountain. To save money they propose to move the freeway from 55th ave to 59th ave.

Also, on January 27th, the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) gave ADOT the right to study an alignment using their land for portions of the freeway. This option could avoid damaging South Mountain!

GRIC still opposes the freeway. There has been recent meetings between GRIC & ADOT but at this point, there is no way of knowing what really has happened at recent meeting between GRIC and ADOT because they were private.

But on a parallel track, ADOT plans on moving ahead with the MAG proposal and thinks a draft environmental statement will be out sometime this fall.

“The purpose of this letter is to inform [ADOT] that the Gila River Indian Community...is willing to assist in conducting a study of the effects of an On-Reservation Loop 202 alignment consistent with the Community’s land use plans...and the desire to mitigate cultural impacts to Muadag.” (The area we call South Mountain.)

“...the Community’s official position remains the same: we oppose any desecration of Muadag, (i.e. we oppose the current Off-Reservation alignment)...”

“Therefore, it is in our best interests to explore all options to mitigate any negative impacts to our culture and land; including a potential On-Reservation alignment.”

William R. Rhodes, Governor
Gila River Indian Community
January 27, 2010

see complete letter on-line at: phoenixmountains.org & 'hot issues'